

# Upper Gros Ventre Wildlife Habitat Enhancement RX

## October 2022



**When:** Mid October thru early November. Firing operations are expected to last 3-5 days and smoke will be visible for several days afterwards. Implementation depends on the fuel moisture and weather conditions to ensure burn operations will meet the objectives identified in the project burn plan.

**Where: (See Map)** Area within Haystack Fork and Little Bear Paw Fork of Slate Creek on the Jackson Ranger District, Bridger Teton National Forest. Three smaller units totaling 557 acres have been identified within the larger project area. Units B and C will be the focus for this year burn window.

**How:** Crews are currently constructing “holding lines” to help control RX activity within the overall project area. Once burning conditions become favorable for meeting project objectives, firefighters will use drip torches to apply fire within the project boundaries with support from the local interagency helicopter. Helicopter support includes ignitions from a terra torch suspended from the belly of the helicopter, an aerial observation platform for the firing boss to communicate with ground resources lighting and water support for holding operations, if needed. Firefighters will continue to patrol the units for several days and until snowfalls within the project area.

### Project Objectives :

- ◆ *Reduce conifer encroachment within aspen stands to enhance forage for wildlife browse and focusing on favorable Elk, Deer, Moose and Big Horn Mountain Sheep habitat.*
- ◆ *Introduce fire to help restore natural plant disturbance processes within existing decedent aspen stands encouraging health and vigor and stimulate new growth.*
- ◆ *Prepare for environmental change in regards to wildland fires and enhance effective wildland firefighter response by breaking up continuous fuels to help restore fire resilience landscapes within the Upper Gros Ventre Area.*

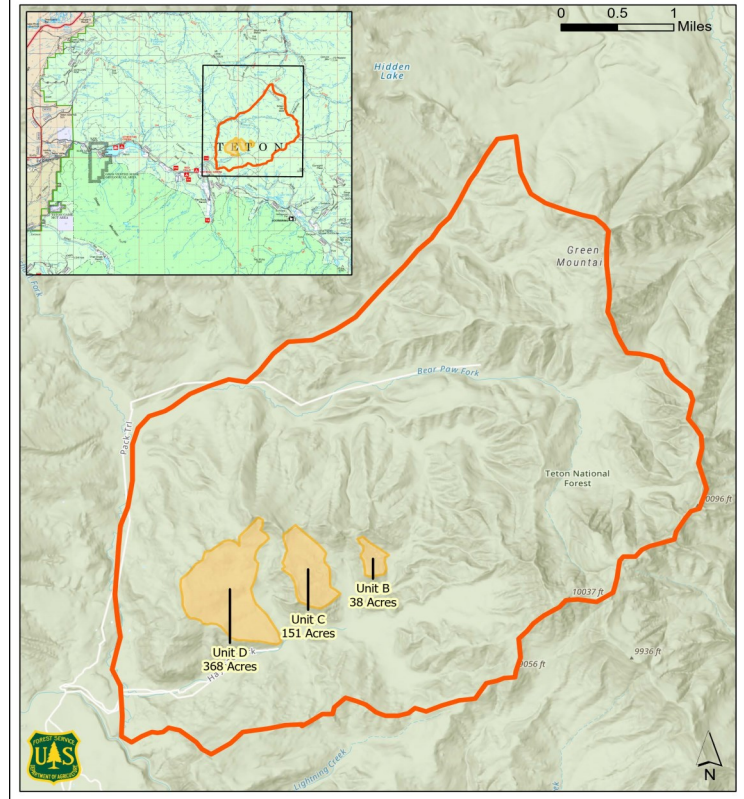
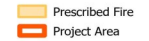
Habitat improvement projects are often based on landscape scale vegetation objectives which are determined upon through partnerships among multiple land and wildlife management agencies. Objectives and treatments are then identified within management plans for those organizations and implemented in collaboration when vegetative conditions are right for meeting project goals. Aspen habitat has been identified as a high priority for preservation and treatments for land managers due to the loss of aspen habitat across the west and the significance use for wildlife and improvement of restoring habitat. The Lower Gros Ventre RX is supported in partnership and funds from Wyoming Game and Fish, the Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust and the Bridger Teton National Forest. As with all prescribed fire treatments, Teton interagency fire effects crew will collect data and monitor the vegetation before and after project implementation within vegetation treatment area. This monitoring ensures for lessons learned and ensures future success with future project implementation and goals.

**How can you help?** Learn how you can support organizations supporting and funding the planning and implementation of habitat improvement projects on public lands. Learn about of fire resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities.

For more information contact Fire Prevention/Education 307-739-5424 or visit [Tetonfires.com](http://Tetonfires.com)



### Upper Gros Ventre Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Prescribed Fire



Terra torch operations during the Lower Gros Ventre RX in



Moose enjoying fire effects after the Lower Gros Ventre RX 2010