

# Teton To Snake Fuels Reduction Project -Phillips Ridge



## Why Slash Piles on Public Lands?

Slash piles are a result of hazardous fuels treatments on public lands adjacent to communities building within the wildland urban interface. Even when larger material can be removed, limbs and smaller diameter material is often left behind by contractors or Forest Service crews, either because it is unusable or too costly to remove. While some amount of scattered and piled slash is beneficial for soils and wildlife, too much slash on the ground generates fuel loading, creating undesirable conditions for firefighting and can threaten adjacent sub-divisions in the event of a wildland fire. Chipping or hauling debris is costly and often not a feasible solution to reduce the fuels. In some cases, chipping puts too much material on the ground, preventing regeneration and negatively impacting the nutrients in the soil. Burning is the most cost efficient way of removing piles from the landscape and can help return carbon nutrients back into the soil.



## When is the Best Time to Burn Piles?

Slash piles on the Bridger Teton National Forest are burned under specific "prescribed" conditions, including plenty snow to prevent creeping fire behavior and a favorable weather forecast. These conditions are regularly met in fall or early winter during late October and early November. In some areas, especially at the higher elevations, too much snow will bury piles hampering the opportunity for crews to burn piles and the ability to meet the fuel reduction objectives identified for the project in the project burn plan.

## How can you learn more about wildfire protection and prescribed burning plans or be notified when burning will occur?

Each prescribed fire burn plan maintains a separate list for prescribed burning notifications and information strategy. Anyone who asks can be added to these email lists will be notified of days and areas where pile burning is expected to occur. The Teton fire website also offers helpful information about pile burning, fuels reduction, fire effects, wildfire neighborhood ambassadors and wildfire activity.

## How Can You Support Protecting your Community and Investments on your Property ?

- ♦ Learn why and how fuels treatment projects are important in protecting communities before wildfire season.
- ♦ Consider supporting projects through allowing access and granting permission to park on private land for easy access.
- ♦ Invite a fire and fuels specialist to your neighborhood meetings to share information on best strategies to help protect your neighborhoods before fire season. We all have a role in fire safety, what is yours?

**Call 307-739-5424 for more information**