

Teton to Snake Fuels Treatment Key Messages

- 1) *Living with wildland fires* - With long term drought and climate changes there is an increased risk of wildland fire throughout the west. The future will include more fire on the landscape. We need to come together and figure out how to live with this new reality. Compromise will be necessary on all sides to ensure best probability for success – both for land managers and for property owners. This proposed project aligns with the goals and objectives set forth by Teton County's 2014 Community Wildfire Protection Plan where the community has acknowledged the collective goal of becoming a "fire adapted community" where our valued natural resources and associated values in the wildland urban interface are more resistant to ongoing wildfire threats.
- 2) *Being a good neighbor* - Wildfire knows no boundaries. Local, state, and federal agencies support one another in wildfire response, planning and decision making. It is our responsibility, as good neighbors, to plan for fuels treatments adjacent to private lands where conscientious efforts are made for defensible spaces. All land owners (private, federal, County and State) in our wildland urban interface areas have the mutual responsibility to mitigate the probability of fires coming off their lands and impacting other jurisdictions by taking fuels treatment measures to increase the probability of success for responders fighting unwanted wildland fires.
- 3) *Applying the minimum tool and the least amount of intervention* - The preferred alternative will be the one that proposes the least amount of intervention necessary to reduce the risk to an acceptable level of a fire originating on Forest Service lands exiting the forest onto private lands and/or other jurisdictions. A combination of our management tools will be applied to meet our objectives. Those tools include the use of prescribed fire and both noncommercial and commercial mechanical fuels treatments. Those tools will be applied as appropriate where due consideration will be applied to ensure the right tool is being applied for the right piece of land to meet this objective. Within the Palisades WSA and Roadless Areas, we will ensure the minimum tool is being proposed consistent with policy to meet the project objectives.
- 4) *This will be an adaptive process* - The proposed treatment is the maximum treatment but as more fire starts are able to be managed, the need for some of prescribed fire treatments will be reduced. Additionally we project that future managed wildland fires will maintain the majority of the proposed fuels treatments so that future maintenance will be minimal. We will use the best available science throughout the analysis and implementation of this project to ensure the best possible outcomes. A thorough monitoring plan will be developed to ensure the project stays on track with the objectives set forth in the final decision.