

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

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Interagency News Release

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Teton Interagency Partners Prepare to Burn Multiple Slash Piles

With the arrival of cooler, wetter fall weather, Teton Interagency Fire personnel will begin pile burning in Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger Teton National Forest. Inside the National Park approximately 500 piles are targeted for burning, with the vast majority of those (430) in the Signal Mountain Road fuels treatment area. The remaining piles are near Moran, Triangle X Ranch, Whitegrass Ranch and the Exum cabins.

The Blackrock and Jackson Ranger Districts of the Bridger Teton National Forest plan to begin burning slash piles within the areas of the Buffalo Valley Road, Blackrock Administrative Site, Cottonwood Administrative Site and Swift Creek Trailhead Area. This list is not exhaustive and additional areas with piles may be targeted for burning. Smoke will be visible in the vicinity of these piles anytime during the next several weeks.

The piles are mostly in developed areas where fire crews have completed fuels reduction projects, which include thinning and removing lower limbs from trees, and removing dead wood and brush from the forest floor. The projects are designed to lower the risk of losing structures to a wildfire and to create more open areas that will help moderate fire behavior during a wildfire, which increases firefighter and public safety. Firefighters place the slash in tepee-shaped piles and may let them cure for a year, if necessary, before burning them.

Smoke will be evident from these pile burns during the day of the burn. Please check <u>www.tetonfires.com</u> for updates on where pile burning is occurring.

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