



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

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Bridger-Teton National Forest



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

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Prescribed Burn Planned for Bridger-Teton National Forest

Jackson, Wyoming- Prescribed burning season is here and Teton Interagency fire managers are preparing to lead the season with the Beaver Mountain prescribed fire. Firefighters will ignite a burn in the 400-acre project area, 20-miles south of Jackson, Wyoming, as part of the effort to increase defensible space within the community of Bryan Flats near Hoback. Firefighters will reduce the amount of flammable fuels and rejuvenate the aspen and sagebrush communities in that landscape.

The area was pretreated this past spring when fire crews started operations by creating a fire break around the burn unit's perimeter to create a control line. This readies the site for firefighters to begin ignitions on the interior this fall. Interagency firefighters will burn approximately half of the 400-acre unit leaving a mosaic pattern of unburned patches on the landscape to meet resource objectives. Crews will apply fire using a combination of hand torches and helicopter ignition devices to break up the continuity of vegetative fuels. The ignition phase for the project is expected to take two to three days depending on the weather and fuels conditions.

The safety of the public and firefighters is the number one priority during prescribed burns. All prescribed burns are completed by trained professionals in accordance with an approved, detailed plan, which includes desired weather conditions. All prescribed burns are analyzed by a team of specialists to ensure the wildlife, fisheries, rare plants and historic sites are not harmed. Burning days are fluid because the proper weather conditions are needed to achieve desired results.

Smoke may impact the area as the cool night and morning air often cause the smoke to sink in the canyon area and stay low to the ground. The burned area may produce smoke for several days following the burn, but will significantly dissipate after active ignitions have ceased. Motorists are reminded to travel with caution just as they would in going through any low visibility area.

No trail closures are expected, however, access will be limited within the project area during active firing operations. Hazards will exist within the vicinity of the burn area even after firing operations are completed. The public is urged to watch for snags and falling trees, rolling rocks and debris, and residual smoke and flames if entering into the burn area after firing operations.

Additional information on forthcoming prescribed burns will be distributed as plans are reviewed and finalized. For more information please call 307-739-5424.

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