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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

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Fire Danger Has Increased to High

Western WY — Teton Interagency fire managers announce that the fire danger rating is high for the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, National Elk Refuge, and Teton Interagency Dispatch Area. The potential for fire activity has increased due to normal summer curing of vegetation combined with hot temperatures, and dry, windy afternoons.

A high fire danger rating means that fires can start easily and spread quickly. When determining fire danger, fire managers use several indicators such as the moisture content of grasses, shrubs, and trees; projected weather conditions including temperatures and possible wind events; the ability of fire to spread after ignition; and availability of firefighting resources across the country.

As increased visitation associated with the total solar eclipse approaches, visitors and local residents alike are reminded that unattended or abandoned campfires can easily escalate into wildfires; therefore, it is important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving a site. Campers and day users should have a shovel on hand and a water bucket ready for use.

Visitors have abandoned 56 campfires on the Bridger-Teton National Forest and in Grand Teton National Park so far this summer. Campers should be mindful that they could be held liable for suppression costs if their campfire becomes a wildfire. Local residents and area visitors are reminded to know the risks, exercise caution, and practice heightened fire safety at all times.

Fireworks are not permitted in Grand Teton National Park, on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, or in the National Elk Refuge. It is critical that everyone comply with this regulation, especially given the very dry vegetation and warm temperatures throughout the Teton Interagency Dispatch Area.

The total solar eclipse on August 21 will take place during peak fire season in Western Wyoming. Visit www.tetonfires.com and agency social media sites to learn more about fire safety and what fire regulations are in place. To report a fire or smoke in Bridger-Teton National Forest or Grand Teton National Park, call the Teton Interagency Fire Dispatch Center at 307.739.3630.

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