

Firebreaker Project

Final Capstone Project Presentation

Team #11



Team 11: #11 in Innovation



Team Lead
John (Jack) Daly



Chief Engineer
Jeffrey (JP) Mattox



**Manufacturing
Engineer**
Christian Messner



Test Engineer
Aishwarya (Iris)
Ledalla



Editor-in-Chief
William (Will) Kulus



**Quality Control
Manager**
Saim Hasan

The Team



Figure 1: Team 11 Together



Figure 2: Prototype

Issue and Problem Statement

Societal Issue: Affordable and effective solution to contain wildfires

Problem Statement: *Design a tool/device such that firefighters can reliably and quickly clear flammable material from the ground to support creation of fire control lines in a grasslands environment and fabricate a prototype to validate the design project.*



Figure 3: Firefighters
Creating Control Line
via Hand Tools

1.1: Miller, C. (2019). Wildfire Academy [Digital image]. Retrieved December 4, 2020, from <https://www.peterson.spaceforce.mil/News/Article/327933/local-training-teams-cheyenne-mountain>

Basic Physics

Important Properties: **Soil Cohesion** and **Internal Angle of Friction**, from Coulomb-Mohr theory [1].

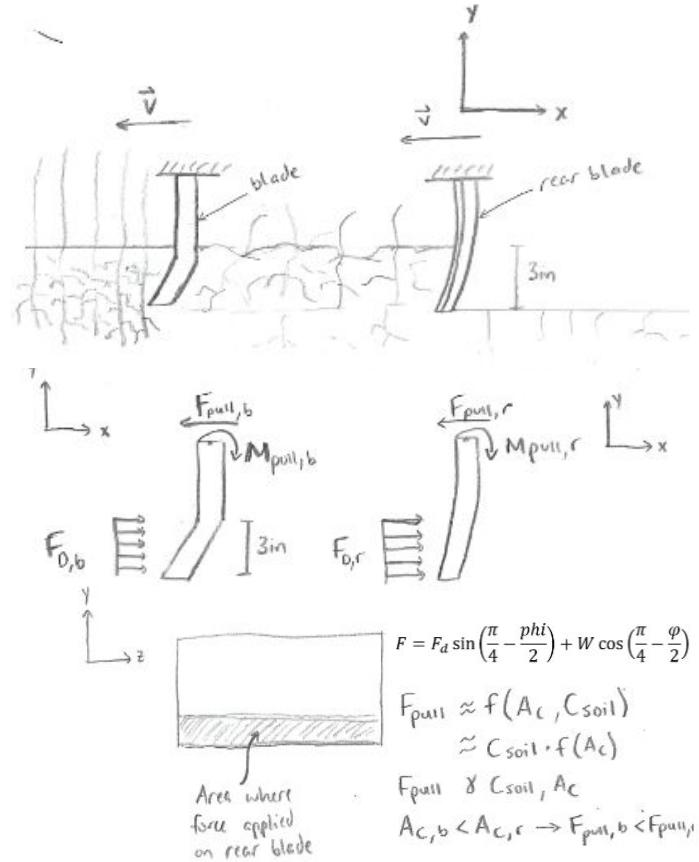
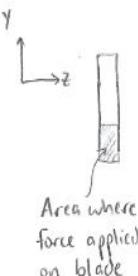
- These values are tabulated for various types of soil
- Used to calculate what is essentially the “ultimate strength” of the soil

Effect of grass roots calculated using a conservative approximation [2]

- Increases effective soil “ultimate strength”, by up to 150%

Can calculate force required to clear the ground using what is essentially $F = \sigma A$ with the draft force equation.

- σ is the “ultimate strength” of the ground, named the soil cohesion
- A is the cutting face area
- F is required force to displace soil and cut grass roots



[1] Ahmadi, 2016. Development and Evaluation of a Draft Force Calculator for Moldboard Plow Using the Laws of Classical Mechanics

[2] Wu, 1976. Investigation of Landslides on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. P. 65-68

Figure 4: Simple Physics Calculations

Production Product Requirements Validation Matrix

Table 1: Requirements and Validation Matrix

| Category | Requirement | Status |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Area Cleared | >6000 ft ² /hr | Validated in Testing |
| Width of Control Line | ≥3 ft | Met by Design |
| Depth of Control Line | ≥3 in | Validated in Testing |
| Adjustability | ≥3 in into ground +/- 20° rotation | Met by Design |
| Life Cycles | Structure: 10 ⁴ cycles | Validated by Analysis |
| Size of Device | ≥3 ft, ≤ 10 ft long | Met by Design |
| Transportability | Blade can be raised >6 in from the ground | Met by Design and Validated in Testing |
| Factor of Safety | F _{sy} > 1.5 | Validated by Analysis |
| Attach to Cat.1 Tractor 3-Point Hitch | 3 Pin Connections w/ Cat. 1 dimensions | Met by Design |
| Number of Operators | 1 | Validated in Testing |

QFD Analysis

After interviewing a firefighter from Walker Fire Department, these qualities were most important:

- Clearing vegetation quickly
 - Firefighters had 12+ hour days
- Ability to transport control line tool to location
 - Focus on grasslands environment

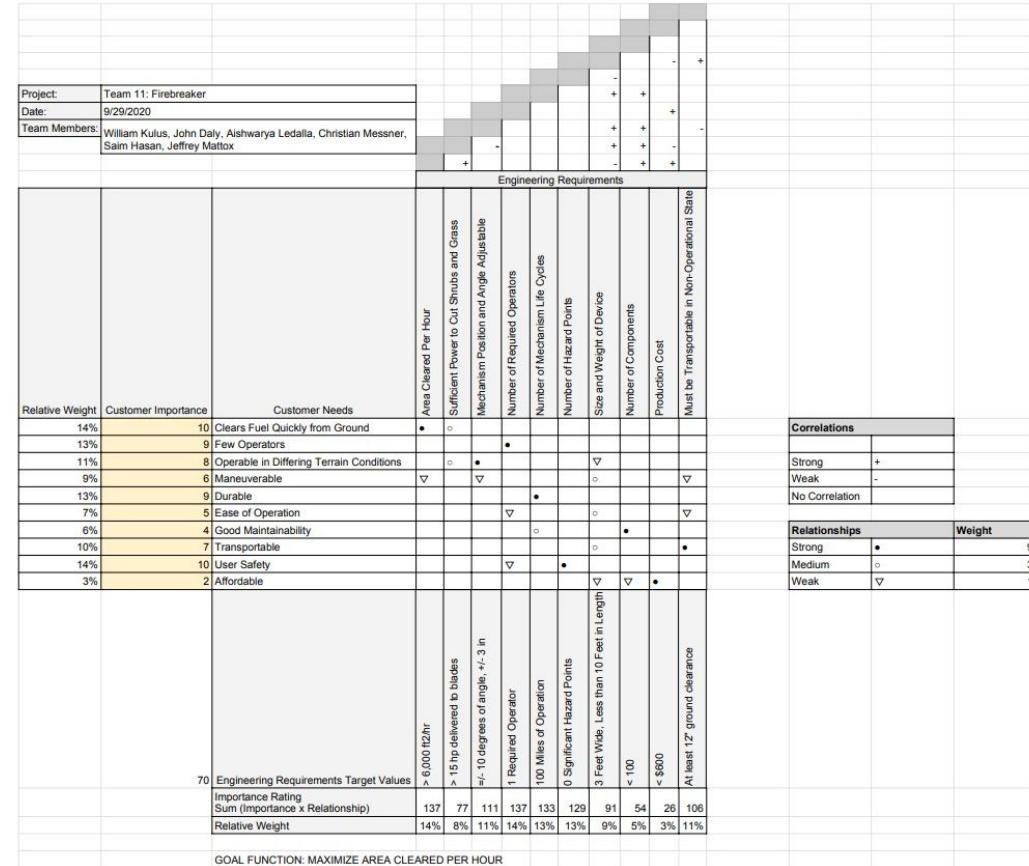


Figure 5: House of Quality Matrix

Phase 2 Final Conceptual Design

- Attachment for a compact tractor
- Rotary cultivators cut up ground underneath
- Rake at rear to displace and scrape away soil
- Hydraulic piston to adjust mechanism

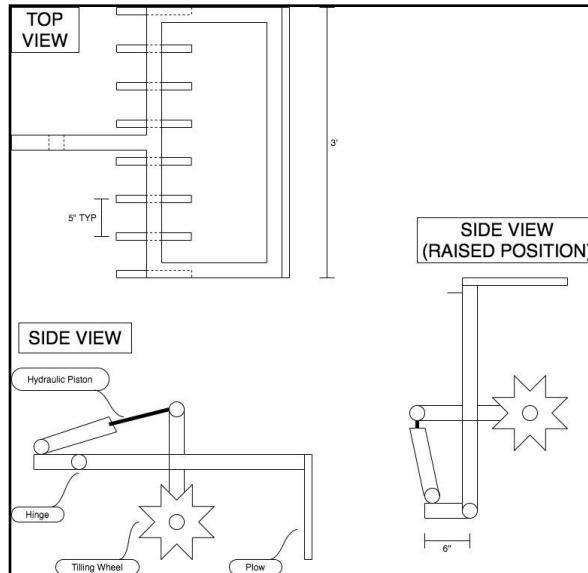


Figure 6: Schematic of Conceptual Design

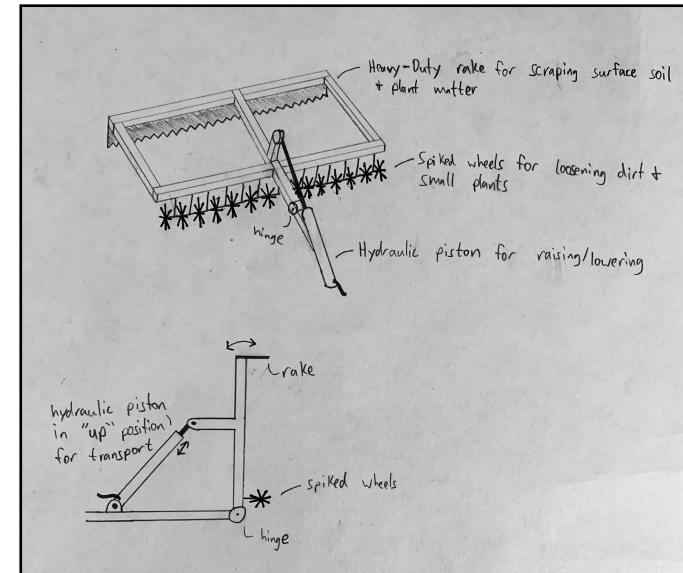


Figure 7: Sketch of Conceptual Design

Production Product CAD Model Rev 3

- RMS and FMEA (Failure Modes and Effects Analysis)

- Reliability Analysis (at 1000 Miles - 10^5 cycles)
 - Frame subsystem = 88.8%
 - With redundancies in fasteners = 99.2%
- Maintainability Analysis
 - Mean time to repair = 20 minutes
 - Mean cost to repair = \$3.63/mile
 - Rear blade and ripper shanks need regular replacement cutting edges
 - System health can be monitored by a direct relationship with the performance
- Safety Analysis
 - Follows Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) codes pertaining to tractors
 - Hazard Safety Warnings and Labels
- FMEA Analyses conducted at each interface:
 - Blade & Structure
 - Ripper Shanks & Structure
 - 3 point Hitch
 - Hydraulics
 - The high RPN items were found in the Rear Blade and Structure interface
 - Static and fatigue failure of fasteners
 - Weathering failure of rear blade

Production Product CAD Model Rev 3

- Sample FMEA

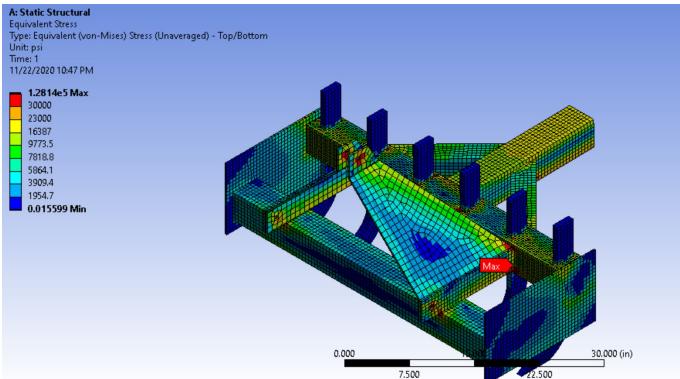


Figure 8: FEA Analysis of CAD Rev 3

| Find No. | Part Name | Function | Potential Failure Mode | Potential Failure Effect | Potential Causes/Mechanisms SEV | Current Design OCC Controls | Recommended Actions/Responsibility/Target Completion | pS | pO | pD | rnP |
|----------|--------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | 1 Plow Blade | Clearing separated dirt and plant matter | Static Failure | Loss of Ability to remove all plant matter | Insufficient design/support, tougher than expected soil, stresses caused by 8 rocks/roots | Product strength analyzed, environment chosen to mitigate 4 hazards | Specify testing plans to ensure that any defects in the plow blade will be identified and remedied. This should be completed by John Daly by 8/25/2020 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 72 |
| | 2 Plow Blade | Clearing separated dirt and plant matter | Fatigue Failure | Loss of Ability to remove all plant matter | Insufficient design for expected 8 fluctuating stresses | Static strength checked for operation in well defined 4 environment | Complete fatigue analysis, define acceptable operating loads and ensure they do not exceed the endurance strength of the plow blade. Additionally, determine whether a COTS part is going to be used or whether we will make our own. This will define the extent of testing and designing required. This analysis should be completed before 9/28/2020 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 72 |
| | 3 Plow Blade | Clearing separated dirt and plant matter | Weathering Failure | Gradual loss of ability to remove all plant matter | Extended operation in conditions that are harsher than 6 anticipated | Environment chosen to mitigate 6 hazards | Gain understanding of the process of plow blade wear. If COTS blade, identify the expected life of the part and prepare appropriate documentation to ensure the customer does not attempt to exceed that life. If a designed blade, determine how to test the amount of wear with use, design accordingly, and make the customer aware of 10/360 the issue. | 6 | 4 | 3 | 72 |
| | 4 Attachment | Interfacing plow blade with structure | Static Failure -- structure or fasteners | Immediate loss of ability to remove plant matter | Insufficient design/analysis, operation in exceedingly harsh 8 conditions | Environment chosen to mitigate 5 hazards | Finish design of plow blade attachment interface, analyze design to determine stress, determine appropriate testing plan during manufacture. Testing plans and static strength should be determined 10/400 before 11/25/2020 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 72 |
| | 5 Attachment | Interfacing plow blade with structure | Fatigue Failure -- structure or fasteners | Gradual loss of ability to secure blade, followed by immediate loss of functionality | Insufficient design/analysis, lack of redundancy, operation for longer 7 than designed time | 6 None | Finish design of plow blade attachment, select and analyze fasteners in fatigue, clearly define expected operational life, determine appropriate testing plan to confirm. Design, analysis of fasteners should be completed before 11/25/2020 10/420 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 21 |

Figure 9: FMEA of Rear Blade and Attachments Interface

Production Product CAD Model Rev 3

- DFMA and DTC

- DFMA Analysis

- Focused on ensuring manufacturability of our product.
- Multifunctional: middle beam houses ripper shanks, rear plow attachment, and the 3 point hitch (bottom of Figure)
- Multifunctional: The 3 point hitch panels act as the implement mount, and hold both horizontal beams and vertical beam together (top of Figure)

- DTC Analysis

- Reduce costs through material selection
- Not cut corners with important parts and procedures like pins, fasteners, and welding.

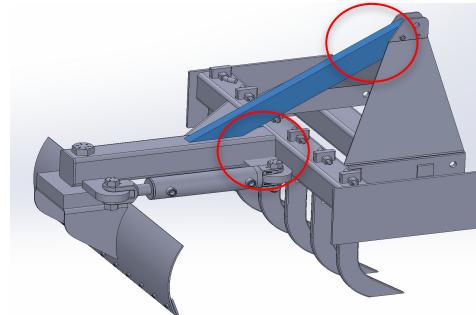


Figure 10: CAD Rev 3 DFMA Example

Table 2: Table of Design Aspect Costs

| Aspect of Design | Cost |
|--|-----------|
| Frame (tubing, plates, three-point hitch, etc) | \$1392.03 |
| Hydraulic Cylinder | \$129.99 |
| Ripper Blades | \$138.00 |
| Pins for the Ripper Blades | \$21.72 |
| Rear Blade Mechanism | \$322.99 |
| Welding and Assembly | \$200.00 |

Total Unit Cost: \$2,204.00

Production Product CAD Model Rev 3

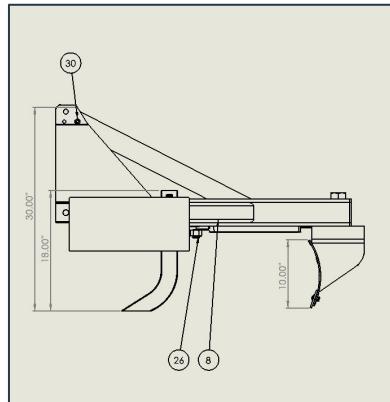


Figure 11: CAD Rev 3 Side View

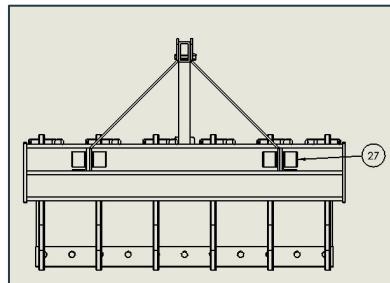


Figure 12: CAD Rev 3 Front View

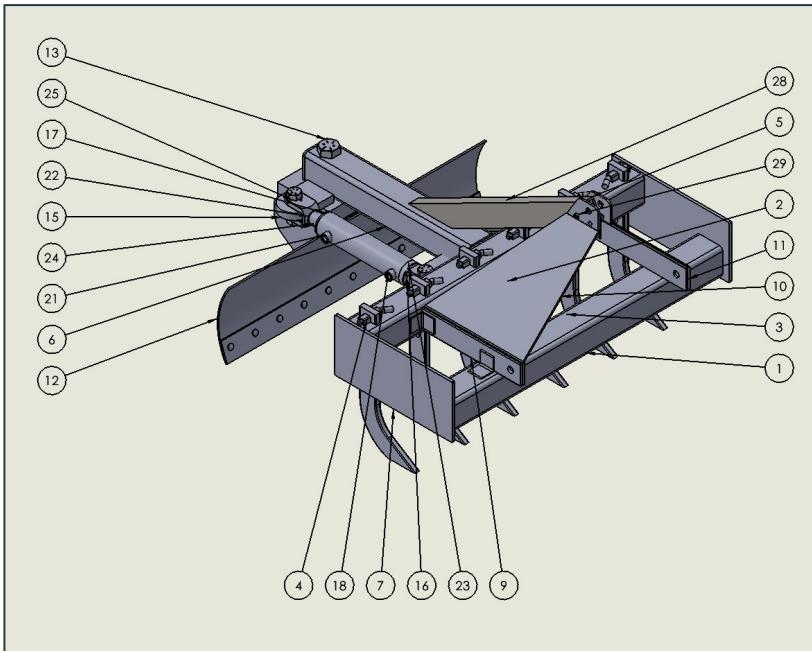


Figure 13: CAD Rev 3 Isometric View

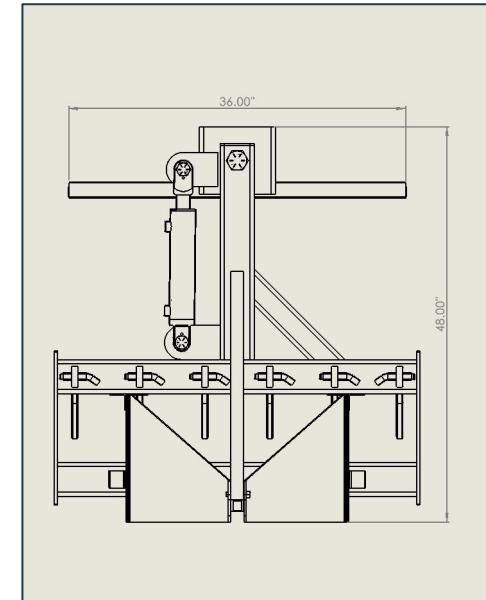


Figure 14: CAD Rev 3 Top View

Engineering Prototype Scope and Requirements

- Focus on essential functionality - removing top three inches of soil
- Use truck instead of tractor
- Scaled down to create 3 inch deep, 1 foot wide control line

Table 4: Prototype Scope and Requirements

| Engineering Requirement | | Validation Method | Status |
|--|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| Area Cleared | 300 ft^2/hr per HP or 3000 ft^2/hr | Test | Pending |
| Adjustability -- All Blades | Blades >=3 in. into ground | Test | Pending |
| Configurations -- Ripper Shanks | Prototype will have at least two ripper shank configurations to support testing data collection | Design/Test | Pending |
| Adjustability -- Rear Blade | Normal vector of rear blade up to 24 degrees from path direction | Design/Test | Pending |
| Control Line Width (= max width of system) | >= 1 ft wide | Test | Pending |
| Length | <= 6 ft long (Standard truck bed is 6'5" long) | Design | Demonstration |
| Transportability | Able to relocate prototype by hand (i.e. without truck/tractor) without blades contacting ground | Demonstration | Pending |
| Static Factor of Safety | Fsy > 1.5 | Analysis | Confirmed Via Analysis |
| Attach to & Powered by Truck | Attach to standard hitch (likely 2" square), pulled by Truck | Design/Test | Pending |
| Number operators | 1 | Test | Pending |
| Budget | <= \$600 | Design | Demonstration |

Final Prototype Solid Model

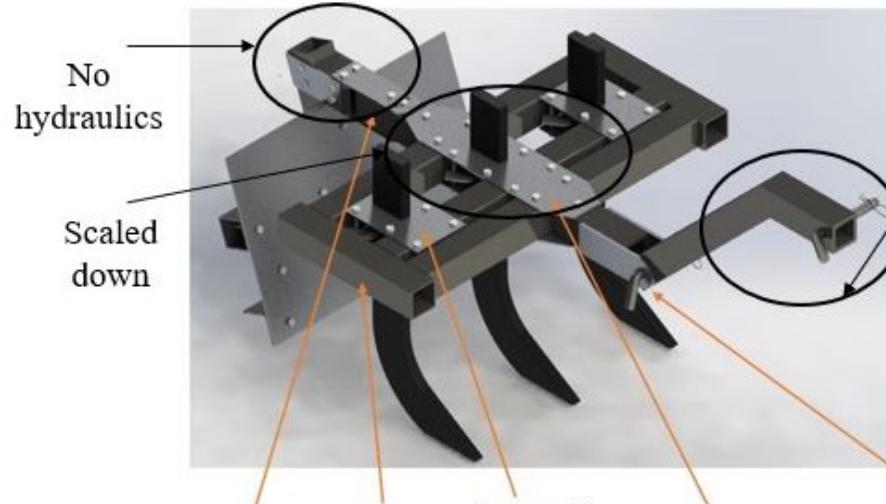


Figure 15: CAD Model of Prototype (ISO)

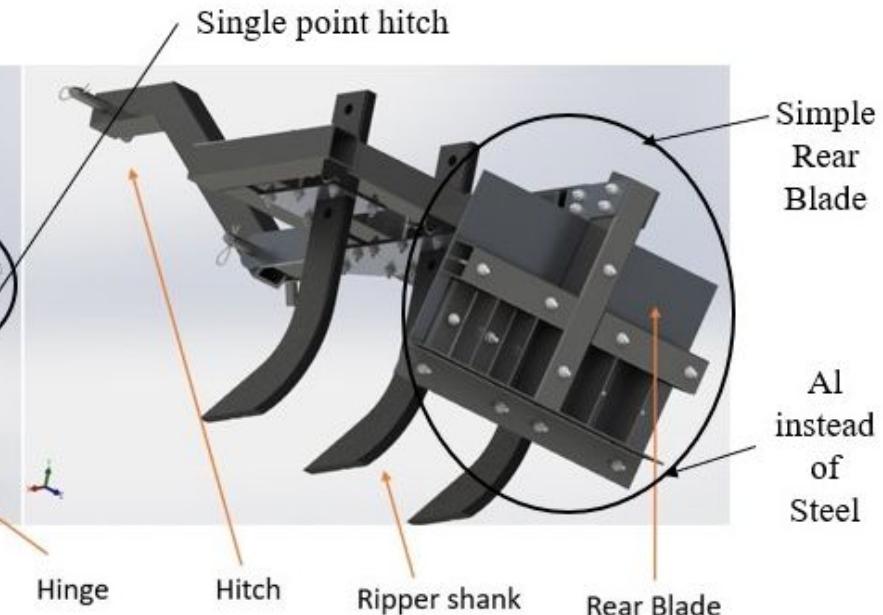


Figure 16: CAD Model of Prototype (Rear)

Exploded View of Prototype CAD

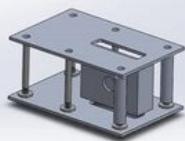


Figure 17: Ripper Shank Mount

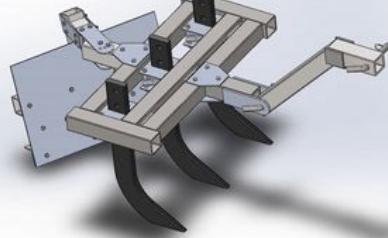


Figure 18: Total Assembly

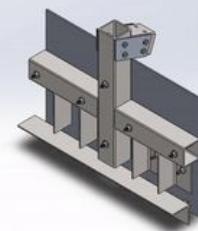


Figure 19: Rear Blade

BOM of Prototype

Table 5: Prototype Bill of Materials

| Description | Material Specs | Total Price | Vendor |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| 0.125" Aluminum Sheet | 0.125" Al 6061 T6 sheet | \$40.31 | MetalSup |
| 0.125" Aluminum Flat Bar | Al 6061 T6 22" x 2" Bar | \$6.34 | MetalSup |
| 0.125" Aluminum Flat Bar | Al 6061 T6 55" x 4" Bar | \$24.53 | MetalSup |
| 0.120" Aluminum Rectangular Tube | Al 6061 T6 3" x 1" Tube | \$8.92 | MetalSup |
| Steel Angle Stock | 2" x 2" x 0.125" A36 angle stock | \$13.65 | MetalSup |
| 0.120" Steel Square Tube | 2" x 2" x 0.120" A500 HSS square tubing | \$78.72 | MetalSup |
| ¼" - 20 x 2.75" Bolt | Grade 5 Steel | \$10.50 | Bolt Depot |
| ¼" - 20 x 1" Bolt | Grade 5 Steel | \$2.20 | Bolt Depot |
| Washers | Grade 5 Steel | \$3.22 | Bolt Depot |
| Nuts | Grade 5 Steel | \$2.10 | Bolt Depot |
| 0.25" Low Carbon Steel Square Tube | 2" x 2" x 0.25" low carbon steel square tube | \$36.56 | MetalSup |
| 0.25" Low Carbon Steel Sheet | 0.25" low carbon steel sheet | \$20.15 | MetalSup |
| Hitch Pin | Hitch Pin, Steel, 1038 and 4140, Zinc, 5/8 in Pin Dia. | \$8.38 | McMaster |
| Ripper shank | Replacement 18" - 4 Hole Box Blade Shank | \$122.65 | Heavy Hitch |
| Ripper Shank Retention Pin | Ripper Shank Retention Pin | \$12.00 | McMaster |
| Welding Rods | Steel Welding Rods | \$35.61 | Home Depot |
| Bolt Spacers | Steel Spacers | \$22.86 | McMaster |
| TOTAL (+ \$19.71 Tax) | | \$481.81 | |

FMEA Prototype Analysis

FMEA Analyses conducted at each interface:

- Blade & Structure
- Ripper Shanks & Structure
- Single - Point Hitch

Similar to our production unit FMEA and helped us simplify the various interfaces between components in our prototype

Problem Solving Example

- During testing, rear blade not in contact with the ground.
 - Caused by the force from the ground on the ripper shanks
- Prevented the topsoil from being scraped out of the way
- Added weight (200lb) to the blade to counteract the moment
- The blade contacted the ground and scraped away the topsoil

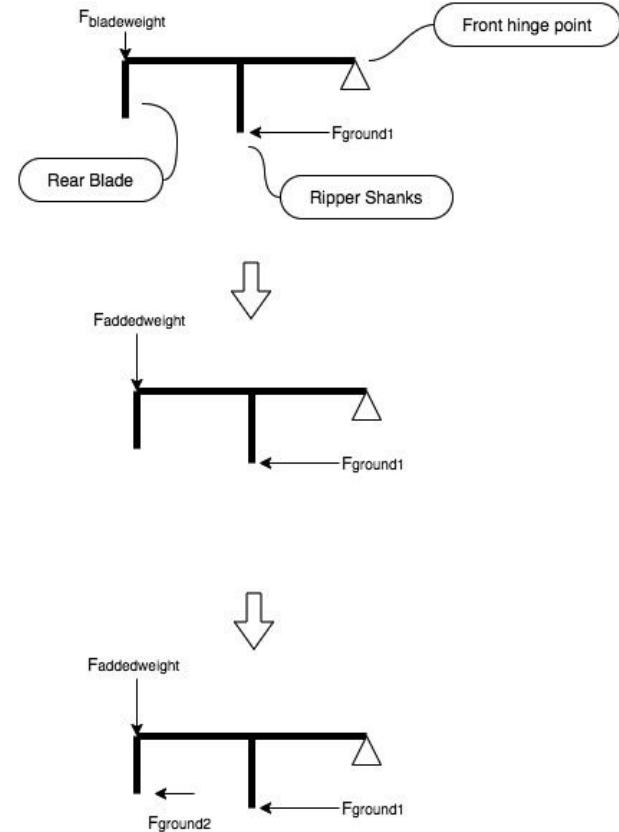


Figure 20: Simplified Force Diagram

Fabrication and Assembly

- We worked as a team to assemble our prototype, along with the ASU machine shop
- To the right, Will is preparing the steel for welding, below JP is welding the chassis



Figure 21: Welding of Chassis



Figure 22: Preparation of Material for Welding

Development

Development Tests:

- Hitch Attachment Test
- Ripper Shank Subassembly Test
- Rear Blade Rotation Test
- Transportation Test
- Configurations Test

Rework:

- Keeping prototype in ground
 - Simple, effective solution



Figure 23: Initial Ground Condition



Figure 24: Control Line Created



Figure 25: Weighted Prototype

Validation

All Requirements Validated from Development Testing

Table 6: Prototype Requirements Validation Matrix

| Engineering Requirement | Validation Method | Status |
|--|--|---|
| Area Cleared | Test -- 6045 ft^2/hr per HP or 3000 ft^2/hr | Validated (Test Run 11) |
| Adjustability -- All Blades | Test -- 3.25 avg | Validated (Test Run 11) |
| Configurations -- Ripper Shanks | Design/Test | Validated (Ripper Shank Subassembly Test) |
| Adjustability -- Rear Blade | Normal vector of rear blade up to 24 degrees from path direction | Design/Test |
| Control Line Width (= max width of system) | >= 1 ft wide minimum. | Test -- 13" (1.083 ft) min. |
| Length | <= 6 ft long (Standard truck bed is 6'5" long) | Design |
| Transportability | Able to relocate prototype by hand (i.e. without truck/tractor) without blades contacting ground | Demonstration |
| Static Factor of Safety | Fsy > 1.5 | Analysis |
| Attach to & Powered by Truck | Attach to standard hitch (likely 2" square), pulled by Truck | Design/Test |
| Number operators | 1 | Test |
| Budget | <= \$600 | Design |
| | | Demonstration |

Table 7: Configuration Test Procedure

Example Testing with Analysis

Configurations Test

Instrumentation and Equipment Used:

- Instrumentation: Strain gauges, Arduino amplifier circuit, smartphones
- Equipment: Truck, spray paint, wrenches, tape measure

Data Collected:

- Plant removal (100% for all weighted, 3 ripper shank configuration test runs)
- Control line shape
- Structural loading data

| Step | Action | Complete? |
|------|---|-----------|
| 1. | Transport test article safely to test site in bed of pickup truck. | |
| 2. | Ensure test article shows no obvious signs of wear/structural degradation that would compromise ability to safely perform test | |
| 3. | Ensure testing environment flat, dry, and that grasses present | |
| 4. | Qualitatively characterize hardness of soil. Note whether the testing environment represents "best-case" or "worst-case" operating conditions | |
| 5. | Configure the test article into the prototype configuration to be tested | |
| 6. | Mount the test article to the test rig | |
| 7. | SKIP IF NO INSTRUMENTATION: Ensure microcontroller, Bluetooth serial module, amplifier, and battery pack securely mounted to test article in predetermined location | |
| 8. | SKIP IF NO INSTRUMENTATION: Inspect circuit connecting strain gauge to power supply and amplifier, and Arduino to power supply, Bluetooth serial module, and amplifier. Confirm no visible disconnects. | |
| 9. | Determine control line path for test run. Ensure all team members know where the path lies | |
| 10. | SKIP IF CONFIGURATION 0: Pick three locations along control line path. Using spray paint and a cardboard sheet with a slit cut through it, spray paint three lines on the grass spanning the width of the anticipated control line. | |
| 11. | SKIP IF CONFIGURATION 0: For each of the three spray-painted lines on the grass, count the number of small plants with spray paint on them. This is crucial to ensuring quantifiable data can be obtained. If there is a high density of plants, use all team members available to count plants at the different locations. Record observations in the dashboard. | |
| 12. | Position two team members alongside prototype with a minimum of 8-foot distance from fire control line path, wearing appropriate eye protection, to observe test. | |
| 13. | SKIP IF NO INSTRUMENTATION: Power on microcontroller, laptop computer for data collection. Confirm serial readings received by laptop. | |
| 14. | Ensure slow motion video being recorded from each team member's vantage point | |
| 15. | Check the Test Run Entry Checklist, confirm all necessary steps have been taken. Once confirmed, test may begin. | |
| 16. | Team member outside car give member in front of truck the "go" command, test begins. | |
| 17. | Prototype pulled about 20 feet at no more than 5 mph, preferably as slow as possible. | |
| 18. | Upon completing test, immediately save recorded video, strain gauge data. | |
| 19. | Power off truck. Confirm no damage to truck hitch. | |
| 20. | Inspect prototype for structural damage. If structural damage identified, discuss ramifications & assess safety of continuing testing. | |
| 21. | SKIP IF CONFIGURATION 0: Inspect control line path. Count the number of grass blades with spray paint on them remaining in the control line path. If necessary, make a distinction between uprooted and lying on path or completely unmoved by prototype. | |
| 22. | Complete Test Run Exit Checklist, ensure all appropriate actions have been taken. | |
| 23. | Repeat steps 7-20 for all configurations. If necessary, repeat steps for same configuration to record additional data. | |

Example Testing with Analysis

Configurations Test

Data Collected:

- Control line characteristics (bottom)
- Strain gauge data (right)
 - Maximum measured draft force of 338 ± 30 lbf
 - Below what we anticipated

Table 8: Control Line Size Data

| Validation Configuration -- 3 Ripper Shanks | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Test Run 11 | Location 1 | Location 2 | Location 3 | Location 4 | Mean Val. +/- Conf. Int. |
| Depth (in) | 3.75 | 4.00 | 2.50 | 2.75 (in) | 3.25 0.87 |
| Width (in) | 13.00 | 14.00 | 13.50 | (in) | 13.50 0.84 |
| Plant Removal (%) | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | (%) | 100.00 0.00 |

| Test Alternate Configuration -- 2 Ripper Shanks | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Test Runs 12 & 13 | Location 1 | Location 2 | Location 3 | Location 4 | Mean Val. +/- Conf. Int. |
| Depth (in) | 2.50 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 (in) | 2.50 0.48 |
| Width (in) | 13.00 | 12.00 | 11.00 | 12.00 (in) | 12.00 0.96 |
| Plant Removal (%) | 68.18 | 65.00 | 81.48 | (%) | 71.55 14.74 |

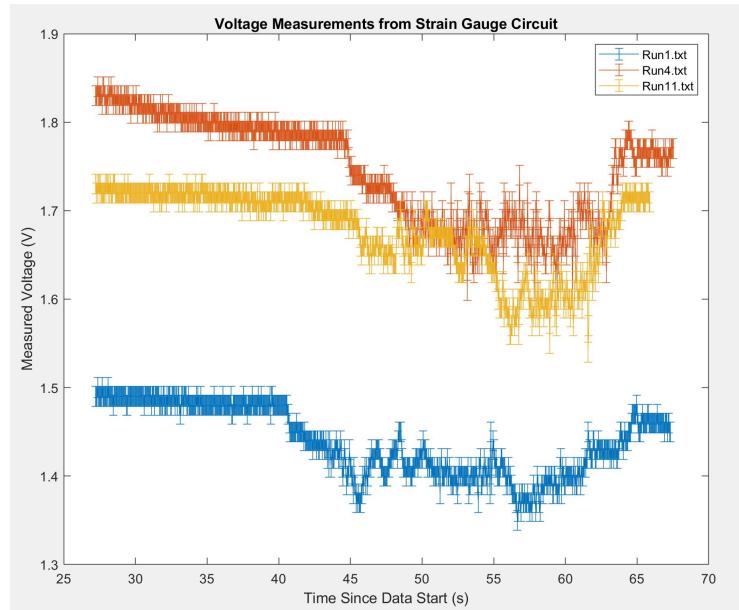


Figure 26: Voltage Data During Runs from Strain Gauges

Final Prototype Performance

Prototype Performed Well

- Effective Testbed for Different Configurations
- No structural damage
- Effectively created fire control lines

Table 9: Prototype Performance

| Requirement | Minimum Acceptable Value | Actual Value | Req. Met? |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Area Cleared (ft ² /hr) | 3000 | 5940 | Yes |
| Control Line Min. Width (in) | 12 | 13 | Yes |
| Control Line Avg. Depth (in) | 3 | 3.25 | Yes |
| Plant Removal (%) | 85 | 100 | Yes |

Final Production Firebreaker Model

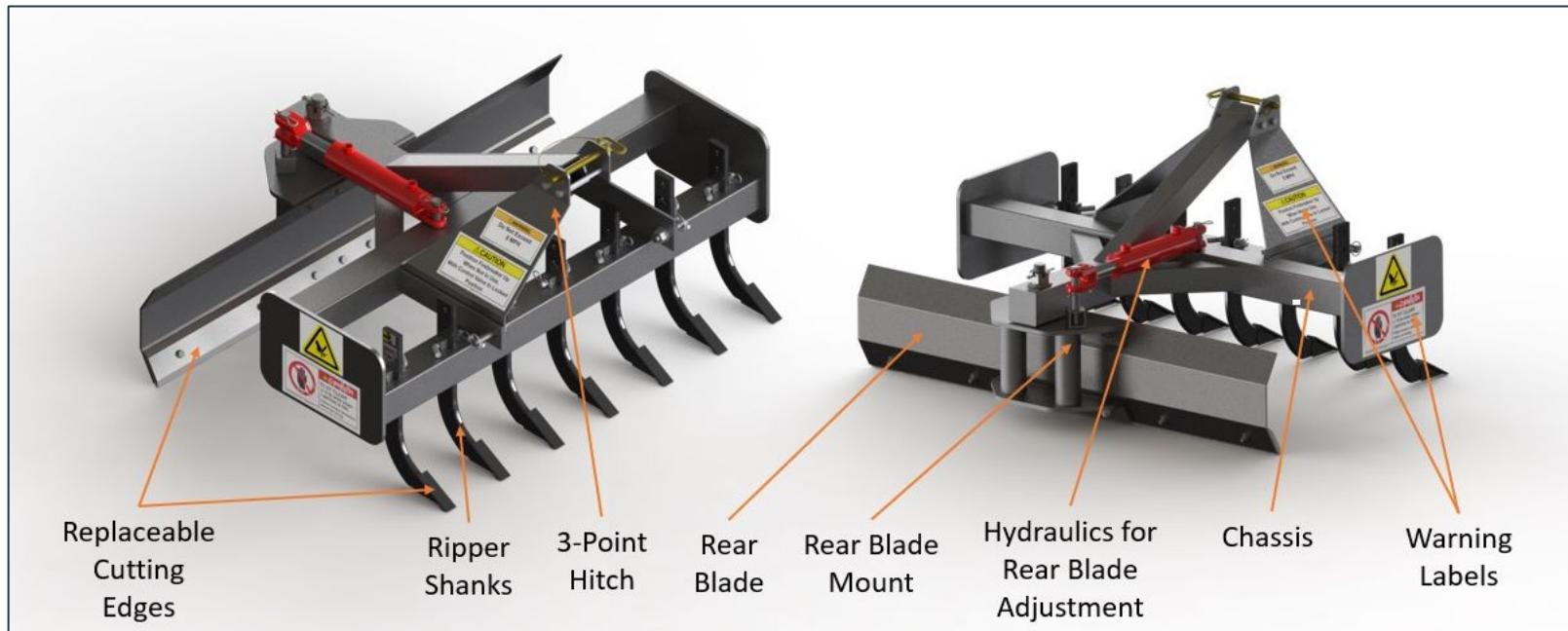


Figure 27: Final Labeled Firebreaker

Compact Tractor 3-Point Hitch



Figure 28: 3-Point Tractor Hitch

Commercialization (Goldsmith Model)

- Unit Price: \$3499.99
- Contract with Fire agency for 200 production units
- Production fabrication and facility acquisition



Figure 29: PPD Gantt Chart

Project Schedule with Key Milestones

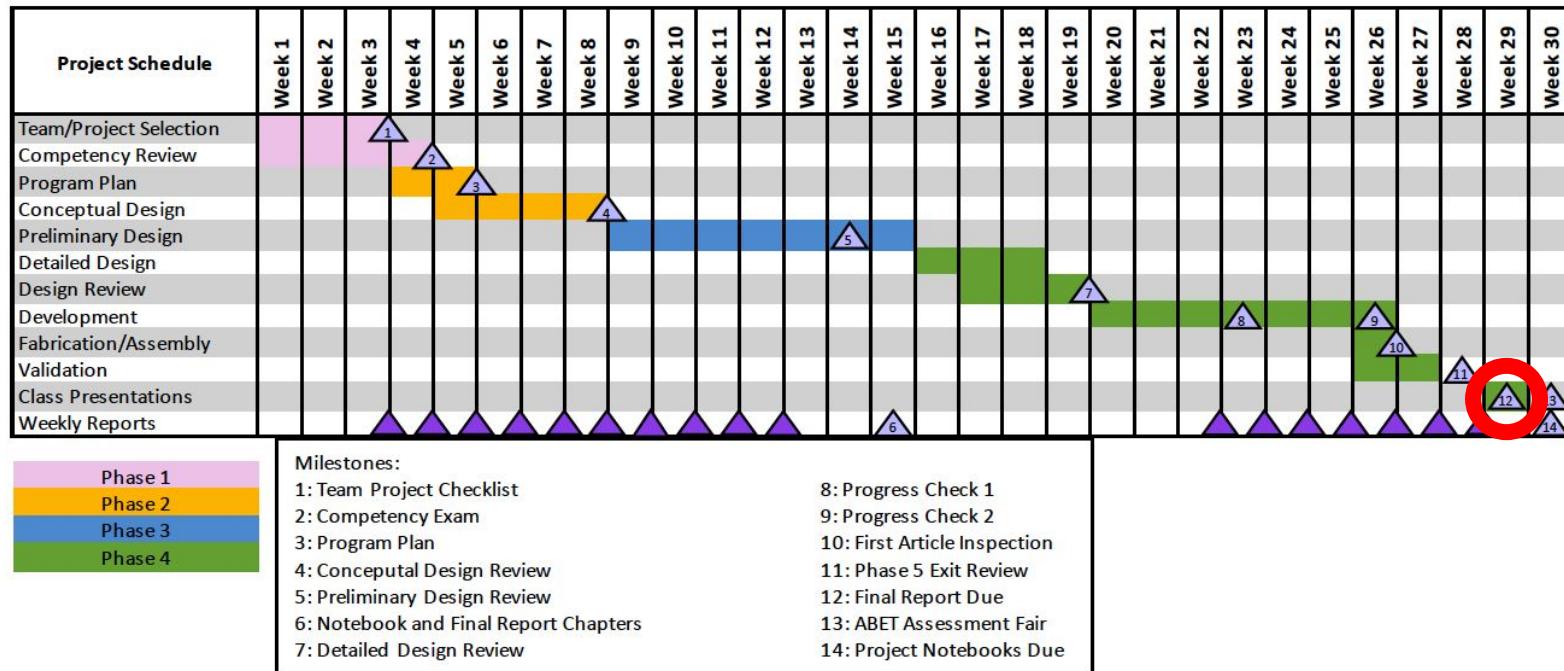


Figure 30: Project Schedule

Labor Chart Budget Line

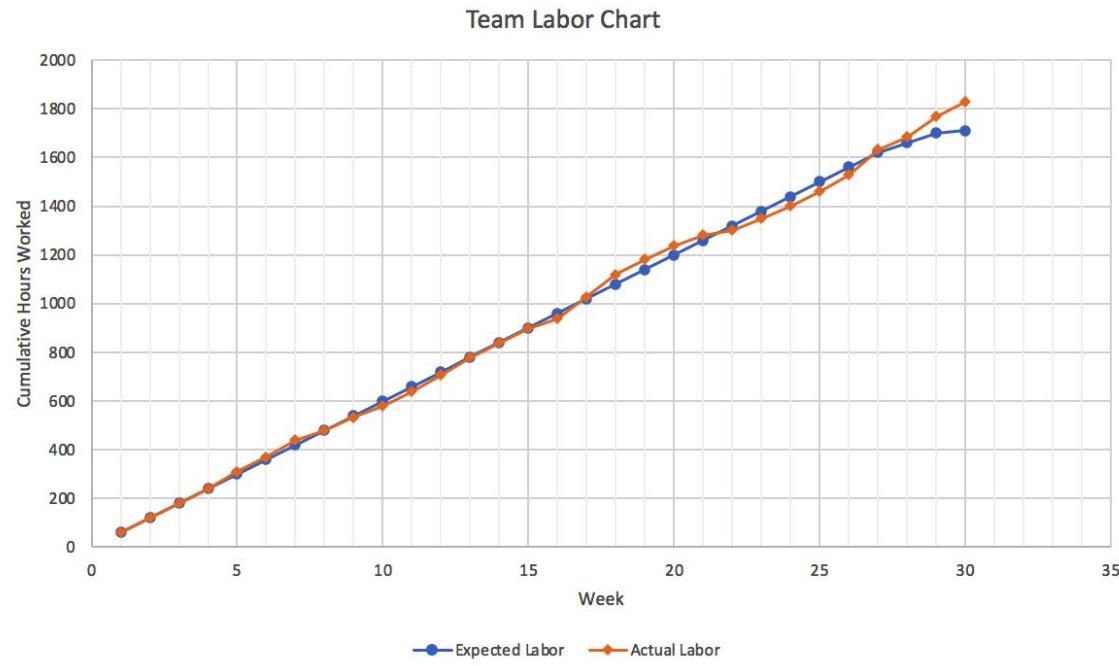


Figure 31: Labor Budget Chart

Team Performance

- Got behind schedule for prototype, then caught back up quickly
- Well under financial budget
- Slightly over labor budget
- Team worked well together

ABET Outcomes

Table 10: ABET Criteria Outcomes

| ABET Criterion Outcome | Target Level of Mastery | Example from Report |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1) An ability to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics. | Analysis | 6.6 - Analyses |
| 2) An ability to apply engineering design to produce solutions that meet specified needs with consideration of public health, safety, and welfare, as well as global, cultural, social, environmental, and economic factors. | Analysis | 3.1 - PPD Process (include IPDS process graphic) |
| 3) An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences. | Application | 3.2.5 - Lessons Learned |
| 4) An ability to recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in engineering situations and make informed judgments, which must consider the impact of engineering solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts. | Comprehension, Application | 1 - Introduction, 1.5 - Societal Impact, 1.6 - Applicable Contemporary Engineering Issues |
| 5) An ability to function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives. | Application | 14.2 - Project Performance |
| 6) An ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions. | Analysis | 12.2 - Test Results |
| 7) An ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies. | Application | 9.5 - Example of Test Rig Drawing |

Top Lessons Learned

- Proper time management throughout the engineering design process
- Benefits of creating a prototype that can be easily modified when issues arise
- Importance of data acquisition/ calibration/ processing
- Using engineering assumptions to make the testing process more efficient
- Consulting manufacturers and our sponsor for guidance

Summary

- Collaborated as an engineering team to solve a major societal need
- Analyzed and created a conceptual CAD design
- Successfully engineered a prototype to validate our production unit
- Arrived at a final production unit design
- Completed our Capstone project meeting all ABET requirements



Figure 32: Final Prototype

Acknowledgements

- **Dr. Shuaib** and **Dr. Trimble** helped us throughout Capstone
- TAs **Sibo Sithole**, **Osei Dua**, **Koushik Paul**, and **Cameron Starostecki**
- **Roger** from Walker Fire Department provided great insight into how firefighters operate in the wild lands
- **Lenny** and **Andre** for fabricating quality parts
- We would like to acknowledge all these vendors:
 - **Stotz Equipment**
 - **Heavy Hitch**
 - **Metal Supermarkets**
 - **Tractor supply**
 - **McMaster Carr**
 - **Bolt Depot**
- **The Mattox family** for providing us with a workshop for fabrication and assembly
- **Jesus Acuna**, provided us with a truck for testing.

Any Questions?

