

## **MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW**

**Date and Time:** 03/28/12 2037 hours

**Person Interviewed:** Boyd Lebeda

District Forester

Colorado State Forest Service-Fort Collins District Office **Contact Information:** 

> 5060 Campus Delivery, CSU Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

(970) 491-8600

**Interview Location:** Conifer, Colorado

**Interviewed By: SA** Tokos

Reference: LM1200582

On 03/28/2012 at 2037 hours, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Special Agent, Shannon Tokos met with Boyd Lebeda, District Forester, Colorado State Forest Service, Fort Collins District Office at the Incident Command Post for the Lower North Fork Fire, which was located at the High School in Conifer, Colorado. Also attending the interview were U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Special Agent, Brenda Schultz; BLM Park Ranger/Fire Investigator, Troy Schnurr; and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Investigator, Don Roach. Lebeda provided the following information.

Communications for the entire Lower North Fork Fire took place on VHF radio frequencies. He stated that the command, holding and firing units all used car-to-car, tactical channels. Colorado State Forest Service does not have a manned dispatch. The only manned dispatch in relation to the fire would have been Pueblo Interagency Dispatch. Lebeda did not have any knowledge if there was actual communication with Pueblo Dispatch via the repeater on Devil's Head during the incident. He suspects that the Burn Boss used County Dispatch on 03/26/12. He mentioned that the Burn Boss had indicated that he could communicate with Pueblo.

Lebeda did not think there were any recordings of the radio traffic on the car-to-car channels. He stated that Pueblo Dispatch may have a recording.

Lebeda said that in regard to the Lower North Fork Fire, a burn plan was written, and burn units were identified. A hydro-axe machine was used to thin vegetation, in particular, Ponderosa pine trees. The fuel in the area was not consistent, there were open areas. Unit 4 was a bowl with three prominent drainages.

On Monday, 3/19/12, crews blacklined the top of the ridge. The blackline was approximately 100' wide. The sides were completed with a handline.

Page 2-04/11/12 BLM OLES #LM 1200582

Lebeda stated that the burn plan identified a holding crew and a firing crew. On Thursday, 03/22/12, there were more holding resources on site then what was called for in the burn plan. According to Lebeda, the prescribed burn on Thursday was successfully fired and held.

Lebeda mentioned that on 03/23/12, resources went back up to the burn location and secured and mopped up some small spot fires. All spot fires were contained and extinguished. On 03/24/12, patrol and monitoring occurred. He did not believe anyone went back up to the unit on 03/25/12.

Lebeda said that on 03/26/12, a crew consisting of Kevin Michalak, Robert Kriegbaum and others went up to the burn unit in the morning. He did not think that they saw too much fire activity until the afternoon when the wind picked up and the fire took off.

I certify that this report has recorded in it a summary of all pertinent matters discussed with the witness on 3/28/12, and that I prepared this report on 04/09/12 after refreshing my memory with notes made during and immediately after the interview with the witness.

<u>| Is| Shaunon J. 70kos</u> (Signature)

Shannon J. Tokos, Special Agent Office of Law Enforcement and Security, Region 4