

Incident Name: Red Waffle Fire

Assignment Dates: July 17-27, 2002

Unit or Jurisdiction: Custer National Forest & Billings BLM

Geographic Area: Northern Rockies

Phone: (208) 267-6703

Most Notable Success: The fire was established in a rugged canyon on the east flank that was too hazardous to put crews into. The WESA was modified to a control/confine strategy, and helicopter waterdrops and hand held infrared were used to effectively confine the fire on the east flank. An indirect line was prepped for burnout if needed, along with a burn plan and fire behavior narrative describing conditions that may have rekindled the fire in the canyon.

Most Difficult Challenges: 1) Potential threats to the Pryor Mountains Wild Horse herd. We herded the horses with a helicopter prior to an anticipated burnout, but not all of the horses were found, and they returned the next day. Fortunately we did not have to implement the burnout. 2) Two hand crews and an engine were sent home for noncompliance with work/rest guidelines. We had requested crewbosses have their crews back in camp by 2230 hours - some individuals from the crews and the engine chose to ignore that request and stay down at the bar until after midnight. Crewbosses were cooperative and professional, and the incidences well-documented.

Recommended Changes: None at this time.

Unresolved Issues: An issue that was discussed and resolved that will need to be monitored was resources with directions to report to the fire instead of to ICP after the Type II Team had taken over the fire. The issue was discussed with both Billings Dispatch and Northern Rockies, and it was felt that some header cards were not updated correctly. The team will monitor this more aggressively on future assignments - it also occurred on the Pinyon Ridge fire in Colorado in June to a greater extent.

Submit: Submit Data

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