

Teton Interagency Fire

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

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



Matilda Prescribed Fire

Burn Completed: Sept. 26-28, 2015
Location: Emma Matilda Lake area
Acres Treated: 355 acres (371 total in unit)
Fuel Types: Mixed Conifer and Aspen

Goals:

- Reduce the fuel loading, open the understory, and separate the continuity of the vegetation to provide greater fire management containment opportunities
- Recreate the natural processes in the lodgepole and mixed conifer stands by reintroducing fire
- Create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas, provide diverse vegetation age class distributions, stimulate regeneration, and begin to return the natural role of fire to the ecosystem

About the Project:

The Matilda burn was a fuels reduction project targeted at dense clumps of trees with low branches that had the potential to torch and send wind-blown burning embers that could cause spot fires. As numerous homes are located to the east in the direction the wind usually blows, this treatment will help protect them by providing a buffer between forested areas upwind and the subdivision.



Fire crews watch for spot fires after igniting the southern tip of the Matilda Prescribed Fire near the Emma-Matilda Lake trailhead.



Post Fire Safety:

- **Unstable Dead Trees (Snags):**
Snags fall without warning, especially when it's windy.
- **Heat and Smoke:**
This fire may be still smoldering in the duff and logs.
- **Burned-Out Stump Holes:**
Make the ground unstable and hazardous for walking.
- **Loose rocks and logs:**
Are prevalent in recently burned areas, again making walking hazardous.

Fire Effects:

Much like a natural fire, the unit burned in a mosaic pattern with good consumption of logs, conifer trees and aspen on the southwest and west sides. The fire effects in the Douglas fir along the Two Ocean Road showed a patchy understory burn. Firefighters successfully burned around an open meadow to avoid a thistle-infested area.