

2025

Bridger-Teton National Forest Annual Fire Report



Mosaic of burned and unburned areas of the Willow Creek Fire

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Introduction

The 2025 Bridger-Teton wildland fire season concluded with 65 fire starts and above average acres burned. There were 24 human-caused fires and 41 lightning caused fires for a total of 26,470 acres. Teton fire personnel with assistance from outside resources claimed over 1,460 acres during prescribed burning operations in 2025.

The first fire of the Bridger-Teton National Forest season was discovered May 27th and the last fire reported was December 29th.

Star Valley Front RX

In the Spring of 2025, the Greys River Ranger District implemented and completed 950 acres of broadcast burning in the Star Valley Front areas with McEwen as Burn Boss using Engines and Modules and UAS modules. Prescribed fire creates a balance of age classes in mountain shrubland, mountain big sagebrush, aspen and conifer communities, relevant for the deer and the elk populations in these areas.

Munger Mountain RX

North Zone Fuels staff began implementation of the Munger Mountain Prescribed Fire Unit (1,663 acres). A multi-phase/multi-year approach is being taken, treating smaller segments of the overall unit at a time, 224 acres were burned in spring of 2025. Completion of this initial stage will allow for safer and more manageable firing operations in future entries that will involve burning timbered areas of the unit that create more active fire behavior. Prescribed fires help reduce overgrown vegetation to help protect local communities, infrastructure and natural resources from wildfires.

Horse Fire

As the first type 3 Incident Management Team fire of the 2025 wildland fire season, the lightning caused Horse fire was discovered on June 13th burning in heavy timber and slash on the Big Piney Ranger District. This area is impacted by insect and disease with a heavy component of dead and down fuel throughout timber stands. Long term fire on the landscape was expected due to timing of ignition and with vegetation trends continuing to dry; the 2,802 acre Horse fire hosted 2 Wyoming Type 3 Incident Management Teams.

Dollar Lake

The Nevada Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) originally ordered for the August 20th Little Greys fire was diverted prior arrival, to the human-caused, Dollar Lake fire, discovered in the afternoon of August 21st. Two additional Wyoming Type 3 IMT teams were ordered throughout the duration of the fire. 19,467 acres of timber and brush in the Green River Lakes area of the Pinedale Ranger District were burned.

The fast-moving fire prompted the Sublette County Sheriff's office to immediately issue a road closure and evacuation of the area as the wind driven fire grew from 20 acres to 600 acres in a matter of hours. Area, Trail and Road closures were maintained throughout the duration of the incident and are expected to continue into 2026 for public and firefighter safety. Evacuation orders were lifted October 8th. Emphasis was placed on protection of private inholdings and associated infrastructure, recreational sites

and facilities, no structures were damaged nor destroyed. The fire transitioned back to the zone on September 24th and was controlled on October 20th.

Willow Creek

On August 22nd the Willow Creek lightning caused fire was discovered burning in heavy timber on the Greys River Ranger District, southwest of Smoot, WY. Due to its proximity to Highway 89, evacuations, area, trail and road closures were implemented within 24 hours. Highway 89 was re-opened shortly after midnight on August 24th and remained open for the remainder of the fire. Area and trail closures were lifted October 14th.

Two Type 3 Incident Management Teams, one from Nevada and one from Wyoming, managed the fire using full suppression and point/zone protection before transitioning the fire back to the zone on September 21st. The fire burned up to Highway 89 and threatened multiple structures along the western part of Smoot, resources were able to keep the fire from crossing the highway and no structures were damaged or destroyed.

Burnt Creek

Smokeyjumpers and the Teton Crew responded to the Burnt Creek fire reported on August 22nd burning timber, brush and short grass in the Teton Wilderness on the Blackrock Ranger District. Using Aerial resources on loan from Yellowstone National Park and the Dollar Lake fire the 20 acre fire was controlled by September 1st with all resources demobed and called out November 11th.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center dispatched resources to 79 wildland fires, totaling 26,480 acres within the dispatch zone. Bridger-Teton National Forest had 64 fires and 2 prescribed burns, Grand Teton National Park had 12 fires and 3 prescribed burns, National Elk Refuge had 1 prescribed burn, Teton, Lincoln and Sublette County each had 1 fire and Wyoming State Forestry Division had 0 fires.

Despite a busy season, a large portion of Forest resources were able to be rotated to other parts of the country to help with large fire assignments.

Bridger-Teton National Forest 40-Year Fire History

	HCF	HCA	LCF	LCA	Total Fires	Total Acres
40yr Average	22	7935.31	34	10005.45	56	17941.49
30yr Average	19	6362.61	34	8178.54	53	14541.15
20yr Average	18	8245.72	25	9326.69	42	18185.84
10yr Average	17	6615.76	18	11622.83	35	18238.58
5yr Average	15	145.38	20	15179.49	35	15324.86
2025	24	19526.59	41	6943.32	65	26469.91

Acreage and Number of Fires by District

District	Human Fires	Human Acres	Lightning Fires	Lightning Acres
D1 Kemmerer	0	0.00	2	2.10
D2 Big Piney	1	0.10	6	2802.95
D3 Greys River	4	0.40	13	4114.45
D4 Jackson	5	0.89	8	1.85
D6 Buffalo	1	0.10	5	20.62
D7 Pinedale	13	19525.10	8	1.15
Total	24	19526.59	41	6943.32
Total BTNF Fires/Acres Fires 65 Acres 26469.91				

2025 North Zone Fuels Accomplishments

Implementation

Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project continued with 224 acres of spring broadcast burning on Munger Mountain. Heavy equipment hazardous fuels thinning was completed on 146 acres of Phillips bench along the critical powerline infrastructure corridor on Teton Pass. Equipment was onsite for 73 days from mid-July to early October and biomass (~1,200 cords) from thinning was made available for public firewood gathering. 137 acres of pile burns were accomplished this season including units in Teton to Snake, Grouse Mountain, Flagstaff Road, Spread Creek and miscellaneous administrative sites. Force account work was focused on hazardous fuels reduction at T-43 unit of Teton to Snake and Blackrock administrative site as well as prescribed fire preparation for Munger Mountain and Upper Gros Ventre prescribed burns. Broadcast burns were not implemented this fall due to a lapse in appropriations. Ski area permittees including Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and Snow King Resort continued to conduct pile burn operations as part of their vegetation management annual program of work.



Prescribed burning at Munger Mountain.

Name	Acres	District	Comments
Teton to Snake - Munger Mountain Rx	224	Jackson District	Spring burn in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). First entry to unit.
Teton to Snake – Phillips Bench T-06	146	Jackson District	Mechanical thinning and firewood decking contract implementation. WUI powerline infrastructure fuel break.
Teton to Snake – T43	4	Jackson District	Force account hand thin, prune pile. WUI fuels reduction.
Admin Site Thinning	5	Blackrock District	Force account hand thin, prune pile. WUI fuels reduction.
Snow King Resort	34	Jackson District	Thinning and gladding performed by Ski Area permittees.
Pile Burning (several units)	137	Blackrock and Jackson Districts	Pile burn units: Teton to Snake Fuels Project, Blackrock Administration Site, Grouse Mountain, Flagstaff Road and Spread Creek.



Phillips Bench hazardous fuels reduction with mechanical thinning, piling, and firewood decking along critical powerline infrastructure.

Partnerships

Grand Teton National Park and Teton County - Jackson Hole Fire/EMS continued strong support of prescribed burn implementation. The Nature Conservancy provided a fuels module to assist with data collection and fuels project implementation for 5 weeks this season. Wyoming Game and Fish extended funding support for Upper Gros Ventre Prescribed Burns and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation awarded grant funding for fuels work on Shadow Mountain Habitat Enhancement Project. North Zone fuels staff assisted with burn plan technical reviews for Grand Teton National Park and The National Elk Refuge and assisted with implementation of prescribed fire on the Elk Refuge and BLM High Desert District this spring.

Planning

Fuels staff continued collaboration with contracting officials and resource specialists for remaining mechanical and prescribed fire units in Teton to Snake. The Shadow Mountain Habitat Enhancement Project Decision was signed September, with mechanical and prescribed fire implementation planned to begin next season to accomplish hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife enhancement, and forest health objectives. Planning and analysis is underway for Cache Creek to Josies Ridge Fuels Reduction Project.

2025 West Zone Fuels Accomplishments

Implementation

The West Zone accomplished one broadcast burn this year 950 acres of broadcast burning were accomplished on the West Zone. These acres were of the Star Valley Front, Unit 2b and 2a (950 acres). This burn was accomplished with help from personnel across the forest, and multiple disciplines. The Star Valley Front, Unit 2b and 2 a, burn utilized a drone for ignition and was the first on the Bridger-Teton to do so. Personnel checked the burns throughout the following days and monitored until declared out.

Mechanical thinning, of La Barge 260 acres, was completed in the Kemmerer RD roadside. Expect pile Rx starting in the Winter of 2026.

Mechanical thinning was conducted on the Greys River and Kemmerer districts on roadside treatments totaling 10 acres.

Spraying for cheatgrass was conducted in the Greys River Ranger District. 2,422 acres were treated in the fall of 2025.

2025 East Zone Fuels Accomplishments

In June, contractors' hand-thinned and piled along the Big Sandy Road corridor for a total of 63 acres to reduce hazardous fuels. Along with assistance from Helitack, roadside thinning and pile treatments were continued along the New Fork Road System for a total of 14 acres.

On the Monument Ridge Fuels Project, force account resources worked to prep future burn units, and continued treatments on conifer encroached aspen stands in units G, H, and Q. The Nature Conservancy and force account crews also helped re-pile some accomplished units along broadcast unit boundaries to enhance fuels reduction efforts. Continued implementation of broadcast burning on Monument Ridge

is planned for Spring of 2026.

During the month of December and the beginning of January, 120 acres of piles were burned on fuels treatments, completed timber sale units, and USFS administrative sites.

Aerial spraying for cheatgrass was concentrated along the lower slopes of the Wind River range from Fremont Ridge south to Boulder Lake, with smaller applications applied to the Dry Piney area on the Big Piney RD.

Below is a table illustrating the acres accomplished in 2025:

Name	Location	Acres	Objectives
EZ Programmatic Piles RX (several units across the EZ)	East Zone	120	WUI Fuels Reduction
Big Sandy Hazardous Fuels Reduction (hand thin/pile)	Big Sandy Road Pinedale Ranger District	63	WUI Hazardous Fuels Reduction
New Fork Lake Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction (hand thin/pile)	New Fork Lake Road	14	WUI Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Pinedale WUI Cheatgrass Herbicide Application	East Zone	4892	WUI Fuels Reduction/Habitat Restoration

Planning

The East Rim WUI Silviculture and Fuels Project planning is ongoing with regional office support.

Aviation Branch / Helitack Summary

Teton Helitack started April 7, 2025, with 30 personnel, 10 of which were new additions. April was full of training and onboarding mixed with challenging outdoor/indoor PT sessions. With the snow still very much on the ground and no funding, we still found ways to keep the crew on track for the coming season, continuing with our traditions, boot-packing Snow King and the Lora Trout Work Out Day.

June 1, Short-haul training kicked off in Jackson, WY. Teton Helitack certified/recertified 6 pilots, 30 haulers, and 8 spotters. Another first for the program was an integration training with the Jenny Lakers and combining mixed loads consisting of Lakers spotting Forest Service and Forest Service spotting Lakers.

During the 2025 Short-haul academy; 35HX and 38HX combined transported 249 haulers externally. After completion of our annual training, 38HX was out the door to California first part of June with 35HX heading to Oregon shortly thereafter.

In 2025 there were 28 short-haul operations throughout the Agency ranging from medical, large fire support, helispot construction and initial attack fire insertion. This was the second year for "Fire

Insertion for Short Haul”.

Both aircraft stayed on past their expected contract end dates with 35HX ending November 14, 2025, in Flagstaff, AZ and 38HX completed their season December 1, 2025, in Johnson City, TN.

Training:

1. S-271, CRM-7 Skills, USFS Short-haul Academy, PLDO and helitorch training, A-219, 1 week of Helitack saw camp working on the forest cutting projects, and S-215.

18 Position Taskbooks completed, 11 new opened, and over 45 training opportunities.

	35HX	38HX	46HX Helo	Grand Total
Contract Type	EU	EU	CWN	
Days on Contract	120+ 47 Ex	140+ 43 Ex	46	396
IA Response	11	21	9	41
Extended Attack	7	15	5	27
Rx Burns/acres	1270	250	0	1520
Short-haul Hours	31.1	34.1	0	65.2
SAR Hours	0.0	3.2	0	3.2
Total Flight Hours	157.8	220.4	47.2	425.4
Passengers Transported	479 Internal 392 External	788 Internal 353 External	179 Internal	1446 Internal 745 External
Gallons Water	24,786	75,140	23,936	123,862
Pounds of Cargo	30,791 Int. 3,635 Ext.	57,450 Int. 62,648 Ext.	16,736 Int. 14,965 Ext.	104,977 Int. 81,248 Ext.
NPS Short-haul	0	0	NA	
FS Short-haul	0	4	NA	
Total Contract Cost	\$100,895.27	\$161,282.82	\$449,631.94	\$711,810.03

Fire Prevention, Education, and Information

The intent of the Bridger-Teton National Forest prevention program is to be the outreach, education, and mitigation arm of the forest’s Fire Management program. Additionally, the program supports fire management with mitigating wildfire risk to private property, increasing public understanding of the beneficial effects of fire, preventing human caused wildfires, and supporting wildfire response.

Fully Staffed

For the first time in a couple of years, all prevention positions on the forest were filled. Nan Stinson and Lesley Williams-Gomez continue to lead their terrific prevention programs on the East and North Zones, respectively. Patrick Moran started as the full-time West Zone Prevention Technician and has started to make the Zone’s prevention program his own. Matt Lancaster officially got the position he detailed into last year, as the forest’s floating Prevention Technician, helping all three Zones when needed. Lex

Scanlan continues to represent prevention at the Forest level as the Fire Prevention Officer.

Fire Restrictions

This year, the Bridger-Teton went into Stage One Fire Restrictions for the first time since 2021. We remained in fire restrictions for 36 days. During this time, 29 illegally attended campfires were discovered, with members of the public receiving written warnings and citations. The Forest Prevention Officer represented the forest in weekly fire restrictions calls with county, state, and federal partners throughout the fire season to assess conditions and coordinate public messaging. The forest coordinating going into and out of restrictions with our closest partners, so everyone was in the loop on decisions being made. 131 abandoned campfires were discovered and extinguished by personnel in the TIDC area.



Fire Restriction signage in front of the Dollar Lake Fire.

Fire Prevention Tracking Tool

This year, Region 4 rolled out the R4 Wildfire Prevention Tracking Tool. This Tool was adapted from Region 02 and is designed to track wildfire prevention data including abandoned campfires, public contacts, FPO statistics, community outreach, mitigation efforts, facility inspection, and sign data (to name a few). It will be used to generate reports and spatial maps on various wildfire prevention statistics for accomplishment tracking purposes. Prevention personnel on the BT started to incorporate this new tool into their workflow and recorded 187 data points for 2025. The goal for 2026 will be to increase use of the tool within the prevention program, but to also introduce the tool to non-prevention employees who do fire prevention work across the forest.

Communication

As the most public facing aspect of Teton Interagency Fire, the prevention program takes great pride in being key fire communicators whether it be prevention messaging, prescribed fire material, or wildfire information. The AM radio station, run by the program, was a key messaging tool for prescribed fire and wildfire across the forest. The Teton Interagency Dispatch Center website, TetonFires, that is managed and used by the fire program for both internal intelligence sharing and external information sharing, had 25,000 total users this year, with peak viewership on days local fires were extremely visible.

North Zone Prevention Highlights



Smokey Bear and friends at Old Bill's Fun Run.

The North Zone was able to make a big impact this year, thanks in part to the forest's interns and ambassadors who are able exponentially increase the number of public contacts made on the forest. Working with Snow King, fire prevention and safety signage, fire restriction messaging, and crowd announcements were made to approximately 3000 concert attendees at each of the 15 concerts of the Snow King Concert Series. At the Teton County Fair, a booth set up with prevention education materials, Living with Smoke information, local wildfire information, campfire

safety and responsible forest ethics were distributed. Smokey Bear walked in the Old Bill's Fun Run and helped Jackson Hole Fire and EMS unveil their new type six engine.

West Zone Prevention Highlights

The West Zone made a big splash with some community's favorite events this year. The Fourth of July was huge day for the zone, participating in two parades, Afton and Thayne, that saw around one-thousands people each. The Zone joined their local partners at the Star Valley Ranch Safety Day for a touch-a-truck event and to spread the message of fire prevention. Smokey Bear also made a very special appearance at the Kemmerer Little League Closing Ceremony, throwing out the first pitch. Smokey, along with Woodsy Owl and their firefighter friends, participated in Outdoor Discover Day, interacting with 330 community members.



West Zone fire staff pose with members of BLM High Desert District at a "Touch a Truck" event in Kemmerer, WY.

East Zone Prevention Highlights



East Zone personnel at the Pedigree Stage Stop Race.

The East Zone participated in many events this year, spreading the message of fire prevention to many in the community. The three biggest events, in terms of public interaction, were the 4th of July Parade, the Green River Mountain Man Rendezvous Parade, and the Pinedale Parade of Lights. All three of these parades had hundreds of members of the community in attendance, all getting to see Smokey Bear and firefighter friends. The East Zone also participated in Sublette Provider Pals, Touch-A-Truck, BOCES Early Education Program, Rockey Mountain STOL, and Storytime-Summer Reading Program.

This year Nan Stinson was awarded the highest honor in the wildland fire prevention world, a Smokey Bear Award. This was rewarded for her focus on introducing Smokey Bear's wildfire prevention message to all kids ages 3 to 14 in Sublette County. She has dedicated many hours to after school and evening events to inspire the next generation of wildfire prevention professionals and land stewards. Congrats Nan!!

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.



The 2025 season was a strong rebuilding year for Teton WFM. The supervisor position, vacant since April 2024, was filled via a detail. Josh Roach, from Pilot Peak WFM, accepted a 120 day detail beginning in late April of 2025 as the Teton WFM Supervisor. He acted in this capacity through September. The Assistant Supervisor position was vacated by JP Knapp in November of 2025 upon his retirement. This was filled by Kyler Knapp in an acting capacity from March 9th to June 28th, then as a detail until July 27th, and finally permanently. Upon accepting the Assistant Supervisor position, Kyler vacated his GS-6 Lead Firefighter (Squad Leader on the WFM). Lewis Robertson, a GS-5 Senior Firefighter on the WFM, then detailed into the Lead Firefighter position from August 24th through November 15th. Austin Walters did vacate his GS-5 Senior Firefighter position for an off-unit position in June. The one permanent NPS position, held by Seth Kaser at the GS-5 level, was permitted to accept the Deferred Resignation Program before the start of the 2025 fire season leaving this position functionally vacant but unable to be filled.

The WFM retained four employees from the previous season and hired three more (Chris Blank - FS GS-5 18/8, Pallas Mabus GS-4 18/8, and Gabe Ferrasse - NPS GS-4 1039) The NPS filled two seasonal positions at the GS-4 level. Due to funding limitations, the NPS GS-6 Lead Firefighter position has yet to be flown/permanently filled. This left the module with a total of six filled FS permanent positions and two NPS filled seasonal positions. Due to being shorter on staffing than normal, the module hosted fills throughout the season from BTNF Avalanche Center, BTNF East Zone, and the Wallowa - Whitman NF. With the passing of a permanent pay raise for federal wildland firefighters, all members of the module were converted from GS to GW (Government Wildland Firefighters) over the course of the 2025 Fire Season.

With the FS conversion to 18/8 career-seasonal employees, the permanent module positions were staffed from pay period 5 (March 9th) to pay period 22 (November 15th). This allowed the WFM to mobilize for an assignment in late March, traveling to Theodore Roosevelt National Park for severity.

It has been noted that if the WFM intends to travel to R8 for prescribed fire in future seasons we will likely need to mobilize earlier in pay period 5.

Another season of low staffing limited the opportunity for off-crew development but allowed for

significant in-house development and upward career movement. The module was statused as WFM2 for the duration of the season. Teton WFM has until April 2026 to gain the necessary qualifications for WFM1, before officially becoming a WFM2. Regardless of status, Teton WFM continued to pride itself in maintaining a high operational tempo across a wide variety of wildfire and prescribed fire assignments. High fitness standards were expected and the WFM received nine Time Off Awards for surpassing high fitness standards at the annual BTNF/GTRE Fire Fit Challenge. Developmental training was substantial with trainee assignments including CRWB, FOBS, FIRB, FEMO, HECM, ICT5, FFT1, and FAL2. Taskbooks completed and qualifications attained included: FIRB, FOBS, and FFT1.

Tabular References

The following information represents the workload for the WFM during the 2025 season, as well as staffing and vehicle use.

Fuels and Prescribed Fire Workload – 2025

Hosting Agency	Fuels Unit	Fuel Type	Days Assigned	Acres Treated	Treatment Type	Positions Held*
WY-BTF	2025 BTNF RX	Grass	4	224	RX	CRWB
FL-PFTC	PFTC	Timer, Leaf Litter	21	4000	RX	FIRB(t), FEMO
WY-BTF	Pederson RX	Grass	1	127	RX	CRWB
ID-PAF	Council Mt. RX	Timber, Slash	12	500	RX	CRWB, FIRB, FAL 2/3
ID-PAF	Cold RX	Timber, Slash	23	2000	RX	FIRB, CRWB, FAL 2/3

*Positions held on assignment all include FFT1, FFT2



Spring burn on Munger Mt. Rx.



Final burn assignment of the year on the Payette N.F.

Wildfire Workload – 2025

Agency	Fire Name	Fuel Type	Days Assigned	Size Class	Positions Held*
ND-TRP/NDS (NPS)	25 Hwy 85 CS, Bible Camp	Grass	4	A/C	FAL 2/3, CRWB, FIRB(t), IC5
ND-TRP	25 Thro Severity, ND Fuels/ Suppression	Grass, Brush	10	PP	CRWB, FAL 2/3
NM-GNF	2025 Gila Severity	Timber	14	PP	CRWB, FAL 2/3
WY - BTF	Ski Fire	Timber	1	A	CRWB, FAL 2/3
WY-BTF	Porcupine Fire	Timber	3	B	CRWB, FAL 2/3
WY-BTF	Horse Fire	Timber	14	E	CRWB, FAL 2/3
UT-DIF	Forsyth Fire	Timber	17	G	CRWB, FAL 2/3
WY-BTF	Corral Creek	Timber	2	A	CRWB, FAL 2/3
WY-BTF	Little Greys	Timber, Slash	4	C	CRWB, FAL 2/3
WY-BTF	Willow Creek	Timber, Brush	12	E	CRWB, FAL 2/3

**Positions held on assignment all include FFT1, FFT2*



High IA load on BTNF in 2025, the crew arriving at and departing Ski Fire.



Aerial structure protection during Willow Creek Fire.

Teton WFM Staffing - 2025

Name	Agency	Position	GS	Tour	Start Date	End Date	Pay Periods
Joshua Roach ²	FS	Supervisor	7/8	26/0	04/20/25	10/02/25	11
Kyler Knapp	FS	Assistant Supervisor	6/7	26/0	03/10/25	12/31/25	22
Preston Foote	FS	Squad Boss	6	18/8	03/10/25	11/14/25	18
Lewis Robertson	FS	Senior FF (Squad Boss)	6 ¹	18/8	03/10/25	11/14/25	18
Christopher Blank	FS	Senior FF	5	18/8	03/10/25	11/14/25	18
Pallas Mabus	FS	Senior FF	4	18/8	03/10/25	11/14/25	18
Gabriel Ferrasse	NPS	Crewmember	4	1039	05/4/25	10/18/25	12
Jasper Smith	NPS	Crewmember	4	1039	04/20/25	10/18/25	13

1 Temporary promotion to fill vacant FS GS-6 Squad Boss in Aug

2 Detailer - Pilot Peak Type 1 WFM

Vehicle Use – FY2025

Vehicle	Agency	Mileage Used	Program Costs
Alpha/Command	FS	17015	\$7140
I-519195 F-550 Crew Bravo Squad	NPS	unavailable	unavailable
A-383266 F-550 Crew Charlie Squad	FS	16080	\$10764

At the end of the 2023 season, another GS-06 Lead Firefighter position was approved and then hired in 2024. This position will be incorporated into the org chart as an auxiliary squad leader in cases of high staffing or leave of absence of other squad leaders. However, in both 2024 and 2025, this was a non-factor as the NPS squad leader position was not funded/flown.

Housing and Community

Teton WFM has continued to prioritize being a good neighbor with the local district and community at Blackrock Ranger District. Throughout 2025, the module has continued to strengthen our relationship and communication with the Support Services Specialist and District Ranger. This has been a two-way street of expressing housing needs and receiving direction on how the module can assist around the district. Examples of district projects over the season include setting up and providing medical personnel for Blackrock Field Camp, removing hazard trees in Buffalo Valley, cleaning shared district spaces, organizing the communal warehouse and gym, managing the recycling program, and the Blackrock Admin fuels project.

We are fortunate to have quality and affordable housing on Teton WFM in what would otherwise be an unrealistic area to live due to cost of living in Teton County. Because of the remoteness of the Blackrock community and low staffing in the maintenance unit of the BTNF, we recognize there is a strong need to perform facilities maintenance on module personnel housing. This is strongly supported by both fire and district overhead. This season we were able to secure funding for an array of housing maintenance projects. These included painting the cache and saw shed, staining the connecting deck, and building new outdoor worktables. Additionally, all four of the module cabins had the decks refinished, exteriors stained, and wood chinking is in progress. One of the condos housing fire personnel had significant updates made with new interior doors, trim, etc. Finally, NPS funding and approval from the District Ranger allowed us to significantly expand our communal gym in the Blackrock Warehouse. Facilities maintenance will continue to be a priority when off assignment and local needs allow due to aging housing and a significant repair backlog.



Finished staining all Module cabins and started log jamming.



Repainted Cache/Saw Sheds, restained shed deck, and built/rehabbed outdoor worktables.



Reorganized district warehouse and augmented/reorganized gym equipment (added squat rack and treadmill).

Fiscal Year 2026 Direction

The module is still rebuilding following significant overhead turnover during the last two years. Top priorities for the 2026 fire season will be filling vacant positions with quality candidates to ensure a permanent supervisor and a fully staffed crew. The results of this fire hire will determine our ability to return to Type 1 status versus officially statusing as a Type 2 WFM.

Ideally, hiring 11 personnel will allow a significant increase in off-crew training opportunities. These would include more individuals to Teton Crew, filling in with Teton Helitack to complete HECM taskbooks, off unit crewboss trainee assignments, etc. These varied trainee assignments are essential for personnel development and have been limited the past two fire seasons due to staffing.

Teton WFM will continue to hold up its standard of a highly capable, productive, and reliable

workforce. With the transition to all permanent positions being 18/8 and lengthening fire seasons, the module will strive to prioritize personnel well-being and adequate work-life balance. The WFM will also continue staying on the forefront of best practices in an ever-changing fire culture, promoting mental and physical wellness, developmental training for crewmembers, and maintaining the positive reputation the Teton WFM has cultivated over the past decade.



2025 Teton Wildland Fire Module

Josh Roach, Kyler Knapp, Jasper Smith, Preston Foote, Gabriel Ferrasse, Chris Blank, Lewis Robertson, Pallas Mabus

Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program

Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program – 2025

The Teton Interagency Fire Ecology program supports fuels management with monitoring data. It also provides fuels planning support, fire season outlooks, research coordination, decision support, and fire ecology education for Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) and Grand Teton National Park (GRTE). Ecology program staff are all red-carded wildland firefighters who respond to unplanned fires and conduct prescribed burns.

This year marked the 27th year of the Teton Interagency Fire Ecology program. The program was established in 1999 to create a partnership with the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) and Grand Teton National Park (GRTE). Under a cooperative agreement, the Fire Effects Crew monitored prescribed burns on the Forest, with seasonal salaries offset by the BTNF adding additional Helitack crewmembers for both agencies. This partnership has evolved in recent years, and the BTNF pays salary for a permanent Assistant Lead (GS-6) position on the Fire Effects crew.

Paul Hood was hired as the Teton Interagency Fire Ecologist in September 2022. In 2025, he worked closely with BTNF and GRTE fire management staff to ensure fuels activities were effectively monitored based on their management objectives. He also helped with completing fire predictions for local wildfire incidents as a long-term analyst. Ongoing collaborations with Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) and University researchers continued with emphasis on understanding fuels management effects on WBP and how future fire conditions may result in increased fire and, ultimately, changes to forest trajectories.

Ron Steffens returned for his 34th season with GRTE as the Fire Monitor. He continues to compile and disseminate monthly Wildfire Outlooks, collect biweekly fuel moisture samples, and fill in as the Duty Officer. This year he also marked his 14th season with the Wyoming IMT3 team as ICT3.

In 2025, the Fire Effects Monitoring crew collected extensive pre- and post-monitoring data on various projects throughout GRTE, the North, East, and West Zones of the BTNF, and Fossil Butte National Monument (Table and Figure 1). Crewmembers also served as Fire Effects Monitors (FEMO) and wildland firefighters on local and national wildfires and prescribed fire incidents (Figure 2).

Olivia Burke returned for her 8th season with Fire Effects and as in her third year as the Crew Leader. Emily Johnson returned for her 5th season with Fire Effects, after being promoted to the Assistant Lead position in September of 2023. Emily was accepted into a graduate school program and vacated this position in August of 2025. Two seasonal GS-5 positions were hired, Taylor Duncan and Kelly Andrus. They both had previous experience on Fire Effects crews, and they performed exceptionally well, which was imperative to the success of finishing the plot workload this year. Fire Effects could not hire an intern for the season due to the cancellation of NPS Academy. However, the Nature Conservancy North America Fire Crews assisted the Fire Effects crew with several data collection efforts over the course of five weeks. This help was a critical component to the success of the crew in completing top priority projects this year.

Table 1. Fire Effects Plot Workload (2025)

Admin Unit	Monitoring Unit	Plot Type	Years Data Collected (start-end)	Annual Total (2025)	Total Plots
Grand Teton National Park (10)	Berry Fire Hazard Tree Removal	Photopoints	2025	7	7
	Blacktail Fire 2024	Photopoints	2024-2025	1	1
	Colter Bay Ridgetop		2021-2025	4	10
	Grassy Island MX	Visual Obscurity Photopoints	2024-2025	3	3
	Jenny Lake Lodge MX	Stand Exams Photopoints	2025	10	10
	Matilda RX	Brown's Transects Aspen Density Photopoints	2014-2025	39	39
	McCollister Fire	Photopoints	2025	1	1
	Pederson Elk Refuge RX	Photopoints, Fuel Bed Depth	2025	18	18
	Powerline Watertank South MX	Stand Exams Photopoints	2012-2025	10	10
	Signal Flat Fire	Photopoints	2025	3	3
Bridger-Teton National Forest North Zone (10)	Boulder Fire	Photopoints	2001-2025	9	22
	Diamond L RX	Photopoints Ground Cover Aspen Density Burn Severity	2013-2025	6	49
	Fish Creek/Pack Trail	Photopoints Collaboration Plots with Turner Lab	2024-2025	4	34
	Grouse Mountain Units 4, 2A, 2B, D	Stand Exams Photopoints	2021-2025	7	10
	Hardscrabble/Pack Trail Reburn	Photopoints	2025	7	7
	Snow King/Cache Creek	LiDar Plots Stand Exams Photopoints	2024-2025	20	20
	Lower Gros Ventre Phase III	Aspen Density Photopoints	2010-2025	65	72
	Red Top T-43	Stand Exams Photopoints	2025	3	3
	T2S Powerline T-10	Photopoints	2021-2025	3	3
	Munger Mountain RX	Shrub Cover Photopoints	2021-2025	4	69
Bridger-Teton National Forest West Zone (7)	Star Valley Front Unit 2	Photopoints	2023-2025	2	8
	Star Valley Front Unit 8	Stand Exams Photopoints	2025	10	10
	Strawberry Creek Unit 9 Re-Entry	Stand Exams Photopoints	2018-2025	11	22
	Green Knoll Hazard Tree Removal	Stand Exams Photopoints	2025	10	10

	Grey's River and Kemmerer Roadside	Stand Exams Photopoints Weed Comp and Cover	2024-2025	25	52
	Willow Creek Fire	Photopoints	2025	4	4
	Nugent Park RX	Aspen Density Photopoints	2019-2025	35	36
Bridger-Teton National Forest East Zone (4)	Monument 2023 (Kilgore Slash)	Stand Exams Weed Comp and Cover Photopoints	2023-2025	7	18
	Old Monument Ridge Unit 2	Aspen Density Shrub Cover Ground Cover Photopoints	2009-2025	67	87
	Clark's Draw RX	Stand Exams Photopoints	2025	11	11
	Monument 2020	Stand Exams Aspen Density Weed Comp and Cover Photopoints	2020-2025	101	111
Fossil Butte National Monument (2)	Rock Creek RX	Shrub Density Shrub Cover Photopoints	2004-2025	33	42
	Roadside Cheatgrass	Photopoints	2024-2025	5	5
Total	33			545	807

Fire effects data from all projects are analyzed, and each unit's findings are summarized in written reports. In addition, the results are presented at Zone and Park level meetings in the spring. Fire managers can review outcomes and objectives, ask questions, and consider adjusting to improve future treatments.

The Fire Ecology staff assisted with several wildfires, prescribed burns, and pile burns throughout the field season. Paul Hood completed the Longterm Analyst (LTAN) task book and served in the LTAN capacity on several Alaska fires and locally on the Horse, Little Greys, Willow Creek and Dollar Lake Fires. He was also signed off as ICT-4 after an assignment on the Dry Head Fire in Bighorn Canyon National Monument. The Fire Effects crew served as a local initial attack squad and responded to several new fire starts in GRTE and the BTNF. Fire Effects crewmembers also joined the Teton Crew, and a local engine crew on assignments throughout the western United States. Olivia served as a REAF on the Willow Creek Fire on the west zone of the BTNF. Ron Steffens served as a Duty Officer for the Coronado National Forest. He was the incident commander for the Wyoming Type III Team on the Willow Creek Fire.

Figure 1. Fire Effects Monitoring Projects Throughout the Teton Interagency Fire Ecology Program

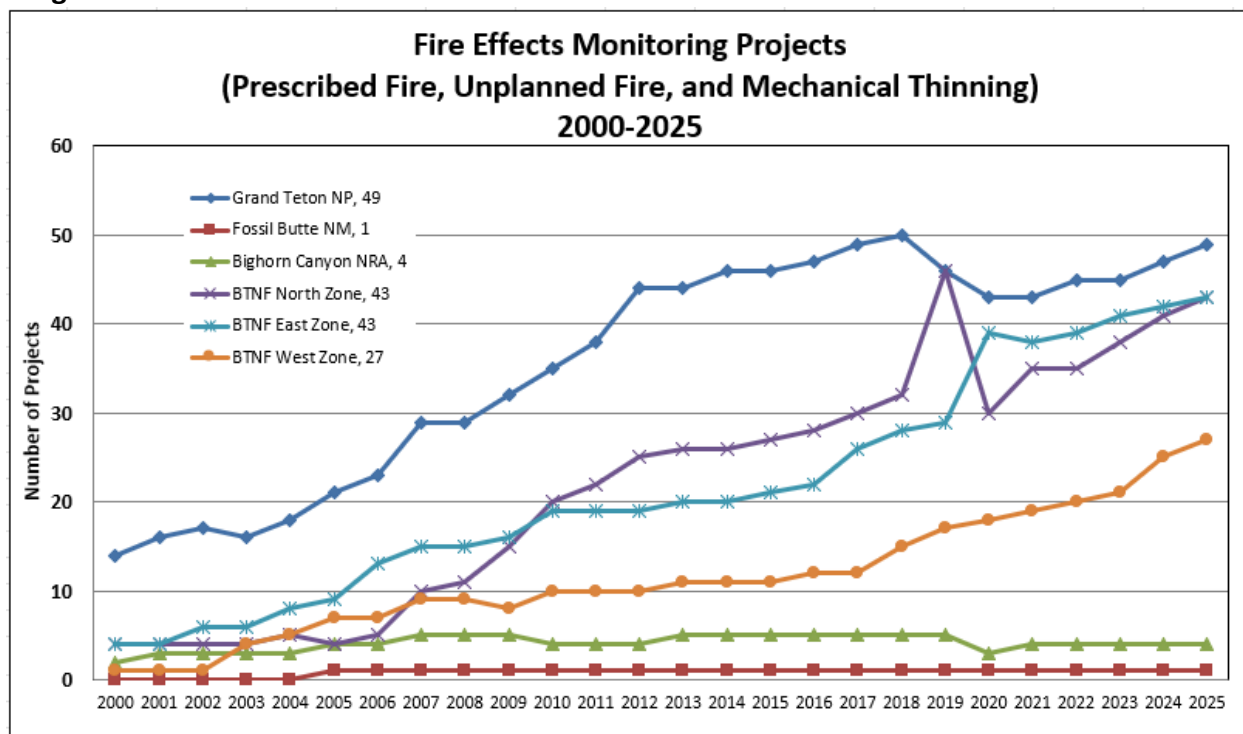


Figure 1 shows the breakdown of interagency monitoring activities that the Fire Effects Crew was involved in during the summer field season. There is a great deal of annual variability, and this year there were more projects in the Forest than in the park.

Figure 2. Fire Effects Workload Breakdown (2025)

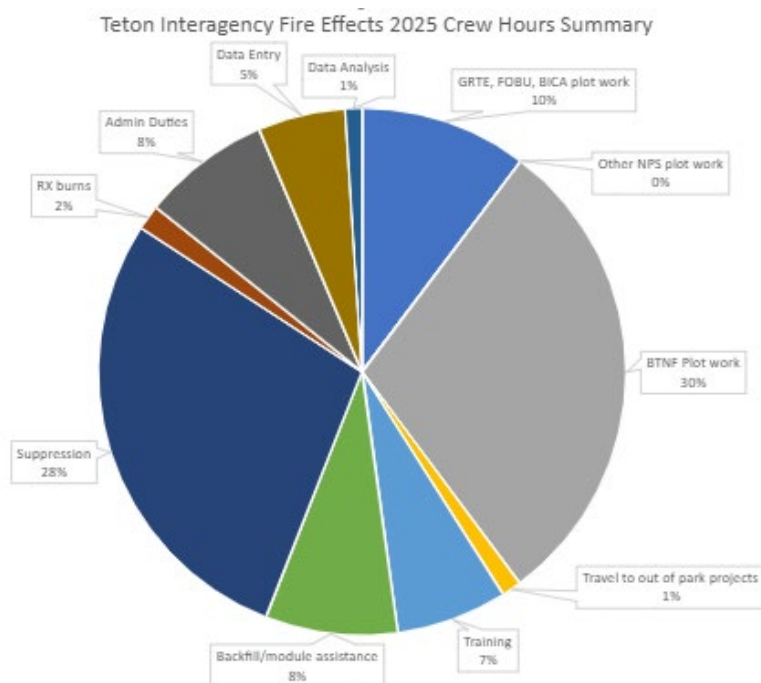


Figure 2 shows the percentage of time that the fire effects crew dedicated to the following categories: data entry and analysis, plot work within the park, plot work on the forest, training, backfill, unplanned fire response, prescribed burns, administrative duties, data entry & analysis and other NPS plot work (such as BICA and FOBU).



2025 Fire Ecology Program: Taylor Duncan, Emily Johnson, Olivia Burke, Kelly Andrus, Paul Hood, and Olivia Burke.

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 from 6am to 10pm year-round. Following is an overview of the incidents supported by TIDC:

<p>Fire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Wildland Fires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 BTNF 2 County 12 GTNP 0 NER ❑ Acres Burned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26469.91 acres BTNF 0.25 acres County 9.70 acres GTNP 0 acre NER ❑ Prescribed Fires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 BTNF 0 County 3 GTNP 1 NER ❑ Acres Prescribed Fire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,647 acres BTNF 0 acres County 1 acres GTNP 147 acres NER ❑ Dispatch Support end June - mid October: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 IADP - Initial Attack Dispatchers 3 IADPt – Initial Attack Dispatcher trainee 2 ACDP – Aircraft Dispatchers ❑ Expanded Dispatch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote Incident Support Team (RIST) provided remote dispatch for Dollar Lake and Willow Creek August 22 - September 26 ❑ Resource Orders Completed: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Off-Unit</th> <th>Local Incidents:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>49 Aircraft</td> <td>380 Aircraft</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Crew</td> <td>97 Crew</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 Equipment</td> <td>410 Equipment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>148 Overhead</td> <td>2,111 Overhead</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Supply</td> <td>2,696 Supply</td> </tr> <tr> <td>232 Total</td> <td>5,967 Total</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Aviation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Supported Exclusive Use and Call When Needed helicopters ❑ Flight Following Operations non fire related: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 flights 55 hours 56 minutes 	Off-Unit	Local Incidents:	49 Aircraft	380 Aircraft	10 Crew	97 Crew	23 Equipment	410 Equipment	148 Overhead	2,111 Overhead	2 Supply	2,696 Supply	232 Total	5,967 Total	<p>All-risk Case Incidents for 2025:</p> <p>Medical Emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Dispatch 3 ambulances for GTNP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 219 Emergency Medical Service responses <p>Search-and-Rescue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Supported numerous SAR personnel during mountain, lake, and river rescues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93 SAR responses 55 Major SAR responses in FY 2025 <p>Law Enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Supported 19 LE personnel for GTNP and 3 for BTNF ❑ Completed court files for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 Arrests 104 Mandatory Court Appearances 5 Optional Court Appearances ❑ Support Outside Agencies on Request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teton County Sheriff's Office Sublette County Sheriff's Office Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Fremont County Sheriff's Office Jackson Police Department Wyoming Highway Patrol Wyoming Game & Fish National Elk Refuge <p>Backcountry Tracking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Tracked NPS and FS personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Trips 1,771 (NPS 1,742/FS 29) Overnight Trips 194 (NPS 76/FS 118) <p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ TIDC staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Permanent positions (Dual function: All-Risk & Fire) 0 Fire and 2 All-Risk Seasonal positions
Off-Unit	Local Incidents:														
49 Aircraft	380 Aircraft														
10 Crew	97 Crew														
23 Equipment	410 Equipment														
148 Overhead	2,111 Overhead														
2 Supply	2,696 Supply														
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