

CLEAR CREEK COMPLEX NEWS - AUGUST 15, 2003

Bridger-Teton National Forest Pinedale Ranger District Bridger Wilderness	PO Box 220 29 Fremont Lake Rd. Pinedale, Wyoming 82941	Pinedale Ranger District (307) 367- 4326 or 367-5720 Open 7 days/week, 8:00-4:30
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Fires in the Complex: Clear Creek and Elbow

Date of Detection: Clear Creek, Aug. 4, 2003, Elbow, Aug. 14, 2003

Cause: Lightning

Command: Wayne Cook's Northern Rockies Interagency Fire Use Management Team

Fire Location: These fires are located inside the Bridger Wilderness, about 3 miles east of Green River Lakes Trailhead in the Clear Creek drainage, 20 miles northeast of Pinedale, WY.

Size of Fires: Clear Creek, **151 acres**, Elbow, ¼ acre.

Fuels : Engleman spruce, subalpine and douglas fir, with heavy large down fuels.

Fire Behavior: Creeping and smoldering in duff and large fuels with occasional torching. Primary activity on Clear Creek continues on the southwest and southeast sides of the fire. There is very little activity on the Elbow fire.

Threats: The Clear Creek, Green River, and Porcupine drainages are considered at risk for Forest visitors. The Green River Lakes Campground and Trailhead are **NOT** considered at risk and remain open. Boating use on the Lower Green River Lake also remains open.

Fire Management Objective: These fires are being managed under a wildland fire use strategy to accomplish objectives outlined in the Bridger Wilderness Fire Management Plan, which allows some naturally ignited fires to burn within the wilderness under specific management guidelines. One of the benefits of allowing fire to play its natural role in the wilderness is to help remove the buildup of fuels created by years of suppression activity in this area, which leads to higher fire risk if allowed to continue to accumulate. The fires are also improving wildlife habitat, particularly for the bighorn sheep and elk that occur in this area.

Fire Weather: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Maximum temperature 80 degrees, 10 mile per hour south winds on the ridge tops, relative humidity 17%.

Camping Closures: The attached map identifies areas closed to travel and camping for public safety. Lakes closed to camping within this area include the following: Upper and Lower Green River Lakes, Slide Lake, Clear Lake, Faler Lake, Beaver Park, Three Forks Park, Trail Creek Park, Twin Lakes, Shirley Lake, and Lake Gadsby.

Trail Closures: All trails located within the attached closure map **are closed**, including the following:

- The **Highline Trail #094** is closed from the Green River Lakes Trailhead south to Trail Creek Park (junction with Clark Creek Trail #185).
- The **entire Clear Creek Trail # 184** is closed.
- The **entire Slide Lake Trail #147** is closed.
- The **entire Lakeside Trail #144** is open to day-use travel to the north end of the Lower Green River Lake only.
- The **Porcupine Pass Trail #137** is closed from Green River Lakes south to the junction of the Clarks Fork Trail #185.

Emergency Travel Arrangements: For Bridger Wilderness visitors who may have vehicles at the Green River Lakes Trailhead but are unable to return to their vehicles due to the closure of the Green River/Highline Trail and Porcupine Trail, the Forest Service will assist these visitors in making arrangements for pickup and shuttle service from the New Fork Trailhead to the Green River Lakes Trailhead.

Sheep Hunting Information: For information regarding Bighorn Sheep hunting in this area please contact Gary Hayward at the Pinedale Ranger District Office, 367-4326. He is available to assist with concerns and questions about the hunt area. **If you plan to travel near this area and would like additional information, please contact the Pinedale Ranger District Office.**