



Regional Forester Dan Jirón at a High Park Fire briefing.

## WILDFIRE 2012FACTS

- 67 wildfires burned 50,912 acres on the ARP.
- 43 fires were human caused.
- 24 fires were lightning caused.
- Fort Collins Dispatch Center processed requests for:
  - 196 crews,
  - 2,517 overhead positions,
  - 558 pieces of equipment, and
  - 507 aircraft.



U.S. Forest Service fire crews respond to the High Park Fire.



Smoke seen from Stove Prairie Road during the High Park Fire.

# WILDFIRE REHABILITATION

## 2012 – A long season

*The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) manages the Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center, Jeffco Airtanker Base, the Roosevelt Hotshots, seven engines and one Initial Attack Module. The ARP also has a highly-skilled Burned Area Emergency Response Team.*

► The 2012 fire season was busy for the ARP. The wildfire season began in January and a fire burned in the area in every month except December. Record-setting drought and historically low snowpack set the stage for the **Hewlett and High Park fires on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLR D)**. The High Park Fire was ignited by lightning on private land June 9, 2012, and burned 87,284 acres (more than 42,000 of National Forest System lands), destroying 264 homes and resulting in one fatality. The fire was contained June 30, 2012. The High Park Fire burned into and around the Hewlett Fire, which burned 7,685 acres in May 2012. Both fires were in the area of the Cache la Poudre River with both impacting watersheds for Colorado’s Front Range.

► Fire restrictions were put in place in April, expanded in June and lifted in August. Fire restrictions included discharging a firearm due to a number of fire starts being caused by shooting activities.

► In 2012, the **Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center (FTC)** managed the mobilization of firefighting resources in the northern Front Range and Northeast Colorado for the ARP; Rocky Mountain National Park; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control (areas within the zone); and Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand and Larimer counties. FTC **supported 209 large fires across the nation** and mobilized eight Type 3 teams, two Type 2 teams, four Type 1 teams and one National Emergency Management team between April and December for use in the FTC zone. The first team was mobilized for the Hewlett Fire on the CLR D and the last was for the Fern Lake Fire in Rocky Mountain National Park. **The FTC zone had 129 fires**, which burned a record breaking **145,925 acres**.

► The **Roosevelt Hotshots**, based on the CLR D since 2001, is a national firefighting resource. During the 2012 season, the crew traveled to four states and responded to 18 fires.

► **Jeffco Airtanker Base** supported 24 wildfires with 850,376 gallons of retardant, 478 flights, 148 U.S. large airtankers, 209 Canadian airtankers, and 19 MAFFS C-130 flights.

► Since the fires, much work has been occurring on both private and public lands, involving **multiple jurisdictions and interagency teams** in the development of both assessments. Collaborative work continues with state and county governments and local water providers to implement **emergency watershed stabilization measures** to protect against flooding, erosion and debris flows in the aftermath of the fires.



The High Park Fire was visible across Horsetooth Reservoir in Fort Collins.

► A summary of the work completed by the ARP can be found below. Larimer County, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and water providers have been working closely with private landowners to implement much-needed restoration work adjacent to National Forest System lands.

## 2012 Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Work

### High Park

- Aerial mulching (wood shreds): 881 acres
- Trail stabilization: 9 miles
- Road stabilization: 4 miles
- Hazardous tree removal along trails

### Hewlett

- Aerial mulching (agricultural straw): 998 acres
- Trail stabilization: 3.2 miles
- Hazardous tree removal along trails

### Other Response Actions

- Work with partners as part of the High Park Restoration Coalition and other collaborative efforts.
- Monitor and implement the need for closures in some areas and roads for public safety and rehabilitation efforts.
- Work with partners to monitor conditions and identify additional needs.
- Rapid Assessment of the feasibility of reforestation opportunities within the High Park Fire burn area.



Aircraft helped support ground crews during the High Park Fire.

## HIGHPARK FIREFACTS

- **87,284** acres of private and public lands burned.
- **264** homes lost.
- **819,456** gallons of fire retardant dropped.
- **2.7 million** gallons of water dropped.
- **Some 4,000** evacuations required.
- **More than 2,000** personnel on scene during the peak of the fire.
- **1 fatality** (resident) due to fire.



Firefighters in the field during the High Park Fire.