
The Monument Ridge Vegetation and Recreation Management Project, proposed by the Sublette County Collaborative, addresses vegetation management within the wildland urban interface (WUI), wildlife habitat enhancement activities, along with safety and access improvements for recreation.

These activities are set to improve forest health and promote wildlife populations for elk, mule deer, and sage grouse. This project will provide positive wildlife benefits and recreation opportunities well into the future.

The project area is located on the Big Piney Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest near the town of Bondurant in Sublette County.

The purpose of the project is to:



- Reduce the potential for wildfire spreading into communities of the Bondurant and Hoback areas.
 - Improve safety and access for recreationists using USFS roads
 - Enhance aspen and sagebrush communities by reducing conifer encroachment to improve habitat for a variety of wildlife species, primarily mule deer and sage grouse.
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Partners involved in this collaborative effort include:

- US Forest Service
- Sublette County Wyoming
- Wyoming Game & Fish Department
- Wyoming Mule Deer Initiative
- Pinedale Anticline
- Wyoming Wildlife & Natural Resource Trust

Monument Ridge
RX

RxType

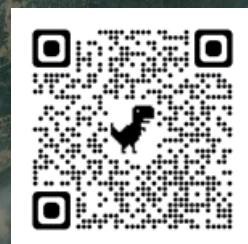
-  WUI/Aspen Enhancement
-  WUI/Sage Steppe Enhancement

Contact

Big Piney Ranger District

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Monument Ridge Prescribed Burn

Bridger-Teton National Forest



Teton
Interagency
FIRE



Prescribed Fire

A combination of prescribed fire and mechanical treatment, is being utilized for the Monument Project and is designed to reduce hazardous fuel loading to reduce the risk of high intensity wildfire in the future.

The objective of prescribed burning is to create a disturbance, encouraging aspen to sucker, and to reduce conifer encroachment in those stands. Prescribed fire will also reduce the natural and mechanically-created surface fuel loading, therefore reducing future potential fire behavior. Prescribed burning will also target mixed conifer stands in order to increase tree spacing, open the canopy, and reduce surface fuel loading.



Mechanical Treatment

Hand thin, hand pile, and hand burn/ignite-- These treatments will create a defensible fire space by removing dead and down fuels, ladder fuels, and thinning overstory trees.

Such treatments will be utilized where canopy and ground fuels need to be reduced, buffering areas for broadcast burning and creating defensible space in the event of a wildfire.



Wildlife Habitat

The prescribed burn objectives are to treat the area in a mosaic pattern producing mixed severity results. These results create a complex mix of patches of different severity ranging from unburned patches to low severity patches where only ground fuels burn to high severity patches where canopy and ground fuels burn.

These activities will enhance habitat by increasing forage (i.e., grass, forbs, and shrubs) and will stimulate aspen growth in areas where stands have declined due to the lack of wildfire disturbance.