



February 2005

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Grand Teton National Park

Department of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest

Teton Interagency Fire Management

Monitoring Information Shared at Interagency Fire Effects Symposium



For the past three years in northwestern Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger- Teton National Forest have hosted a Fire Effects Symposium to bring together fire effects monitors, researchers, resource managers and fire professionals to talk about current projects and findings. This year's symposium, held in early February, brought new participants and many informative presentations. Approximately 60 participants attended the workshop. Discussion topics ranged from fire effects on soil microbes to detecting noxious weeds in burned areas.

Fire - related topics always draw interest from both agency personnel and the private sector in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Many complex natural resource management issues are linked to fire's disturbance on the landscape, including conservation easements, livestock grazing, wildlife disease, and cultural landscapes. The symposium provides an opportunity for information sharing and future planning that helps multiple agencies and disciplines coordinate their efforts for adaptive management.

The Teton Interagency Fire Effects program has developed into a very cooperative interagency resource, monitoring plans for Grand Teton National Park, several area national parks, and the Bridger- Teton National Forest. The 2004 season marked the sixth year of the program. Four seasonal Biological Science Technicians assisted the Fire Effects Lead Monitor in plant identification and monitoring through the installation and reading of vegetation plots. Additionally, the crew received assistance from a U.S. Forest Service volunteer and two habitat biologists from the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. This past season, the crew began implementing new protocols that will help disseminate project level information to burn bosses and project planners.

Monitoring the effects of fire on ecosystems is an important part of the wildland fire program by documenting basic information, detecting trends, and determining whether fire and resource management objectives have been met. Using results from a high quality monitoring program is critical to the continued success of the fuels program and the commitment to adaptive management practices.



Crew members look at burn severity effects and compare them to long term regrowth.



In 2004, the Fire Effects program developed and tested a new sightability method for measuring ladder fuels in the wildland-urban interface.