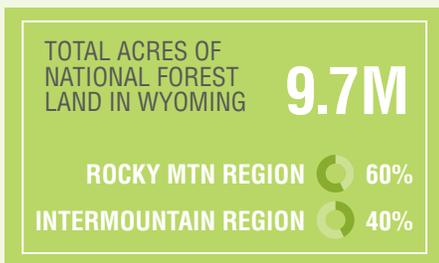


INTERMOUNTAIN REGION National Forests IN WYOMING

AT A GLANCE

Wyoming contains 8 National Forests within its borders, and 4 of those are located in the Intermountain Region. However the Bridger-Teton is the only Forest entirely located within the state's borders. This document highlights stories and projects within the Bridger-Teton National Forest.



Located in Western Wyoming, the Bridger-Teton offers more than 3.4 million acres of public land for your outdoor recreation enjoyment. With its pristine watersheds, abundant wildlife and immense wildlands, the Bridger-Teton National Forest comprises a large part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem - the largest intact ecosystem in the lower 48 United States. Offering nearly 1.2 million acres of designated Wilderness, over 3,000 miles of road and trail and thousands of miles of unspoiled rivers and streams, the Bridger-Teton offers something for everyone.

NOTABLE PROJECTS

Throughout the past year, the Bridger-Teton National Forest has been involved in many projects that help care for the land and serve the people. The follow stories illustrate the forest's commitment to the Forest Services mission:

▶ SOUTH FALL CREEK PRESCRIBED BURN

The Bridger-Teton National Forest completed a 500 acre prescribed burn in high complexity terrain in the Spring of 2016. The purpose of the burn was to reduce fuel loadings and increase defensible space in the Hoback Junction area which is located in the Wildland Urban Interface within Teton County, Wyoming. Aerial ignition firing devices were used from a helicopter to complete the burn as the interior of the project was inaccessible to firefighters.



Above: Teton interagency Firefighter looking at the fire activity of the South Fall Creek prescribed burn.

Below: Granite Creek waterfall on the Jackson Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.



▶ TETON TO SNAKE FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

This project was first started in 2009 when the project area located in Teton County, Wyoming, was determined to be one of the highest risk wildland urban interfaces on the Forest and had been prioritized as focus area by Teton County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. A key purpose of the project is to provide fire managers and line officers more options for managing fire on National Forest, including allowing a more natural fire regime within the Palisades Wilderness Study Area. Currently, the final Environmental Impact Statement has been released and is awaiting final decision this year.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider.

National Forests IN WYOMING

▶ **PRICHARD BOAT RAMP**

The Prichard boat ramp has been deteriorating for years due to erosion problems, exacerbated by high water events in the 90s and 2011. Over the years, the ramp had become one that required a 4-wheel drive vehicle to get vessels in and out of the water, with spinning tires and petroleum products degrading the water quality. The Bridger-Teton National Forest, in partnership with the Snake River Whitewater outfitters, the Snake River Fund, Teton Conservation District, Jackson Hole One Fly and Grand Teton Association, worked together to finance and install an updated facility. The hardened boat ramp and the rehabilitation to the damaged shoreline has reduced sediment being deposited into the river. The shore of this Wild and Scenic River was stabilized using recycled native vegetation from a construction site elsewhere on the Forest which will enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of this stretch of the Snake River.

▶ **IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE FOREST**

The Bridger-Teton is renowned for its front country and backcountry recreation opportunities. A very popular camping area and Forest access point was in need of a bridge replacement. The Forest successfully installed a safe and sufficient bridge for this highly used road on the Forest and improved the recreational experience of the many visitors that come to the Forest.

▶ **ADDRESSING VISITOR SAFETY ON THE FOREST**

As the snow melts and streams swell, many hazards can present themselves on the Forest. With the arrival of spring, a sink hole was discovered at a popular trailhead on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Beneath the graveled lot, old landfill material had rusted away and the surface of the lot was collapsing. Forest personnel went into action and removed the debris, filled the sink hole with gravel and graded the parking lot allowing safe and accessible use of this important recreation site on the Forest.

▶ **LABARGE VEGETATION PROJECT**

The LaBarge project lies in the northeastern corner of the Kemmerer Ranger District, Wyoming and includes primarily the LaBarge Creek watershed and small portions of neighboring watersheds. The project area covers 52,573 acres of which 8,429 (16 percent) was burned in the 2012 Fontenelle wildfire. Approximately 70 percent of the project area is forested predominately with lodgepole pine followed by whitebark pine, spruce/subalpine fir, aspen, and Douglas-fir making it an ideal location for a timber harvest.



Prichard boat ramp revegetation along the Snake River, a Wild and Scenic river on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

CONTACT

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Regional Forester – Nora Rasure

801-625-5605

*The Gros Ventre
Range in a nice fall
afternoon.*



▶ **OIL AND GAS LEASING IN THE WYOMING RANGE**

NEPA and Supplemental Information Reports (SIR) dating back to 2004 and 2011 have been prepared in response to BLM oil and gas leasing proposals in portions of the Wyoming Range. Prior decisions have both supported and objected to the leasing proposals, but were withdrawn from consideration after findings of inadequate NEPA. In 2014 a Notice of Intent was initiated for a new Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft Supplemental EIS was released on April 8, 2016 and identified the No Action alternative as the preferred alternative in which the Forest Service would withdraw consent to lease on the 30 parcels under consideration. Comments on the Supplemental EIS are due by May 23, 2016 and a Final EIS and decision are expected in late 2016 after any potential objections resolution process has occurred.