



Hill Creek Prescribed Fire Project Idaho/Wyoming border - Driggs, ID 2009 -2010

Project Description

The Hill Creek Prescribed Fire Project intention is to burn approximately 30 to 50 percent of the 6,700 acres within the project area using management ignited prescribed fire. This project is located in Teton County, Wyoming, about four miles east of Driggs, Idaho.

The primary purpose of this project is to improve the vegetative quality for wintering big game animals. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish and RMEF have a partnership to improve wildlife habitat conditions within the project area and along the west slope of the Teton Range

Additional benefits with this project include: increase in young aspen stems, decrease conifer encroachment into aspen stands, reduction of dead fuels, and this project will also improve the Forest Service's ability to manage new fire starts.

Overall, this project will benefit big game and aspen communities, increase biodiversity across the Teton Range and decrease fuels in the wildland-urban interface.



Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to Date:

Public scoping of the project began in May of 2007 and the decision was signed in May of 2008. The Hill Creek Prescribed Fire Project is divided into three units (Darby, Rapid Creek and Hill Creek Units). In October of 2008, 1,583 acres were completed in the Darby unit. In the fall of 2009, 100 acres of blacklining was completed along the Rapid Creek Unit boundary as depicted in the photo above. In 2010, additional line preparation and blacklining operations for the Rapid Creek Unit is planned for the spring and later in the fall aerial ignition of the remaining 1,624 acre unit. Additional pre-treatment of fuels in the 2,000 acre Hill Creek Unit is planned for the summer of 2011 with aerial ignition of the unit scheduled for October of 2011 or 2012.