

I had the opportunity to use WLFH on two large scale wildland fires. On the first incident, I was presented with the problem of not having enough drafting sites near the site of the incident. I had ordered 17 water tenders to shuttle water to the fire scene for suppression and mop-up operations. The turnaround time for these tenders was 45 minutes' drive time plus another 30-40 plus minutes to fill 3000-3500 gallons from self-drafting. WLFH set up and cut the fill time down to 6 minutes. This increased our production for suppression and mop-up with resources not having to wait for the water supply to show up.

The second opportunity I had to use WLFH, we were in an area that had critical fish habitat, with access to some water sites near the incident that were restricted. The resource advisor's and fisheries biologist came up with desired locations for drafting. This was a considerable travel time away from the incident. We were also repairing roads, providing dust abatement in camp, at the helicopter air base, and as we drove through populated areas to access the incident. I knew the capabilities of WLFH and called two of their units into service to help cut down on the travel times and quicker fill stand times. The resource advisors were pleased to have only two areas of concern for drafting sites. I would like to see these units at the local level to be able to be engaged in initial attack and extended attack operations.

Greg Jackson

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