

## GREATER YELLOWSTONE FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAM

### **Introduction**

Events of the 1988 fire season illuminated the need for improved coordination on fire management issues and consistency in operational procedures between the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

### **Greater Yellowstone Fire Management Team**

The Greater Yellowstone Fire Management Team (GYFMT) was formed after the 1988 fire season to increase coordination between the fire managers in the Greater Yellowstone (GY).

One of the first tasks assigned to the newly formed GYFMT by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) was the development of an interagency fire management planning and coordination guide. The guide formalized a coordination process, and identified nine guiding principles that are considered fundamental to the success of a Federal wildland fire management program.

This document is **not** a “master” fire management plan for the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). The responsibility to conduct professional level fire management planning resides with the individual units, as it needs to be commensurate with departmental and agency policies and guidelines.

The GY Fire Management Team meets annually in the spring and fall to:

- Coordinate fire management planning within the GYA.
- Provide specific operating principles and procedures to ensure effective interagency coordination and management of wildland fires and prescribed fires occurring in the GYA.
- Define the role of the GYCC in fire management within the Greater Yellowstone Area.

### **Committee Representation**

- Yellowstone National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- National Elk Refuge
- Red Rock Lakes NWR
- Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
- Bridger-Teton NF
- Caribou-Targhee NF
- Custer NF
- Gallatin NF
- Shoshone NF
- 1 GYCC Manager representative as liaison

In addition to the GYFMT, a GYA Fire Management Advisory Group was established to enhance coordinated management of large, potentially large and/or complex fire incidents in the GYA. The advisory team consists of a minimum of three (3) GYA Fire Management Officers from two (2) agencies.

## **Past Accomplishments**

1. Development of the Greater Yellowstone Area Interagency Fire Management Planning and Coordination Guide in 1990.
2. Revision of the Greater Yellowstone Area Interagency Fire Management Planning and Coordination Guide in 1995, 2000 and 2006. Updates occur on a 5-6 year cycle.
3. Coordination of NPS and FS fire management plans.
4. Creation of a Fire Behavior Fuel Model (FBFM) utilizing existing GYA data such as vegetation, timber stand information and imagery.
5. Creation of FARSITE Fuel Model GIS layers for the GY.
6. GYA wide FARSITE Training.

## **2007 Accomplishments**

- Fire Use Brochure printed.

## **Current Committee Focus**

- Coordination of FS annual fire management plan with NPS plans.
- Evaluation and coordination of the Fire Program Analysis

program, addressing how the analysis should be performed in the GYA.

- Fire atlas development for the GYA, including information on fire dates, fire severity and perimeter. When integrated with current vegetation data this product will be useful in landscape restoration projects, wildlife habitat assessments, and the general understanding of vegetation succession.

## **Challenge:**

Consistently maintaining and updating a fire fuels layer.

## **For additional information contact**

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GYCC Manager representative as  
liaison: vacant