

Teton Interagency Fire 2004 Fire Education & Information Report



2004 Fire Education & Information Report

Fire Stories

The Fire Education office published a total of 16 fire stories this year, highlighting activities from the 2004 season. The articles are posted on the National Park Service's Fire & Aviation Management web site at www.nps.gov/fire/public/pub_firestories2004.html and on Grand Teton National Park's Fire Management web page at www.nps.gov/grtel/fire/firestories.htm. Copies are also included in this report.

Web Information

Grand Teton National Park's Fire Management web site (www.nps.gov/grtel/fire/fire.htm) was updated this year, with a redesigned home page and added links.

Additionally, a Teton Interagency Dispatch Center web page (www.tetonfires.com/dispatch/index.htm) was launched this season, designed primarily for internal interagency use. The links provide current local information such as predictive services, staffing, and training.

These two web sites, along with the Teton Fires interagency web page (www.tetonfires.com) were maintained by the Fire Education office. Submissions to Fire News (http://data2.itc.nps.gov/fire/public/pub_firenews.cfm) were also completed by

the Fire Education office, entering fire activity in Grand Teton National Park into the National Park Service fire reporting system.

Junior Firefighter Program

A Junior Firefighter program was offered in Grand Teton National Park this summer, giving children an opportunity to learn about fire and its relationship with wildlife habitats and plant adaptations. The 1½ hour program was offered three times weekly to students ages 8-12.

In all, 17 programs were given with 179 students attending. The Junior Firefighter program was also offered at several summer day camps throughout the community including the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Teton County Parks & Recreation Department, Bridger-Teton National Forest Greys River Ranger District and the Moose Corner Day Care. This allowed the curriculum to reach an additional 64 children.

A contractor was hired through a National Park Service Fire & Aviation Management Community Assistance Grant to coordinate and present the sessions.

Junior Firefighter lessons focused on basic fire behavior and fire ecology concepts. Other topics included fire history, park fire management zones and the importance of good communication and safety in wildland fire operations.



Fire Prevention Advertising

A series of campfire safety ads was developed and published in five area newspapers, running from the first week of July through the end of August. A total of five advertisements comprised the series. Through the use of a National Park Service Fire & Aviation Management Community Assistance Grant, the fire prevention ads were published in the *Jackson Hole News & Guide* daily and weekly papers, the *Star Valley Independent*, *Kemmerer Gazette* and *Pinedale Roundup*. The five periodicals have a combined circulation of over 30,000 and serve many communities near the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park.

“Movie ads are a fire prevention campaign we’ve always wanted to try.”

Nan Stinson, Fire Prevention Technician, Bridger-Teton National Forest

Interagency fire personnel also collaborated on three large-screen movie advertisements, running the slides before every film showing at ten theaters in Jackson, Pinedale and Kemmerer. Two of the slides focused on reducing human-caused fires while the third encouraged defensible space. The ads ran in theaters for 3½ months beginning in early July and reached approximately 89,000 viewers.



The Fire Education office worked with the Jackson Hole High School to participate in both the Schools-to-Careers program and High School Career Day.

School Programs

Ten school programs were coordinated and presented through the Fire Education office this year, targeting 7,143 students in lessons covering fire safety, fire ecology, fire management careers, and interagency cooperation.

The Fire Education office worked closely with the Teton County Parks & Recreation



A variety of materials were utilized for fire ecology lessons, including the FireWorks curriculum produced by the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

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Department and Jackson Hole Fire & EMS to offer after-school programs on school district early release days and during spring and summer breaks. A total of 139 students participated in the Parks & Recreation programs. Collaborative efforts also included teaming up with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department to offer a variety of lessons and demonstrations at the state's annual Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo.

Community Outreach

A wide range of audiences and age groups were contacted through community outreach programs. A table summarizing the events is included in this report.



A community workshop held at the Crescent H Ranch south of Wilson, Wyoming brought together professionals and homeowners to discuss forest health.

Public Open Houses

Two public open houses were held this year. The first, co-hosted by the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park in mid-May, gave the public an opportunity to learn about scheduled fuels projects. A second open house held in mid-October highlighted the three alternatives outlined in Grand Teton National Park's Fire Management Plan Environmental Analysis. The Fire Education office helped organize

the events and worked with the park's Planning division to prepare and print approximately 25 posters and 6 handouts for the October workshop.



An interagency open house in Moran, Wyoming outlined area fuels projects.

Fire Information Training

A class offered in June through the Fire Education office shared fire information with 17 local community members and helped develop a pool of resources to utilize on a short-term, interim basis if needed during future fire management activities. The class was specifically designed for the general public with limited knowledge of fire management policies or the Incident Command System used in managing wildland fire incidents.



While not part of the Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS), the class served to peak interest and increase knowledge of local fire management activities.

The Teton Interagency Fire Education and Information Specialist helped to round out a cadre of instructors for the Arizona Wildfire

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Academy's first Information Officer's training. The *S-203: Introduction to Incident Information*, was one of 32 classes offered this year at the Prescott, Arizona location. Thirty-five students from six agencies and nine states participated in the class.

Staff Training

Internal staff training on the Teton Interagency Fire Management program was provided at the beginning of the summer season. This included presentations at Grand Teton National Park's Division of Interpretation training and new employee orientation. A session was also held mid-season for the park's naturalist staff, focusing on the Junior Firefighter program. A total of 137 staff members attended the various training sessions.

The Fire Education office also worked with individual members of the park's naturalist staff to develop programs that centered around fire ecology and fire management. Three fire-related interpretive programs were offered a total of 24 times throughout the summer with 838 visitors attending. Due to low lake levels, there were no *Fire & Ice* boat cruise programs, an annual program offered on Jackson Lake that includes fire as one of the major themes.

"Fire education is an extremely important message to convey to visitors."

Rich Fedorchak, Grand Teton National Park Chief of Interpretation

Area Fire Information

The Fire Education office maintained communication with the Grand Teton National Park staff and Bridger-Teton National Forest Public Affairs office during fire events. News releases were coordinated with the Public Affairs offices.

Interpretive posters were produced and distributed to approximately 35 locations throughout the park during the Two Ocean Wildland Fire Use and scheduled Lost Creek Prescribed Fire events. Additionally, fire information materials were produced for the Little Horse Wildland Fire Use and scheduled Diamond L Prescribed Fire events on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Though the Lost Creek Prescribed Fire was canceled after a test fire determined

conditions were not within prescription parameters, 86 visitor contacts were made at three fire information stations on the morning of the scheduled event.



Located along the main highway and in front of the Moose Visitor Center, temporary fire information exhibits detailed the location and objectives of the Lost Creek Prescribed Fire.

Fire information was also disseminated to the Bridger-Teton National Forest Public Affairs office, Grand Teton National Park staff, and approximately 35 park locations when a heavy haze blanketed the Jackson Hole valley for several days in late July. The smoke event, due to fire activity in western British Columbia and eastern Washington state, generated many questions from the local community and visiting public.

Nationally, the Teton Interagency Fire Education and Information Specialist assisted Whitney's Type I Incident Command Team in mid-July by serving as the Information Center Manager on the Willow Fire in Arizona.



Media interest in the Willow Fire was high due to the fire's proximity to the Phoenix area.

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2004 Community Outreach Summary

Event	Date	Attendance/Contacts
Schools-to-Careers Program	March 3	70
Safety / Prevention 1st grade Program	March 8-10	88
Teton County Parks & Recreation Program	March 10	51
Teton Conservation District Presentation	March 23	15
Crescent H Ranch Forestry Event	April 2-3	25
Teton County Parks & Recreation Program	April 7	31
Jackson Hole High School Career Day	May 11	250
Grand Teton National Park Safety Day	May 12	120
Fuels Projects Open House	May 13	16
Teton County Schools Careers-on-Wheels Day	May 14	600
Moran School Fire Prevention Presentation	May 19	22
Teton County Backyard & Land Management Workshop	May 22	75
Summit on the Snake Symposium	May 27	30
Old West Days Parade	May 29	2500
Fire Information Class	June 8	17
Grand Teton National Park Junior Firefighter Programs	July 5 - August 10	179
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Kids' Ranch Presentation	July 21	17
Teton County Parks & Recreation Program	July 21-22	57
Teton Science School Young Women in Science Program	July 26	25
Teton County Parks & Recreation Program	July 28	21
Teton County Fair	July 29 - August 1	3000 / 350
Jackson Lake Lodge Conference Presentation	August 9	65
Bridger-Teton National Forest Greys River District Summer Camp Program	August 18	10
Teton County Library Program	August 19	61
Moose Corner Day Care Program	August 19	16
Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Expo	September 3-4	6,000 / unknown
Moran VFD Fund Raiser	September 4	420
Fire Management Plan EA Public Open House	October 14	10
Journey School Helibase Program	October 14	20
Jackson Elementary Kindergarten Program	October 19	126
Communities / Services 3rd grade School Program	October 29	42
Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium	December 3	180
Bridger-Teton National Forest Winter Naturalist Training	December 15	40