



## Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: Fire Effects School Program



Kelly Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students continued their studies of fire ecology this month, working with the Teton Interagency Fire Effects crew to revisit plots installed last year in the Kelly Prescribed Burn unit.

The prescribed fire in late September targeted the sagebrush west of Kelly, reducing the amount of fuel and creating defensible space adjacent to the town site. Grand Teton National

Park's Fire Education Specialist visited the school the week prior to implementation, describing the objectives and how the burn would be carried out. Teacher Dan Thomasma and his class installed four test plots within the project boundary and took pre- fire photographs. After the burn was completed, the students returned to the plots to observe changes and take additional photos.



Now, nine months later, the class again revisited the sample areas. After reviewing the objectives of the project, the students led the Fire Effects crew to their sites and answered questions about continued changes to the area. In turn, the crew directed students to one of their fire effects plots and gave an overview of the post- fire monitoring and documentation required for their work. Each student experienced the work of a fire effects monitor firsthand, using a belt weather kit to record and measure wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and relative humidity.



The students plan to share their field experience with the community by writing an article for the town newsletter, *The Kelly Times*.