

U.S. Forest Service - News Release

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Soldier Creek Interagency Wildland Fire Hand Crew Assigned to Broken Ridge Fire, Cedar City, Utah



The Soldier Creek Interagency Wildland Fire Hand Crew was dispatched to the Broken Ridge Fire located thirty-five miles northwest of Cedar City, Utah on August 7th through August 12th. The 4400 acre fire was started by lightning strikes and fueled by 100 mile per hour winds when the crew got the call to assist.

The Soldier Creek Crew is made up of trained wildland fire fighters from the Pine Ridge Job Corps Center, the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands, and area wildland fire protection agencies. A twenty-person hand crew from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pine Ridge Reservation, SD and the Tatanka Interagency Hotshot Crew stationed on the Black Hills National Forest were also assigned to this same fire.

The assignment for the Soldier Creek Crew was to hold and strengthen a dozer line on the southeast side of the fire to ensure that the fire would be contained if another wind event was to occur. This 20 person Soldier Creek Crew is supervised by Doug Currie, a new employee to the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands. Doug is responsible for the training and preparing of Pine Ridge Job Corps students and staff members to suppress wild fires, and assist with prescribed burns and other fuels reduction projects. Mr. Currie stated, “This was the first out of state assignment for this crew and they did a great job.” He relayed this assignment provided the firefighters and crew staff an opportunity to work in fuel types that provide suppression challenges different than the ponderosa pine and grassland fires in this area.

The Soldier Creek Crew was supported by one of Cedar City’s local fire district’s type 6 fire trucks. The local district provided water support to the Soldier Creek Crew members who were extinguishing some of the larger and hotter burning areas. The engine boss was pleased with the help they were getting from the Soldier Creek crew. The two person engine crew had been on this fire when it initially started and appreciated the assistance and relief the Soldier Creek crew provided.

The Tatanka Hotshot Crew and the Pine Ridge BIA hand crew worked on other divisions of this same fire. After the Broken Ridge Fire was contained and turned over to the local fire districts, these two crews were assigned to another wild fire in Utah. The Soldier Creek Crew came back to Chadron and immediately prepared for the next assignment to come.

- The End -

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