



Forest Service News Release

Public Affairs Officer: Evan Guzik

(307) 739-5560

evan.guzik@usda.gov

<https://www.usda.gov/btnf>

Prescribed Burns Planned on Kemmerer District

Kemmerer, Wyo., May 19, 2023— The Kemmerer Ranger District of the Bridger Teton National Forest is planning multiple prescribed burns throughout this spring. These could begin as early as late May, and burns may be implemented at any time until mid-July. Smoke impacts should remain minimal due to the short duration of the burns and remote location.

- Late May 2023, Basin Creek prescribed fire is a 27-acre unit located off forest road 10062, near Basin Creek, approximately 3-miles east of Kelly Guard Station.
- Late May 2023, Nugent prescribed fire is a 68-acre unit located in the vicinity of Turnip Ridge.
- Late May 2023, Hams Fork Unit 6 and Unit 8 total 200 acres of broadcast burning located near Green Knoll.

All these units are within the Hams Fork Vegetation Project area. This is a multi-unit area covering approximately 74,267- acres. The goal is to develop a diverse mix of vegetation, reduce fuel loading to help minimize the intensity of future wildland fires, and stimulate the regeneration of aspen stands by reducing conifer encroachment. This will be accomplished through a variety of methods to include, timber sales, prescribed fire, pile burning, and mechanical treatments.

Prescribed fires are managed under a precise set of parameters know as a “prescriptions” which include overall project objectives, temperature, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, current and expected forecast, and fuel conditions, as well as available firefighting resources, and time of season. Before burning, fire managers ensure that all the parameters are within their prescribed fire plan so the operations can be conducted safely, and objectives can be met.

Fire management personnel will utilize both ground and aviation resources to safely conduct these prescribed fire operations. Smoke impacts from these operations will be minimal due to the smaller size of the units, remote location, and short duration of each burn. Fire managers will be coordinating with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and will monitor weather conditions closely in the days prior to, and during the prescribe fire ignitions. Firefighters will continue to work in the area several days after ignitions to patrol and manage for public safety. Local notifications will take place as well as social media postings alerting the public when these burns will be implemented.

For more information contact the Kemmerer Ranger District at (307)828 5100. You can learn more about the Bridger-Teton and upcoming projects on our websites at <https://www.tetonfires.com>, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/btnf/> or by following us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BridgerTetonNF> or Twitter <https://twitter.com/BridgerTetonNF> .

###