



March 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

FireWorks Curriculum Materials Now Available Locally




In the FireWorks lesson Will It Burn?, participants conduct experiments to investigate which kinds of fuels are harder to burn and why.

The Teton Interagency Fire Education program has added the *FireWorks* curriculum to its collection of educational materials to use in classroom and outreach activities. The *FireWorks* curriculum, developed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Montana, consists of approximately 35 lessons and three trunks of laboratory materials, specimens and reference materials to study fire ecology.

In February 2003, three members of the Bridger- Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park fire staffs attended a 2½ day course that focused on teaching with the *FireWorks* materials. The workshop allowed participants to see many of the lessons included in the program, giving an extensive overview of the range of content and materials. The lessons contain activities suggested for the primary (K-2), elementary (3-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-10) levels and link each activity to national and local educational standards.

The curriculum promotes interactive, hands-on learning and extensively uses the trunk materials to conduct experiments and demonstrations. However, the number of trunks available for loan is limited, with just over 30 available in eight western states. In order to secure a permanent set of materials for the lessons, the Teton Interagency Fire Education Office submitted an application for a National Park Service Fire and Aviation



Management Community Assistance grant this past year. The project was approved, and the materials arrived early in fiscal year 2005.

The Teton Interagency Fire Education and Information Specialist returned to Missoula last month to assist in teaching the next *FireWorks* training and to serve on a panel to discuss educational outreach successes. The additional experience in working with the materials will benefit the local program as interagency education specialists continue to strive to implement fire education into area school curriculums. Wildland fire provides a rich context for education because it promotes understanding and integration of numerous concepts, including properties of matter, ecosystem fluctuations and cycles, plant and animal habitat and survival, and human interactions with ecosystems. The addition of the *FireWorks* materials will prove to be a useful resource.

For more information on the FireWorks curriculum, trunk locations and scheduled workshops, visit www.firelab.org/fep/research/fireworks/fireworks.htm.