



# PILE BURNING FOR FUELS REDUCTION AND MITIGATION

JACKSON AND BLACKROCK RANGER DISTRICTS BTNF

## Why does the Forest Service build piles?

Slash piles are a result of hazardous fuels treatments adjacent to private property or 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.

## Why not chip or remove the piles?

While some amount of scattered and piled slash is beneficial for soils and wildlife, too much slash on the ground causes fuel loading, creating dangerous conditions for firefighting. Chipping or hauling are costly and often not feasible. In some cases, chipping puts too much material on the ground, preventing regeneration. Burning is the most cost-efficient way of removing piles from the landscape.

## Why not burn all the piles at once?

In addition to the "prescribed" conditions required for pile burning, Wyoming Air Quality Control regulates smoke through its own permit process. Smoke permit requirements limit the number of piles that can be burned in a day based on conditions such as the proximity to occupied homes and the smoke dispersion forecast. The Forest Service and State work together to balance air quality and public health considerations with achievement of wildland fire risk reduction. Tens of thousands of piles are created every year in fuels reduction projects along the wildland-urban interface across the Forest, we work to burn as many each day as prescription and smoke permit conditions allow.



Fire staff burn during wet weather conditions to prevent "pile creep"

## When will Teton Interagency Fire Burn piles?

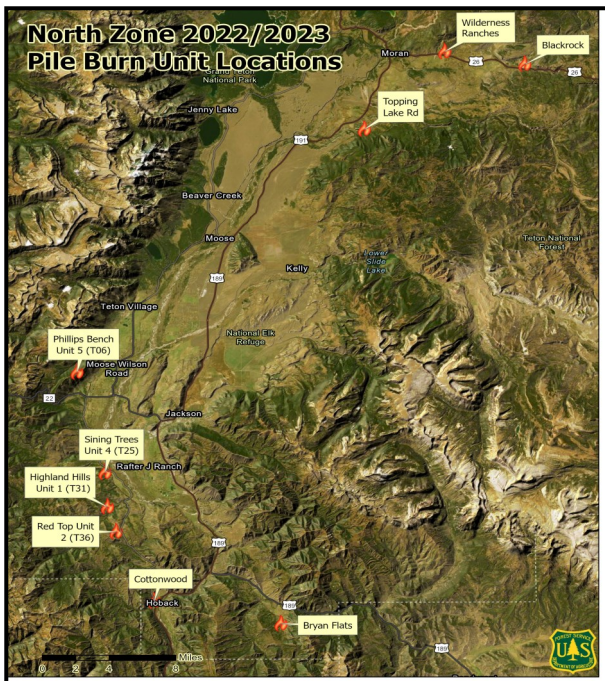
Slash piles on the Bridger Teton National Forest are burned under specific "prescribed" conditions, including precipitation or snow and a favorable weather forecast. These conditions are typically met in fall or early winter and continue as conditions allow for burn pile consumption. In some areas, especially at higher elevations, like Teton Pass and Phillips Ridge, too much snow can bury piles and hinder the ability of crews to burn them. In these areas, the window of opportunity for pile burning may be limited to late fall and early winter.

## How Can you learn about prescribed burning?

Each Fire management zone maintains a separate list for prescribed burning notifications. Anyone who asks can be added to these email lists and will be notified of days and areas where pile burning is expected to occur. The Tetonfires.org website also offers helpful information on when and where pile burning will happen. If your neighborhood or HOA has a wildfire ambassador, they will contact you and your neighbors with fire updates, wildfire safety information and best practices for your neighborhood before wildfire season.

## How can you become a Neighborhood Wildfire Ambassador ?

Becoming a wildfire Ambassador is easy and a great way to support our community of Teton County in wildfire preparedness. As an ambassador you help bring communities together by engaging your neighbors in preparing for wildfires in fun and innovative ways. By signing up to volunteer as an ambassador, you will gain access to Teton Area Wildfire Protection coalition partners, and information to resources you need to assist your neighborhood in their wildfire preparedness activities. For more information call North Zone Fire Prevention 307-739-5424



Firefighters will patrol the pile area for several days afterwards and until the piles are cold and dead out