

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
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Caribou-Targhee will manage more Wildland Fires for Resource Improvement

Eastern Idaho: The Caribou-Targhee National Forest will implement an expanded wildland fire use program this fire season. Wildland fire use is managing a lightning-caused fire burning in approved areas to play its natural role in the life cycle of the forest.

Only carefully selected fires under certain conditions will proceed through the process and managed as a fire use event. Management of wildland fire use is a thorough process requiring strict procedures equal to those used managing wildfires. Firefighter and public safety will continue to be the number one priority on every fire. Lightning fires will be suppressed if they pose an unacceptable risk to sensitive resources, private lands or public safety.

Resource objectives for wildland fire use include wildlife habitat improvement, fuels reduction, improved forest health and reducing the risk of large-scale catastrophic fire. While there may be short-term impacts to Forest users, this tool will ultimately help reduce the cost and risks that will be associated with future wildfires.

Many of our approved wildland fire use areas are outside of the wilderness areas. Currently, 1.2 million acres of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is approved for wildland fire use, while 1.7 million acres requires all fires be suppressed.

While more fires will be managed as wildland fire use, the Forest is committed to a balanced fire program including mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. All of these tools are needed to address our current fuels problems.

All human-caused fires will continue to be suppressed and Forest. Additional information on all wildland fire activity on the Caribou-Targhee is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/fire/>, click on "fire use information".