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Grand Teton National Park

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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

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Interagency Fire Managers Announce Plans for Fall Season Prescribed Fires

Teton interagency fire managers plan to use prescribed fire to treat approximately 6,157 acres during the next several weeks. Interagency fire personnel from Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Teton and Sublette County Fire offices, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will work cooperatively to execute several prescribed-fire projects. The proposed project areas include:

BAR B C – A 20-acre unit near an historic dude ranch in Grand Teton National Park planned to reduce sagebrush and other fuels around historic structures to aid in future suppression efforts, and to preserve the historic landscape.

Signal Mountain West – A 300-acre project at the base of Signal Mountain across from Signal Mountain Lodge designed to reduce hazardous fuels for future protection of the developed area.

Granite Creek – A 100-acre area near Poker Flats at Grand Teton National Park's southern boundary planned to reduce fuel loading near private "inholding" properties within the park.

Beaver Creek, Death Canyon Road and Flagg Ranch – Debris piles from fuels treatment projects completed in 2006 will be burned following the first significant snowfall of the season.

Wiener Creek – A 2,000-acre unit located down the Greys River, approximately 10 miles south of Alpine, planned to restore decadent aspen stands and improve sagebrush habitat for wildlife. This fire is a cooperative project supported by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Lower Gros Ventre – A 3,329-acre project designed to improve wildlife habitat. This project is located in the Jackson District and will be supported by Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Burro Hill – a 408-acre unit planned to treat sagebrush on the south slope of Burro Hill in the Blackrock District as part of the Randolph fuels reduction project.

Granite Creek Hot Springs and Blackrock District – Debris piles from fuels reduction projects within the wildland/urban interface will be burned as conditions allow.

Some of the prescribed-fire projects focus on creating defensible space around park and forest developed areas. These projects target accumulations of flammable fuels to minimize the risk of future high-intensity wildland fires. Prescribed fires also create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas, resulting in improved wildlife habitat through increased plant diversity and vigorous regrowth. Many wildlife species, such as moose, elk and bison benefit from prescribed burns as a result of the grasses, forbs and willows that regenerate after treatment with fire.

Prescribed-fire ignitions will proceed when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions are met. Smoke will be evident during the day of the burn and may persist for several days after, especially in mountain valleys during early morning and evening hours. Local residents and visitors are requested to exercise caution in the vicinity of the prescribed-fires. Minimal traffic restrictions may occur to allow for public and firefighter safety, and fire equipment access.

For further information about prescribed-fire projects, please call 307.739.3300 or 307.739.5500.

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