

## Protection Considerations

### Public Safety

The concept of public safety is covered in the forest-wide resource management prescriptions, standards, and guidelines of the Forest Management Plan. The following standards will be utilized to inform Forest users of safety concerns and minimize the chances of endangering the personal safety of users in the Forest as a result of the wildland fire use program.

#### Guidelines

- Forest users will be advised of the hazards and risks in the fire area, as well as safe routes in the vicinity of the fire area.
- Trailheads, and trails in the vicinity of the fire area will be signed appropriately, advising Forest users of fire status, hazards and risks, as well as suggested alternative routes of travel. Signing may include trailheads in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller Parkway as appropriate. Backcountry rangers and work crews will be updated routinely so they can alert and inform visitors they contact.
- If a fire is located along a major access route, Visitor Information personnel will be assigned to contact and advise visitors as they enter the fire vicinity.
- It is suggested that visitors be encouraged to document their travel plans and campsites in the trail registry system. This would facilitate contact if fire conditions change dramatically.
- In the event fire conditions deteriorate significantly, and there is imminent danger to known visitors; the Line Officer may elect to use the forest helicopter to warn users and make evacuations of those users incapable of responding rapidly.
- The Line Officer may request official closure of trails and campsites in the fire vicinity if that person feels that the fire presents significant threats to life and visitor safety.

### Protection Considerations

Administrative sites within the subsections, and private land within and adjacent to the subsections may require special protection considerations.

One intent of applied fuel treatment measures would be the objective of protecting identified private property and federal facilities. This includes areas of the subsections that are susceptible to interface fire.

The long-term objective of any fuel treatment is to eventually increase the opportunity for natural fire to play its role more fully in the forest ecosystem. Fuel treatments should increase the probability of success of the program, restore ecological balance, and substantially reduce the threat of escape from the area or significant damage to capital investments.

Key perimeter areas that are susceptible to a fire crossing from inside the FMAs to outside have been identified. These are areas adjacent to administrative sites, facilities, and/or structures, recreation residences, recreation sites, or management prescription boundaries and automatically convey a higher risk for managing WFU. The land within each FMA has been categorized into

three risk zones: **Suppression Zone, Boundary Zone and Interior zone**. Fire managers analyzing values at risk, topography, fuel type, historic fire behavior/occurrence, and weather/climatological patterns determined the location and extent of these zones. Each zone has different prescriptive criteria associated with it and is discussed in more detail in the Stage I write-up.

Preventative measures can be taken in advance to reduce risk of wildland fire. These include modifying the fuels characteristics within these areas to increase the probability of suppression actions being successful; excluding the vulnerable areas by modifying the maximum manageable area perimeter so that it is located in the most defensible location. The most defensible location may not be within the subsections.

All known administrative sites (non-historic and historic), cultural sites and improvements need to be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of fire protection needed. Defensibility of each site must be determined in order to properly identify the measures needed to adequately protect the site. This could be done with surveys using the included evaluation forms addressing pertinent information needed for proper assessment of each site. Seven levels of fire protection are offered for individual sites or groups of sites.

1. No protection
2. Handline construction concurrent with threatening fire
3. Handline and burnout concurrent with fire
4. Fire shelter or water system protection concurring with threatening fire, repositioning of protection equipment at crucial sites.
5. Fugitive retardant drops concurrent with fire
6. Use of heavy equipment for line construction concurrent with fire
7. Site/Structure/Improvement pretreatment or fuels reduction prior to fire event
  - Fuels reduction adjacent to and around sites with use of prescribed fire or other vegetative manipulation techniques such as pruning, thinning etc.
  - Flammable material movement (firewood, fuel, etc.)
  - Permissible modifications of structures (building materials).

All known sites that are deemed necessary to protect will have one or more protection levels identified and selected for future management. Site evaluation forms are included and upon completion should be appended to the Guidebook or filed at the respective District Offices. It is suggested that completed site evaluations and accompanying digital photographs be saved to CDs where feasible. Site evaluation forms should be augmented with maps, photographs etc.

Specific protection considerations in the MP-FMA include the following:

**Big Springs Lookout Tower**

Location T 14N R 44E S27 located on the Island Park Ranger District. The Big Springs lookout tower is a 72 foot enclosed cab steel tower constructed in 1936. The tower is no longer in use and has not been maintained since the 1970's. Appropriate protection strategies should be used in protection of the tower, keeping in mind its low resource value.

**Tillery Lake Dam**

Location: T 48N R 117 W S 13 located on the Ashton Ranger District. Tillery Lake Dam is a treated timber structure with no associated buildings. There is an outfitter camp in close proximity of the dam with some improvements (corrals, hitch rails, and tent platforms). Appropriate protection strategies apply.

**Camp Loll Boy Scout Camp**

Location: T 48N R 117W S23 located on the Ashton Ranger District. Camp Loll is operated under a special use permit by the Boy Scouts of America, Trapper Trails Council. The camp consists of 5 wood buildings (an additional building is proposed to be built in 1999), numerous improvements including two boat docks, benches and a number of campsites within the 20 acre permit area. The camp is most heavily used between July 1 and September 1. Approximately 2000 campers visit the camp within this time period. Evacuation of the camp presents many problems due to the number of visitors and the poor access to the camp.

**Idaho Youth Training Center**

Location: T 10N R 45 E S 26 located on the Ashton Ranger District. The camp is operated under a special use permit by the Juvenile Correction Center. The camp consists of a wood A frame cabin, 4 temporary plywood buildings, and 4 boat docks on horseshoe lake. There is a 1000-gallon propane tank on site. The camp is used year around but heaviest usage occurs between June 15 and October 15.

**Squirrel Meadows Guard Station**

Location: T 47N R 117W S 4 located on the Ashton Ranger District. The guard station consists of 1 Forest Service building, 1 Wyoming Game and Fish building, corrals, and a vault toilet. The site is nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

**Cave Falls Campground**

Location: T 48N R 118W S 16 located on the Ashton Ranger District. The campground lies adjacent to Fall River near the border of Yellowstone National Park. The campground has 22 campsites, three 2-unit vault toilets, one group picnic area and a log fee station structure. The campground is not a heavily used site with most use occurring June through October.

**Indian Lake and Bergman Reservoir Dams**

Location: T 47N R 118W S 5 located on the Ashton Ranger District. Both are operational earthen dams with metal head gates. There are no buildings associated with either site.

**Grassy Lake Dam**

Location: T48N R116W S18 located on the Ashton Ranger District. There are no buildings associated with this site.

*Private Lands***Squirrel Meadows Ranch**

T47N R 118W S 2,3 Private inholding within the MP FMA. This property is in the process of a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service. The exchange is not finalized and at this time the property remains in private ownership.

Specific protection considerations in the TR-FMA include the following:

**Coyote Meadows Trailhead**

Location T46N, R118W., Sec.34 located on the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District. The appropriate protection strategies should be used, keeping in mind its low resource value.

**Seismograph (NE) of Indian Meadows Trailhead**

Location: T46N, R117W., Sec.32 located on the Teton basin Ranger District. The seismograph is administered by Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho. This unit is located near the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Boundary and is surrounded by rock and scree. Appropriate protection strategies apply.

**Indian Meadows Trailhead**

Location: T45N., R118W., Sec.1 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. This trailhead is a parking facility surrounded by clearcuts to the east, west and north with light canopy cover to the south. The facility consists of a trailhead information board and hitching rails for horses. Appropriate protection strategies should be used in the protection of this trailhead facility; keeping in mind this is a low priority.

**North Leigh Creek Trailhead**

Location: T45N., R118W., Sec.23 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. This trailhead is a parking facility surrounded by medium to heavy canopy cover. The facility consists of a trailhead information board, hitching rails and adjacent outfitter camp. Appropriate protection strategies should be used in the protection of this trailhead facility.

**South Leigh Creek Trailhead**

Location: T45N, R118W, Sec.36 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. This trailhead is a parking facility surrounded by medium to heavy canopy cover to the east and south, with clearcuts and light fuels to the west and north. The facility consists of a trailhead information board, a parking facility and hitching rails for horses. Appropriate protection strategies should be used in the protection of this trailhead facility; keeping in mind this is a low priority.

**Grand Targhee Ski Area Facilities (Buildings)**

Location: T45N, R118W, Secs. 6,11 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. This facility consist in a central location with three hotels, day lodge, administrative building, commercial stores, ticket booths, ski school building, kids club building, maintenance building, tack shed, power sub-station with distribution transformers and a 20,000 gallon fuel storage facility. This facility is open year round (Summer/Winter). Currently there are three aerial lifts, one surface lift and one new lift being installed 2001 through 2002. Grand Targhee operates one lift during the summer months. Grand Targhee will respond to all fires with the help of Teton County, ID and Teton County, WY fire departments to all structure fires and wildland fires. Forest Service will assist in wildland fire protection on Forest service administrated lands. Fire hydrants are available at the resort. Appropriate protection strategies should be used in the protection of this area with special emphasis on the protection public life, evacuation would consist of 200 to 300 guests and employees. This is a high priority consideration.

**Treasure Mountain Boy Scout Camp**

Location: T 44N, R 118W, Sec.24-25 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. Treasure Mountain is operated under a special use permit by the Boy Scouts of America, Teton Peaks Council. The camp consists of 12 wood buildings, 28 shelters, 1 bridge, numerous improvements including boat docks, archery range, benches and a number of campsites within the 76-acre permit area. Treasure Mt. Boy Scout Camp has a well, water system, a small lake, underground power and a location for a helispot. The camp is most heavily used between July 1 and September 1. Approximately 2000 campers visit the camp within this time period. Evacuation of the camp presents many problems due to the number of visitors and the limited access to the camp.

**Darby Girls camp**

Location: T 43N, R 118W., Sec. 22 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The camp is operated under a special use permit by the LDS Church. The camp consists of 14 wooden structures within the 16-acre permit area. There is a 1000-gallon propane tank on site. There is well but water is limited. The camp is used during the summer months but heaviest usage occurs between June 15 and September 1. Approximately 2000 campers visit the camp within this time period. Evacuation of the camp presents many problems due to the number of visitors and the limited access to the camp.

**Teton Canyon Campground**

Location: T 44N, R 117W, Sec.4 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The campground has 22 campsites, three 2-unit vault toilets, with most use occurring June through October. This campground is adjacent to Teton Creek.

**Reunion Flat Campground**

Location: T 44N R 118W, Sec.25 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The campground lies adjacent to Teton Creek. The campground has 3 group area campsites, 5 individual campsites three 2-unit vault toilets, information board, pump house with underground electricity and water system, and a log fee station structure. The campground is a heavily used site with most use occurring June through September. There could be as many as 200 to 300 people occupying this site.

**Teton Canyon Trailhead**

Location: T 44N, R 117W. Sec.20 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead has 22 one 2 unit vault toilets, one parking area and an information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring year round.

**Teton Canyon Horse Transfer Station**

Location: T 44N, R 117W., Sec.24 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead/horse transfer station has 2 wooden corrals, 5 hitching rails, two water faucets, one parking area and a information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November.

**Rapid Creek Administrative Site**

Location: T 43N, R 118W, Sec.4 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead/horse transfer station has a wooden corral, hitching rails, one parking area and an information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November.

**Darby Canyon Trailhead**

Location: T 43N. R 118W. Sec.14 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead consists of one parking area and an information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November.

**Fox Creek Trailhead**

Location: T 42N, R 118W, Sec.5 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead consists of one parking area and a information board structure, and a wooden bridge. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November. This site is adjacent to private in holding (Rock Quarry) on Forest service administrated lands.

**Moose Creek Trailhead**

Location: T 42N, R 118W, Sec.32 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead consists of one parking area and an information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November. This site is located adjacent to an outfitter camp located in Moose Creek.

**Coal Creek Trailhead**

Location: T 41N, R 118W, Sec.15 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead consists of one parking area, a vault toilet unisex and a information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November.

**Mail Cabin Trailhead**

Location: T 42N, R 118W, Sec.22 located on the Teton Basin Ranger District. The trailhead consists of one parking area and a information board structure. The trailhead is a heavily used site with most use occurring May through November.

*Private Lands*

Private lands border the entire western edge of the Teton subsection Development of the WFIP shall consider the risks to proximate private holdings.

**Fox Creek Quarry**

Location: T43N R118 W S32. The quarry is located within the TR-FMA

**Outfitter Campsites**

The Island Park, Ashton and Teton Basin Districts will maintain close contact with special use permit outfitter camps located in the fire vicinity. Outfitters will be briefed on fire status, expected fire behavior, and any management actions taken on the fire.

The possibility exists that some temporary outfitter camp locations may be damaged by fire. If this occurs, the Forest Service will assist and give first consideration to affected permittees. The Forest Service will immediately investigate any known tangible damage to private property.

## Heritage Resources

These guidelines apply only to wildland fire use treatments. Prescribed fires and post-fire rehabilitation treatments involving ground disturbing activities will require separate consultation and may, depending on previous survey coverage, require archaeological inventory.

Heritage resources, like other resources, must be managed in such a way that the resource is not degraded. Where possible and considering firefighter safety, cultural resources should be avoided and/or protected from wildfire and tactical holding actions. If suppression efforts may create significant ground disturbance in the vicinity of known or suspected heritage resources, the Forest Archaeologist should be notified.

The review of the Forest Service records for the MP-FMA indicates there are 25 inventoried cultural resource sites that may be affected by wildland fire use. The majority of these sites have not been evaluated for significance. Two of these sites, the Johnny Sack cabin (TG-00058) and the Warm River fish hatchery (TG-00754), are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. One site, Squirrel Meadows Guard Station (TG-00533) is nominated for the National Register, and three additional sites are listed as National Register eligible. It should be stressed that these are known sites, and although this subsection has been extensively inventoried, additional sites and sensitive areas may be present. The TR-FMA has high frequencies of American Indian sites in the upper reaches of the drainages. Over 79 heritage resource sites have been identified. The vast majority are associated with high altitude adaptations by American Indians. This area may also contain spiritual sites important to local tribes. Historic Euro-American sites are generally related to early 1900s ranching.

### Guidelines

- Consult Fire Management Plan, archaeological database and Forest Archaeological Site Atlas located at the appropriate District Office. In the event of a Fire Use event, the FUMA will consult the Fire Use Guidebook, archaeological database, and Forest Archaeological Site Atlas for a listing of heritage resource sites that could occur within or adjacent to the allowable burn area. Site lists will be updated as necessary. Current efforts are underway to update site atlases located at each District office. Upon completion of this endeavor, the district atlases will be available for use in preparation of the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan.
- Contacting Archaeologist: If known heritage resource sites are located within or adjacent to the allowable burn area, contact the Forest Archaeologist to help determine protection strategy.
- Burn Plan: Wildland Fire Implementation Plans will identify heritage resource sites within and adjacent to the allowable burn areas. Potential tactics that could be used to protect sites include: burnout and backing fires to produce safe black line around a site, use of trails and natural features to herd or shift the fire away from sites, water and/or bucket drops, scratch lines, and possible wet line and foam applications.
- Wildland fire personnel: Assure that burn personnel are briefed on the strategy and specific techniques to be used to protect heritage resources.
- Escaped Fire: Should the fire leave prescription and warrant suppression, an appropriate management response will be initiated. Contact the Forest Archaeologist to help develop a response strategy when heritage resources are threatened.

- **Site Evaluation Forms:** It is recommended that the included evaluation forms be completed for historic structures and reviewed by the Forest Archaeologist with the intent that completed forms are readily available for inclusion in the WFIP.
- **Follow-up Studies:** The Targhee National Forest is currently lacking information regarding the effects of fire and firefighting procedures on heritage resources within its jurisdiction. The activities proposed in the guidebook offer an opportunity to study such effects for better management of the resource in the future. It is therefore recommended that follow up studies involving current archaeological survey and testing techniques, along with quantitative analysis of the results, be included in post-fire treatments.

## Site Evaluation Worksheet

Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Factors Influencing Rate of Spread;**

Slope \_\_\_\_\_ Position on slope \_\_\_\_\_ Aspect \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel  
 Model \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fuel Continuity \_\_\_\_\_ Ladder Fuel \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Resources**

Water supply (type and capacity) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equipment on site \_\_\_\_\_  
 Available Barriers \_\_\_\_\_

**Access/Egress:**

Road (width, grade, condition, bridges, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trails \_\_\_\_\_  
 Airstrip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Helispot \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boat \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupancy** (number, type, duration, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Identified Protection Level:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ No protection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Handline construction concurrent with threatening fire
- \_\_\_\_\_ Handline and burnout concurrent with threatening fire
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Shelter or water system protection concurrent with threatening fire
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use of heavy equipment for fireline construction concurrent with threatening fire
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pretreatment: fuels reduction of unnatural fuels prior to fire event
  - fuels reduction
  - flammable material movement (firewood, fuel etc.)
  - change in building materials

**Proposed Tactics:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Probability of success**

		Flame Length					
		0-2'	2-4'	4-6'	6-8'	8'	8+
Fair	40%+	___	___	___	___	___	___
Good	60%+	___	___	___	___	___	___
Excellent	80%=	___	___	___	___	___	___

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw Site Map on back: attach relevant notes and photographs**

**Structure Evaluation Worksheet**

Structure: \_\_\_\_\_ (1 of ) Site: \_\_\_\_\_

- Roof: Construction, type/conditon \_\_\_\_\_
- Siding: material/conditon \_\_\_\_\_
- Heat traps: gables/decks/porches/vents \_\_\_\_\_
- Windows: exposed/covered/type \_\_\_\_\_
- Overhead Lines: power/phone/shutoffs \_\_\_\_\_
- Underground Lines: power/phone/shutoffs \_\_\_\_\_
- Fuel Storage: type/quantity/lines/shutoffs \_\_\_\_\_
- Outside combustibles: wood piles/fences/yard accumulation \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Septic Tank/location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Position on slope: \_\_\_\_\_
- Working space – minimum clearance guide:

<b>Slope Percentage</b>	<b>Uphill</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Sides</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Downhill</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Level to 20%	100ft	_____	100ft	_____	100ft	_____
21% to 40%	150ft	_____	150ft	_____	150ft	_____
41% to 60%	200ft	_____	200ft	_____	200ft	_____

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach maps, drawings, notes, digital photographs, or other appropriate information)