

# Young Entrepreneur Clears Path for Future

By Rick Stedman

**Isiah Thompson** has always had the entrepreneurial spirit. A few years ago, while pursuing a degree in Wildland Management at California State University in Chico, he couldn't wait to begin applying himself. Though just one semester shy of obtaining a degree, Isiah dropped out of school. "I was disillusioned with the curriculum and the educational process, and wanted more, so I quit school and began doing what I wanted," he says. Starting his own business was one of his priorities.

In July 2019, Isiah officially joined the working world, opening Thompson Land Management, a forestry service business based in McArthur, California. He oversees a small, dedicated team of like-minded individuals who happen to fall into the 22-27 age range.

"It's really hard finding young people who are interested in the environment and wilderness, but somehow I met the right people," explains Isiah. "We are all similar in many ways as far as our devotion to this line of work, and when you have that kind of bonding, it's easy to get things done. We are

a family-like crew that share similar outlooks on life, which is why we get along so well."

To describe Isiah as a go-getter would be an understatement. He has always had a love of the outdoors, enjoying hunting and fishing. An overall appreciation for nature is in his DNA and choosing his profession came naturally. "Since I was around 14, I've always had a good work ethic, while constantly looking to the future, and saving money as well," he says.

When Isiah was trying to decide what direction to go with his life, he began talking with his uncle in New Mexico about possible work. To make a long story short, he agreed to help assist in his uncle's business, a landscape-scale restoration business. Isiah subsequently formed his own company and agreed to certain terms with his uncle.

Isiah's business focus was working to prevent future wildfires. To that end, Thompson Land Management relies on its LineBacker Brush Cutter, two T726 Tigercats, and Fecon Bull Hog skid steer mulching heads.

## New Mexico Challenge

With his enthusiastic team augmented by quality equipment, Isiah and company headed to New Mexico to tackle a

clearing project on 200 acres of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Though this plot of land was last treated 40 years ago, the desired end product was a lush forest of ponderosa pine. Prior to beginning the project, Isiah observed that the ponderosas were choked out by thick brush, mountain mahogany, oak trees, and juniper.

The plan was two-fold: First, clear out the brush, leaving behind a bed of mulched nutrients that would sustain the forest for years. Next, the BLM would burn the leftover debris to ensure that fires wouldn't reach the canopy or nearby residential areas.

The plot of land had its own plans, however. With canyons and ravines sloping from 25 to 45 degrees and hidden rocks partially covered by the brush, the plot posed serious safety risks to Isiah's crew and equipment.

When it came to actually mulching the material, Isiah relied on a Fecon Bull Hog BH120H mulching attachment with FGT rotor design and double carbide teeth.

The Bull Hog is built for extreme demands, with heavy-duty or severe-duty body construction that will stand the test of thousands of hours in the field. The variable 2-speed motor allows Isiah to adapt the rotor speed and torque to changing material loads ranging from fledgling mahogany and oak trees up to eight inches in diameter. In lighter material, like brush or fledgling trees, higher RPM means more bites per second, which produces finer, consistent material. With heavier material — those thick oak trees, for example — more rotor torque keeps the rotor turning when other heads might stall out.

The FGT rotor design has a smooth drum that draws less horsepower when mixing wood material into the top layer of dirt, while the spiral alignment makes it so that fewer tools are engaging the wood material at any given time.

## Cutting Teeth

Isiah does his best to steer clear of rocks and keeps a safe distance from visible ones in the field. When teeth do get damaged by rocks, a simple one-tool process allows him to pop out the old tooth and replace it with a new one. Isiah estimates he can get between 150 to 400 hours of productive time without



Left to Right - Jason Searl, Layton McClung, Isiah Thompson, and Cooper Tande.

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Isiah Thompson in front of his Tigercat.



Fecon mulchers play a huge role in the success of Thompson Land Management.



Isiah's Tigercat with Fecon mulching heads.



## FS 216

No matter how challenging your needs, FS 216 is your best ally for all operations with loggers and skidders. This aramid-belted forestry tire has a robust log design with optimum angle and larger width for enhanced traction performance. FS 216 provides excellent cut and chip resistance as well as maximum protection against possible damages at any time.

FS 216 is BKT's response to your needs even under the most critical operating conditions in forestry.



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