

2020

# Bridger Teton National Forest Annual Fire Report



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## Introduction

The 2020 Bridger Teton wildland fire season matched the 10 year average of 40 fire starts. In 2020 there were 26 human-caused fires, 14 lightning caused fires, and an above average of 259 abandoned/unattended campfires. Total acreage burned was 640.17 acres compared to the 10 year average which is 20,618.94 acres.

Despite the global pandemic and an average number of fire starts on the Bridger Teton National Forest, a large portion of the Forest resources were able to be rotated to other parts of the country to help out with large fire assignments.

The first fire of the Bridger Teton National Forest season was discovered May 1<sup>st</sup> on the Pinedale Ranger District; the last fire reported was October 20th on the Kemmerer Ranger District.

All three Western Wyoming Type III Teams deployed within the state of Wyoming to three different fires.

5 lightning caused fires occurred on August 24, Smokehouse, Iron Rim, Pass, Skull Creek and Miller for a total of 5.55 acres. The Smokehouse burned 5 acres of Timber in the Teton Wilderness Area of the Blackrock Ranger District 9 miles north of Togwotee Pass. A web camera was installed to assist with management using point zone protection.

### Pilgrim Creek

This natural caused fire detected on September 30 burned 498 acres of mixed conifer in the Teton Wilderness of the Blackrock Ranger District 6 miles northeast of Colter Bay.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center (TIDC) dispatched 48 wildland fires, totaling 641 acres, during the 2020 fire season. The Bridger Teton NF had 40 fires; Grand Teton National Park had 8 fires; the National Elk Refuge had 0 fires; Wyoming State Forestry Division had 0 fires; Teton County, Sublette and Lincoln Counties had 1 fire each.

## Bridger Teton National Forest 40-Year Fire History

	HCF	HCA	LCF	LCA	Total Fires	Total Acres
40yr Average	25	7920.92	35	7799.25	61	15720.91
30yr Average	23	6581.27	37	5271.58	60	11852.86
20yr Average	19	9247.12	35	7538.28	54	16785.40
10yr Average	17	14014.99	23	6603.93	40	20618.94
5yr Average	17	11978.68	16	6201.73	33	18180.39
2020	26	126.05	14	514.12	40	640.17

## Acres and Number of Fires by District

District	Human Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Fires	Lightning Acres
D1 Kemmerer	3	0.40	0	0.00
D2 Big Piney	4	18.50	1	0.10
D3 Greys River	8	1.25	3	0.50
D4 Jackson	6	103.00	4	8.87
D6 Buffalo	3	1.80	4	503.35
D7 Pinedale	2	1.10	2	1.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>126.05</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>514.12</b>
Total BTF Fires/Acres                      Fires 40                      Acres 640.17				

## 2020 North Zone Fuels Accomplishments

### Implementation

Contract thin, prune, pile work continued within the Teton to Snake project area mostly adjacent to the Bonneville Power Administration powerline on Phillips Ridge. Force account work occurred within Turpin Meadows Recreation Residence area and Bryan Flats Guard Station.

Additional funding was successfully procured from WWNRT and Wyoming Game and Fish to help implement prescribed fire projects within Teton to Snake, Grouse Mountain and Upper Gros Ventre project areas.

### Broadcast Burning

Teton to Snake Taylor Mountain Blackline	2.5 acres	Jackson District	Blacklining along private boundary of unit.
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### Pile Burning

Blackrock Admin Site	4 acres	Blackrock District	pine beetle clean up, snags and dead and down
Turpin Meadow Rec. Residence	119 acres	Blackrock District	Clean up from past treatment of dead and down. Firewood was made easily available for permitted public.
Wilderness Ranches	1 acre	Blackrock District	Pile from defensible space work around subdivision.

Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 2	10 acres	Jackson District	Pile burning from contracted thinning. Unable to complete unit due to too much snow limiting access.
Jack Pine Summer Homes	1 acre	Jackson District	Pile from defensible space work around Recreation Residences.

### **Mechanical Thinning**

Turpin Meadows Rec. Residence Retreat	119 acres	Blackrock District	Retreat due to Mountain Pine Beetle infestation within past fuels treatment. Force account.
Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 1	64 acres	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile contract.
Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 3	8 acres	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile contract.
Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 3	6 acres	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile contract.
Teton to Snake Phillips Bench Unit 6	104 acres	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile contract.
Bryan Flats Defensible Space	2.5 acres	Jackson District	Hand thin, limb, and pile around Bryan Flats Guard Station. Force Account.

### **Broadcast Burning**

Broadcast burning opportunities were severely limited in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. No spring burning occurred due to concerns of smoke impacting communities and firefighters. Late season local and national fire activity needing resources, dry conditions locally, extended fire restrictions, poor air quality from fires to the west of the region and an increase in local COVID-19 cases all made it difficult to implement broadcast burning in the fall. National Planning

levels stayed elevated well into October. Prior to October 1, there was a regional COVID-19 request to burn process and form in addition to the standard regional request to burn when the national planning level is 4 or 5. All of these factors increased the planning needed to try to implement prescribed fires in the fall. Grouse Mountain and Dry Quad broadcast units were closely monitored to try to match conditions with prescriptions but were unable to successfully find an appropriate window.

### Planning

Planning efforts continued in conjunction with the BTNF Wildlife shop for a prescribed fire project within the Upper Gros Ventre area. We are still waiting on consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service regarding lynx. Planning work has continued for project development within the Shadow Mountain/Lost Creek Ranch area.

Annual discussions on 5 year veg planning have occurred with resource staff and district rangers to continue planning of projects to ensure a steady flow of outyear projects.

## 2020 West Zone Accomplishments

### Implementation

Spring and fall burning were limited this year due to COVID 19 concerns. The West Zone did apply for and was granted approval to burn piles at the Cottonwood Campground. Piles were ignited and mopped up on the same day to avoid any smoke concerns to the public.

10 acres of piles were burned at the Star Valley Ranch project in the Lost Creek drainage in November. Piles were ignited and allowed to consume and extinguish naturally with help from surrounding snow conditions.

64 acres of mechanical slashing was completed on the Ham's Fork project in the Nugent Park unit. This was completed by Engines 411 and 631, also help was received from engine crews from the East Zone. This unit is scheduled to be burned spring 2021.

The Strawberry Unit of the Star Valley Front project was scheduled to be burned in September, however because of extremely dry conditions and impacts to public health because of COVID 19, burning of the unit was postponed.

### Pile Burning

Unit	Acres	Description
Cottonwood Campground	5	Burned piles within the Cottonwood Campground
Star Valley Ranch	10	Burned piles in Lost Creek

### Mechanical Thinning

Unit	Acres	Description
Nugent Park	64	Conifer thinning for aspen regeneration

## Planning

For 2021 the West Zone will be planning on completing burning in Nugent Park, Bug Creek, Strawberry Unit, and the Le Barge Little Hornet Unit. Contract thinning is planned for 2 additional units in the Ham's Fork project area. Thinning and piling is planned for Allred Flat campground and will be completed by the zone engine crews. NEPA planning is ongoing in the Grey's River corridor habitat treatment project and is expected to be completed this fiscal year.

## 2020 East Zone Accomplishments

### Implementation

The Bridger Teton accomplished **12,939** target acres for FY 2020. *The East Zone provided 11,723 of*

Name	Location	Acres	Objectives
Pile Burning (Several Units)	Skyline WUI mostly	150	WUI Fuels Reduction
Skyline WUI	Skyline WUI	438	WUI Fuels Reduction
Monument Ridge	Monument Ridge	5,883	Aspen Restoration/WUI
Aerial Spray Application	Pinedale District	5408	Rangeland Restoration/WUI
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>Multiple</b>	<b>11,723</b>	<b>Multiple</b>

these acres to the Forest and ultimately to the POD, RO and WO. It was a big year for acres on both the Big Piney and Pinedale Districts. Big Piney contributed 5,883 acres from the first year of implementation on the Monument Ridge Project. This project had a large thin/slash and thin/pile contract along with two large force account units which were accomplished with East Zone fire resources and the Teton Wildland Fire Module. The Pinedale District contributed 5,840 acres. Thanks to the inception of the aerial invasive herbicide application program which contributed 5,403 acres along with the now winding down Skyline WUI project contributing 438 acres of thin/pile and burn.

The Skyline WUI project also provided approximately 700 cords of wood to the public by way of the hard charging East Zone fire resources working with equipment for skidding and building decks in areas made accessible for the public to gather firewood. There are also 2 active timber sales which are expected to be completed FY21.

Despite COVID19, several piles were burned in the Fall and early Winter months across the East Zone as well which included Brush Disposal (BD) piles on 3 different timber sales.

### Planning

South Fort Rx slash burning is scheduled for Spring 2021. This burn is approximately 300 acres and part of the Skyline WUI Project. The burn is amongst the urban interface 10 miles north of Pinedale consisting of 3 ignition units. Also, 200-300 acres of piles will be burned in the winter, spring and fall months of 2021 as well. These pile units are also in the Skyline WUI project area as well as the Monument Ridge project area.

Another big contract year on the Monument Ridge Project is expected to be awarded this winter along 2 large force account units in the project area as well. This will be the last year of contracting on the Skyline WUI project with one small thin/pile contract as well as several acres of blowdown clean up which will be supported by fire resources and contractors.

NFMA has begun in the Big Sandy area and will develop into NEPA in 2021/22. This is a WUI project but will be multifaceted with recreational improvements, timber sales, and wildlife habitat improvement.

## Aviation Branch / Helitack Summary

The Aviation Branch of Teton Interagency Fire contains a combination of resources from Bridger Teton National Forest (BTF) and Grand Teton National Park (GRTE). The program consists of an Interagency Aviation Officer that provides oversight and quality assurance. Teton Helitack manages 2 exclusive use type 3 helicopters and provides support for other missions as requested. Teton Helitack is funded for 24 employees. The Jenny Lake Rangers of GRTE are an ancillary aircraft user group providing rescue services to the Park and Teton County.

### Aircraft Project Work:

1. GRTE ACETA, wolf/bighorn sheep/coyote capture and tagging; mountain goat eradication.
2. GRTE Elk Survey
3. GRTE Trails crew logistical support to North Cascade Canyon remote camp.
4. GRTE Phelps Lake restroom construction material transport.
5. GRTE Surprise weather station installation/demob.
6. BTNF Powwow web camera maintenance.
7. BTNF Various web cam and RAWS transport for wildfire and prescribed fire projects.

### Crew Project Work:

1. Hazardous Fuels Reduction, 2279 hours
2. Recreation, GRTE/FS, 141 hours
3. Prevention, 154 hours
4. Facilities, 75 hours

### Training:

1. Taught S-271, CRM-7 Skills, USFS Short Haul Academy, PLDO training, A-219
2. Completed PTBs: HMGB, FFT1, ICT5, HECM, ASGS



Teton Helitack had a very busy season filling aviation positions across the west and at one point had people and aircraft supporting fires in 5 states. In addition to our 2-primary aircraft, we managed a COVID Surge helicopter and a CWN type 3 helicopter on the East Zone.

	35HX	38HX	47V	86G	Grand Total
Contract Type	EU	EU	Surge	CWN	
Days on Contract	142	161	107	47	457
IA Response	23	11	5	19	58
Extended Attack	11	12	7	5	32
SAR Hours	27.3	.8	NA	0	28.1
Total Flight Hours	174.8	183.8	199.4	65.5	563.5
Passengers Transported	729	143	NA	165	1,037
Gallons Water	47,376	32,360	256,798	25,761	362,295
Pounds of Cargo	81,022	66,620	766,585	31,238	945,465
NPS Short Haul	14	0	NA	NA	14
FS Short Haul	0	0	NA	NA	0
Total Contract Cost	\$724,138.65	\$914,820.11	\$1,355,433.79	\$331,115.53	\$3,325,507.90

## Fire Prevention, Education and Information

### Priorities and Focus of Zone Fire Prevention Programs

The priorities and focus of the Forest's fire prevention program are:

1. Prevent unwanted human caused wildfires thru education outreach and patrols
2. Coordinate with communities adjacent to public lands in approaches and practices in supporting Fire Adaptive Communities and Fire Resilient Landscapes
3. Assist fire management through IQCS support, website maintenance, and fire/all-risk incidents as qualified

### Fire Restrictions

Discussions about restrictions took place unusually early this year. Due to Covid-19, all National Forests in Region 2 decided to limit risk to firefighters by going in to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions in early April, with the intent of remaining in the entire season. Initially the Intermountain Region Forester made the push to mirror our neighbors to keep state orders in sync. At the time most of northwest Wyoming was still under significant snow load and the order made little sense. The Shoshone NF was also under snow and the Special Order was very unpopular with the public and became a point of contention in the bigger picture.

The BT prevention team was grateful that Forest leadership and FMO's heeded feedback from the fire group and interagency cooperators and did not order restrictions prematurely.

The Forest did enact Stage 1 Fire Restrictions on August 13 since both indices and heavy use thresholds were met. Two of the three wilderness areas, Gros Ventre & Teton, were exempted from the order. Bridger Wilderness was not exempted. All three counties also went into restrictions shortly after the Forest, as did the High Desert District BLM. Restrictions were lifted on the Forest October 13 but remained in effect for most of the counties and the BLM until much later. Grand Teton National Park did not go into restrictions.

### **Fire Detection, Education, & Prevention Patrols**

The Forest used the support code to order out of area resources and pay militia overtime to bolster forest patrols and public contacts. Visitor use throughout the forest was extremely high due to Covid-19 with numbers exceeding the 2017 Eclipse. The North Zone developed a zone patrol plan with the support of Ambassadors funded through Friends of the Bridger Teton. This patrol plan with organization, won a Regional Forester award. Total campfires detected within the Teton fire management area totaled 244 and 70 of these were found during fire restrictions. The North Zone also detailed 3 prevention patrollers with wet rigs to support efforts throughout the zone. The West Zone ordered a single resource with FPO and FFT1 qualifications for the Greys River and Kemmerer Ranger District patrols (14 days). The East Zone utilized a combination of engine crews and militia for additional evening and weekend Forest patrols, other resources were not ordered.

The opportunity for fire investigations is never lacking, several fires started during the hunting season, and due to remote locations, time of day and the number of requests, several fires did not meet the request from the incident commander.

### **Budget**

The Prevention/Education budget for FY20 was \$9,500, with an additional \$1,000 for Covid supplies. The program also received \$15,000 in severity dollars (due to restrictions and high use) which was used to purchase radio PSA's in local and surrounding communities, newspaper ads, hunter education buffs, Unicorn prevention and restriction sign posters, and miscellaneous materials in support of prevention efforts.

### **Fire Adapted Communities**

The Greys River Ranger District helped to develop the Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition. This first year proved very successful even when faced with the challenges of Covid. Angie Crook leads the coalition's education and outreach committee and has successfully developed a neighborhood Ambassador program within 3 homeowner associations, provided 3 trainings, one chipper day and one open house event at the local fire department.

The Teton Area Wildfire Coalition has the pleasure of working the [Wildfire Research group](#). The group uses a systematic collection of parcel level wildfire risk and social data to understand wildfire risk within a community. A total of 785 parcel assessment had to be reanalyzed and a full report is due the summer of 2021. TAWPC currently has 13 neighborhood ambassadors committed to support wildfire mitigation education and information. Local Jackson Hole News and Guide ran a story covering the [Teton to Snake fuels reduction](#) project in the hidden Hills area and interviewed one of the ambassadors for the story.

## Incident Information

Much of the public information needs for both planned and unplanned fires were handled out of the Public Affairs shop with information and web support from the Prevention staff. News releases, social media, newspaper ads, and widespread radio PSA's (Harrison Ford) were used to create awareness of current fire danger, fire restrictions, and prevention measures. The Forest also adopted the Regional "Don't Let Your Summer Go Up in Smoke" #together4wyoming prevention campaign utilizing stickers and social media posts.



## Outreach Education Programs

Due to Covid-19, all school and community programs and activities were cancelled. Angie Crook did get creative and held a zoom Smokey Bear story and puppet show for Kemmerer preschool student groups. This was recorded so it could be used for future groups. Other efforts this year included collaboration with Teton Conservation District in messaging for [campfire safety](#). A podcast developed by the National Wildlife Museum of Art was on exhibit sharing information on the importance of fire, fire resilience landscapes and value of fire adapted structures and communities, [Bison podcast](#).

## Teton Wildland Fire Module

The Teton Wildland Fire Module (WFM) provides an innovative, safe, highly mobile, logistically independent, and versatile team with a commitment to achieving diverse fire and fuels management objectives. The primary mission of the module is to provide a skilled, efficient workforce to accomplish the full range of wildland fire management tasks including prescribed fire preparation and implementation, managing fire for resource benefit, mechanical fuels reduction, hazard tree removal, and wildland fire suppression.

Leadership of the module transitioned this season to Eric Hawes and Jonathan Bontrager, who were promoted to Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor, respectively. Dockins accepted another position within the agency prior to the start of the season, creating a second vacancy at the Squadboss level. These positions were temporarily and unofficially filled with Senior Firefighters (Spielmaker and McMillan). The module hosted a BTNF Apprentice (Winters) and a candidate from the West Yellowstone Smokejumpers (Dunagan) for the duration of the season. Under the current staffing, the module was rostered with Type 2 status and remains on the cusp of returning to Type 1. Taskbooks completed this year include: FAL2 (2), ICT5 (3), FFT1, FEMO, and CRWB.

The Teton WFM was able to maintain a high level of productivity, team cohesion, and professionalism in dynamic wildland fire environments despite the ongoing challenges and complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. New SOPs were created to ensure safe workplace practices and the module remained resilient with implementation of a virtual Critical-80 training program, "module of one", and ongoing changes to travel and fire operations. The crew received ten Time Off Awards for surpassing high standards in the North Zone Fire Fit

Challenge and had the highest unit average in the program. Furthermore, the module supported interagency operations by providing a Crewboss Trainee for DOD Military Mobilization for large fire support; a crewmember fill for Wyoming IHC; and a Fire Effects Monitor for rapid fire effects assessment at Yosemite National Park.

The module was staffed and available from April 27<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup> and played an important role in accomplishing a wide range of local and national objectives in fuels and fire management. Many of the crew opted to work additional pay periods beyond their tours into October and November due to late season fire activity and a large prescribed fire and fuels workload.

**Teton WFM Fuels and Prescribed Fire Workload - 2020**

Hosting Agency	Fuels Unit	Fuel Type	Days Assigned	Acres	Treatment Type	Positions Held
WY-BTF-NZ	Turpin Meadows Summer Homes	Timber	10	60	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-BTF-NZ	Dry Quad Rx	Timber, Brush, Grass	6	145	RX Prep	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-BTF -EZ	Skyline -Kelly Park, Sweeney	Timber	2	88	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-BTF -EZ	Monument Ridge - Victor	Timber, Brush	5	245	Mechanical Restoration	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-GTP	Hazard Trees Moran-Colter Bay Hwy 89	Timber	6	80	Hazard Trees	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
AZ-GCP	RX-300	Timber	5	390	Rx Prep	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
AZ-GCP-WACA	Walnut Canyon NM Residential	Timber	1	10	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
AZ-GCP-SUCR	Sunset Crater NM Residential	Timber	1	10	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
AZ-GCP	Bright Angel Rx - Harvey/Sewage	Timber	4	387	Rx Prep	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
ID-PAF	Last Chance CG	Timber	3	20	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-GTP	Beaver Creek North	Timber	6	21	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-BTF-NZ	Phillips Ridge Rec-Haz Trees	Timber	1	NA	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-BTF-NZ	Granite Hot Springs CG	Timber	1	2	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-GTP	Sky Ranch	Timber	*10	21	Mechanical	CRWB, FAL1/2/3
WY-BTF-NZ	Taylor Mtn RX	Timber	*8	4	Rx -Piles	FFT1/FFT2
WY-BTF-NZ	North Zone Piles	Timber	*9	71	Rx-Piles	RXB3, FFT1

Includes Fuels work contributions completed on while on Severity/Support. Acreage reflects size of the unit and/or cumulative acres completed with adjoining resources.

\* Completed partially or completely outside of core season (April 27 – October 10<sup>th</sup>) with reduced staffing.

**Teton WFM Fire Workload - 2020**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Fire Name</b>	<b>Fuel Type</b>	<b>Days Assigned</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Positions Held</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>AZ-KNF</b>	Saddle (470)	Timber, Brush	2	.1	CRWB, ICT5, FAL2	<b>AZ</b>
<b>AZ-GCP</b>	Severity (016)	NA	17	NA	CRWB, FAL2	<b>AZ</b>
<b>AZ-GCP</b>	Tipover (030)	Timber, Brush	5	.75	CRWB, ICT5, FAL2, FEMO	<b>AZ</b>
<b>ID-PAF</b>	Severity (200009)	NA	5	NA	CRWB, FAL2	<b>ID</b>
<b>ID-PAF</b>	Dry Creek (324)	Grass, Brush	1	103	CRWB, FAL2	<b>ID</b>
<b>AZ-ASD</b>	Pine Hollow (595)	Timber, Brush	11	11,405	CRWB, FAL2, FEMO	<b>AZ</b>
<b>WY-BTF</b>	Cow Creek (2003)	Timber, Brush	*1	8	ICT5	<b>WY</b>
<b>WY-GTP</b>	Burned Ridge (2040)	Timber	1	1	CRWB, ICT5	<b>WY</b>
<b>WY-BTF</b>	Iron Rim (2007)	Timber, Brush	*1	.2	ICT4, FAL2	<b>WY</b>
<b>WY-BTF</b>	Skull Creek (2009)	Timber	*3	.25	ICT5, FAL2	<b>WY</b>
<b>ID-CTF</b>	Smokey Hollow (196)	Timber	10	17	ICT4, FAL2, FEMO	<b>ID</b>
<b>ID-PAF</b>	Porphyry (495)	Timber, Brush	17	14,486	CRWB, FOBS, FAL2	<b>ID</b>
<b>WY-BTF</b>	Pilgrim Creek (2035)	Timber	7	260	CRWB, FAL2, FEMO	<b>ID</b>
<b>CA-SNF</b>	Creek (1391)	Timber	*14	379,895	CRWB (t)	<b>CA</b>
<b>CA-YNP</b>	Blue Jay (054)	Timber	*12	6,922	FEMO	<b>CA</b>

\*Indicates partial WFM response or single resource assignment.  
Positions held on module assignments all include FFT1, FFT2, and EMTF.

### Teton WFM 2020 - Focus Areas

Category	Percent Time	Notes
Prescribed fire implementation and preparation	4	Decreased 27% from 2019 and down 16% from five-year average due to COVID-19 restrictions on broadcast burning.
Non-fire fuels projects	34	Doubled time commitment from 2019 and up 13% from five-year average. When adding fuels work contributions on severity assignment total base time committed to fuels project is closer to 48% and includes participation in 10 different fuels projects, helping treat 557 acres.
Wildfire Assignments	35	Consistent with five-year average (38%). Includes suppression and fires managed with strategies other than full suppression.
Severity/Support Assignments	14	Most of this time on Severity was spent assisting Fuels projects.
Data collection and entry	0	NA
Training	6	Down 3% from five-year average do to COVID-19 limitations.
Miscellaneous	7	Includes Physical Training, Preparedness, leave, administrative work, details, etc.

*Representative values are a percentage of base hours during the core season (April 27 – October 10<sup>th</sup>)  
Overtime from base fuels account codes is included.*

## Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program

The Teton Interagency Fire Ecology program provides fuels planning support, fire effects monitoring, fire season outlooks, research coordination, decision support, and fire ecology education for both the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. Ecology program staff also serve as red-carded wildland firefighters, responding to unplanned fires and conducting prescribed burns.

In 2020, the program included Fire Ecologist Diane Abendroth, Fire Monitor Ron Steffens, Lead Fire Effects Monitor Jill Stephenson, Assistant Lead Paul Hood, and seasonal fire effects crew members Olivia Burke and Krista Reicis. Because of social distancing mandates for the Coronavirus global pandemic we were unable to have our internship program this year, so the crew was somewhat shorthanded.

Fire Effects monitoring work included 34 projects on the BTNF and Grand Teton NP this year. This included recent and legacy prescribed fire and mechanical thinning treatments. See Table 1 for specifics. Findings from 2019's monitoring work were presented to the BTNF via virtual meetings in the spring.

**Table 1. Fire Effects Plot Workload (2020) and Total Plots Installed**

Park/ Forest	Monitoring Unit	Plot Type	Pre-burn/ MX 2020	Immed. Post 2020	Postburn (1-20 yrs) 2020	Annual Total (2020)	Total Plots
<b>Grand Teton National Park</b>	Sage Strips Airport Road	Photopoints			2	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	Ditch Creek Mechanical	Photopoints			1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	Shadow Mountain MX	Photopoints			3	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	Matilda RX	Photopoints Aspen Circles			11 30	<b>11</b> <b>30</b>	<b>11</b> <b>30</b>
	Signal Mountain Lower End	Photopoints Stand Exams		10		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>North Zone Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Dry Quad MX	Photopoints	4			<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	Grouse Mountain						
	Diamond L RX	Photopoints Aspen Circles			6 90		
	Lower Gros Ventre Phase III RX	Photopoints Aspen Circles			6 60	<b>6</b> <b>60</b>	<b>6</b> <b>60</b>
	Rec Trails MX	Photopoints Stand exams		7 20		<b>7</b> <b>20</b>	<b>7</b> <b>20</b>
	Boulder Fire	Photopoints			2	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	Red Top MX	Photopoints Stand exams	5 10			<b>5</b> <b>10</b>	<b>5</b> <b>10</b>
	Dry Quad MX	Photopoints Aspen Circles	3 30			<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>
	Taylor Mtn RX						
<b>West Zone Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Bradley Mountain	Photopoints Aspen Circles			12 30	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
	Spring Creek RX	Photopoints Shrub Cover			5 1	<b>5</b> <b>1</b>	<b>5</b> <b>1</b>
	Blind Trail Fire	Photopoints			12	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
	Pole Creek RX	Photopoints Aspen Circles			10 30	<b>10</b> <b>30</b>	<b>10</b> <b>30</b>
	Hams Ridge WFU	Photopoints			2	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	Hams Fork Basin Creek	Photopoints Aspen Circles Cover			4 30 20	<b>4</b> <b>30</b> <b>20</b>	<b>4</b> <b>30</b> <b>20</b>
	Hams Fork 7 Acre Unit	Photopoints			1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Park/ Forest	Monitoring Unit	Plot Type	Pre-burn/ MX 2020	Immed. Post 2020	Postburn (1-20 yrs) 2020	Annual Total (2020)	Total Plots	
<b>East Zone Bridger-Teton NF</b>	Fremont II RX	Photopoints			7	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	
		Aspen Circles			30	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	
		BFH plots			3	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
	Willow Rim RX	Photopoints			3	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
		Aspen Circles			30	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	
	Fremont Ridge RX	Photopoints			6	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	
		FMH brush plots			6	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	
	Cooperative Cheatgrass Monitoring	Photopoints		2		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
		Line Point Intercepts		2		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
	West Fortification Mtn Units 4 & 5	Photopoints				11	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
		Stand Exams				6	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
	Elkhart Park	Photopoints				4	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
		Stand Exams				11	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
	Fremont Campground	Photopoints	3			<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
East Fortification Mtn	Photopoints	?	?		<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>		
Monument Ridge Unit 2	Photopoints				5	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	
	Aspen Circles				30	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	
	Sage Transects				30	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	
Cottonwood II Unit 1	Photopoint				1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Monument MX/RX Units 1-13								
Monument Thin & Pile Unit A-D								
Monument Thin and Pile Unit E								

Fire effects data from all of these projects is analyzed and findings are summarized in written reports for each. In addition, the results are presented at Zone and Park level meetings in the spring, so that fire managers can review outcomes and objectives, ask questions, and consider making adjustments to improve future treatments.

The Fire Ecology Staff usually assists with prescribed burns in spring and fall, but due to the pandemic and extreme fall fire season, they only helped with one grass burn on the Caribou-Targhee forest and pile burning this year. The crew was ordered as a small FEMO module for the Lone Star Type III fire in Yellowstone. Ron was the IC. Ron also did a detail for Saguaro NP and the Coronado National Forest during the Bighorn Fire incident. Paul and Olivia travelled to Yosemite NP for FEMO work and Krista went to Saguaro National Park to assist with post fire data collection.

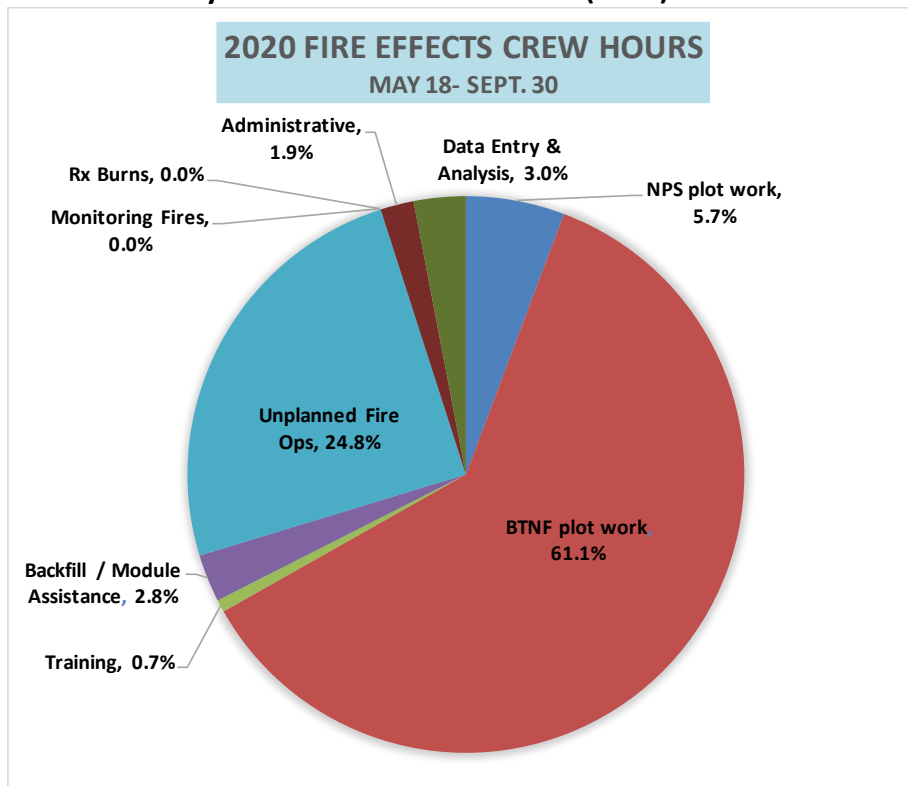
During the summer Ron and the Fire Effects crew tracked fuel moisture at numerous sites to assist with fire danger planning. Ron produced a seasonal fire season outlook with updates every month that was posted on the Tetonfires website.



Diane worked to support the Interagency Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment Project which will be completed in 2021. She taught two upper level fire behavior courses at NAFRI and served as an LTAN for two Type II fires in the Great Basin. Two fire ecology research projects are underway on the park and forest, and Diane coordinated with the scientists involved to help make the studies relevant for managers.

Figure 1. shows the breakdown of interagency duties that the Fire Effects Crew was involved in during the summer field season. There is a great deal of annual variability, and this year there were more projects on the Forest than on the park. Prescribed fire was unusually low with only one burn taking place. Fire suppression now includes monitoring (formerly “Fire Use”) and decision support as well as true firefighting.

**Figure 1. Fire Effects Hourly Plot Workload Breakdown (2020)**





**Fire Effects Crew collecting field data collection in a prescribed burn on the Pinedale Front where the forest is spraying to reduce cheatgrass invasion.**

## Teton Interagency Dispatch Center

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center (TIDC) provides dispatch support to multiple all-risk functional areas, including fire, aviation, prescribed fire, law enforcement, search-and-rescue, and medical emergencies. TIDC was staffed 24 hours per day from June through September. Following is an overview of the 2020 incidents supported by TIDC:

<p><b>Fire:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wildland Fires:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40 BTNF      3 County</li><li>8 GTNP      0 NER</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Acres Burned:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>640.17 acres BTNF</li><li>0.80 acres GTNP</li><li>0 acres NER</li><li>3.20 acres County</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Acres Prescribed Fire:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>343.30 acres BTNF</li><li>43.10 acres GTNP</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Initial Attack Dispatch Support:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>TIDC did not bring in support this season</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Expanded Dispatch:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>TIDC Expanded dispatch did not open this season</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Aviation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Supported 2 exclusive-use helicopters, 1 call when needed helicopter and 1 Surge helicopter:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>28.1 SAR flight hours</li><li>240.3 total flight hours within dispatch area</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Flight Following Operations non fire related:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>17 flights</li><li>40 hours 26 minutes</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>CASE INCIDENTS for 2020:</b></p> <p><b>Medical Emergencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch 3 ambulances for GTNP:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>217 Emergency Medical Service responses</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Search-and-Rescue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Supported numerous SAR personnel during mountain, lake, and river rescues:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>94 SAR responses</li><li>54 Major SAR responses</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated with 5 counties:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teton, Lincoln, Fremont, Sublette, &amp; Park Co.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Law Enforcement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Supported 35 LE personnel for GTNP and 3 for BTNF<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1,403 Case Incidents</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Support Outside Agencies on Request:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teton County Sheriff's Office Sublette</li><li>County Sheriff's Office Lincoln County</li><li>Sheriff's Office Fremont County</li><li>Sheriff's Office Jackson Police</li><li>Department Wyoming Highway Patrol</li><li>Wyoming Game &amp; Fish</li><li>National Elk Refuge</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> TIDC staff:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9 Permanent positions (Dual function: All-Risk &amp; Fire)</li><li>3 Seasonal positions (All-Risk)</li></ul></li></ul>
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# Land Ownership Report

USDA Forest Service, calendar year 2012, Region 04  
 Forest 03, BTNF Summary of acres by state,  
 reference FSM 5186.8

Inside Forest Service Protection Boundaries protected by the Forest Service

## Form FS-5100-9 Land Ownership Protection Report

USDA FOREST SERVICE							Calendar Year 2020		
LAND OWNERSHIP PROTECTION REPORT							Region 4		
(Summary of acres by states)							NF Bridger Teton		
STATE	INSIDE FOREST SERVICE PROTECTION BOUNDARIES							S&P LAND PROTECTED	National Forest Land Protected Others
	PROTECTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE								
	State and Private Land								
			Reimburse	Without				by STATE and FS	
	Fee Basis	Offset Basis	Suppression	Reimbursement	Other Federal	N F Land	Total		
Wyoming					24,700 (NER)	3,465,196	3489.896		