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Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: ESPN2 Coverage

The park's Timbered Island North Prescribed Burn was recently featured on ESPN2's series "Inside America's National Parks." From October through December 2002, the series airs on Saturday mornings and follows host Steve Porino through outdoor experiences in America's national parks.

While filming a fishing excursion on the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park for the November 30th program, the crew saw smoke from the 285-acre prescribed burn and drove to the site to obtain footage. The park's fire information officer met the crew and provided personal protective equipment for Porino and a cameraman, allowing them to be escorted to the perimeter of the burn to conduct interviews and obtain information about the project.

Several minutes of the half-hour show focused on the prescribed burn, and the coverage highlighted the importance of fire's role in the ecosystem. An overview of the project's objectives described positive outcomes that can be achieved through the reintroduction of fire. ESPN2 was launched in October 1993 and reaches 70 million U.S. households. With such a large national audience, the program presented an impromptu and valuable opportunity to spotlight the benefits of prescribed fire.