USDA Forest Service

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

(Reference FSH 5309.11)

1. CASE NUMBER LM1200582 (BLM) MAQL000 (USFS)

2. NATURE OF INVESTIGATION

Wildland Fire - Lower North Fork Fire

3. NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED (Last, First, Middle)	4. SOCIAL SEC. NO.	5. DOB	6. SEX	
McLaughllin, Bill	N/A	**/**/**	М	
7. HOME ADDRESS (St., City, State, ZIP Code)	8. DRIVER'S LIC. NO.	9. PHONE (C) (Area Code)		
N/A	N/A			
10. EMPLOYMENT (Occupation and Location)		11. PHONE (W) (Area Code)		
Chief, Elk Creek Fire Department. 11993 Blackfoot Road	Elk Creek Fire Department. 11993 Blackfoot Road, Confire, CO.			

12. LOCATION OF INTERVIEW	13. NAME OF OFFICER CONDUCTING INTERVIEW			
Incident Command Post (Conifer High School)	Special Agent Brenda Schultz, Park Ranger Troy Schnurr			
14. OTHERS PRESENT	15. STARTED		ENDED	
	Date	Time	Date	Time
Don Roach, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office	3/27/2012	2000	3/27/2012	2030

16. REMARKS

On March 28, 2012 at 2000 hours, US Forest Service Special Agent Brenda Schultz, BLM Park Ranger Troy Schnurr, and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Investigator Don Roach interviewed Bill McLaughlin at the Incident Command Post of the Lower North Fork Fire (Conifer High School). McLaughlin is the Chief of the Elk Creek Fire Department.

McLaughlin stated that at approximately 1355 hours his Department was requested as mutual aid for the fire in the North Fork Fire Protection District. The request was for a Type 6 engine on a one acre slopover on Denver Water Board property.

McLaughlin stated that the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) crew was talking to their Golden office on the radio and the information was relayed to Jefferson County Fire Management Officer Rocco Snart. Snart then contacted Jefferson County Dispatch who then requested the mutual aid response. Snart was at his Golden office when Kirk Will with CSFS contacted Snart.

McLaughlin was in Aspen Park at a grass fire at the time of the mutual aid call and it took him approximately 30 minutes to respond to the fire scene. McLaughlin stated he accessed the fire through an open gate off of the Foxton Road. As he was driving up the access road across Denver Water Board land he observed there had been fuel mitigation work conducted in the area.

When McLaughlin arrived he observed two engines from the North Fork Fire Protection District, an ATV from CSFS and a Type 6 engine. The North Fork responders were Chief Curt Rogers and a volunteer and the Type 6 engine was Alex Parks and Scott Byars. Kevin Michalak was with the ATV.

Curt Rogers was already on scene doing sizeup and told McLaughlin that Kevin was in charge and that they had a "slopover" that was burning downhill to the northeast.

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McLaughlin stated that the winds were 20-22 mph, with gusts to 60-80 mph. The wind was blowing so hard they couldn't keep hardhats on. Curt Rogers had a Kestrel that recorded the wind speed and McLaughlin recalled that the Kestrel maxed out at the 80 mph reading. McLaughlin estimated the temperature was in the 70's.

The control line for the prescribed burn was the dirt road on the ridge top. McLaughlin stated the fuel bed of the prescribed fire was masticated fuel, 4-6 inches deep that had burned on the top layer and was reburning deeper in pockets in locations inside the prescription unit. The masticated fuel was primarily ponderosa pine debris.

McLaughlin observed the fire on the downhill side of the ridgeline, to the northeast of the prescribed fire unit. He observed flame lengths of 1-2 feet, with pockets of flame lengths of 4-8 feet, and occasional single tree torching.

McLaughlin stated the fire was not crowning when he observed it. The ponderosa pine trees were approximately 30 feet apart and were not supportive of a crowning fire at that location.

McLaughlin's Type 6 engine started a wet line along a flank of the slopover area, but anything they put water on was such heavy fuel it was reigniting so he directed his crew to work a scratch line.

While McLaughlin and his crew were on scene the fire had not crossed the drainage to the north and was approximately 200' downhill of the ridgeline.

McLaughlin marked on a map the location where they put the wet line and where the fire was burning when he arrived. In addition, McLaughlin marked on the map the locations where the portable pump hose lines were laid on the northeast (escape) side of the ridge. McLaughlin initialed and dated the map and it is part of this interview record.

17. OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

18. WITNESS' SIGNATURE (If Applicable)

|S| Brenda J. Schultz

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