

Zion

Fire & Aviation Management

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Annual Report 2010



Zion Canyon Prescribed Burn

2010 Season Overview

The 2010 season was another busy one for Zion National Park's Fire and Aviation Management Program and its staff of 39 people (both seasonal and permanent). Nationally though, it was another slow season with 71,971 fires burning 3,422,724 acres.

Zion had 10 wildland fires in 2010 that burned approximately 967 acres within the park. This included the 966 acre Subway Fire which was managed for over a month. Zion was also involved in numerous wildland and prescribed fire support actions within the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area and throughout the country.

Zion was presented with the 2009 NPS Fuels and Ecology Award at the National Fire Management Conference in San Antonio, TX for its management of the 2,100 acre Horse Fire for resource benefits.

The park conducted three specific fuel treatment projects and assorted mechanical thinning projects in the park for a total of 276 acres treated

The Zion Wildland Fire Module participated in over 1199 person days worked

The Zion Helitack Module recorded 178 hours flown

This was the second year in a row that fire restrictions were not enacted in the park or anywhere in Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area.

Zion once again assisted with the fire management programs of the Utah Parks Group (BRCA, PISP, TICA, GOSP, CEBR, GLCA, and CARE). Zion supported all fire management activities in these parks including prescribed and wildland fires in BRCA.

Zion continues its tradition of interagency cooperation as a member of the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area whose response zone covers 14.7 million acres of federal, state and private lands in Southwest Utah and Northwest Arizona. This group helps to promote safe and effective fire management in Color Country through interagency cooperation and coordination. Zion representatives served on the Operations, Fuels and Information/Education Committees. Color Country had a relatively slow season with 324 fires reported totaling 5,587 acres burned. No national Incident Management Teams were ordered for the season.

2010 Season Overview continued

Personnel Changes

James Courtright moved from the ZION Station Manager position to ZION Assistant FMO

David Brothwell left the ZION Engine Foreman position to take the BRCA Fuels Specialist position

Joel Silverman left the ZION Lead Fire Effects Monitor position to take a job in the private sector in California

Katie Walsh was hired as the ZION Lead Fire Effects Monitor

Micheal Reid left the ZION Helitack Foreman position for a position in NIFC

Ray Ucha from the Angles National Forest was hired as the ZION Helitack Foreman

Alicia Tanrath left the ZION Assistant Helitack Foreman position for a Helitack position in Alaska

Chad Runyan was hired as the ZION Assistant Helitack Foreman

Brian Wilson was hired as a permanent Crewmember on the ZION Wildland Fire Module

Roxana Reyes left the ZION Fire Program Clerk position for a job with the Veterans Administration

Kelly Boyd left the Zion Wildland Fire Module to take a position with the Unewweep Wildland Fire Module

Fire Effects Monitoring Program 2010

The 2010 field season was productive and enjoyable for the Southern Utah Group Fire Effects Crew. Throughout the season, the crew continued to collect fire related data from Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and Golden Spike National Historic Site. The crew read a total of 41 FMH plots during the season. Eighteen FMH plots were located on the east and west plateau areas in Zion NP. The crew traveled to Bryce Canyon a total of 4 times during the summer. While at Bryce Canyon, the crew read 20 FMH plots, 15



tree density plots, 10 photo points and assisted with the Dave's Hollow RX. The crew also traveled to Golden Spike in Northern Utah in order to read 3 FMH brush plots. The crew continued to collect data from the 140 cheat grass research plots located within the Kolob Wildfire (2006).

The season was one of transition and flexibility for the Zion Fire Effects crew. The lead monitor, Joel Silverman, accepted another position and left the crew by July 1st. Katie Walsh, the assistant lead at the time, accepted the lead position in July. The fire ecologist, Katie Johnson, spent a majority of the year working on her master's degree at Northern Arizona University but was able to assist the crew with FMH monitoring during the busy three months of summer. The other crew members, Isadora Albert and Laura Young, contributed to a safe and productive field season with accomplishments in both field data collection and data entry. The Zion Fire Effects Crew received additional help from the Zion Vegetation Crew, the Zion Engine crews, Bryce Canyon resource staff, and the Grand Canyon Fire Effects crew.

All members of the crew were able to go on details and assist with prescribed and wild fires. Laura Young detailed with the Zion Helitack crew for two weeks and had the opportunity to work on her Helicopter Crewmember task book. Isadora Albert detailed with the Zion Canyon Engines for two weeks and participated in several wildfires within Zion National Park. Katie Walsh detailed to the Grand Canyon Helicopter Training Academy for two weeks. The Fire Effects crew also filled the role as fire monitors for two prescribed burns at Zion NP and one prescribed burn at Bryce Canyon NP. The Fire Effects crew was able to assist Zion fire managers with monitoring of the Subway Fire, a fire for resource benefit within the designated wilderness of Zion National Park. Katie Walsh and Isadora Albert filled the role of both FEMO and READ during eight days of operations.

Fire Information and Education 2010

The Fire Information and Education program at Zion is coordinated by the Fire Information and Education Specialist (FIES) whose primary responsibility is to establish and coordinate internal and external fire information, education and prevention programs in order to present an integrated interdisciplinary fire program within Zion, the Utah Parks Group and the National Park Service (NPS) as a whole.

2010 was another busy year for the Information and Education portion of Zion's Fire Management Program.

The park experienced 10 wildland fires that burned 967 acres including the 996 acre Subway Fire. The FIES served as Public Information Officer (PIO), either directly or indirectly, on all these incidents. The incidents required the production and dissemination of fire information, both internally and externally, and in a variety of mediums, including press releases, media interviews, park memos, posters and webpages.

The FIES produced numerous fire-related brochures, posters, handouts, site bulletins, and other information for Zion, the NPS and Color Country. The messages were delivered in an assortment of mediums, both directly and indirectly, and by a wide variety of individuals, including the FIES, fire staff, park interpreters, resource management staff, and PIOs assisting the FIES. The FIES was also involved in the training of seasonal park employees and concession staffs in regards to fire management.

The FIES continued development and updating of the wildland fire webpage (<http://www.nps.gov/zion/naturescience/fire-management-homepage.htm>), which is hosted by Zion's main webpage. The site contains a wealth of information regarding wildland fire management in Zion and the NPS.

The FIES is a qualified PIO1 and is currently serving in that function on a Type I Incident Management Team that manages wildland fires throughout the country. The FIES served as a PIO on numerous wildland and prescribed fires in the Color Country area, served as a PIO on a large fire in Great Sand Dunes National Park and served on an American Fire Team that was sent to Victoria, Australia to assist that country with wildfires and training.



Public information on the Subway Fire

Fire Information and Education 2010 continued

The FIES serves as the NPS representative and Chairperson for the Color Country Interagency Information and Education Committee, an active group that produces and disseminates wildland fire-related information and educational materials/programs. This committee is part of the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area that coordinates fire management activities throughout Southwestern Utah and northwestern Arizona.

The FIES also represents the NPS on two other interagency committees including, the Great Basin Fire Education and Prevention Committee and the Utah Fire Communications Committee.

As well as the FIES duties in the Fire Management Program, the position also assists with the Public Information Program in the park. This involves the production of numerous press releases, media interviews, a park profile, co-managing the park's website and being a member of various park committees and work groups.

Following is a list of specific fire-related information/education activities for both Zion and associated national parks and the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area. There are no exact figures for the number of people contacted in 2010 concerning non-personal fire-related messages, but it certainly numbered in the thousands.

Zion and other NPS Cluster Parks 2010

Information/Education Activity	Staff	Efforts	Contacts
Personal			
Nature Center Fire Education	Interpretation	6	375
Evening Program (Fire)	Interpretation	12	967
Informal roving during fire activities	FIES, staff	5	400+
Community Fire Meetings	FIES, staff	2	100+
Zion Staff Training	FIES, staff	2	37
Color Country Educ/Prev Programs	Interagency	38	12,000+
Color Country Media Day	Interagency	1	10
Non-personal			
Fire Webpage	FIES	on-going	-
Success Stories	FIES	5	-
NPS Fire Reporting	FIES	4	-
Fire Press Releases	FIES	12	-
Bulletin Boards in Zion	FEIS	25	-
Spectrum Newspaper Articles (Fire)	FEIS	2	-

Zion Wildland Fire Module 2010

The 2010 fire season was another busy, productive season for the Zion Wildland Fire Module. Like many seasons past, we assisted both National Park Service (NPS) and interagency customers with prescribed and wildland fires. This season we made it out of Utah and Arizona with two different fire assignments to Colorado. It was nice to see some new country.

For the 2010 season the module was available June 5 through November 12. During that time, we assisted 7 NPS units with 19 projects, and 1 interagency unit with 1 project. We provided support for 8 prescribed fires (preparation and implementation) and 5 wildland fires (resource and suppression objectives). While providing this support, crewmembers were able to work on the following qualifications:

Alex Viktora- ICT4(t), TFLD(t); Travis Hartsburg- RXB3(t), FIRB(t); Sarah Cooper- CRWB(t), FIRB(t); Brian Wilson- FIRB(t), CRWB(t), FALC(t), Eric Lindsay- ICT5(t), FEMO (t); Bethany DeBlander- FFT1(t), FALB(t), FEMO(t); Travis Thrush- ICT5(t), HECM(t), FEMO(t).

There were several notable personnel changes that occurred for the 2010 season. Longtime crewmember Kelly Boyd (2005-2010) left UT and our crew for our sister state of Colorado. Kelly accepted the Assistant Module Leader position on the Uniweep Wildland Fire Module. This opened up a permanent spot on the crew, which seasonal module member Brian Wilson was able to fill. Last fall seasonal crew member Izaak McHenry moved on and up to a subject-to-furlough crewmember with the Smokey Mountain Wildland Fire Module in TN.

In addition, this season we were approved for a short-term seasonal position. This bumped our total number of seasonals to three. Bethany DeBlander and Travis Thrush filled our two regular seasonal spots. Bethany and Travis, both former Forest Service employees, came to the module with several seasons of Hot Shot experience. Finally, we were able to hire Eric Lindsay for our short-term seasonal position. Eric came to the module with past NPS experience at Grand Teton N.P. and Sequoia Kings Canyon N.P.

Our season consisted of a typical mix of prescribe and wildland fire support. This past winter the module was able to send Travis Hartsburg and Kelly Boyd to PFTC. Kelly and Travis collectively worked on 19 burns and treated close to 6902 acres this spring. The module helped with the long-awaited and much-anticipated Mica MT RX at Saguaro National Park. This burn was many years in the planning. This season, Lead Crewmember Travis Hartsburg accepted an extended detail to the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park as a fuels technician. In his absence, Sarah Cooper detailed as our Lead Crewmember. We also made it to Colorado twice to help support the Medano fire at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Cow Creek Fire at Rocky Mountain National Park. Alex Viktora was Incident Commander Type 4 for the 21 day fire assignment. The module helped out Zion this past season by providing instructors to Fire School, working on the East Entrance RX, and the Subway Fire.



Zion Fire Module 2010 continued

Activity Summary

TASK	Person Days Worked	2009	Average (1996-2009)
Wildland Fire: Suppression	16	1.3%	12.5%
Prescribed Fire: Execution/Prep	321	26.8%	21.0%
Travel	103	8.6%	11.4%
Module Operations	215	17.9%	14.2%
Wildland Fire: Resource Benefit	402	33.5%	26.8%
Training	142	11.8%	8.0%
Hazard Fuels	0	0.0%	7.4%
Fire Effects Plot Work	0	0.0%	1.1%
	1199		

2010 Acreage Accomplishments

Wildland Fire Resource Benefit	Wildland Fire Suppression	Prescribed Fire Execution	Hazard Fuels
# ACRES	# ACRES	# ACRES	# ACRES
5 54,700	3 20,001	8 11,872	0 0

2010 Roster

NAME	POSITION	STATUS
Edward Waldron	Module Leader	GS-08 Permanent Full Time
Alex Viktora	Assistant Module Leader	GS-07 Permanent Full Time
Travis Hartsburg	Lead Crewmember	GS-06 Career Seasonal
Sarah Cooper	Lead Crewmember	GS-05 Career Seasonal
Brian Wilson	Crewmember	GS-05 Career Seasonal
Eric Lindsay	Crewmember	GS-05 Seasonal
Travis Thrush	Crewmember	GS-05 Seasonal
Bethany DeBlander	Crewmember	GS-04 Seasonal

Zion Helitack Module 2010

2010 was a big year for transformation on Zion Helitack. Numerous personnel substitutions, a new aircraft, and new short-haul program made for many exciting and dynamic changes. Early in the year assistant foreman Alicia Tanrath accepted a new position as foreman for the NPS helicopter program in Eastern Alaska. Chad Runyan came to the crew in early May from Dinosaur National Monument as the new assistant foreman. Long time foreman Mike Reid departed the crew in July for a new position as a training officer for AMD in Boise. Our new foreman Ray Ucha, former Manager of the Angeles Helitack, joined the crew in November. Four new seasonal crewmembers joined returning crewmembers; Ben Thayer, Ben Sureig, Thea Hamm, and Norm "Iceman" Allen. Kristin Matjasich came from one of the Lucky Peak engine crews. Carol Adam was formerly on the fuels crew for Lucky Peak. Cresston Lay was a crewmember on the NPS engines in Zion Canyon. Brian Quimby came to us from the Alaska Fire Service where he was a helicopter crewmember. A new contract



brought with it a new helicopter in the form of the Bell 407. For the most part the platform is very similar to the 206 L-IV of years past, offering gains in payload and cabin space and was once again operated by Hillsboro Aviation. Also this year we began helicopter short-haul operations in conjunction with the ranger division of the park. After a week of intensive training, the crew certified two spotters and four short-haul technicians as well as numerous LE rangers in the same positions.

The crew and aircraft were utilized for many different operations during the season. Early search and rescue missions found Ben and Ben serving the park as CWN managers. Mid May Ben T., Mike, and Norm traveled to the Manti La Sal to lend their expertise in heli-torch operations. The first fire of the year (Canaan) came on the heels of short-haul training high on the cliffs above Hilldale. Because of their efforts in risk management on the fire, Ben T., Norm, and Carol were awarded Safety Recognition Certificates from the Park Safety Committee. Afterwards numerous SAR calls kept the crew busy while fire calls seemed far and few. Thea and Ben S. each spent 30 days supporting oil spill cleanup operations in the Gulf Coast region. July came on slow and steady but sometimes very busy. At one point the helicopter and crew supported five fires, three short-haul rescues, and one SAR mission turned body recovery in a three day period. In August, the crew was able to assist with an outbreak of fires in Idaho for a period of time only to return home to the Subway fire in Zion. The aircrew was also utilized in a sling operation of construction material and very large timbers for the stabilization of the Cable Mountain Draw Works inside the park.

Zion Helitack Module 2010 continued

The late season consisted of supporting the USFS with cleaning up marijuana grow sites throughout Color Country. Over three tons of material was flow out of three areas. Ben T. was called out as an IR operator for the Four Mile Canyon Fire near Boulder, CO. Chad, Ben, and Ben finished the operational season manning a CWN helicopter on the Twitchell Fire in Central Utah. Late in October Chad traveled to Wind Cave National Park where he acted as the Firing Boss for a large aerial ignited prescribed fire.

The crew enjoyed a safe season with zero significant injuries or lost work time.

Zion Helitack also hosted another year of the detailer program. Ten crewmember trainees from as far away as Virginia had the opportunity to hone their aviation skills under the guidance of the crew.

Flight Time	Passengers	Internal Cargo (lbs)	External Cargo (lbs)	Water Delivered (gl)
179.3	658	38,128	33,600	42,150

Initial Attacks = **8**

Fires supported = **21**

SAR's = **6**

Prescribed Fire = **3**

Projects = **7**



Fuels Treatment Projects 2010

Project	Treatment Type	Acres
East Entrance Rx	Broadcast Burn	240
Pocket Mesa Prep	Mechanical	10
Zion Grass Rx	Broadcast Burn	4
Park-wide Piles	Thinning/burning	22
Total		276

Communities Protected

- East Zion - (Focus Area of the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area)
Little Ponderosa Subdivision
Zion Estates
- Kolob - (Focus Area of the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area)
- Zion National Park Infrastructures



Zion Canyon Grass Rx Herbicide Treatment



East Entrance Rx

Zion NP Wildland Fires – 2010

Wildland Fire	Date	Acres	Cause	Action Taken
Tarcha SAR Fire	5/30	.1	Lightning	Suppression
Alter	7/24	.1	Lightning	Suppression
Spry	7/25	.1	Lightning	Suppression
Oak Creek	7/25	.1	Lightning	Suppression
West Rim	8/19	.1	Lightning	Suppression
Wildcat	8/20	.3	Lightning	Suppression
Fire Pit	8/20	.1	Lightning	Suppression
Subway	8/20	966.0	Lightning	Confine/Contain
Office Window	8/27	.1	Lightning	Suppression
Desk	8/27	.1	Lightning	Suppression

Total (10 Fires) 967.1 acres

Support Actions: 102



West Rim Fire



Subway Fire

2010 Zion Fire Business Management

Fire Management at Zion National Park is a highly complex program incorporating a full range of management objectives. The authorized funding in fiscal year 2010 was approximately 1.9 million dollars. All fire related fiscal and administrative duties are accomplished by the Fire Program Management Assistant (FPMA). The Fire Program Management Assistant oversees all office and administrative functions in the Fire and Aviation Branch, ensuring appropriate guidelines are followed as they pertain to budget, procurement, fleet management, personnel, payroll, travel and correspondence. The Fire Program Management Assistant provides expertise in Incident Business Management to Zion National Park as well as 7 other parks in the Utah Parks Group. These National Park Service Areas include Pipe Spring, Cedar Breaks and Timpanogos Cave National Monuments, Golden Spike National Historic Site, Bryce Canyon and Capital Reef National Parks and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

In 2010, duties included the timely and accurate preparation of Fire and Aviation Branch time and attendance reports for 39 employees and 4 emergency hire personnel. The fire year resulted in the preparation and processing of 212 travel authorizations / vouchers related to training and emergency operations for branch employees.

This year, the much desired Fire Program Clerk position was filled. Roxana Reyes was hired and prepared fire fighter payroll and travel. Roxana assisted from the end of June until the end of September when she was selected for and accepted a position with the Veteran's Administration.

FY 2010: AUTHORIZED FUNDING AMOUNTS

Preparedness

P11 Readiness \$718K

Burned Area Rehabilitation

B11 Burned Area Rehab \$125K

Hazardous Fuels Reduction - NonWUI

H11 Fuels Management \$492K

H12 Fuels Projects-Prescribed Fire \$48K

H14 Fire Effects Monitoring \$85K

H22 Fuels Projects-Mechanical \$2.5K

Hazardous Fuels Reduction – WUI

W11 Fuels Management \$153K

W12 Fuels Projects-Prescribed Fire \$154.8K

W14 Fire Effects Monitoring \$26K

W22 Fuels Projects-Mechanical \$6.3K

W32 Fuels Projects-Other Treatments \$20K

2010 Permanent and Seasonal Staff

Permanent Staff

Fire Management Officer (FMO) - Taiga Rohrer
Assistant FMO - James Courtright
Fire Program Management Assistant – Kristine Evenson
Fire Program Clerk - Roxana Reyes
Fire Ecologist – Katie Johnson
Lead Fire Effects Monitor – Joel Silverman/Katie Walsh
Fire Information/Education Specialist – David Eaker
Engine Supervisor – David Brothwell
Engine Supervisor - Greg Martin

Helitack Module

Helitack Leader – Mike Reid/Ray Ucha
Assistant Helitack Leader – Chad Runyan
Crewmember - Ben Thayer
Crewmember - Ben Suerig

Fire Use Module

Module Leader – Ed Waldron
Assistant Module Leader – Alex Viktora
Lead Crewmember - Travis Hartsburg
Crewmember – Brian Wilson
Crewmember - Sarah Cooper

Seasonal Staff

Fire Effects Crew - Katie Walsh
Fire Effects Crew - Isadora Albert
Fire Effects Crew - Laura Young

Engine Crew - Bryan Bird
Engine Crew - Derek Mortensen
Engine Crew - Andrew Gavin
Engine Crew - Chris Nothstine
Engine Crew - Tom Green
Engine Crew - Ryan Muff
Engine Crew - Bill Whitacre
Engine Crew - Ted Childers

Fire Use Module - Eric Lindsay
Fire Use Module - Bethany Deblander
Fire Use Module - Travis Thrush

Helitack Module - Norman Allen
Helitack Module - Thea Hamm
Helitack Module - Bryan Quimby
Helitack Module - Carol Adam
Helitack Module - Kristin Matjasich