

South Fall Prescribed Fire

Location : Hoback Junction 10 Miles South of Jackson at the confluence of Fall creek and Snake River

Time frame: Spring and or Fall of 2016

Unit size : 1800 acres with 800 acres actually being treated by live fire.

Teton Interagency fire managers, in partnership with the local fire department and land management agencies are planning to use prescribed fire to treat approximately 700 to 800 acres within the South Fall Creek fuels reduction project. The primary objective for the burn is to increase defensible space in the Hoback Junction area, as identified in the Teton Area Wildfire Protection Plan. The date of the fire is determined by the appropriate weather conditions including wind direction and humidity; no specific date has been set for the burn.

Residents in the adjacent areas will see and possibly smell smoke from the fire. Fire personnel will contact residents and visitors in the area to ensure their safety. South Fall firing operations are expected to last two days with the support of ground forces and the local interagency helicopter. Fire fighters will “patrol” the fire several days afterwards to monitor for any hazards. Signs will be posted for possible smoke impacts and fire staff will also monitor smoke effects during the burn operations.

Prior to each prescribed fire, crews will have already prepared the burn area by constructing control lines on the ground. On the first day of ignition, crews will further secure the burn perimeter by “blacklining,” (a method of applying fire to a swath of vegetation immediately inside the control lines) to create a wide barrier that contains the fire within the designated area. Once the blacklining area is secure Fire managers will use the local helicopter to light vegetation in the interior of the burn area. Treatments such as thinning and prescribed fires have been proven to be effective in changing fire behavior and helping control efforts on hundreds of wildfires nationwide. Thinning, prescribed fires, and managing wildfires to achieve natural resource management objectives can help to prevent uncharacteristic wildfires with minimal impacts to air quality while smoke from uncharacteristic wildfires may pose significant risks to public health and safety. During an uncontrolled wildfire, heavy fuel loads of dead vegetation and mixed conifer trees ignite and generate flying embers, which can travel long distances creating “spot fires” which then ignite new fires. It is this fire behavior that causes an unwanted fire to spread quickly and uncontrollably.

Defensible space and fire protection is a community responsibility. Unwanted wildfire is not restricted or limited to jurisdictional boundaries. Fire staff is available to help provide information and offer a home inspection to help you as a home owner, create a defensible space on your side of the property line. Together we can create a fire safe community and provide protection to firefighters should an unwanted fire start near your neighborhood.

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Teton Interagency Fire at www.tetonfires.com



