

# Phelps Moraine Prescribed Fire

Grand Teton National Park  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bridger-Teton National Forest  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



## Project Information:

Planned: Late September/early October 2011

Size: 84 acres

## Closures:

Temporary closures during the prescribed fire:

- Death Canyon Trailhead Road
- Connector trail from Death Canyon Trailhead to Valley Trail

## Overview:

The primary fire management goal for Grand Teton National Park is to allow the natural process of fire to persist within the park. Park managers face difficult decisions in managing risk during wildfires in areas that pose a higher risk to lives and property.

The intent of the Phelps Moraine prescribed fire project is to reduce fuels to give higher confidence for managers to allow fire to play its natural role in this area in the future. Since 1960, 8 wildfires have started in the 1,300-acre Phelps Moraine project area, but none grew larger than a tenth acre. Fire managers chose to aggressively suppress those fires because of the potential for fires to spread toward developed areas, including privately owned structures and the Beaver Creek and Moose housing developments.

This prescribed fire will enhance a mechanical treatment project completed in 2008 to impede the spread of an advancing wildfire. The combined benefit of prescribed fire and the previous mechanical treatment is that agency administrators may have additional opportunities to allow fire to affect the ecosystem naturally.

## Project Area/Closure Map

Phelps Moraine Prescribed Burn

Phelps Moraine Compartment Size: 1360 acres  
Prescribed Fire Buffer Area: 84 acres



0.4 0.2 0 0.4 Miles



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Date Created: 6/21/10

## Stay Informed:

Fire managers only implement prescribed fires when weather and fuels conditions are within predetermined parameters. Please stay informed through the website [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com).



*Firefighters watch for spot fires on a prescribed fire last fall. Fire managers use prescribed fires to reduce or modify standing vegetation (fuels) and to reduce the amount of dead and down fuels on the forest floor (fuel loading).*

## Project Objectives:

- Reduce 25-50% of larger diameter dead and down trees on the forest floor
- Achieve moderate burn severity conditions to kill 30-50% of the 0-3-inch diameter trees and 0-30% of 3-6-inch diameter trees. This will increase spacing between trees and groups of trees to reduce the chance of a crown fire.