

## Bridger-Teton National Forest Success Story

### Weiner Creek Prescribed Burn

**Project:** The 1,800 acre Weiner Creek Prescribed fire unit is located on the Greys River District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF,) in western Wyoming. The treatment unit is located 10 miles south of Alpine, Wyoming and includes part of the Weiner Creek and the North Fork of Murphy Creek drainages. The primary objective of the burn was to reduce the amount of conifer encroachment in the aspen stands and promote the regeneration of existing aspen in order to better the habitat for local wildlife. The area is considered primary wildlife habitat and calving grounds for local elk populations.

By introducing fire back into these ecosystems, on a controlled basis, managers are able to restore aspen succession and improve overall habitat quality.



**Implementation Plan:** After much planning and preparation over the last few years, the Weiner Creek Prescribed Fire on the Bridger Teton National Forest took place on September 20-22, 2007. Fire managers treated 1800 acres of aspen, conifer-encroached aspen, and sagebrush habitat in the Weiner Creek watershed. Fire crews created black-lined along a Forest Service system Off-Highway Vehicle trail and management designated fire lines to secure the unit boundaries. Two BTNF helicopters were used simultaneously to aeri ally ignite with Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD) and helitorch. A PSD is a device that has ping-pong sized, spheres injected with potassium permanganate. Once the PSD are expelled from the aircraft and touch ground, a chemical reaction takes place causing ignition on the ground. A Helitorch is a device hung from a helicopter that disperses ignited lumps of gelled gasoline to commence burning on the landscape.

Collaborative efforts with Wyoming Department of Game and Fish and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation assisted the Forest Service with management objectives.

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