

# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report



## Inside this issue:

<b>BMIFC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LA GRANDE TANKER BASE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LA GRANDE FIRE CACHE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>WASHINGTON DNR</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>UMATILLA NF</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WALLOWA-WHITMAN NF</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>AVIATION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>IHC</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>WALLOWA-WHITMAN'S FUELS PROGRAM</b>	<b>10</b>

**Cache Creek Incident**

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST  
WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST  
UMATILLA BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
SOUTHEAST REGION WASHINGTON DNR



### Blue Mountain Interagency Fire Center

The 2012 Fire Season was a season of accomplishments and positive changes for BMIFC. While the season was slow at times we did find all areas of our operation became very busy supporting other units and providing local support as lightning storms moved through our area.

Spring started with the hiring of Cheri Campbell as Cache Manager and Mick Estudillo as Supply Clerk for the La Grande Regional Fire Cache. We could not be happier with these selections. Both Cheri and Mick bring a level of dedication and professionalism to these positions that will ensure a quality service will be provided to their users for a long time. With Cheri's guidance the cache issued over \$2,800,000 of supplies and equipment to fires and drove over 25,000 miles with no reportable accidents.

The tarmac at the La Grande Air Tanker Base was completed in mid-June and we flew our first load of retardant out of the base on July 9<sup>th</sup>. This was the beginning of a very busy season for the tanker base. Russ Hurst and his crew loaded over 250,000 gallons of retardant this season with the busiest day being on August 28<sup>th</sup>. On this day eighteen planes were loaded and they delivered 37,669 gallons to multiple fires in the Tri-Region area. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> season that Heavy Air Tankers, Seats and Leads Planes have flown out of the La Grande Air Tanker Base without an accident or incident.

The dispatch office provided dispatch services for 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.

This year via agreement BMIDC became the tracking office and dispatch center for the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Umatilla fire resources. This service provided a more coordinated response to incidences and enhanced the safety of fire resources. This first season was very successful and we look forward to working with Darron Williams and his crews.

The BMIDC Board of Directors approved the addition of an Intelligence position to the BMIDC organization. Bethany Micka was selected for this position in May. She did an outstanding job in updating our webpage, and providing Intel products that ranged from technical NFDRS reporting, fire application updating and providing general fire information to many users.

We also were able to hire Billie Crump through Oregon Department of Forestry as our new Assistant Center Manager. Billie's positive attitude, dedication, and wealth of knowledge has been a huge benefit for the entire organization.

The Wallowa Whitman hosted Incident Management Team 3 on Cache Creek this year and deployed the East Type 3 team twice. The Type 3 teams continued to promote inter-agency relationships through multi-agency participation and had great success on their deployments.

The 2012 fire season provided us the opportunity to continue building relationships with our fire managers, ground forces and neighboring dispatches offices. Once again we owe a special Thank You to Grangeville and McCall for all the aviation support throughout the season! As the tracking of all personnel becomes a priority and technology provides us new ways of doing business BMIDC is committed to ensuring everyone makes it home.

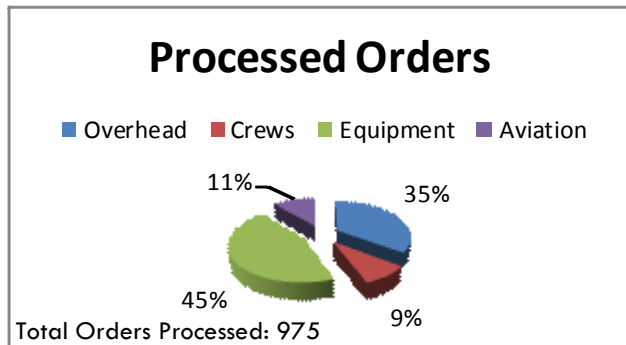
We are appreciative of the support from the BMIDC Ops group, Board of Directors, Line Officers and the radio group. Thank you for supporting our mission and being there when we needed you!

We are looking forward to providing our customers excellent service in 2013 with your safety being our mission.



# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center



### ROSS Orders Filled @ BMIDC

Overhead: 343

Equipment: 436

Aircraft: 109

Crews: 87

Union IHC: 8 assignments

La Grande IHC: 7 assignments

The Forest assembled five IA crews:

Type III (East) Team: Mud, Hunsaker and Cache Creek

Oregon Team 4 (Formerly Blue Mtn.): Long Draw, Miller Homestead, Parish Cabin, Barry Point and Long Draw

Oregon Team 3: Cache Creek

Long Term Assessment Team (Ruby): Butte and Pole Creek

## La Grande Air Tanker Base

Cost to Incident	
Retardant Cost	\$437,928.01
Flight Time Cost	\$767,966.90
Landing Fees	\$11,505.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$1,217,399.90</b>

The base opened for fire support on June 3rd. The first load of retardant left the La Grande Tanker Base on July 9th to support the Incident 362. The most activity occurred on August 28th with eighteen heavy air tanker delivering 37,669 gallons of retardant. The last load for the season came on September 17th, with T45 supporting the Sheep Fire in Region 1. One hundred thirty one missions were flown from La Grande Air Tanker Base. The base supported two fires with retardant, 12 SEATs loads and 119 heavy air tanker loads. The final cost of retardant \$1,217,399.90. The Tanker Base pumped a total of 259,129 gallons of retardant in 2012. This is a force-account base so there are no retardant contract costs. This is the 20th season without an accident or incident with Heavy Air Tankers, SEATS or Lead Planes.

Agency	Gallons
FS-R6	170,981
FS-Other	67,120
BLM	7,969
ODF	8,876
DNR	2,083
IDL	2,083
<b>Total</b>	<b>259,129</b>

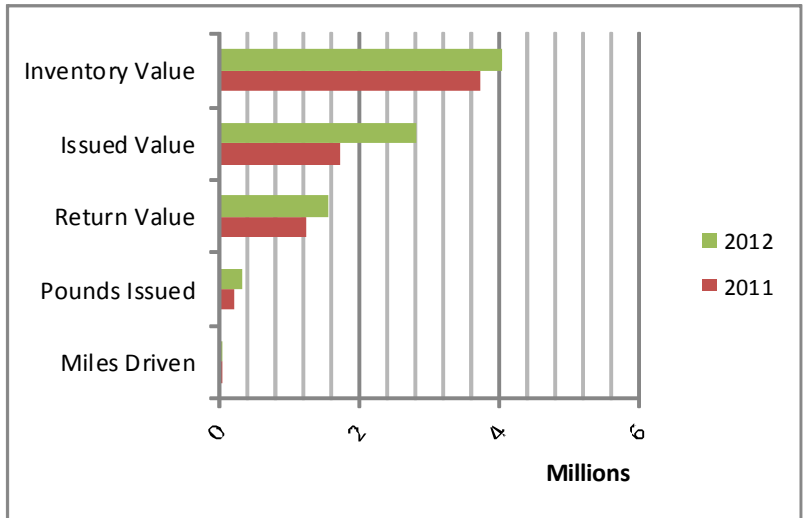
This year's tanker base crew: Russell Hurst (Tanker Base Manager), Craig Droke (Assistant Tanker Base Manager), Carter Wells (Ramp Manager), Lisa Laufenburg (Timekeeper), and Laura Siltanen (loader).

This base is Administratively responsible for Tanker 44. This tanker had 388.54 hours of flight time for the season, the highest for Neptune Aviation Services in 2012. It worked a 150 day contract with a 30 day post-season extension.

# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## La Grande Fire Cache

The 2012 season at the La Grande Fire Cache started to gear up in May. Warehouse shelf- stocking and kit updates for the upcoming fire season was the principal focus of the crew. There were a few changes this year with the retirement of Cache Manager Howard Sievers. We welcomed Cheri Campbell as the new Cache Manager, Mick Estudillo as the new Supply Technician, and Jenny So as the Cache Clerk (STEP). Our returning ADs were David Reilly, Dayton Sibley, Sid Stratos, Caroline Stratos and Mike Rhodes; and new AD hires: Mike Eckrich, Jake Evers, Charles Jones and Kristina White. The La Grande Cache also hosted 4 detailers from the Wenatchee Fire Cache: Floor Leaders/Demob Specialists, Ellreese Daniels, Jason Liberty, Riley Barnes, and retired Cache Manager Jim Trowbridge.



In support of large fires the La Grande Fire Cache supported one Type II incident on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and one Type II on the Malheur National Forest; one Type III on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and one Type III on Vale BLM. In addition, filled resource requests for small initial attack incidents from the Wallowa Whitman, Malheur and Umatilla National Forests, and Oregon Department of Forestry, as well providing additional support to other National Caches as needed. Cache personnel also assisted with the Region 6 Rappel Academy, Fire School 2012, Oregon Department of Forestry, local BIA and BLM unit needs.

The dollar amount issued out to fires for 2012 was \$2,800,932. Total dollar amount returned from incidents was \$1,552,279. Total miles driven this year accident free in support of incidents were 25,731 miles. The inventory value amount for 2012 totaled \$4,041,952.41

## Washington Department of Natural Resources

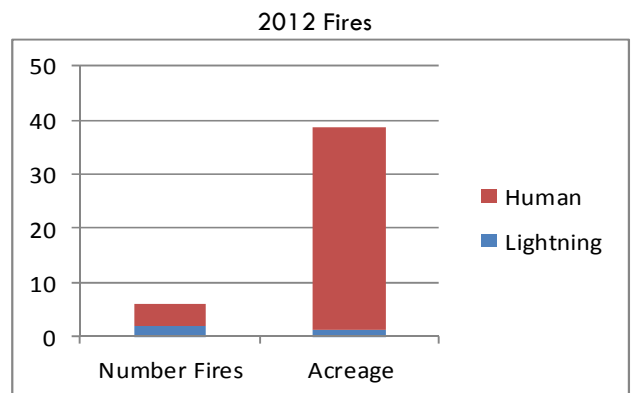


WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Southeast Region - Washington DNR provided:

- 2 engines for out of region assignment to the Fontenelle fire on the Bitterroot NF and to the Taylor Bridge in Washington.
- One of the DNR helicopters, N338WN (Type 2 Standard), was utilized on Umatilla NF Rattle Snake Ridge fire.

DNR supported the Weissenfels Ridge fire in Asotin County which required a state team mobilization for the 3,000+ acres, and the Cloverland fire in Asotin County (59 acres).



# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## Umatilla Bureau of Indian Affairs



- 1 out of region engine assignment to the Halstead fire on the Salmon-Challis NF
- UMA responded to numerous incidents including Kirkpatrick, Jericho Lane and Cougar (all at 1+ acres)
- In addition to numerous rural assists including to McKay Creek Fish and Wildlife, the community of Mission and response to vehicle fires on tribal, county and state roads; the BIA had 7 Statistical fires for **2.35 acres** (2 Lightning / 5 Human).

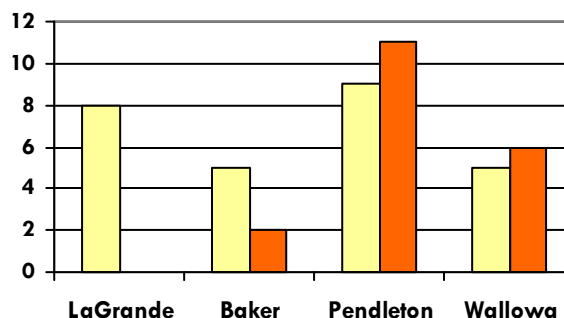
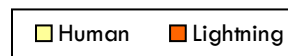


## Oregon Department of Forestry

- NEO ODF supplied 9 engines for assignments including response to the Wolf Den (UT), Church Camp (UT) and San Juan NF for I.A..
- 66 NEO ODF Overhead orders were processed

Fire	Acres
Cache Creek	3,925
Getting Road	80
Parsnip Creek	27
Smith Mountain	27
Galalialh Meadows	25

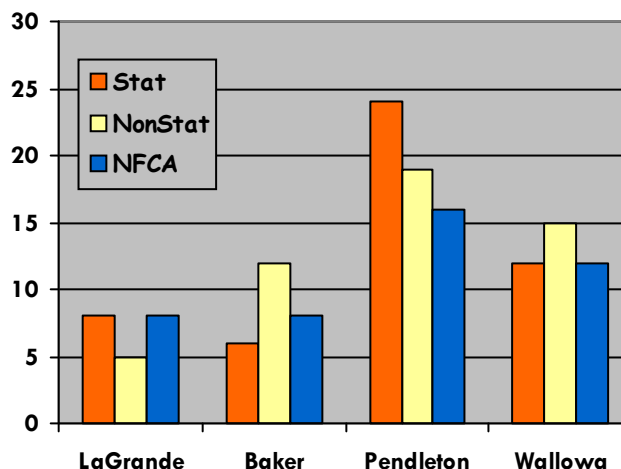
Fires by Cause



Ten Year Average

Year	# Of Fires	Acreage
2012	46	4,076
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
<b>Average</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,096</b>

Category

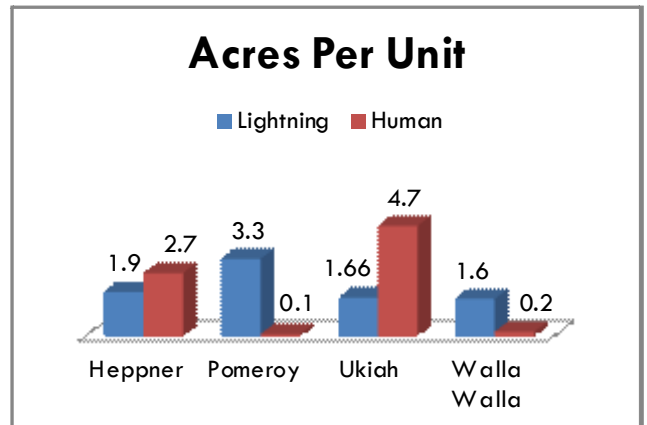
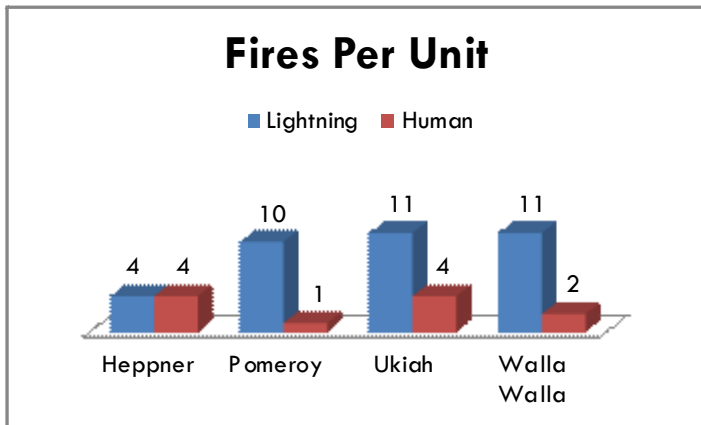


# 2012 BMIDC Annual Report

## Umatilla National Forest

Unit	Fires	Acres
Heppner	8	4.6
Pomeroy	11	3.4
Ukiah	15	6.36
Walla Walla	13	1.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16.16</b>

- The forest assembled 6 Type II IA crews.
  - These assignments included dispatches to Parish Cabin on Malheur NF, Waldo Canyon (Pike-San Isabel NF), Arapaho (WY), Ash Creek (MT), Long Horn Complex (SD), Fair Field Creek (NV), Ten Mile Complex on Vale, and Butte (Umpqua NF).
- Fire activity across all UMF districts was successfully reduced with suppression efforts. All fires were controlled to Size B (9.99 acres) or less.
- The forest accepted 21 off forest engine assignments.



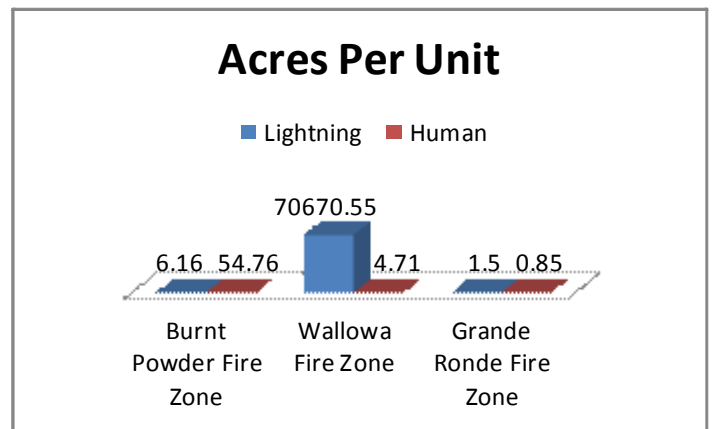
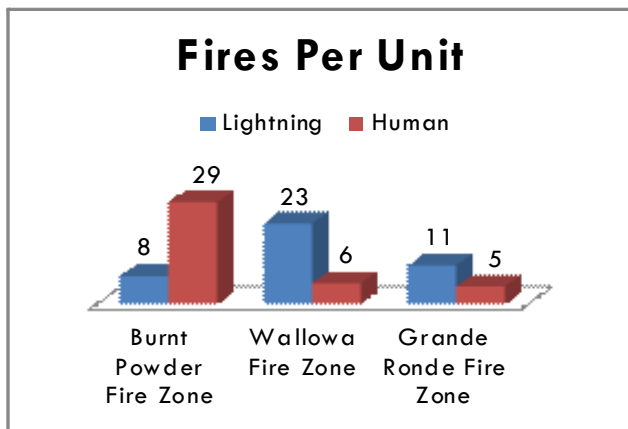
Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number Of Acres
2003	72	1,285	18	207	90	1,492
2004	75	52	10	10	85	62
2005	16	102	24	29,036	40	29,138
2006	121	53,214	19	7	140	53,221
2007	100	27,594	26	926	126	28,520
2008	77	154	20	104	97	258
2009	51	14,024	12	10	63	14,034
2010	32	19	12	8	44	27
2011	61	114	8	73	69	187
2012	36	8	11	8	47	16
<b>10 yr. avg.</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9,657</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>12,696</b>

# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Unit	Fires	Acres
Whitman Unit	37	60.92
Wallowa Fire Zone	29	70,675.26
Grande Ronde Zone	16	2.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>70,738.53</b>

- The Forest assembled 8 Type II IA Crews
- The Forest had one Type 2 Incident: Cache Creek at 69,771 acres (Hells Canyon National Recreation Area), and two Type 3 Incidents: Hunsaker at 693 acres (Vale BLM jurisdiction with FS protection) and Bald Mountain at 750 acres (Eagle Cap Wilderness).
- 22 off Forest engine assignments were accepted



Year	Number of Lightning Starts	Lightning Acres	Number of Human Starts	Human Acres	Total Number of Starts	Total Number Of Acres
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
2012	42	70,678	40	60	82	70,738
<b>10 yr. avg.</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>35,031</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>29,126</b>

# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## Aviation

### La Grande Exclusive Use ATGS



La Grande Air Attack had an active season across BMIDC and neighbors. Aerial supervision assignments spanned from Winnemucca, NV to Deer Park, WA. Larry Aragon in his 6th year successfully lead: Nan Floyd, Robert Shoemaker and Ed Wallmark on air attack training assignments. La Grande Air Attack supported numerous agencies in 2012 including: 5 national forests, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Land Manage-

116 flight legs/missions flown during the 2012 season

### Sled Springs Rappel Base

Sled Springs hosted helicopter N689H (Bell 205 A1++) again for the 2012 season on a 120-day contract & 6 day extension. The 15 person rappel crew were the primary response force to all wilderness fires on the Wallowa-Whitman NF; initial and extended attack were also provided for the Umatilla NF and NEO ODF. Out of region assignments included prepositioning in Arizona and New Mexico, structure protection of Langmuir Laboratory on the Sawmill fire (NM), Crack in the Ground fire (Lakeview BLM), Taylor Bridge and Highway 141 (Washington DNR) and support to the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. In addition to initial attack fire response locally, Sled Springs also supported Cache Creek and Sheep fires.



Total number of Initial Attacks: 18  
Initial Attack Rappel Fires: 10  
Initial Attack Helitack Fires: 7  
Initial Attack Bucket Only Fire: 1  
Number of Operational Rappels: 34  
Number of Cargo Letdowns: 26  
Total Pounds of Internal/External Cargo: 21,893 / 48,970  
Total Flight Hours: 219.7  
Total Gallons of water dropped: 185,117  
Total Contract Cost: \$1,179,714.26

### Exclusive Use Helicopter CFHFB

On May 1st CFHFB (The National Type 1 Exclusive-Use helicopter hosted by the WWF) and manager Joe Zinni started at the La Grande Base. May 14th brought the helicopter's first fire response of the season with the Gladiator fire in Arizona. CFHFB worked incidents across Arizona until moving over to New Mexico's Little Bear on June 9th. The ship left the Southwest Region for the Northern Rockies on June 28th. For two weeks CFHFB worked Montana fires including the Ash Creek and Taylor. July 9th the ship briefly returned to the forest than was assigned to our neighbors for the Long Draw fire out of Vale, OR. July 20th it was back to Montana with IA response through August 13th. They returned to Region 6 August 14th and remained within the Northwest working IA through October 16th. October 18th they were assigned to South Dakota's Crookston fire where they finished out the season.



Number of Large Fires: 18      Number of Initial Attack for season: 8  
Total Flight Hours: 484.1      Total Gallons of Water Dropped: 4,404,402  
Total Contract Cost: \$7,515,386

### Blue Mountain Rappel Base

Blue Mountain's crew had a demanding year beginning in May with the relocation of the base. Previously, the 16 person rappel crew was stationed at the Frazier helibase outside of Ukiah but this spring a permanent move was made to the La Grande airport. Much work was done repositioning the base prior to fire season. Blue Mountain hosted N669H (a Bell 205 A1++) on a 120 day contract and post-season extension of 13 days. Assignments included large fire support to Utah on Lost Lake and Seeley, North Schell in Nevada as well as to the Malheur for Parish Cabin. Blue Mountain supported both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NFs with initial and extended attack.

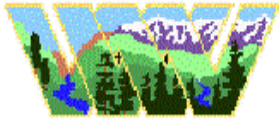


Total Number of Initial Attacks: 16  
Initial Attack Rappel Fires: 9  
Initial Attack Helitack Fires: 7  
Number of Operational Rappels: 29  
Number of Cargo Letdowns: 14  
Total Pounds of Internal/External Cargo: 34,647 / 38,897  
Total Flight Hours: 257.4  
Total Gallons of Water Dropped: 336,945  
Total Contract Cost: \$1,260,582.56



# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## Interagency Hotshot Crews



# LA GRANDE HOTSHOTS



La Grande Hotshots started the season at Lost Lake fire on the Fish Lake NF in Utah. The crew then worked two weeks in Colorado on the Springer and High Park fires. Next was Wyoming for the Arapaho fire. Returning to the region in mid-July, assignments were to the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, Malheur NF and the Long Draw fire on Vale BLM. After that was Montana for Chandal Creek and Butler fires. Fork Complex on the Klamath NF was a 9 day mid-August assignment. Followed up by a few weeks within region including Waterfalls 2 and Parish Cabin. Next was a return to Montana for the Black Tail Ridge fire. Next were five days on the Nez Perce NF for the Sheep fire. The crew finished out with a last two week assignment on the Wenatchee Complex.

Total days crew was assembled?	146
Start Date	5/21/12
End Date	10/13/12
Total number of days assigned to incidents? (Includes travel)	113
How many days were in official travel status?	17
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?	13
Days off in pay status?	10
Days off in non- pay status?	3
Number of days in training?	12
Total miles driven? (Total of all vehicles)	78,000



# Union Hotshots



Union Hotshots began the season after training with an assignment to Wyoming for the Cow Camp and Guernsey State Park fires. Then they headed to Colorado for the High Park fire. The next weeks were spent on fires in Montana including Corral and Ash Creek. Mid-July the crew returned to region with a short assignment to Vale's Long Draw fire. The crew finished out the month in South Dakota on the Long Horn and Little Flat fires. August and early September included multiple tours to the Klamath NF for the Fort Complex. Union finished out the season within the region working the Cascade Creek, Wenatchee Complex, Goat and Pole Creek fires.

Total days crew was assembled?	149
Start Date	5/21/12
End Date	10/17/12
Total number of days assigned to incidents? (Includes travel)	112
How many days were in official travel status?	20
How many 14 day tours were completed during total number of days assigned?	6
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?	10
Days off in non- pay status?	9
Number of days in training?	12
Total miles driven? (Total of all vehicles)	52,500

# 2012 BMIFC Annual Report

## Wallowa-Whitman NF Fuels

### Fuels Program

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest treated 21,373 acres of hazardous fuels in fiscal year 2012. 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 2012 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.



The fall 2011 burn window came early and allowed good opportunities for target attainment, however, the spring 2012 prescribed burn window was extremely limited due to above average spring precipitation. The forest was able to capitalize on the short window with help from neighboring forests and a contingent of GRAF firefighters from Spain. A large portion of RX burning accomplishment was pile burning.

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.

#### Catalonian GRAF Crew

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest continued to implement stewardship contracts across the forest. Stewardship contracts for commercial thinning, biomass removal, mechanical piling, and fuels mastication included the Blue Fly, Sundry, and Rooster projects. Additional Stewardship projects to be implemented with fuels funding included the Peep and Cove II Projects.

#### Smith TS Grapple Piling

In addition to the fuels target accomplishment the forest fuels program contributed 80% of the funding needed for 6 restoration/ fuels NEPA projects.

The forest also treated 2,670 acres of activity slash on harvest units using BD funding. These treatments included pile burning, jackpot burning, and handline construction.

Treatment	Wildland Urban Interface	Non-WUI	Total Acres
RX Fire	1919	8697	<b>10616</b>
Mechanical Treatments	3140	5485	<b>8625</b>
Stewardship Fuels Reduction	0	486	<b>486</b>
Fire with Resource Benefit	0	801	<b>801</b>
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>5059</b>	<b>15,469</b>	<b>20,528</b>