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Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Grand Teton National Park

Department of Agriculture
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Bridger-Teton National Forest

Teton Interagency Fire Management

Wildlife Expo Includes Fire Education



The second annual Wildlife Expo was held this month, sponsored by the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association. Approximately 120 fourth-grade students from two area schools attended the event to learn more about the valley's wildlife and habitat.

Students rotated through six stations, each with a different lesson. The Teton Interagency Fire Program participated in the event, providing a lesson that focused on animals' responses to wildland fire and the effects of fire on their habitat. Students role-played various animals as they ambled, scurried, flapped, and burrowed away from an approaching mock fire. After the students returned as the "fire" subsided, they discussed what benefits to their habitat each animal might find post-burn.

The Teton Interagency Fire Education Specialist planned for the event and presented the lesson with Grand Teton National Park's Division of Interpretation, representing their second collaborative outreach effort this month. The two divisions also worked together to include fire information in a slide show the interpretive staff presented three times to various audiences in the Jackson Hole Latino community. The presentation was developed to give the local Latino population an overview of Grand Teton National Park and point out the differences in missions and regulations between the national park and the neighboring national forest and other public lands. The program was given in both English and Spanish to the Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center, the Latino Resource Center, and Head Start teachers at The Learning Center. It provided a basic orientation to Grand Teton National Park as well as highlighting camping regulations, available activities, and park wildlife. Several slides focused on wildland fire, explaining that visitors may see a variety of fire management activities during trips into the park. "It was helpful having photos and information on fire activity," noted Becky Wiles, Concession Interpretive Specialist who created the slide show. "It generated a lot of questions and interest in fire and the important role of fire on our landscape."