

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
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Lightning Show Sparks More Fires on the Bridger-Teton National Forest

As an impressive lightning show pounded the Jackson Hole Area, fire managers with the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park began responding to fires the evening of July 13th. By noon on July 14th, several fires throughout the Jackson Hole Area had been reported by patrolling aircraft and concerned citizens. Responding to a total of seven new fires stretching from the Bridger Wilderness to Sheep Mountain near the Gros Ventre Wilderness. In an impressive display of the interagency fire management efforts between these two organizations, four of the eight fires were suppressed by 12:00 PM today. Details on the remaining three fires are listed below:

The Harmon Fire in Bridger-Wilderness (previously the Toboggan Lake Fire) is being managed by 15 crewmembers supported by one helicopter. The Sheep Mountain Fire at 0.2 acres burning in light fuel conditions burning approximately 0.2 acres has two Smoke Jumpers working to contain the fire. The Wolf Fire, also at approximately 0.2 acres in burning in light fuels and is being managed by six smoke jumpers and a helicopter.

Forest and Park officials are still patrolling the forest by aircraft, looking for additional fires from last night's lightning storm. Weather conditions will be a major factor in the behavior of these fires. At this time, forecasts call for scattered showers. With luck, these storms will bring more moisture than lightning.

As these fires are small and being quickly responded to, there are negligible impacts to recreation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem at this time. The Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park urges local residents to create defensible space around their homes. For information on specific actions you can take to protect your home from a wildland fire, contact the Bridger-Teton National Forest at (307) 739-5500 or check the Internet at www.tetonfires.com.

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