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**Grand Teton National Park**

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## **Interagency News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Interagency Fall Burning Projects to be Implemented in Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest**

Western WY— Teton Interagency Fire personnel will be burning piles of slash created from fuels reduction projects within Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest. Firefighters will burn these piles under low fire behavior conditions as colder temperatures and wet conditions exist.

Slash piles are created by thinning and removing lower limbs from trees, as well as removing dead wood and brush from the forest floor. Firefighters place the slash in tepee-shaped piles and leave them to cure before burning them. Creating this defensible space is essential to public safety and improving a neighborhood's chance of surviving a wildfire. Fuels reduction work also increases firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire.

Firefighters have been working on a fuels reduction project along the Signal Mountain Summit Road in the park to reduce vegetation along the road corridor and around the communications tower at the summit. Approximately 11 chords of the large diameter wood have been removed from the site and will be offered to the public at a later date through a Federal Government auction at <https://gsaauctions.gov>.

A fuels-reduction project is also being conducted along the Pacific Creek Road leading to the Pacific Creek Subdivision, in the northeast area of the park. The project was designed to lower the risk of losing structures to a wildfire and create more open areas that will help moderate fire behavior during a wildfire. This area was previously treated in 2002 and 2005. The fuel loading along the road corridor has not been addressed in previous treatments and will also remove many dangerous hazard trees resulting from a mountain pine beetle epidemic. Crews started work this summer and generated approximately 100 slash piles to be burned and approximately 18 chords of firewood will be sold through a Federal Government auction at <https://gsaauctions.gov>.

Additional debris piles have been constructed around the park resulting from regular hazard tree removal and routine trail and road maintenance. These piles are also targeted for burning as conditions allow this fall.

Within the Blackrock and Jackson Ranger Districts of the Bridger Teton National Forest, slash piles will be burned in the permitted areas of Jackson Hole Mountain and Snow King Mountain Ski Resorts and the forested areas neighboring the Turpin and Jack Pine summer home areas. Additional areas on the forest with piles may also be targeted for burning this fall.

Smoke will be visible in the vicinity of burning slash piles. Ignitions will cease early in the afternoon each day to allow piles and fuels to burn down prior to evening inversions and reduce smoke impacts to the area. All piles will be monitored until they are declared out.

The thinning and removal of vegetation on private property, when accompanied with adjacent fuels reduction projects on public lands, helps create the necessary space to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and also protects homes from catching fire, either from direct flame contact or radiant heat.

Home owners are encouraged and responsible for implementing defensible space on their respective properties. To learn more about fire prevention and fire-adapted communities call 307-739-5424 or visit [TetonFires.com](http://TetonFires.com)

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