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October 2003

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## Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: Congo Basin Forest Partnership



A recent U.S. Study Tour brought technical experts from Central Africa to visit U.S. national park and forest areas in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and allowed local land managers an opportunity to spotlight the interagency fire management program to an international audience.

The study tour was planned in support of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and is one component of a larger technical assistance program for that region. The project supports training for directors of forestry, wildlife, and parks in Congo Basin countries.



During their two-week visit, representatives from the countries of Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon experienced how land management planning and its implementation can be accomplished. Through on-the-ground site visits and discussion with National Park, National Forest, and Fish and Wildlife Reserve administrators, the group received an overview of area

land management practices and partnerships. Fire managers, speaking through a French language interpreter, presented a session on fire's role in the ecosystem, fire management practices, community outreach programs, and interagency cooperation.



From here, the U.S. Study Tour continues to the National Conservation Training Center in Shepardstown, West Virginia to complete exercises as to what tools, approaches, and methodologies in park and forestry planning may be adaptable and appropriate for the Congo Basin region.