NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Bridger-Teton National Forest P.O. Box 1888 Jackson, WY 83001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Jay Anderson DATE: July 6, 2001 Phone: 739-5542

National Teams Called In to Manage Bridger-Teton Forest Fires

Thunderstorms brought a little rain and no relief to fire fighters battling flames on the Bridger-Teton National Forest last night. With at least fourteen fires now burning on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, a Type I National Team has been called in to manage the two largest fires, the Buck Creek and Fisherman Creek Fires, now jointly referred to as the Fisherman Complex. The team will assemble tonight at 6:00 PM, to be briefed by local fire officials on the present situation.

A new discovery yesterday in the Greys River area, between Deer Creek and Moose Flat, has spurred another call for a Type II Area Team to manage the newly named Greys River Complex, a series of small, but growing fires in that area. Several remaining fires on the Forest are still burning, but are small in nature and are being managed with existing resources.

Lightning from last nights thunderstorm touched down in many areas around Jackson and in great numbers around the Greys River area presently experiencing many fires. This has created the potential for new fires on the forest and fire officials are presently assessing the situation by flying the areas and looking for smoke.

With the increased suppression activity caused by numerous fires across the Forest, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming State and local County Fire Departments have rallied together in a powerful display of Interagency Cooperation to ensure public and firefighter safety while battling these fires. Crews consisting of personnel from each organization are presently involved in all areas of fire management, including suppression, communications, logistics and administrative support. Their help is invaluable to these efforts. On behalf of the entire Bridger-Teton National Forest, we extend heartfelt wishes for their safety and enormous gratitude for their dedication.

Further updates will follow.