



2009 Season Summary



(Bear Fire, AZ)

Overview

The San Juan Hotshots are one of ninety-three IHC crews in the nation. We are part of the fire and fuels management program on the San Juan Public Lands and assist other national forests, grasslands, and other land management agencies.



Hiring

The 2009 season saw more turnover in the seasonal ranks than had been seen in recent years. When seasonal hiring was completed by the end of February we had seven new hires and seven re-hires. In the leadership roles on the crew we had one new hire, Jay Godson as the Assistant Superintendent. The crew also had three people in detailed positions; Jacob Birdsell as a Squad Leader, Clay Yazzie detailed to the McCall Smoke Jumper program and Sean Snyder into a Lead crew position.



(Bradfield Fire, CO)



Assignments

In February Jacob Birdsell and Rian Ream took an assignment to the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas to remove hazard trees damaged by an ice storm. Jacob and Rian joined other saw teams from across the country to reopen roads closed by damaged trees.

The crew started April 14, 2009 and ended September 25, 2009 for a total of 166 days. Of the 166 days, 73 days were assigned to fire incidents including travel, 16 days on Bark Beetle mitigation and 35 days off. The 2009 fire season was slower than previous summers with 5.6 million acres burned nationally. The ten year average is 6.2 million acres.

The crew traveled a combined 56,018 miles this summer with four vehicles. The supt. truck and chase truck were relatively free of mechanical problems. The crew carriers began to show their age with some minor mechanical issues.





2009 Assignment Summary

FIRE NAME	STATE	OPERATIONAL SHIFTS	ACRES	COMPLEXITY LEVEL
Ladrone	NM	2	18	3
Irishman	NM	1	1,300	3
Canelo	AZ	3	4,000	2
Bear	AZ	3	15	4
Yellow Jacket	CO	1	3	4
Pine Ridge	UT	3	88	4
Steamboat	UT	2	170	4
Grammar	CO	3	850	3
Spring Creek	CO	4	1,300	3
Bradfield	CO	10	2600	4
Narraguinnep	CO	6	6000	3
Cotton Wood	CA	3	2600	2
Oak Glenn	CA	3	2500	1
Station	CA	7	140,000	1



(Bradfield Fire, CO)



Training

Training is an important element to ensure that the crew has a depth of experience. This enables the crew to provide qualified overhead for other assignments and allows trainees to work on position task books. During the 2009 season 8 position task books were completed: 3 Type 1 Firefighters (FFT1), 1 Crew Boss (CRWB), 1 Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4), 1 Faller C (FALC) Certifier, and 1 Faller B (FALB). The crew took advantage of the slower season and taught 3 classes: L 280 Followership to Leadership, I 200 Basic ICS, and S 230 Crew Boss.



Safety

During the 2009 season San Juan Hotshots had no lost time due to accidents. We did fill out 5 CAI's, four were due to the poison oak in Southern California, and one for a lacerated finger. All of the crew was exposed to poison oak, and approximately a third needed shots to lessen the severity. Our safety program consisted of daily briefings covering: weather, situation reports, assignments, hazards, and special issues. After Action Reviews (AARs) were conducted at the end of most shifts. Tailgate safety meetings and JHA's were discussed if a new situation or project was encountered.



Fuels and Project Work

The crew completed 10 days of hand thinning on the San Juan National Forest. The bark beetle outbreak in the Lodgepole Pine forests in Region 2 was a large source of work for all of the regions IHC's. The work involved the removal of dead or dying lodgepole pines in recreational areas, administrative sites, roads, and Wildland Urban Interface areas on national forest property. The crew completed 16 days of bark beetle mitigation projects: dropping, skidding, and piling 2,200 trees on the White River National Forest. Other projects the crew completed were the removal of 3 miles of fence, a log jam in the Middle Fork of the Piedra River, and the Sheep Creek bridge on the Piedra River.



(300 trees removed near Lost Lake Campground)



2009 Crew Roster

Cornelius, Jim	Superintendent
Godson, Jay	Assistant Superintendent
Martin, Lance	Squad Boss
Bedonie, Keith	Squad Boss
Birdsell, Jacob	Squad Boss
Ream, Rian	Lead Crew
Wheeler, Dustin	Lead Crew
Snyder, Sean	Lead Crew
Romportl, Patrick	Crew Member
Cordes, Jon	Crew Member
McBride, Justin	Crew Member
Johnson, Andy	Crew Member
Ross, Michael	Crew Member
Leighty, Erin	Crew Member
De Velder, Scott	Crew Member
Moomaw, Matt	Crew Member
Giles, Nate	Crew Member
Erickson, Jesse	Crew Member
Justice, Quito	Crew Member
Shannon, Devon	Crew Member
Muhonen, Zane	Crew Member

2009 Detailers

Rayes, Matt	Columbine RD, SJF	29 Days
Carr, Mike	Dolores RD, SJF	14 Days



(Lost Lake, White River NF)