

Cow Hollow WILDLAND FIRE USE NARRATIVE

8-27-2005.....

* P-131 with Lewis Rasband and Allan Hepworth respond to reported smoke in the Bandana Ranch area. While in route they notice smoke coming out of the Timber Canyon area south of Strawberry Pinnacles. After receiving Lat and Long which was called into fire center from a fixed wing 131 drives to location and looks for smoke. Area received a bit of rain and no smoke is visible. Hepworth makes plans with Ivan Erskine to fly the area on the morning of the 28th and look from air.

8-28-2005.....

* Helicopter 2HX picked Ivan Erskine and Allan Hepworth at the Duchesne Airport at appx. 0800 in the morning. 2HX flies to the area and after 5 minutes of flight time find smoke.

* The Fire is appx. one acre burning mid-slope in a heavy concentration of mixed conifer at 9100 feet on a north slope. Fire has been all ground fire with some pre-heating of canopy and no consumption of canopy. It is determined to be lightning caused and a good WFU candidate so Erskine and Hepworth then fly back to Duchesne and call Clark Tucker and work on the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFIP).

* After completing the WFIP and speaking with Clark Tucker, Cow Hollow is approved as a Stage 1 WFU fire with Allan Hepworth appointed as the ICT4 FUMA.

* Plans for the fire will be as follows;

On August 29th 2HX will fly a RAWS tech and 2 firefighters to a small sagebrush meadow below the fire. The RAWS tech will set up micro-raws on a ridge opposite the fire and the two firefighters will hike appx. ¼ mile into the fire and gather some on the ground observations regarding fuel loading and fuel conditions.

* Lewis Rasband is currently in the Timber Canyon area posting trails and roads with a sign which informs the public of the fire and contact numbers regarding information sources. Lewis will also scout out an area which would serve as an observation point for viewing fire via vehicle.

8-29-2005.....

* At 1030 Hepworth, Kreg Jessen and Joe Rodriguez hiked 5 miles into the fire. At 1300 Hepworth made it to north ridge to locate good lookout position and find spot to place micro RAWS. At 1300 Jessen and Rodriguez hiked into fire to monitor and get on the ground observations.

* Fire is now appx. 2-3 acres and burning predominately on the ground consuming down dead fuels. Main veg type is sub-alpine fir and fire is stopping when it runs into stringers of aspen. Fire is consuming deep duff layer and smoldering and creeping through fuels on ground. 1 fir did torch out at 1345.

* Plan for tomorrow will be to fly RAWS station and set it up on a ridge to the north of fire. Jessen, Hepworth, and Rodriguez will fly into the fire and monitor and get an up to date acreage calculation. Jessen and Rodriguez will stay two evenings and collect fire effects monitoring information.

8-30-2005.....

- * Helicopter 2HX flew Bill Hayes and Mike Wengert to the RAWs site. Bill Hayes set up RAWs and Mike Wengert positioned himself as a lookout for the Cow Hollow fire.
- * Hepworth, Jessen, and Rodriguez were flown into Helispot below fire and walked into fire in order to GPS and take fire monitoring observations. Fire perimeter was found to be 3 acres at 1300 hours. All of the perimeter is active with ground fire. Fire is predominately burning through the duff layer and all down and dead fuels. Majority of spread is upslope through mixed conifer and aspen. Largest majority of heavy fuel loading occurs on the southwest perimeter down on the west facing slope of Cow Hollow. Here the fire is very actively backing in a down slope/contour direction against the wind. Ridgeline winds were recorded at an average of 10-13 mph with gusts of 18-20. Winds on the actual fire were recorded as being upslope upcanyon at average 4-5 mph and gusts of 8-10. Occasionally winds on fire were noticed to be coming out of the west in a contour slope direction.
- * Jessen and Rodriguez flew into the fire prepared to spend two evenings and will do so if the weather permits. They have an excellent safety zone/ camp site at a location of appx. ¼ mile below the fire.

8-31-2005.....

- * Jessen and Rodriguez spend day monitoring fire from the ground. Fire area received a frost the evening before and grasses and finer fuels have cured and are more susceptible to fire spread. All sides of perimeter are active with the NE side being the more conducive to spread.
- * At 1900 the fire was walked with GPS unit and calculated to be 5.5 acres. Upslope winds driving fire to the south, however fuels to the west are heavy dead and down – also spread to the west. The east flank experienced increased activity as well today with torching of standing dead and live trees. Fire is predominantly driven by heavy fuel loading on most of the west flank.
- * At 2100 hours fire activity on the southwest portion of fire exhibiting torching. At 2200 hours there is still torching evident. Appx. 5-10% of spot fires become active with the majority of these smoldering and creeping.

9-01-2005

- * 2HX picked up Strebel in Duchesne and flew into the fire. Kreg Jessen was picked up and Michelle Peck was left to monitor with Jo Rodriguez. Fire is still active on all perimeter however the NE and east perimeters are the more active with spotting and spread to the east.
- * Joe and Michelle will plan on staying on the fire through Sunday, GPSing perimeter daily and monitoring fire status.
- * From the air Jerry Strebel found a possible road that may lead into the RAWs ridge and offer a good vantage for folks monitoring the fire from vehicles.
- * Joe R. Attempted to hike the fire and attain GPS acreage but was unable due to increased fire behavior on the northeast flank. Fire exhibited extreme behavior with group torching and upslope ¼ - ½ mile crown runs. Fire is still backing to the west and south however there is enough accumulated heat on the ground to pre-heat fuels and allow for torching and upslope runs.

9-02-2005.....

* At about 1300 Rodriguez finished walking perimeter with GPS unit. Acreage was calculated to be 106 and still actively growing for the day.

* Fire is active on all perimeters with slow backing fire downslope to the north and contouring to the east and west. As fire works it's way to the east and west it set's itself up for upslope crown runs that stop when hitting the sagebrush/grass fuel type ridetops. Heavy down/dead fuels allow fire to spread and preheat canopy. Fire is well established on the west facing slope of Cow Hollow and slowly backing and contouring to the west.

9-03-2005.....

* 1142 information taken from Joe Rodriguez radio update into Vernal Fire Center; GPS'd at 73 additional acres making total reported acres as of 9/3/2005 to be 179 acres. Fire east continues to grow to the east and north. 15-25% of fire is active. Primary carrier of fire is down/dead and duff fuels. Western portion of fire has increased activity. Observed torching last night and this morning.

* At 1545 helicopter 2HX with Hepworth fly into the Cow Hollow Fire to GPS, Photograph, and pick up both FEMO's on the fire. After flying fire with GPS unit the perimeter was shown as being appx. 220 acres. Fire appears to be fairly inactive with higher relative humidity and lower temperatures. From the air it is seen that of the 220 acres probably appx. 100 acres were stand replacing crown fire and appx. 100 acres were ground fire with isolated group and single tree torching. Fire spread to the southeast has been checked by grassy ridges which fire hasn't spread through. On the east and north flank the fire still has opportunity to make short upslope runs however previous fire has cleaned up allot of this upslope area. Fire will predominately be a backing and contouring fire on the northeast flank. On the west flank above Cow Hollow there is still allot of bug killed timber that will allow for more upslope/up-canyon spread. In this area of Cow Hollow the fire can still back and contour and set itself up for upslope/up-canyon runs.

* Scattered isolated showers are seen throughout the general area of Cow Hollow and the Uintah Basin.

9-04-2005.....

* After checking Ashley Portable RAWS #1 in the a.m. it appears the Cow Hollow fire avoided any significant precipitation from yesterday's thunderstorms. High humidity recorded at the RAWS was 66%.