

Teton Interagency Fire

Grand Teton National Park
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bridger-Teton National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture



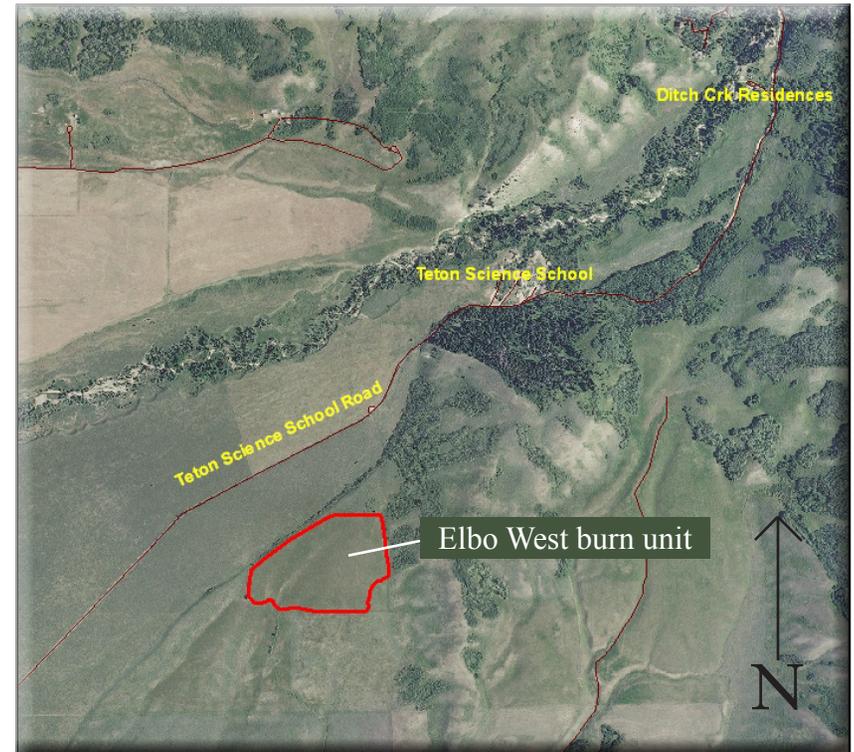
Elbo West Prescribed Fire



Firefighters ignite non-native grasses that out-compete more desirable native vegetation.

Planned: Fall 2010
Size: 42 acres
Fuel Type: Grass
Objective: Utilize fire to assist in the restoration of native grasses in combination with herbicides and other treatments.

Project Details:



The Elbo West prescribed fire project was developed in conjunction with a multistage restoration project of converting pasture land back into native vegetation. The project is part of a joint NPS/USFWS management plan for bison and elk in the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park.

A major component of the plan calls for the restoration of 4,000 acres of native

rangeland in GTNP, in areas that are currently abandoned hayfields.

The Elbo West hayfield is one of the identified areas for native plant restoration. Once an irrigated hayfield, the area has been inactive since the 1970s.

Despite decades-long recovery time, the hayfield is still dominated by non-native agronomic grasses and noxious weed species.

Non-native perennial grasses are a serious impediment to native plant succession and restoration. Without intervention and management, the pasture grasses, particularly smooth brome, will likely remain, preventing natural succession.

Following the prescribed fire, resource managers will spray the area with herbicide to remove the non-native species and re-establish native species.