

# INTERMOUNTAIN REGION 2012 ANNUAL FIRE REPORT



Photograph by Bode Mecham, Shingle Fire, Dixie National Forest

## 2012 Region Highlights:

- Fire season started in May 25<sup>th</sup> with the Sunrise Mine Fire on the Manti-LaSal National Forest in Colorado. Rich Harvey's Type 1 team managed the fire.
- Over the next five months, the forests managed 37 large fires requiring Incident Management Teams oversight. Twenty-eight of those were Forest Service jurisdiction and nine of them were neighbor's jurisdiction with the Forest Service in unified command.
- There were a total of 698 fires reported in National Forest jurisdiction and within the Great Basin a total of 3,997 fires were reported for 2012.
- The region burned over 1 million acres of National Forest System lands.
- Region 4 spent over \$200 million dollars on wildland fire suppression.
- Within the Great Basin, over 80 Incident Management Teams helped with our suppression efforts. This includes Area Command to Type 3 Teams.
- The region hosted 50 Incident Management Team assignments.
- The largest fire within Region 4 was the Mustang Fire on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. It started on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and ultimately burned 340,000 acres, including portions of the Bitterroot and Nez Perce National Forests. The fire was managed by three Type 1 and two Type 2 teams. The fire burned 55 miles of the Salmon River corridor during heavy rafting/ recreations use period. We were able to keep those corridors open during the fire with no injuries to the public and minimal disruption. Estimated fire costs are \$38 million dollars.
- With thousands of fire fighters and those supporting fire with all levels of complexity, the SAFETY RECORD WAS PHENOMENAL.

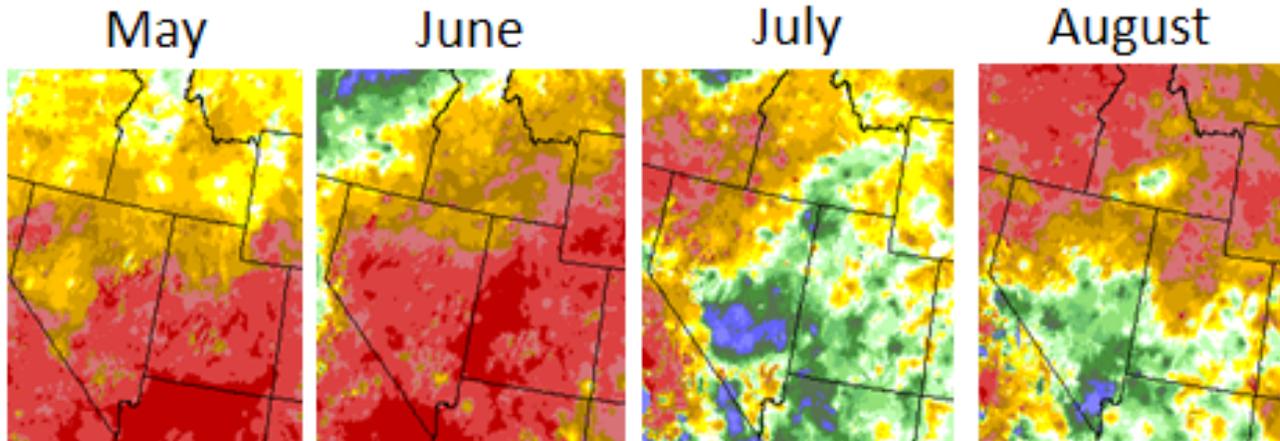


Canadair CL-215 on Minidoka Complex, Sawtooth National Forest

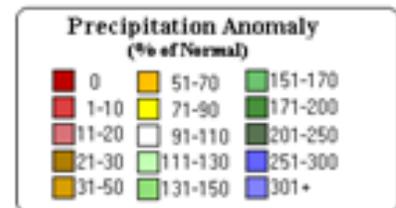
## 2012 Region 4 Fire Season Summary

(Data Current through October 15, 2012)

### Weather 2012 – a new benchmark year



- Driest May/June across Utah in 30 years
- Frequent wind events across the state in June
- Lull in fire activity during July under strong monsoonal flow
- Very dry August/September across the north
- Hottest August in 30 years on the Salmon Challis NF
- Higher than average number of Haines 5/6 days across the central Idaho Mtns.



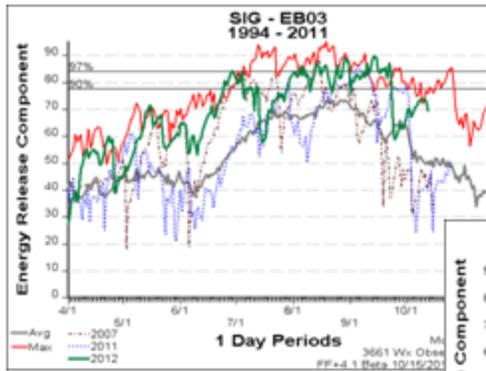
### 2012 Energy Release Component Summary

May, June and the beginning of July showed record high ERC levels across much of Utah and eastern Nevada. These record levels were demonstrated with the type of extreme fire behavior observed on large fires throughout Utah and Nevada during June.

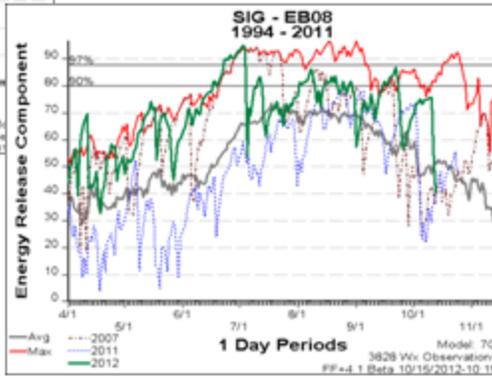
In comparison, the Eastern Central Idaho area didn't peak until mid to late August and sustained the 90% or above until the end of September.

With little precipitation for Idaho, the occasional large fire continued to emerge well into October.

## 2012 ERC Trends – New Records

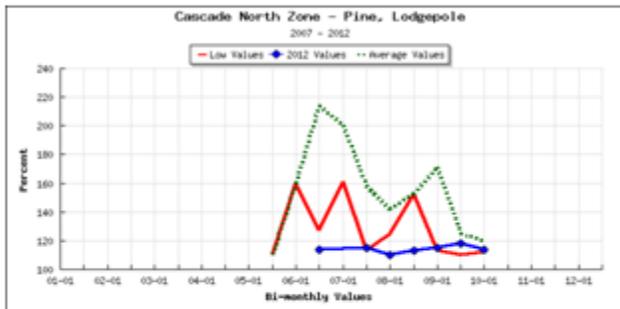


←  
East Central Idaho Mtns



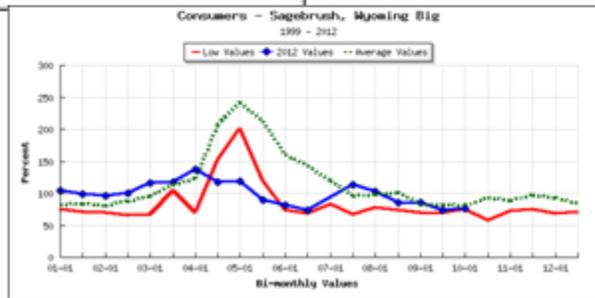
→  
North central Utah Mtns

## 2012 Live Fuel Moisture – record lows



←  
West Central Idaho Mtns  
  
(record lows during August)

→  
Southeast Utah, near Price  
  
(record lows mid April through May)

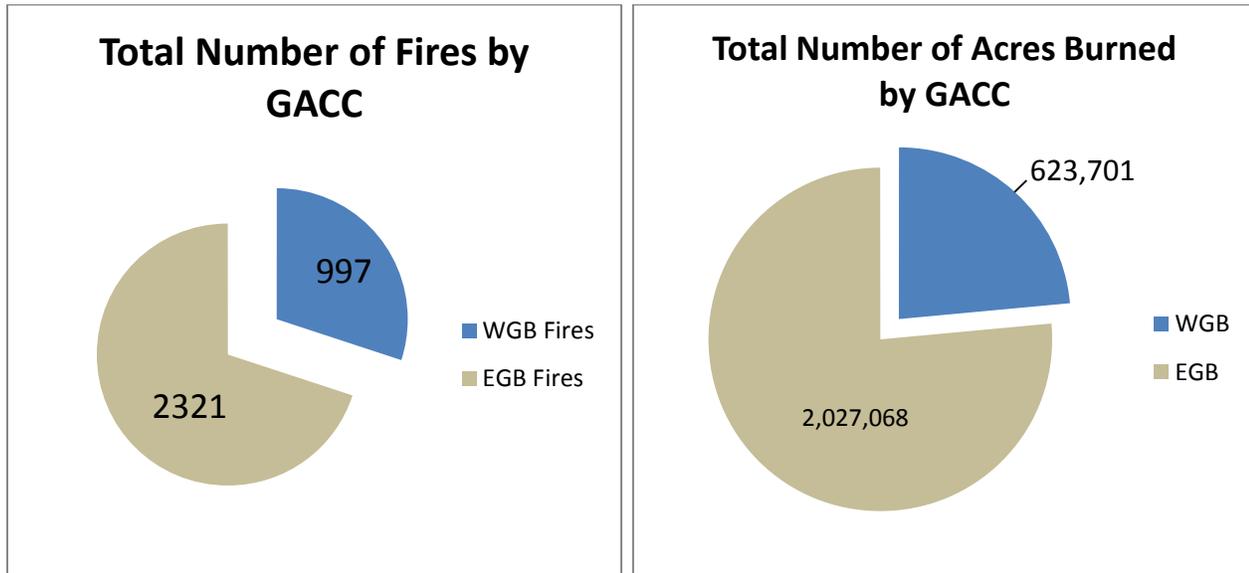


### 2012 Live Fuel Moisture Summary

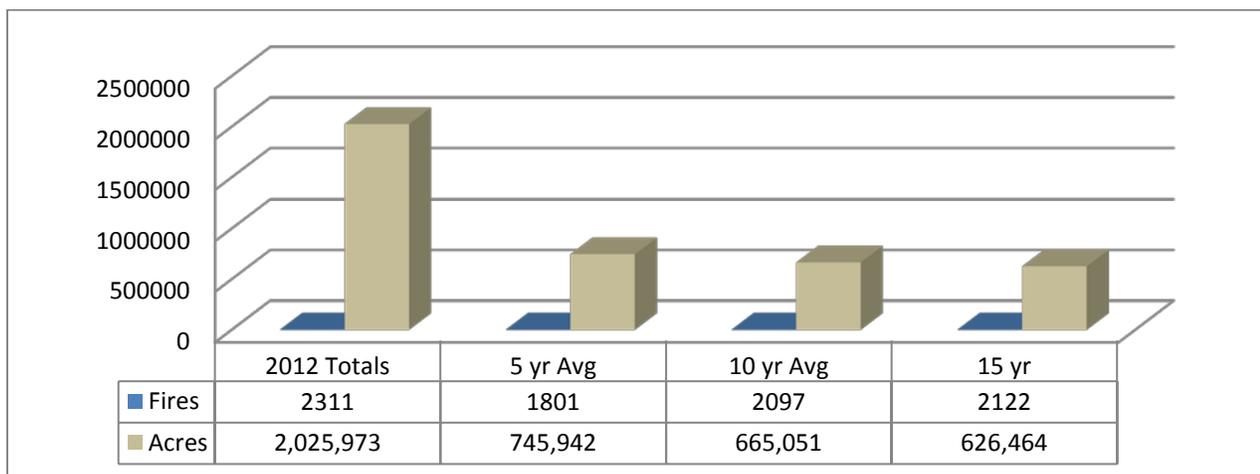
Given the low snowpack and warm, dry spring the live fuel moistures were very low going into the fire season, especially in the brush fuel types at the mid-high elevations. These fuels re-greened across southern Utah during July but remained near record lows across Idaho through the season.

## Fire Summary by GACC

Eastern and Western Great Basin had above average fire occurrence for 2012. There were 3318 fires reported, burning a combined 2,650,769 acres.



On October 1<sup>st</sup> the EGB was well ahead of the 5, 10 and 15 year average for both the number of fire starts and the acreage burned. The chart below shows the comparison.

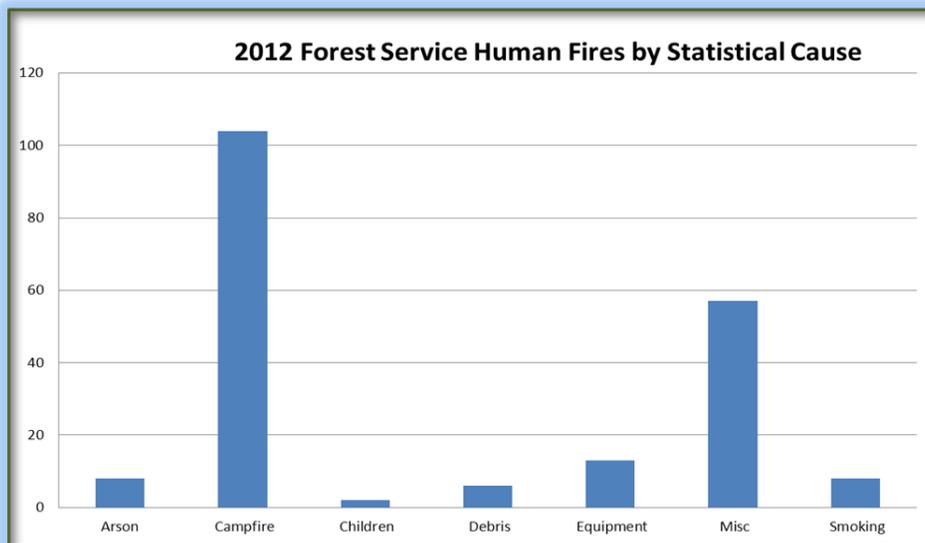


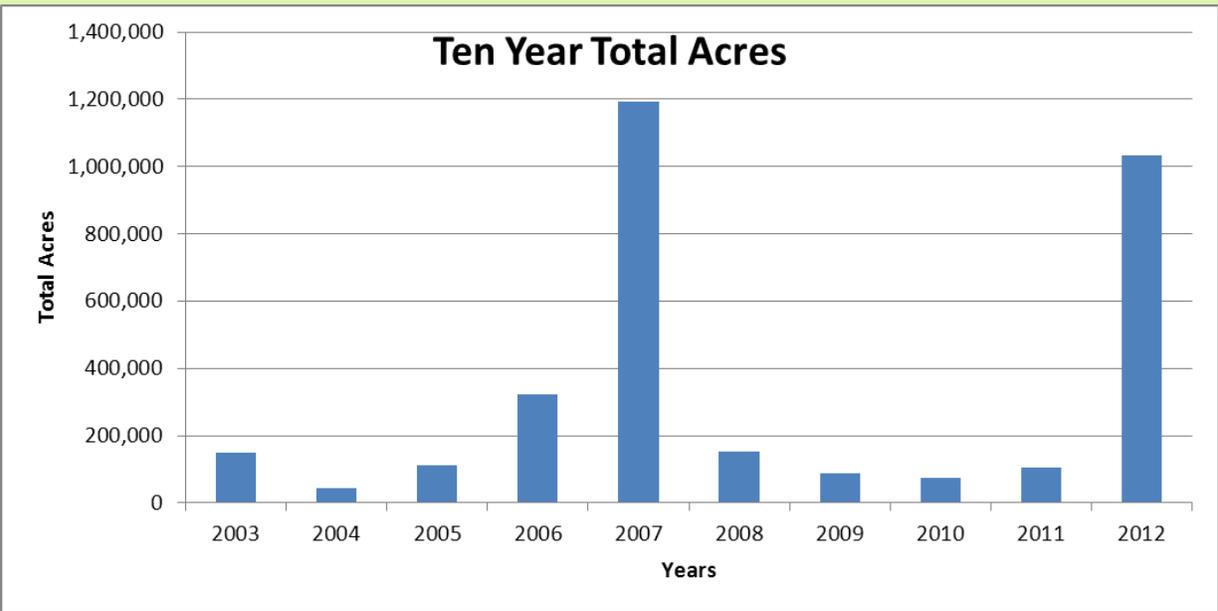
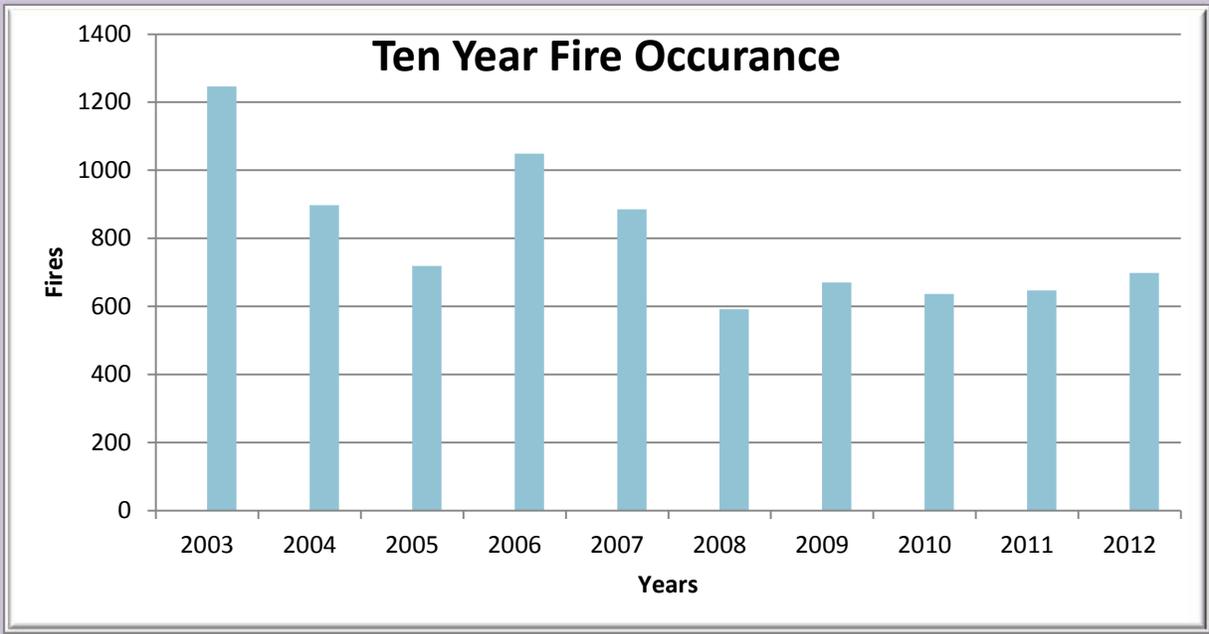
## 2012 and Ten Year Average

### INTERMOUNTAIN REGION FIRE AND ACRES

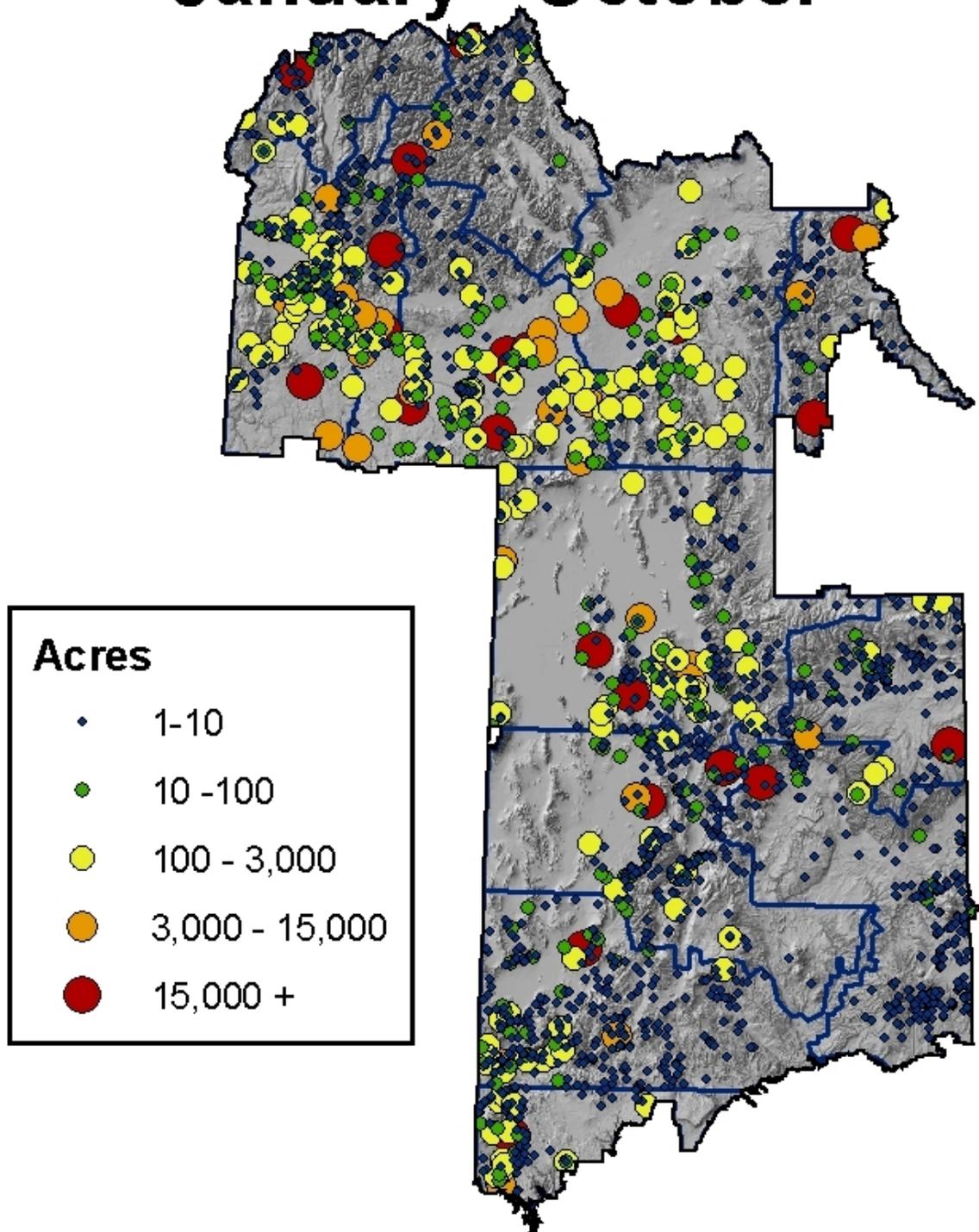
YEAR	LIGHTNING FIRES	HUMAN FIRES	TOTAL FIRES	LIGHTNING ACRE	HUMAN ACRES	TOTAL FS ACRES
2002	937	243	1,180	62,561	77,998	140,559
2003	1,009	237	1,246	83,783	66,917	150,700
2004	744	153	897	40,559	3,487	44,046
2005	521	198	719	56,236	56,847	113,083
2006	866	183	1,049	259,304	62,253	321,557
2007	657	228	885	1,105,029	89,508	1,194,537
2008	367	225	592	119,471	32,715	152,186
2009	478	192	670	82,548	4,608	87,156
2010	431	205	636	72,037	4,017	76,054
2011	486	161	647	99,396	6,119	105,515
10 YEAR AVERAGE	650	203	853	198,092	40,447	238,539
2012	534	251	785	701,300	330,757	1,032,054

Data Source: FIRESTAT

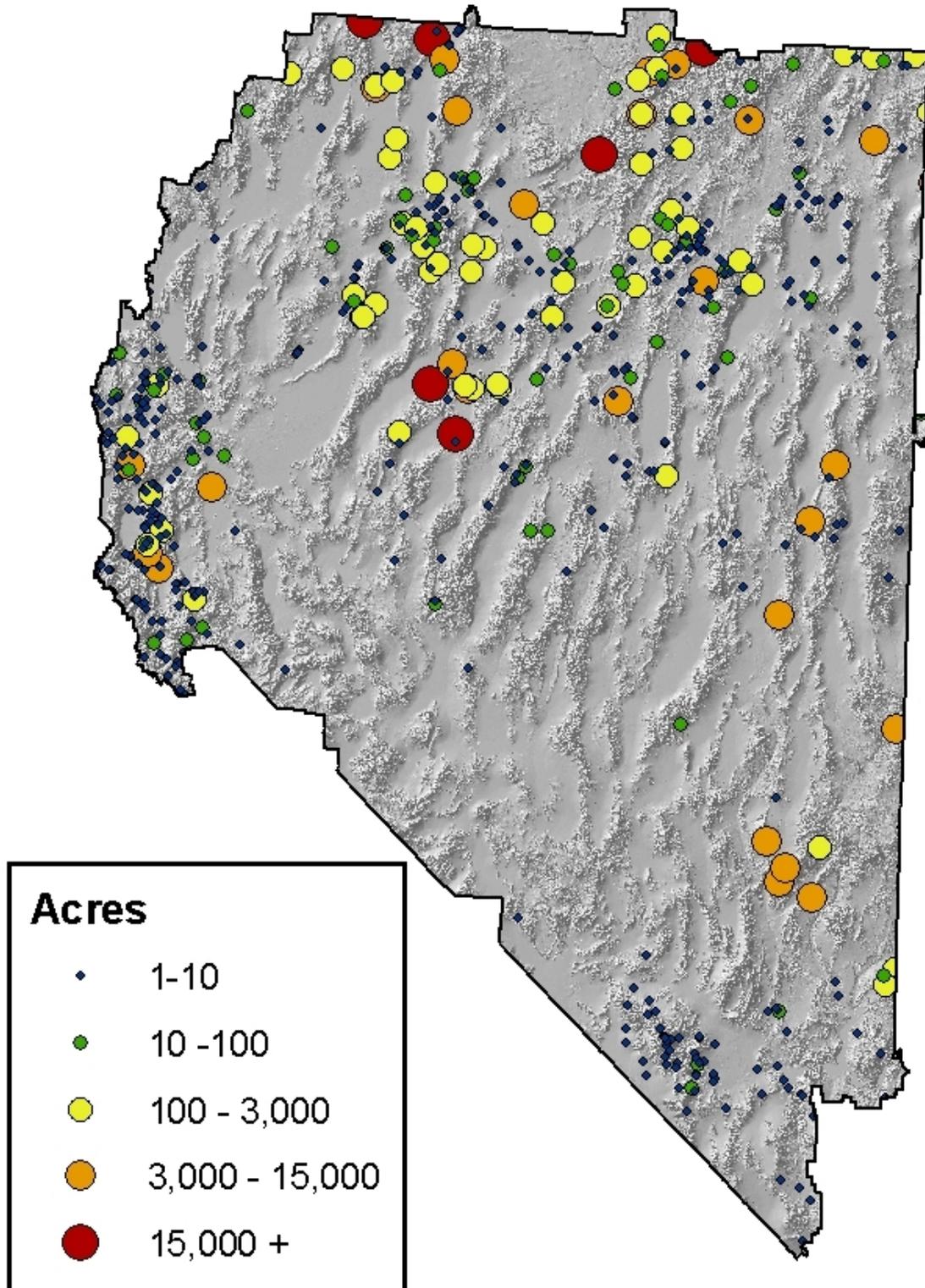




# Fire Activity January - October



# Fire Activity January - October



**2012 INTERMOUNTAIN REGION  
LARGE FIRES REPORT BY STATE**

Large fires are classified as 100 acres or larger in timber fuel types, 300 acres or larger in grass fuel types, or when a Type 1 or Type 2 Incident Management Team is assigned. Large fires and all fire statistics are counted on annual and not fiscal year. There were 57 large fires in the Intermountain Region this season.

Idaho

Incident Number	Name	Start Date	Cause (H/L/U)	Fire Size
ID-PAF-012014	Lone Pine	7/3/12	U	2,801.0
ID-PAF-012043	Roadside	7/20/12	H	2,103.0
ID-SCF-012151	Halstead	7/27/12	L	181,948.0
ID-SCF-012190	Mustang Complex	7/30/12	L	0.0
	Mustang	7/30/12	L	273,441.0
	Lost Packer	7/30/12	L	53,627.0
	Cayuse	7/30/12	L	699.0
	Roan	7/30/12	L	213.0
	East Butte	7/30/12	L	1.0
	Filly	7/30/12	L	1.0
	Horse Butte	7/30/12	L	1.0
	Bolder	7/30/12	L	1.0
	Cabin Creek	7/30/12	L	0.0
ID-PAF-012053	Grizzly	8/3/12	H	823.0
ID-BOF-000628	Trinity Ridge	8/3/12	H	146,832.0
ID-STF-000423	Cave Canyon	8/5/12	L	88,909.0
ID-BOF-000646	Springs	8/6/12	H	6,146.0
ID-STF-000432	Dear Hollow	8/6/12	L	5,440.0
ID-STF-000433	Eight Mile	8/6/12	L	211.0
ID-STF-000441	Minidoka Complex	8/8/12	L	0.0
ID-SCF-12234	Bench	8/9/12	L	220.0
ID-SCF-12242	Norton	8/10/12	L	12.0
ID-SCF-12246	White	8/12/12	L	3.0
ID-SCF-12225	Bear	8/12/12	L	3.0
ID-SCF-12237	Merino	8/12/12	L	7,863.0
ID-STF-000474	Enclosure	8/16/12	L	250.0
ID-CTF-012021	North Canyon	8/28/12	H	419.0
ID-CMP-000520	Lava Tube	8/28/12	L	584.0
ID-PAF-012076	Wesley	9/9/12	L	15,840.0
ID-BOF-000895	Miller	9/9/12	L	40.0
ID-BOF-000889	Trail Creek	9/9/12	L	40.0
ID-PAF-013003	School	10/3/12	H	313.0
ID-CAX-000619	Caulder Creek	10/4/12	U	800.0
ID-STF-000631	Thompson Creek	10/10/12	H	128.0
ID-STF-000633	Pine Springs	10/14/12	H	137.0

Nevada

Incident Number	Name	Start Date	Cause (H/L/U)	Fire Size
NV-HTF-040066	North Schell	6/12/12	H	12,047.0
NV-HTF-101252	Lutz	8/5/12	L	1,200.0
NV-HTF-101252	West Marys	8/8/12	L	100.0
NV-HTF-101270	Browns Gulch	8/8/12	L	12,500.0
NV-HTF-30398	Lake Complex	8/5/12	L	226.0
NV-HTF-40277	Cottonwood	8/11/12	L	150.0
NV-HTF-101713	Head	10/11/12	H	400.0

Utah

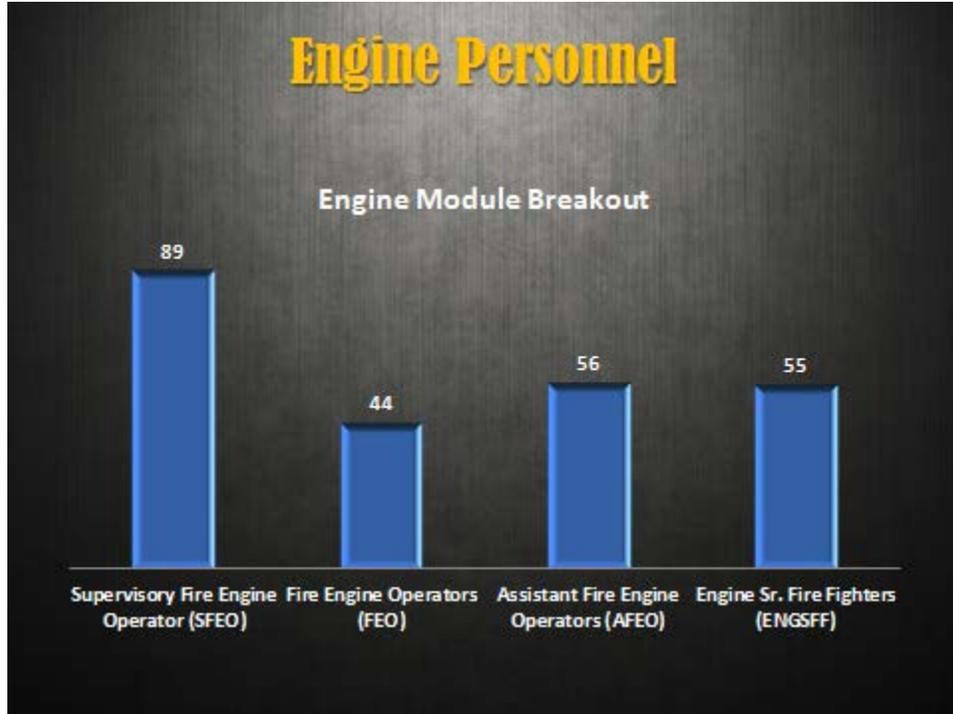
Incident Number	Name	Start Date	Cause (H/L/U)	Fire Size
UT-DIF-120178	Lake Creek	6/4/12	H	1,200.0
UT-FIF-000084	Box Creek	6/5/12	H	2,170.0
UT-FIF-000082	Lost Lake	6/5/12	H	2,170.0
UT-MLF-002129	Seeley	6/26/12	L	48,038.0
UT-DIF-120299	Shingle	7/1/12	H	8,061.0
UT-MLF-002192	Dizzy Rock	7/12/12	H	50.0
UT-UWF-000662	Pumpkin	8/5/12	L	176.0
UT-DIF-120777	Little Pine	8/10/12	L	2,112.0
UT-USF-000783	Red Ledges	8/19/12	H	1,860.0
UT-UWF-000871	Tank	9/20/12	L	65.0

Wyoming

Incident Number	Name	Start Date	Cause (H/L/U)	Fire Size
WY-BTF-000006	Fontenelle	6/24/12	U	64,220.0
WY-BTF-000005	Bear Cub	7/2/12	L	6,493.0
WY-BTF-000017	Butte Creek	7/25/12	L	1,515.0
WY-BTF-000028	North Buffalo	8/24/12	H	28,850.0
WY-BTF-000039	Chall Creek	9/16/12	U	687.0
WY-BTF-000041	Rock Creek	9/29/12	U	34.0

## Intermountain Region Engines

Currently there are 81 engines operating in Region 4. Of those 81 engines, 43 are Type 4 engines and 38 are Type 6 engines. The total investment in our engine inventory is \$14,836,189.00. There are 244 permanent 18/8 or 13/13 engine employees. The engine program is 44% of our region's firefighting work force.



## GREAT BASIN ENGINE ACADEMY

### Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities for students to refine their driving skills in a variety of environments, become more proficient in the operation and maintenance of fire apparatus to national standards, and provide the home unit a student evaluation.



The Great Basin Engine academy was established in 2008. Before this time there wasn't much offered in Region 4 for our engine employees. 2012 was the fifth year of operation. Since 2008 until the present 120 students have attended the academy and 117 graduated. During the 2012 fire season, 25 percent of the incidents reported to the Lessons Learned Center were driving incidents, including two fatalities. Driving is one of the most dangerous duties engine crew members do. Region 4 had zero driving accidents in 2012. One of the main points of the engine academy is driving skills. Many hours are spent learning how to maneuver through four different driving courses. Because of the academy we have safer drivers driving our engine fleet. Also taught at the academy, is hydraulics, pumping, and maintenance. Not only are we producing safer drivers we are also increasing skills to lower maintenance cost as our engine operators can learn to detect problems before they become large.

This fall, the National Engine Academy was developed for over site of the regional engine academies. Currently R2, R3, R4, R5 and R8 are working together to ensure quality and lesson content is the same across the nation with only a 20 percent variance to meet regional needs.

### **2012 INTERMOUNTAIN REGION IHC**

Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHCs) support the Forest Service's response to wildland fire. IHCs are twenty-person, rapid response fire crews specializing in large fires the federal government dispatches to trouble spots across the nation. Due to their high levels of physical fitness, training, self-reliance and expertise, they are the Forest Service's elite firefighters, relied upon to fight the worst fires in the toughest terrain under the most dangerous circumstances. The Forest Service developed hotshot crews specifically to fight fires in the West's rugged terrain. After a 1935 decision to control all fires the morning following their first report and became national policy, the U.S. Forest Service designated hotshot crews as the means to achieve its policy ends. The loss of seventy-eight lives in the devastating Northern Rockies fires of 1910 provided the catalyst for public and Congressional support of fire suppression. The 1911 Weeks Act legislated emergency firefighting funds making aggressive wildland fire suppression a reality. Newly designated Chief Henry S. Graves commented on the importance of using trained, organized crews to protect forests from blazes. In a 1910 Forest Service bulletin he wrote: "The following are of 1st importance: 1) Quick arrival at the fire; 2) and adequate force; 3) proper equipment; 4) a thorough organization of the fighting crew; and 5) skill in attacking and fighting fires.

RO4 IHC	2007	2008	2009	2010	2010	Total	5 Yr Avg	2012
Days Assigned								
Black Mtn	104	109	87	91	122	513	103	126
Boise	83	109	55	65	94	406	81	116
Cedar City	119	82	89	83	94	467	93	115
Idaho City	116	122	89	83	106	516	103	113
Logan	97	109	64	90	118	478	96	125
Lone Peak	146	117	108	86	139	596	119	145
Sawtooth	102	121	58	51	98	430	86	110
RO4 Total	767	769	550	549	771	3,406	681	850



Photo taken by Andrew Addey, Sawtooth Hotshots 2012

## 2012 Great Basin Buying Team Assignments

<b>Resource Name: TEAM - BUYING - T1 - EB - HUSTON - 2012</b>				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
CO-RMC	WY-CPC	RUSSELS CAMP	Team, Buying	11
CO-RMC	WY-CPC	ARAPAHO	Team, Buying	11
CO-RMC	WY-RWC	SEMINOE	Team, Buying	7
CO-RMC	WY-RWC	FERRIS	Team, Buying	5
NV-WBC	NV-CNC	HOLLOWAY	Team, Buying	19
UT-EBC	ID-CIC	LARGE FIRE SUPPORT 2012	Team, Buying	20
<b>Resource Name: TEAM - BUYING - T1 - EB - LINDSAY - 2012</b>				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
CO-RMC	CO-PBC	LOWER NORTH FORK	Team, Buying	9
NM-SWC	AZ-SDC	BULL FLAT	Team, Buying	8
CO-RMC	CO-MTC	SUNRISE MINE	Team, Buying	10
CO-RMC	CO-FTC	HIGH PARK	Team, Buying	23
CO-RMC	WY-CPC	SQUIRREL CREEK	Team, Buying	10
CO-RMC	SD-GPC	MYRTLE	Team, Buying	21
CA-OSCC	CA-SBCC	JAWBONE COMPLEX	Team, Buying	10
CA-ONCC	CA-RICC	BAGLEY	Team, Buying	33
CO-RMC	CO-PBC	WETMORE	Team, Buying	6
CO-RMC	CO-FTC	FERN LAKE	Team, Buying	10
<b>Resource Name: TEAM - BUYING - T2 - EB - HAYCOCK - 2012</b>				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
CO-RMC	CO-FTC	HEWELETT	Team, Buying	12
NV-WBC	NV-ECC	WHITE ROCK	Team, Buying	7
CO-RMC	CO-DRC	LITTLE SAND	Team, Buying	17
CO-RMC	SD-GPC	REGION 24 COMPLEX	Team, Buying	7
CO-RMC	WY-RWC	FERRIS	Team, Buying	8
UT-EBC	ID-CIC	LARGE FIRE SUPPORT 2012	Team, Buying	15
<b>Resource Name: TEAM - BUYING - T2 - EB - SHUPLA - 2012</b>				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
CO-RMC	WY-CPC	COW CAMP	Team, Buying	6
CO-RMC	WY-CPC	GUERNSEY STATE PARK	Team, Buying	8
CO-RMC	WY-CPC	RUSSELS CAMP	Team, Buying	3
UT-EBC	WY-TDC	FONTENELLE	Team, Buying	18
UT-EBC	ID-SCC	CAVE CANYON	Team, Buying	2
UT-EBC	ID-SCC	MINIDOKA COMPLEX	Team, Buying	12
UT-EBC	WY-TDC	HORSETHIEF CANYON	Team, Buying	18

## 2012 Great Basin Incident Management Team Assignments

Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T1 - EB - TEAM 1 - LUND				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
CO-RMC	CO-FTC	HIGH PARK	Team, Type 1 Long	11
UT-EBC	ID-BDC	AVELENE	Team, Type 1 Long	3
UT-EBC	UT-EBC	2012 EBC R4 STAGING	Team, Type 1 Long	4
UT-EBC	ID-SCC	CAVE CANYON	Team, Type 1 Long	3
UT-EBC	ID-SCC	MINIDOKA COMPLEX	Team, Type 1 Long	12
UT-EBC	ID-BDC	TRINITY RIDGE	Team, Type 1 Long	16
UT-EBC	ID-PAC	WESLEY	Team, Type 1 Long	17
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T1 - EB - TEAM 2 - HARVEY				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
CO-RMC	CO-PBC	LOWER NORTH FORK	Team, Type 1 Short	9
CO-RMC	CO-MTC	SUNRISE MINE	Team, Type 1 Long	11
CO-RMC	CO-PBC	WALDO CANYON	Team, Type 1 Long	15
UT-EBC	ID-BDC	TRINITY NORTH	Team, Type 1 Long	2
UT-EBC	ID-BDC	TRINITY RIDGE	Team, Type 1 Long	17
CO-RMC	CO-FTC	FERN LAKE	Team, Type 1 Short	13
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T2 - EB - TEAM 4 - KIDD				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
NV-WBC	NV-ECC	WHITE ROCK	Team, Type 2 Long	9
UT-EBC	UT-UBC	CHURCH CAMP	Team, Type 2 Long	15
MT-NRC	MT-BZC	MILLIE	Team, Type 2 Long	18
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T2 - EB - TEAM 6 - OURADA				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
NV-WBC	NV-ECC	NORTH SCHELL	Team, Type 2 Long	12
UT-EBC	WY-TDC	FONTENELLE	Team, Type 2 Long	10
NV-WBC	NV-CNC	HOLLOWAY	Team, Type 2 Long	17
UT-EBC	WY-TDC	HORSETHIEF CANYON	Team, Type 2 Long	16
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T2 - EB - TEAM 7 - SUWYN				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
NV-WBC	NV-SFC	TRE	Team, Type 2 Short	6
UT-EBC	UT-NUC	QUAIL	Team, Type 2 Long	6
UT-EBC	ID-PAC	C FIRE	Team, Type 2 Short	6
UT-EBC	ID-BDC	TRINITY RIDGE	Team, Type 2 Long	8
UT-EBC	ID-PAC	WESLEY	Team, Type 2 Long	9
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - NIMO - SHORT - HOUSEMAN				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
UT-EBC	WY-TDC	FONTENELLE	Team, Natl Incident Mgmt Organiza	17
UT-EBC	ID-CIC	HALSTEAD	Team, Natl Incident Mgmt Organiza	48
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T2 - WB - TEAM 3 - WHALEN				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
UT-EBC	UT-RFC	WOOD HOLLOW	Team, Type 2 Long	12
UT-EBC	ID-CIC	MUSTANG COMPLEX	Team, Type 2 Long	19
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T2 - WB - TEAM 5 - WILDE				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
UT-EBC	UT-RFC	LOST LAKE	Team, Type 2 Long	11
UT-EBC	UT-NUC	DUMP	Team, Type 2 Long	5
UT-EBC	UT-EBC	2012 EBC R4 STAGING	Team, Type 2 Long	2
UT-EBC	WY-TDC	FONTENELLE	Team, Type 2 Long	15
UT-EBC	ID-BDC	KARNEY	Team, Type 2 Long	7
Resource Name: TEAM - IMT - T2 - WB - TEAM 8 - ADELL				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
UT-EBC	UT-RFC	BOX CREEK	Team, Type 2 Short	9
UT-EBC	ID-SCC	KINYON ROAD	Team, Type 2 Long	6
UT-EBC	UT-EBC	2012 EBC R4 STAGING	Team, Type 2 Long	3
UT-EBC	ID-CIC	MUSTANG COMPLEX	Team, Type 2 Short	16
UT-EBC	ID-CIC	HALSTEAD	Team, Type 2 Short	21
Resource Name: Team, Critical Incident Stress				
Inc GACC	Inc Disp	Inc Name	Filled Catalog Item Name	Days Assigned
NV-WBC	NV-WBC	2012 WBC CISM SUPPORT	Team, Critical Incident Stress	11
NV-WBC	NV-WBC	NORTH SCHELL CISM SUPPORT	Team, Critical Incident Stress	3

## FUELS PROGRAM SUMMARY

2012 was a banner year for large fires testing fuel treatments. For example, the Mustang Complex on the Salmon Challis NF had 30 fuels treatments that were in the fire's path and all of them moderated fire behavior. On both the Mustang Complex and the Wesley Fire (Payette NF) fuel treatments were instrumental in reducing fire intensity/spread thus allowing a transition in management from Type 1 to Type 3 organizations much earlier than if the treatments did not exist. This resulted in significant suppression cost savings. Another example is the Fontenelle Fire on the Bridger Teton NF. Fuels treatment next to homes facilitated burnout operations which saved the homes from the fire. See the photo story below.



Photo shows forest and adjacent homes before the Fontenelle Fire. The fuels treatment is the thinned timber buffer strip between the homes and the Forest.



Photo shows the area after the Fontenelle Fire. The buffer strip was used to burnout fuels so that the homes were protected from the advancing fire.

The following table shows the acres treated to reduce fuels and restore landscapes region wide for 2012.

WUI acres treated	53,287
Non-WUI acres treated	52,089
<b>TOTAL ACRES TREATED</b>	<b>105,376</b>

This accomplishment represents **113%** of the assigned target. In 2012 acres treated by wildfires in the last half of the fiscal year were not credited towards target accomplishment - otherwise the figures would have been much higher. There were good burn windows in the spring for most of the region's forests; but, no burning was done at the end of the fiscal year due to dry fuel conditions.

The Region had two escaped prescribed fires early in the season. Both were in the high elevation mixed conifer fuel type with aspen restoration as the objective. Each had Facilitated Learning Analyses completed.

## **STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE and RURAL FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

In 2012, the State and Rural Fire Assistance Program for the Region was a major player in providing financial assistance to Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming with funds to increase the States and Counties Wildland Fire fighter's ability to meet the National Response Framework (NRF) as addressed in the President's budget.

These funds have allowed the States and Counties to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure they meet NWCG guidelines when assisting the Federal agencies fighting wildland fires. The procurement of radios compatible with Federal frequencies has been a major goal and will continue to be an emphasis for these funds in the future. Besides PPE, rolling stock to support wildland fire has been an area where the States have made significant advancements. They have been able to obtain very good equipment through the FEPP or FFP program sponsored by the Forest Service with the Department of Defense. With the updated equipment the Rural Fire Departments have obtained through these programs have allowed them to assist the Federal agencies with the suppression efforts of wild fires.

Nevada FFP total equipment value is \$ 697,409

Nevada FEPP total equipment value is \$ 10,319,676

Utah FEPP total equipment value is \$ 41,995,854

Due to the training required to meet wildland firefighting standards these State, County and Local Government fire departments have been willing and able to assist us with hazardous fuels treatments and prescribed fires. With the decrease of agency personnel available to support these incidents the federal agencies are more dependent on State and County employees to fill these needs. Region 4 experienced a very rigorous fire season and was dependent on the resources these counties can provide to us. Due to the increased need for resources to fight wildland fire in wildland urbane interface areas the State, City, County and Rural fire departments can provide the needed resources we need to fight fires around these urban areas.

In total, Region Four granted over \$ 4,360,000 million dollars to these states for assistance.

Utah \$2,522,400

Nevada \$1,839,700

## **HAZARDOUS FUELS**

Hazardous fuels (HF) are a major concern for the State Foresters throughout the region. The Forest Service allocates over \$1 million dollars each year to the four states within the region to reduce this hazard. Several of these projects have been tested by wildfires over the past year and proved to be successful at reducing the danger and slowing down the wild fire approaching the private land and structures.

The danger is not eradicated from the landscapes the States, Counties and VFD's are responsible to protect, but it is helping to slow the danger. The States of Utah and Nevada both had several of these HF projects tested this past year and all had success that can be highlighted to show how the HF projects slow down and actually save structures from advancing wildfires. As these projects are highlighted by the fire departments more and more private entities are starting to take notice of the success these HF projects are having in reducing fire danger and changing the vegetation around the communities to make them more fire adaptable.

In fiscal year 2012 the Region allocated \$ 1,365,000 million dollars to the States for hazardous fuels project work.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

Fire prevention remains a focus for the region and we continue to work with each of the four states in the region to increase our message for fire prevention. The Forest Service, Regional Office ordered a Fire Prevention Education Team (FPET) in CY 2012 due to the high number of human caused fires to help curb the assault Utah State was experiencing. It was a unified effort by the State, BLM and Forest Service and proved to be very successful as TV, Radio and news print interviewed them and used the teams' messages for several months. If we as an agency can reduce the number of human caused fires by even 10% we can save millions of dollars due to the decrease in the need for suppression investments. Fire prevention has to be an emphasis throughout the region and the nation to achieve a successful prevention program.

Region Four has a Great Basin Fire Prevention Team to coordinate the efforts and assist each agency and State run a successful program.

## **AVIATION MANAGEMENT**

### **Helicopter Program**

The use of the helicopter support is a key element in the Intermountain Region's fire suppression mission. Helicopters represent fast initial attack to multiple locations using both rappel and conventional Helitack delivery of firefighters. Due to the helicopters unique multifunctional capabilities, initial attack can often be accomplished in a matter of minutes instead of hours.

Helicopters also play a major role in extended attack and large fires, providing personnel and cargo delivery, recon flights. Medical evacuations and bucket support to ground crews working the fireline.

Helicopters are also used in R-4 for project work. Each year tools, building materials and even motorized construction equipment are delivered in support of projects ranging from fence building to back country dam restoration.

The use of helicopters within the Region for wildland fire suppression and project work include but are not limited to these primary missions:

- Delivery of initial attack Helitack or rappel personnel.
- Aerial delivery of retardant or water in support of fire suppression.
- Aerial delivery of cargo for fire and project work.

- Performing aerial observation, mapping, and Infrared.
- Ignition of prescribed fire using aerial ignition devices.
- Aerial seeding for rehabilitation of burned, flooded or other areas.
- Emergency rescue
- Law enforcement

During 2012 fire season Forest Service Helitack personnel employed within Region 4 staffed a total of twenty five (25) Exclusive Use Helicopters based at fourteen different locations within the Region. 72% of the helicopters were equipped with Helitack or Heli-rappel crews that provide the full spectrum of fire suppression capabilities.

Also in 2012 the Region hosted 7 large Type I helicopters equipped with tanks or buckets capable of dispensing 450-1500 gallons of water or retardant. These National helicopters hosted by the Region were also available for dispatch throughout the lower 48 States and Alaska.



Total Days on Contract	3,085
Total Fires Support	314
Total Hours Flown	6,714
Total Operational Rappels	133
Total Helitack IA Fires	477
R4 Total Helitack Personnel	180



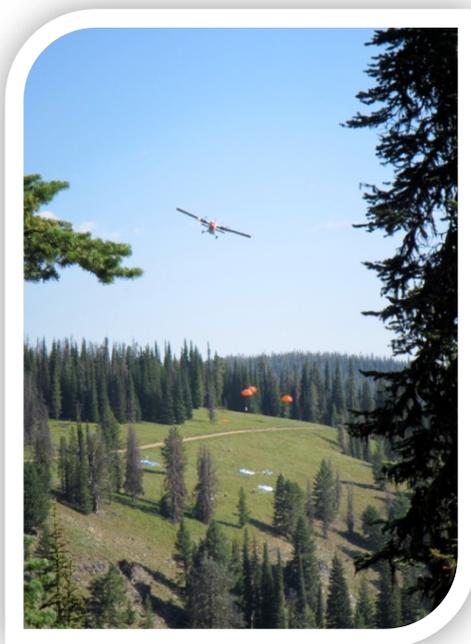
## Region 4 McCall Smokejumper Program

2012 McCall Smokejumper Base Suppression Action							
	FIRES	INDIV- FIRE	DAYS ON JUMPED	GROUND CREW	GROUND CREW	SINGLE RES. ORDERS	SINGLE RESOURCE
YEAR	JUMPED	JUMPS	FIRES	FIRES	DAYS	FILLED	DAYS
<b>2012</b>	91	418	1770	8	261	108	1079
<b>5 YR AVE</b>	77	333	967	-	294	85	704

After 4 consecutive seasons of relatively slow wildland fire activity, 2012 brought with it a season that surpassed our 10 year averages in fire missions, fire jumps, and single resource assignments. With extreme burning conditions occurring in Colorado and Utah, single resource orders continually rolled into the base during June and remained fairly steady throughout the season when we had the numbers to support both initial attack and fire line leadership needs. Once initial attack activity began in early July with regards to jumping fires, it did not let up until mid-October. IA was heavy throughout the region and resulted in our opening of the Ogden Spike Base on multiple occasions. As for our personnel, we had a total of 70 smokejumpers available this season, which included 58 returning jumpers and 12 rookies.

With regards to jumping, the first fire jumped out of McCall occurred on the Payette National Forest (Hida Ridge Fire) on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The last fire jumped out of McCall was the 6 Mile Creek Fire, once again on the Payette National Forest, on October 17<sup>th</sup>. These two incidents bracketed a very busy season of jumping fires that saw McCall smokejumpers jump 91 fires for a total of 418 fire jumps across the country (compare that to our 10 year averages of 85 and 347 respectively). Specifically for McCall operations (including the Ogden spike base), 368 fire jumps occurred on 70 fire missions, on 15 different land management jurisdictions. 10 times

the base was jumped out, but due to the high commitment of smokejumper resources nationally, no booster crews were ever received in McCall. Also of significance, McCall conducted 19 paracargo missions in support of wildland fire operations throughout the region, dropping fresh food and equipment. Additionally, McCall Smokejumpers spent 261 days on 8 ground fires for the year. Prescribed fire and fuels activities continue to play an important role in the services that the base offers. Smokejumpers supported Rx related activities on the Payette and Boise National Forests with 76 days worked and 2,302 acres assisted. Lastly, McCall once again supported the Incident Management Team community by providing 5 smokejumpers to Great Basin IMTs. Once again, McCall supported the Silver City Smokejumper program by providing 5 jumpers for the duration of the operation in Region 3. Those individuals were in place from mid-May through the beginning of



July. As mentioned above, spike base operations out of Ogden, UT were also supported with a minimum of 12 jumpers and 1 aircraft on 4 different occasions during June, July and August. The spike base was open for a total of 31 days, resulting in 8 fires jumped, 2 ground crew fires, and 445 total days worked on wildland fires dispatched out of Ogden. McCall also supported the spike base operations by sending a 12 person booster crew to increase jumper numbers in Ogden in mid-August. Additionally, another 5 booster crew orders were filled out of McCall to support smokejumper activity throughout the country with 3 separate booster crews sent to Grangeville, ID, 1 booster crew sent to Silver City, NM and 1 set of boosters sent to Grand Junction, CO. All told, 46 smokejumpers spent 571 days prepositioned as boosters supporting smokejumper activities outside of McCall. As for single resource assignments, McCall Smokejumpers filled 108 orders which totaled 1079 days worked providing fire line leadership to local units, crews, and large incidents.

Aircraft and Cargo

McCall jump aircraft consisted of two agency owned Twin Otters (J-41 & J-43). They flew a grand total of 543 flight hours (323.5 in support of smokejumper operations).

As for cargo, the smokejumper program moved a grand total of 93,616 lbs. of cargo throughout the country. This consisted of 70 fire missions with smokejumper para-cargo, 19 para-cargo specific missions (delivery of fresh food and equipment), and 7 non-fire missions in support of regional operations.

**Infra-red Program**

Intermountain Region (R-4), maintains a King Air 200 and Cessna Citation 550 for national and international thermal Infra-red (IR) remote sensing. In addition to fire these aircraft stay busy in the off season with administrative flights assisting the region and the Washington Office West. Within the past five years significant advances in technologies have aided in the improvements of the systems and the products utilized. One of the big advances is the use of AirCell (onboard air to ground telemetry link) from N144z & N149Z. They transmit near real time data to ground personnel for a much faster access time. It increases our productivity dramatically by eliminating the need to land for data transfer. Our circuitry innovations and software advancements are continually improving the image quality and heat (fire) detectability, thus resulting in better availability for increased missions. In September we flew 48% more fires than last year and in October we flew 81% more fires than 2011. In 2012 we flew more hours, accepted more missions, delivered better imagery with faster access than in any other time in the history of the Infra-red Program.

<b>Total hours flown on two aircraft</b>	1081
<b>Total Number of Fire missions supported</b>	1376

## Leadplane Program

The USDA Forest Service Leadplane Program in Region 4 is comprised of 2 leased King Air C-90 aircraft stationed in Ogden, Utah. These fast, highly maneuverable aircraft are dispatched to Incidents throughout the United States. The leadplane's primary role is to serve as a safety, efficiency, and effectiveness tool for the airtanker and firefighting crews. These aircraft also provide administrative flights during the off-season.

Fire activity in the Region was moderate to heavy for the 2012 season. Leadplane support was primarily to fires in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.

### 2012 Incident Support



The 1 Agency King Air C-90 flew 263 hours in the Leadplane role in support of over 52 incidents throughout the Western United States.

## Aircraft Maintenance

The Intermountain Region operates six Working Capital Fund aircraft (WCF) and two leased aircraft. The Region employs three Airworthiness Inspectors (maintenance technicians) and Avionics Inspector (avionics technician) to ensure cost effective and safe maintenance to meet the Forest Service Missions.

In addition to maintaining six WCF aircraft and two leased aircraft the Airworthiness Inspectors and Avionics Inspector inspect all contracted aircraft within the Region for contract compliance and safety. We also completed 3 engine changes in 2012. This included both engines of the Citation and the right engine of the King Air 200. The 10 year average of the King Air 200 is 441 hours and we flew 630 hours in 2012. The Citation 10 year average is 390 hours and we flew 558 hours. Both of the Twin Otters exceeded their averages 25 to 50 hours. The Region contracts for over 85 fixed wing and helicopters to support the fire suppression and resource project missions.

### 2012 Incident Support

Number of Major Inspections on the 6 Regional WCF Airplanes	18
Contract Airplanes Inspected & Carded for National & Regional Use	21
Contract Helicopters Inspected & Carded for National & Regional Use	21
Safety Management System (SMS) Audits of Type 1, 2, & 3 Helicopters	0