

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Allen Chrisman (abchrisman@fs.fed.us) on Thursday, August 8, 2002 at 13:23:33

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Incident Name: Bear Fire (CO-DSP-217)

Assignment Dates: June 29 - July 5, 2002

Unit or Jurisdiction: Dinosaur National Monument & White River BLM

Geographic Area: Rocky Mountain

Phone: 208-267-6703

**Most Notable Success:** Air resources were used effectively to contain a spot fire 40 to 50 acres in size north of the Yampa river in steep canyon breaks. Successfully containing this spot fire reduced the threat to residences and subdivisions, avoided the necessity of ordering a Type I Team and expending several million dollars in suppression activities. Evacuation plans for residences and subdivisions that were threatened were prepared by the team and ready to be implemented the evening the team took the fire over.

**Most Difficult Challenges:** Hazards of working in Canyonlands topography both in terms of access and safety concerns for firefighters. Firefighters were well-briefed on hazards, and portions of perimeter with dangerous cliffs were monitored by air and not by ground forces.

**Recommended Changes:** None

**Unresolved Issues:** None - the use of retardant in the Monument, and aircraft activities around an occupied Peregrine nest were adequately resolved onsite through collaboration with the Monument.

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Paula: Here are some photos from the Bear fire:

**Bear 1.jpg:** This view is looking south from the north side of the fire - the 50 acre spot is on the peninsula in the center photo. Thanksgiving draw is on the south side of the river in the upper center right of the photo. The fire made a run down Thanksgiving, spotting across the river on the point. Note the continuous fuels north of the spot in the bottom center of the photo.

**Bear 2.jpg:** A little closer look at the peninsula, again looking south, although the color isn't as good. You can see how clean the burn is - it is amazing we held it.

**Bear 3. jpg:** View from the east to the west looking down the Yampa River. Smoke in the left of the photo is in Thanksgiving Draw - the draw remained active after the spotting across the river.

**Bear-Yampa River.jpg:** Just a scenic shot of the Yampa River. Quite a canyon for us folks from North Idaho!

Sorry the quality of the photos is not as good as I would like. Call again if you have questions, or if I can assist you.

Take home message for me is that the objectives need to be clear from the agency administrator (and they were), and the team needs to be clear on what the tactical priorities are for the day. In this case it was easy to prioritize our air missions. The spot across the river was our first priority, above the residences (2) potentially threatened on the south flank. The two mediums were working the spot at first light our first operational period (Type III team had one medium making 3-4 water drops the previous afternoon before smoke obscured the site), then we got a heavy in at mid-shift that made a big difference. The retardant line (which doesn't show up on the photos) was put in that day, but as a precautionary measure - they were not dropping on active flame, but creating a barrier that would slow the fire at night if it kicked up. Things were so dry that the fire was burning through rocks that normally would have slowed or stopped it. We were really fortunate here! Allen Chrisman



Bear 1.JPG Bear 2.JPG Bear 3.JPG Bear-Yampa River.JPG

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