



2014

Annual Report



We had another great year of accomplishments in 2014. Grants, fires, thinning projects and Rx events filled the entire year. Old grants were finished up and new grants were applied for and awarded. It was another busy fire season across the west. Behind the scenes of another busy season, there were some changes to the way we do business. Highlands Fire District Board decided we should entertain our own enterprise account under Highlands Fire. Do to placing our funds in a separate account, we needed to keep money in line items in our own budget. Funding each of these line items did not allow for us to make the Capitol purchases we anticipated in FY 14-15. However, much like any fire organization we are able to adapt and overcome. This flexibility has enabled the crew to take on a lot of the maintenance items that were in other Fire Districts budgets in the past. We have re-evaluated the Capitol replacement plan and made the necessary changes to allow funding for our new budget.



We had two injuries on the crew that resulted in some lost work time. These injuries keep us grounded and have definitely proved to the crew and it's overhead, we are not exempt from even the most minor of injuries. We had a crewmember struck by a falling tree, which resulted in a "Facilitated Learning Analysis" (FLA). This FLA focussed on what happened and how to streamline that information to other agencies in an effort to reduce other occurrences. Both parties are healthy and will be back on the crew for the 2015 season.



We are looking to the future as we complete our hiring process for the 2015 fire season. Our candidate pool was again filled with quality candidates, however we only had 4 vacancies to fill this year. Our retention of crewmembers has been very good the last couple of years and we are excited about the depth of experience on the crew this year.

Project Work

We have completed our Munds Canyon thinning project and have almost completed the grant requirements associated with this project. The Munds Canyon Project was a 2 year grant that ended in December of 2014. This grant also set aside money to allow property owners in Pinewood to have tree cutting companies thin their property in order to make the community “firewise”. Bear Jaw members are the subject matter experts and perform property assessments and mark the trees that need to be removed to ensure compliance with the grant. Of the \$33,000 set aside for this purpose, only \$14,772 was utilized. We have asked for an extension and to move the \$20,000 left on this grant to additional properties throughout our District’s. Our relationship with the State Forestry Division is strong, and we were granted permission to extend the grant funds to other properties.

This particular project was very labourous. Thinning work in general is hard, but this project had very little access, very steep topography, thick vegetation and poison ivy throughout the canyon. We are very excited to see this project come to an end, However the Zanfel and Tecnu companies will not be making as much profit off of us.

A total of **76.1 acres** of thinning and hand piling was completed this year with 36 of those acres in Munds Canyon.

130 acres of piles have been burned

This past year’s weather patterns were sporadic enough that prescribed fire efforts were hindered. Bear Jaw has always played an active role in prescribed fire on the district’s and bordering Forest lands. This year we assisted the Coconino National Forest with a prescribed burn in the Fort Valley area totaling **375 acres**. We also burned a **6 acre** parcel in SFD which reassured our thoughts that Rx events on smaller parcels within the District are more complex and time consuming than the big block in the back 40. Pile burning is always a timing game with Mother Nature and the moisture she brings. We were able to complete around **50 acres** of pile burning this winter.

637.1 acres of fuels treatment

Fire Assignments

We had a well rounded fire season this year and the crew performed just about every function asked of a crew throughout various assignments. 2014 marked Bear Jaw's Fourth year as a type 2 I.A. crew. Crew 3 traveled off district 7 times for more than 1000 hours on assignment excluding travel. Barlow and Assayii Lake Fires topped the list as the crew favorites this year. Fires that require various tactics and are labor intensive are the typical fire that earn the label "favorite". Although the fire season in the southwest was a mild one, our neighboring regions



were still burning. The Northwest experienced a severe fire season in 2014. We traveled to San Carlos Indian Reservation, Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Montana and California to help with their fires this season. While the crew is on fire assignments our salaries are paid for by the incident which in turn brings funding back to all three District's general funds and offsetting the cost of the crew over the fire season.

Fire Name	Jurisdiction	Days on assignment	Hotline Hours	Non-hotline	Incident Complexity
Barlow	AZ-SCA	9	97	21.5	3
Slide	USFS-AZ	5		61.5	3
Assayii Lake	AZ-NAA	7	72.5	29.5	2
Diego	USFS-NM	9	105.5	25.5	2
Quaking	USFS-AZ	13	100	105	4
Oak	USFS-AZ	2	10		4
Dog	USFS-AZ	2	17		6
2014 NICC Support	USFS-NIFC	3		31	NA
High Range	IDL-CMS	6	33	36.5	2
2014 NCF Misc ABCD	ID-NCF	2		19	NA
Thompson River Complex	MT-LNF	7	42.5	23	2
King Fire	CA-ENF	17	190	60	1

Bear Jaw Training

2014 was another great year for training for Bear Jaw Fire and Fuels Crew. In March the six overhead members of Bear Jaw instructed at the annual Arizona Wildfire and Incident Management Academy. Those classes taught included S-200 (Initial Attack Incident Commander), M-410 (Facilitative Instructor), S-131/133 (Firefighter Type I/Look up, Look Down, Look Around) and S-212 (Wildland Fire Chainsaws). Bear Jaw then instructed numerous classes for the crew before the fire season began which included S-130/190 (Firefighter Training/Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior), S-212, S-131/133 and S-211 (Portable Pumps and Water Use).

The 2014 fire season was again like our past fire seasons when it comes to training in that we were able to complete a lot of trainee assignments on the fire line. Crew members filled such roles as crewboss, incident commander type 4, firing boss, heavy equipment boss and fire effects monitor. In their roles as trainees our crew members were able to see a wide variety assignments. Below is a summary of taskbooks initiated, completed and trainee assignments during the season.

Taskbooks Initiated	Taskbooks Completed	Trainee Assignments
8 – FALA (Faller Class A)	2 – CRWB (Crewboss)	6 – FFT1 (Squad Boss)
4 – FALB (Faller Class B)	1 – FFT1 (Squad Boss)	2 – CRWB (Crew boss)
6 – FFT1/ICT5 (Squad Boss/Type 5 IC)	1 – FEMO (Fire Effects Monitor)	1 – ICT4 (Type 4 IC)
1 – FEMO (Fire Effects Monitor)	1 – FALC (Faller Class C)	1 – ICT5 (Type 5 IC)
	1 – FALB (Faller Class B)	1 – FIRB (Firing Boss)
	8 – FALA (Faller Class A)	2 – HEQB (Heavy Equipment Boss)
		5 – FALB (Faller Class B)
		2-FALC (Faller Class C)
		1 – FEMO (Fire Effects Monitor)