



September 2004

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 Fire Management Highlighted at State Outdoor Expo



Through a cooperative effort between the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Bridger- Teton National Forest, and Grand Teton National Park, participants in this month's Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo had an opportunity to learn about fire's role in the ecosystem. A series of interagency presentations highlighted fire science and fire management practices and featured hands- on activities and demonstrations.

In 1998, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department initiated the first Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo which has since become an annual event. The Expo builds community through understanding and recognition of mutual goals among the general public, government agencies, special interest groups, educational entities, businesses and landowners. The event, held in Casper, has averaged over 15,000 people each year.

The Expo provides learning and participation opportunities that communicate the relevance of wildlife and habitat management and perpetuates Wyoming's hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching heritage. This year, six Teton Interagency fire personnel assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with two stations focusing on fire management and fire prevention. At an outdoor exhibit area, fire education specialists set up two lessons from the FireWorks curriculum, developed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station. The first hands- on activity allowed participants to make model forests and compare fire behavior on different slopes and with different arrangements of trees. A second activity focused on studying tree growth rings and fire scars to learn about fire history. Demonstrations on aerial ignitions were also held throughout the weekend. Inside the Casper Event Center, fire personnel handed out literature and materials pertaining to fire prevention.

Though the Expo is a free educational event for all ages and skill levels, Friday's sessions were tailored to school- age children with approximately 6,000 students from around the state in attendance.

