

2011 BMIFC Annual Report



WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST



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Pot Creek Incident



Blue Mountain Interagency Fire Center

BMIDC

We were all very excited to kick off the second year as BMIDC. The area BMIDC provides dispatch services for is over 6 million acres, serving the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District, Washington Department of Natural Resources- Snake River Region, Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Umatilla.

Pre-season at BMIDC is always very active and busy getting ready for the season. We produced/distributed the ODF OPS Plan, BMIDC Mob Guide, radio, IC and block cards. This year we produced an Emergency Incident Response plan to help communicate and clarify roles in response to emergencies. This response plan was practiced during fire season preparedness scenarios with both dispatch and field personnel.

We also had the opportunity to demo an Initial Attack CAD program from British Columbia. The Selkirk program is web based and is a tool that could provide valuable incident situational awareness to all levels of fire management and throughout the coordination system. We found the program to be very valuable.

A lightning storm moved through our area in late August, creating a high work load on multiple zones. The Northern Blues were hit the hardest, resulting in the Bear Wallow and Middle Point Incidents. During the same time Pendleton ODF unit had the Elephant Rock incident that was supported by an ODF short team. The first part of September was very busy with Cactus Mtn., which was supported by the NW Oregon Type II Team. During this same time, the NEO Type 3 team (Hawkins) was assigned to the Chicken Hill Fire, which was later turned over to WA-DNR Reed's Type II

Team. Both teams worked very well with dispatch. The Wallowa-Whitman successfully managed the Jim White Ridge Complex in the Eagle Cap Wilderness during this time as well. Because of little moisture into fall and early winter, BMIDC was still dispatching fires into December.

The success of any organization is based on the people that work there. I am very lucky to have a great group of folks here at BMIDC. We lost a wealth of knowledge when Kris Schmidt was offered and accepted the training officer position on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. It happened again when Bob Kausler (AKA Bobo) decided to live out his snowboarding dream as a retiree. I don't even think Bob realizes how much he will be missed. We wish him well in retirement. Jerry Garrett and Cinda Fratzke moved into the Assistant Center Manger positions in the void of Kris and Bob. Josh Hewitt showed his experience as the IA Floor Leader, plus Amanda Johnson stepped up into the vacant IA Floor Leader position and did an excellent job. Billie Crump from the Wallowa Valley Zone detailed into the Logistics Floor Leader. She brought a wealth of knowledge to the position that was invaluable to the center. Logistics was strong with years of experience from Nancy Johnson and Emily Kubler. Becky Jones handled training for the WWNF and asserted her knowledge in expanded dispatch. Darci Drinkwater and Chris Wagner led the dispatchers with their expertise. Marz Waggoner, Kara Mann, and Ali Anderson were all new to BMIDC this season and they all did a great job

supporting our field personnel. Dusty Pierson from NFJD joined us sharing his knowledge and expertise. Intel was supported by Bethany Micka. Bethany was responsible for updating our BMIDC Webpage and Wildcad incidents, providing input into NFDRS and WIMS fire applications and providing fire information updates as needed.

Monica Jones also supported our Intel duties and is the frontliner for our office. Noel Griggs joined us to provide support to the Selkirk demo project.

The 2011 fire season provided us the opportunity to continue building relationships with our fire managers, ground forces and neighboring dispatches offices (a special Thank You to Grangeville and McCall for all the aviation support throughout the season!). We tracked non-fire resources for the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman NFs, which once again was very successful.

BMIDC is appreciative of the support from the Steering Committee and the radio group. Thank you both for supporting our mission and being there when we needed you!

We are looking forward to providing our customers excellent service in 2012 with their safety being our mission.



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La Grande Air Tanker Base

The base opened for fire support on September 1st. The first load of retardant left the La Grande Tanker Base on September 4th to support the 94 Complex. The most activity occurred on September 6th with seventeen SEAT loads and one heavy air tanker delivering 13,552 gallons of retardant. The last load for the season came on September 7th, with T142 supporting the Chicken Hill incident. The base was closed for fire support on September 15th. Twenty four missions were flown from La Grande Air Tanker Base. The base supported two incidents with retardant, 17 SEATs loads and seven heavy air tanker loads. The final cost of retardant \$36,464. The Tanker Base pumped a total of 25,679 gallons of retardant in 2011. This is a force-account base so there are no retardant contract costs. This is the 19th season without an accident or incident with Heavy Air Tankers, SEATS or Lead Planes.

Cost to Incident	
Retardant Cost	\$36,464
Flight Time Cost	\$45,298
Landing Fees	\$844
Total Cost	\$82,607

This base is Administratively responsible for Tanker 43. This tanker had 343 hours of flight time for the season, which was the third highest for Neptune Aviation Services. It worked a 140 day contract with no post-season extension.

This year's tanker base crew: Russ Hurst (Tanker Base Manager), Craig Droke (Assistant Tanker Base Manager), Carter Wells (Ramp Manager).

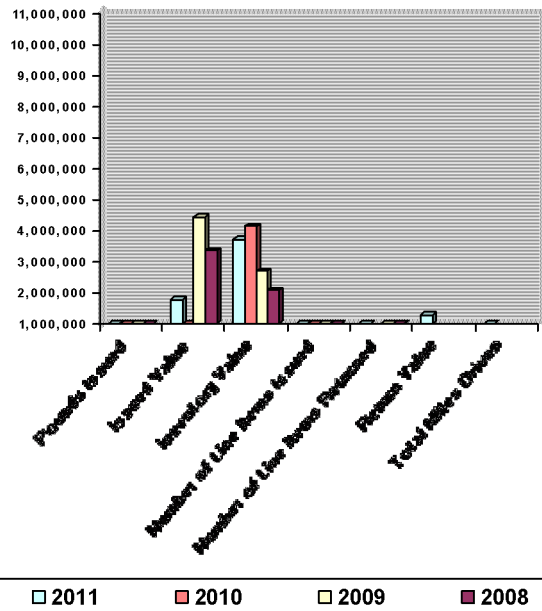
In April it was determined the asphalt apron leading to the concrete retardant loading pads had deteriorated to the point that it was no longer serviceable or safe to operate aircraft. The region and forest had the county fix the ramp temporarily so the base could operator in September. At the end of September the base closed for the permanent repairs. The rehabilitation work is scheduled to be completed in June of 2012.

Agency	Gallons
FS-R6	25,679
BLM	0
ODF	0
Total	25,679

La Grande Fire Cache

In May operations began to gear up at the La Grande Fire Cache. Stocking of the warehouse shelves for the upcoming fire season was the principal focus of the crew. Personnel working for the La Grande Cache included Cache Manager Howard Sievers, Supply Technician Cheri Campbell, Materials Handlers Jeff Johnson, Rod Johnson and returning AD's David Reilly, Ron Journigan, Dayton Sibley, Sid Stratos and new AD hire Caroline Stratos.

The La Grande Fire Cache supported two Type II incidents on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, and one Type III for Oregon Department of Forestry. In addition, resource requests for small initial attack incidents, from the Malheur and Umatilla National Forests, and Oregon Department of Forestry, kept the crew busy. Cache personnel also assisted with the Region 6 Rappel Academy, Fire School 2011, Oregon Department of Forestry and local BIA and BLM unit needs.



The La Grande Cache also provided 318 person days of support to the National Cache System by sending cache personnel to Silver City, NM, London, KY and Boise, ID resulting in 3 personnel detailer opportunities.

This year's dollar amount issued out to fires was \$1,800,814. Total dollar amount returned this year was 1,291,828. Total miles driven this year in support of incidents was 20,973 miles.

Wallowa-Whitman NF

Fuels Program

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest treated 24,799 acres of hazardous fuels in fiscal year 2011. The forest continues to work closely with neighboring forests, state, federal and private agencies using a variety of tools to accomplish fuels reduction targets. Priorities for 2011 included WUI, warm dry plant associations, integrated veg. / fuels projects, and biomass removal. Treatment methods included: prescribed burning, hand and grapple piling, mastication, biomass removal, commercial and pre-commercial thinning.



Woodtick RX Burn



MacMeadow West Mastication
Biomass Removal

The fall 2010 burn window came early and allowed good opportunities for target attainment, however, the spring 2011 prescribed burn window was extremely limited due to above average precipitation. A large portion of RX burning accomplishment was pile burning.

Personnel from the WWNF helped to implement large aerial ignition projects on the Walla-Walla RD in the spirit of cooperation sharing a common airshed while meeting regional targets in lieu of forest targets. Crews continue to work well with neighboring and adjacent agencies to accomplish prescribed burning as windows of opportunity exist. The forest utilized 2 cooperative agreements with the BLM and ODF in accomplishment of forest target. The fuels program continues to be a leader in integration and cooperation with neighboring districts on the forest in accomplishment of forest targets.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest continued to implement contracts for Economic recovery projects on all districts. Recovery Stewardship contracts for commercial thinning, biomass removal, and fuels mastication included the West Mac Meadow, Sundry, and Rooster projects which will be completed in 2012. Additional Stewardship projects implemented with fuels funding included the Peep and Blue Fly Projects. Biomass produced from

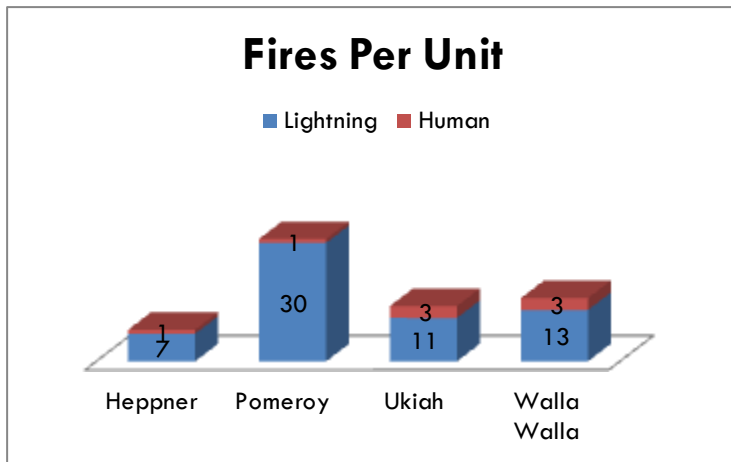
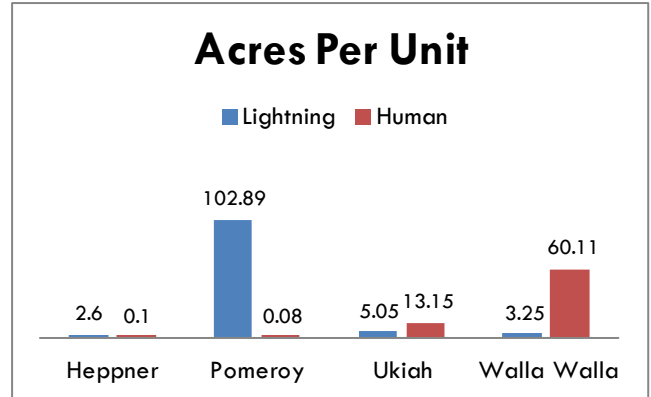
these projects was a significant portion of the forest timber target for 2011. In addition to fuels target accomplishment the forest fuels program contributed 80% of the funding needed for 11 restoration/ fuels NEPA projects.

Treatment	Wildland Urban Interface	Non-WUI	Total Acres
RX Fire	2,829	6,063	8,892
Mechanical Treatments	939	5,547	6,486
Stewardship Fuels Reduction	0	792	792
Fire with Resource Benefit	0	8,629	8,629
Total Acres	3,768	21,031	24,799

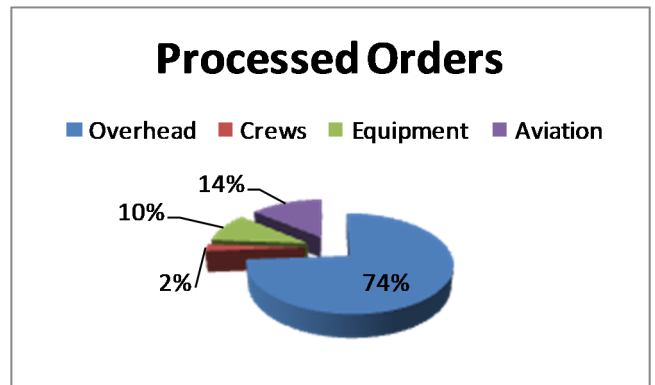
Fire Season Statistics

Umatilla National Forest

Unit	Fires	Acres
Heppner	8	2.70
Pomeroy	31	102.97
Ukiah	14	18.2
Walla Walla	16	63.36
TOTAL	69	187.23



The forest assembled five Type II IA crews.
 Fire activity: Bear Wallow (60 acres), Middle Point (27 acres), Inc. 1183 (13 acres) Inc. 705 (5.6 acres).
 The forest accepted 12 off forest engine assignments.

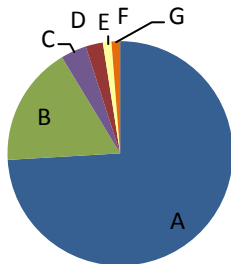


Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number Of Acres
2002	117	243	48	183	165	426
2003	72	1,285	18	207	90	1,492
2004	75	52	10	10	85	62
2005	16	102	24	29,036	40	29,138
2006	121	53,214	19	7	140	53,221
2007	100	27,594	26	926	126	28,520
2008	77	154	20	104	97	258
2009	51	14,024	12	10	63	14,034
2010	32	19	12	8	44	27
2011	61	114	8	73	69	187
10 yr. avg.	72	9,680	20	3,056	92	12,737

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Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Fire Size Class



Unit	Fires	Acres
Whitman Unit	28	6.99
Wallowa Fire Zone	31	9,039.59
Grande Ronde Zone	22	186.55
TOTAL	81	9,233.13

The Forest had one fire managed for multiple objectives; Jim White Ridge Complex (685.5 acres in the Eagle Cap Wilderness). Other large fires were Cactus Mtn. (8,212 acres), Chicken Hill (119 acres) and Old Timer (117 acres).

ROSS Orders Filled @ BMIDC

Overhead: 443

Equipment: 241

Aircraft: 135

Crews: 42

Union IHC: 9 assignments

La Grande IHC: 10 assignments

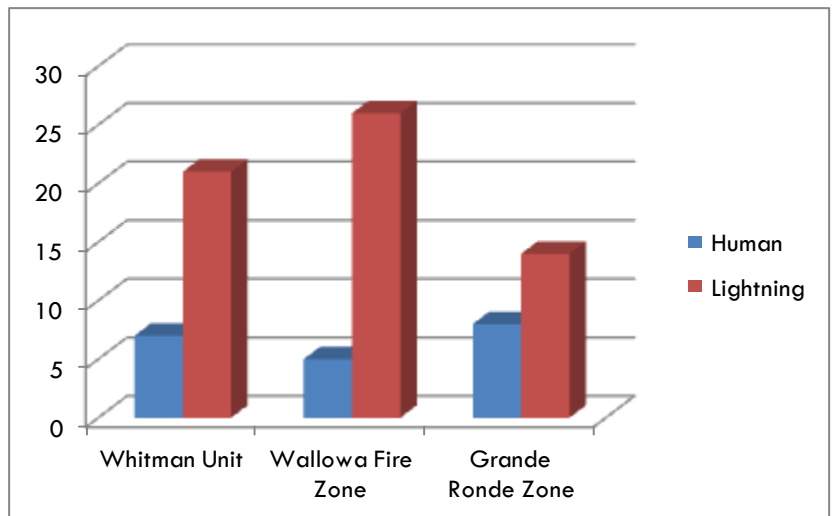
The Forest assembled five IA crews.

Type III Team was assigned to Chicken Hill, with IC Hawkins.

Blue Mtn. Team supported the High Cascade Complex in late August.

WA-DNR Reed's Type II Team was assigned to Chicken Hill.

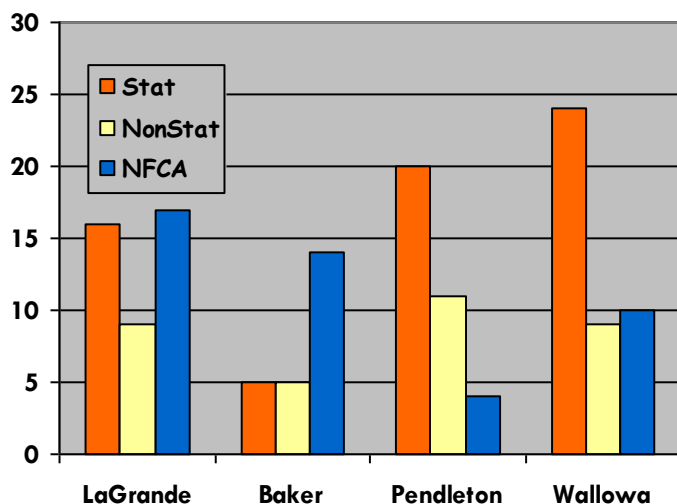
NW Oregon Type II Team was assigned to Cactus Mtn.



Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number Of Acres
2002	114	538	39	30	153	568
2003	79	16,742	26	69	105	16,811
2004	90	944	12	2	102	946
2005	88	81,871	13	2,411	101	84,283
2006	127	37,496	20	110	147	37,606
2007	100	137,274	16	29	116	137,303
2008	48	465	33	29	81	493
2009	53	3,743	32	16	85	3,759
2010	92	257	19	4	111	261
2011	61	836	20	8397	81	9233
10 yr. avg.	85	28,017	23	1,110	108	29,126

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Oregon Department of Forestry

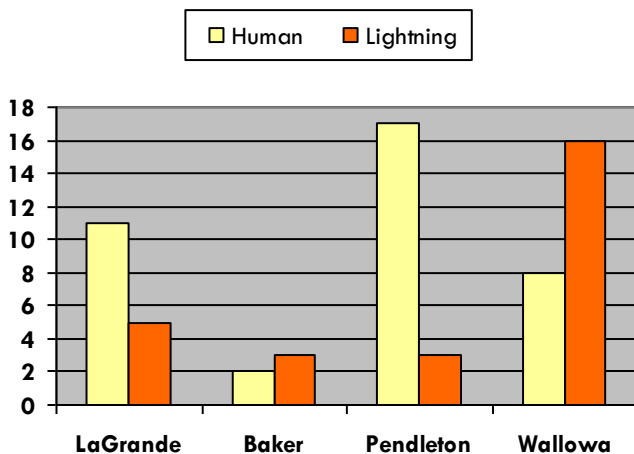


- 87.5% of fires were 10 acres or less.
- NEO District had 27 Lightning caused fires for 79 acres and 38 Human caused fires for 830 acres.
- This year's District statistics are below the ten year average.
- 69 overhead orders were filled at BMIDC, along with 13 crew orders, 8 of which were inmate crews. We also filled 66 equipment and 21 aircraft orders.

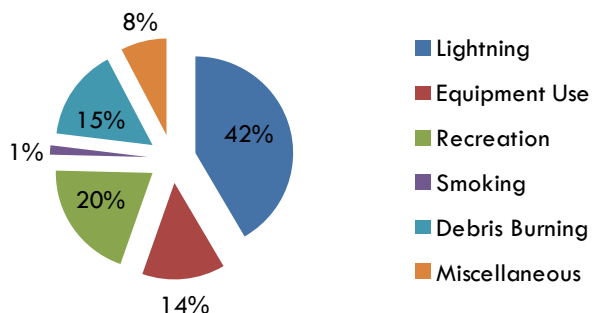
Ten Year Average

Year	# Of Fires	Acreage
2011	65	909
2010	67	145
2009	79	672
2008	69	683
2007	113	10,127
2006	85	3,311
2005	69	2,057
2004	80	39
2003	91	1,613
2002	90	1,407
Average	81	2,096

Fires by Cause



General Cause



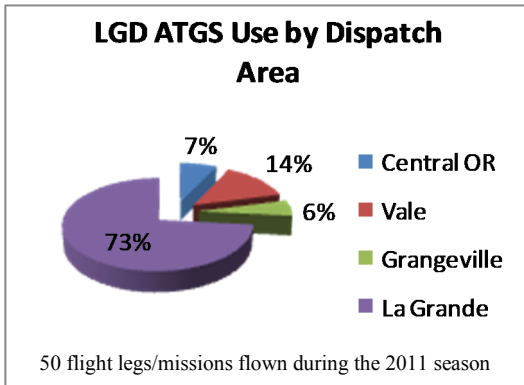
Large Fires in 2011

Fire	Acres
Elephant Rock	303
East Butter Creek	156
Cactus Mtn.	138
Albee Rd.	97
Tunnel Canyon	69
Merritt Rd.	50
Full Moon	20

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AVIATION

La Grande Exclusive Use ATGS



LGD ATGS Use by Agency

Agency	Mission Hours
BLM	18.86
ODF	9.77
USFS	108.23
Total	136.86



Exclusive Use Helicopter CFHFB

CFHFB is a National Type 1 Exclusive-Use helicopter that is hosted by the WWF and managed by Joe Zinni. On July 17th the official base became La Grande. With little or no activity in R6 the ship continued to support the SW. On August 3rd the ship made it's way back to La Grande and starting supporting fires in Oregon and Washington. CFHFB supported Pots Creek and Grizzly here on the Wallowa Whitman and Umatilla NFs. Then CFHFB headed to Dollar Lake. They finished the season on the Pagami Incident in Minnesota.



Number of Large Fires: 11
 Number of Initial Attack for season: 15
 Total Flight Hours: 499.7
 Total Gallons of Water Dropped: 4,477,107
 Total Contract Cost: \$7,625,815

Sled Springs Rappel Base

Sled Springs hosted a Bell 205 A1++, tail number N689H. It was on a 120-day contract. The ship was extended post season for 23 days. The crew consisted of 14 rappellers. 89H and crew took an assignment in early June to the Wallow Incident. Throughout the season the ship and crew initial attacked many lightning cause fires on the Wallowa-Whitman NF, Umatilla NF and NEO ODF. They also supported our larger incidents, Cactus Mountain and Old Timer.



Total number of Initial Attacks: 27
 Initial Attack Rappel Fires: 12
 Initial Attack Helitack Fires: 15
 Number of Operational Rappels: 36
 Number of Cargo Letdowns: 25
 Total Pounds of Internal/External Cargo: 14,455 / 65,496
 Total Flight Hours: 240.8
 Total Gallons of water dropped: 154,008
 Total Number of Passengers Transported: 260
 Total Contract Cost: \$1,155,759

Frazier Rappel Base

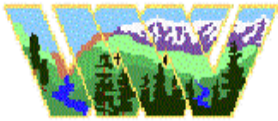
Frazier hosted a Bell 205 A1++, tail number N669H. It was on a 120 day contract. The ship was extended post-season for 14 days. The crew consisted of 16 rappellers. In mid-June the ship and crew took an assignment to support the large fires in New Mexico and another in September to the Mother Lode incident on Mt. Hood NF. Throughout the season Frazier supported both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NFs with initial and extended attack.



Total Number of Initial Attacks: 13
 Initial Attack Rappel Fires: 12
 Initial Attack Helitack Fires: 1
 Number of Operational Rappels: 28
 Number of Cargo Letdowns: 12
 Total Pounds of Internal/External Cargo: 17,870 / 50,760
 Total Flight Hours: 122.5
 Total Gallons of Water Dropped: 125,784
 Total Number of Passengers Transported: 251
 Total Contract Cost: \$937,156.42

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Interagency Hotshot Crews



LA GRANDE HOTSHOTS



La Grande Hotshots started the season a few days after training was finished with a trip to Alaska just outside of Fairbanks. The crew was ordered for the Las Conchas Fire in Los Alamos. They spent two weeks successfully protecting the nuclear lab and the town itself. Then the crew took part in the cleanup of the state's largest marijuana grow in Wildcat Creek on the Wallowa Mountains RD. After that, they spent the next month on various Type 3 fires around the NW. The last month of the season was spent on Dollar Lake. The crew combined with Union for a late trip to the boundary waters of Minnesota.

Total days crew was assembled?	177
Start Date	5/1/11
End Date	10/24/11
Total number of days assigned to incidents? (Includes travel)	107
How many days were in official travel status?	13
How many 14 day tours were completed during total number of days assigned?	5
Number of days on project work while assigned? (list specific type: e.g.. Trails, fuels etc.)	0
Total number of days off?	19
Days off in pay status?	8
Days off in non- pay status?	11
Number of days in training?	15
Total miles driven? (Total of all vehicles)	48,000



Union Hotshots



Union Hotshot had a very busy and active summer. The season started right after training with an assignment to the Hastings Incident right outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. In late June the crew assembled to support the large fires in New Mexico. For the months of August and September the crew worked incidents in Oregon (Shadow Lake, Hancock Complex and Brown Rd), the Tumwater Complex in Washington and Vancreek in Idaho. To finish the season Union combined with La Grande hotshots for an assignment to Minnesota at the Pagami Incident.

Total days crew was assembled?	182
Start Date	05/9/11
End Date	10/21/11
Total number of days assigned to incidents? (Includes travel)	101
How many days were in official travel status?	14
How many 14 day tours were completed during total number of days assigned?	5
Number of days on project work while assigned? (list specific type: e.g.. Trails, fuels etc.)	1
Total number of days off?	13
Days off in pay status?	6
Days off in non- pay status?	7
Number of days in training?	14
Total miles driven? (Total of all vehicles)	15,000