National Park Service
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Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: Fuels Reduction Project

As a culminating event to their 10-week internship in the Jackson Hole area, the Teton Interagency Student Conservation Association Fire Education Corps team held a fuels reduction project to help local homeowners clear their property of hazard fuel.

Throughout the summer, the team of six worked with local homeowners on creating awareness and preparing for living in a fire-prone area. They canvassed over 500 homes and conducted 118 home assessments, touring homeowners' properties, assessing critical factors, and making recommendations for creating defensible space. Many residents, affected by last year's 4,470 acre Green Knoll Fire, were receptive to the assistance offered by the SCA crew.

The team then held a "Dump Truck Day," providing equipment and manpower to haul away debris property owners had cleared. Approximately 60 homeowners participated in the fuels reduction project, and with the assistance of five members from the Rexburg, Idaho SCA team, the volunteers removed 36 pick-up truckloads and 14 10-yd. dump truck loads of dead and downed fuel. The team contributed a total of 182 hours to the two-day event. "It was overwhelming to see the amount of support from community members," said team leader Greg Kesterman.