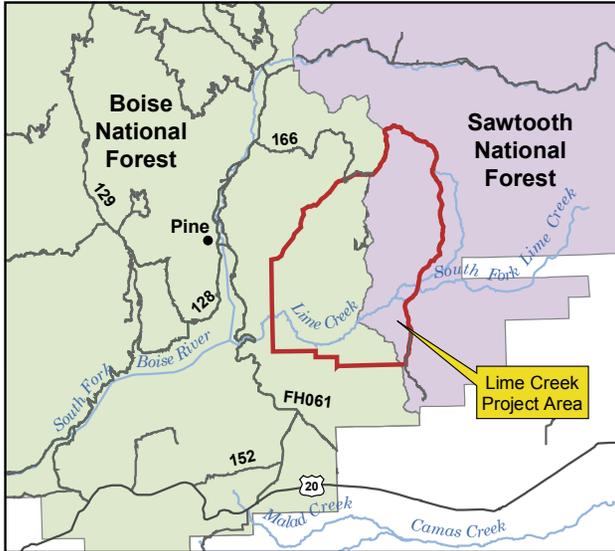


## The Location

This project is a joint effort between the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests. The area involved is located approximately 6 miles east of Pine in North Fork Lime Creek and a portion of the Deer Creek drainages, on both the Mountain Home (Boise NF) and Fairfield (Sawtooth NF) Ranger Districts.



## Smoke and Safety

Before camping, hunting, or visiting in this area, contact the prescribed fire hotline or the nearest ranger district for prescribed fire updates and locations.

Today, we know that fire is essential to the health of our forests and rangelands. While prescribed fires have proven to be very successful in creating the conditions necessary for healthy forests, the smoke can often be a troublesome side effect.

Public land managers work closely with the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality to ensure that air quality remains healthful. If the air quality begins to approach unhealthy levels, the ignition will be delayed.

For further information, contact:

Boise National Forest.....	208-373-4100
Mountain Home Ranger District .....	208-587-7961
Sawtooth National Forest .....	208-737-3200
Fairfield Ranger District .....	208-764-3202
Boise National Forest RX Fire Hotline .....	208-373-4208

Visit our Web sites:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r4.boise](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4.boise)  
[www.rxfire.com](http://www.rxfire.com)

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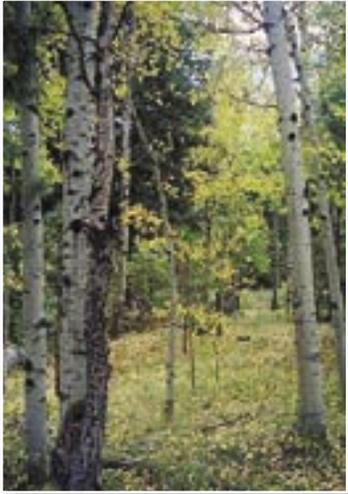
# Lime Creek

## ASPEN AND WILDLIFE PRESCRIBED FIRE RESTORATION PROJECT



United States Department of Agriculture  
 Forest Service – Intermountain Region  
 Boise and Sawtooth National Forests  
 2004

## The Project



Healthy aspen stand

The Lime Creek Project objective is to use a series of fires, under carefully planned conditions over a period of 4 to 6 years, to restore an estimated 9,000 acres of quaking aspen stands, along with 9,000 acres of non-aspen vegetation. The goal is to improve the health, vigor, and sustainability of existing aspen stands.

## Use of Fire

Using a helitorch for ignition, moderate and high intensity fire will be used to kill encroaching conifers and shrubs, thus rejuvenating stands of aspen. Burning during the fall is expected to produce a fire hot enough to kill conifer trees encroaching within the aspen stands. This type of fire is expected to kill the aspens as well and stimulate aspen regeneration through root suckering. Killing the aspen will eliminate or greatly reduce the incidence of disease, such as the false tinder fungus, resulting in improved aspen vigor.



Prescribed burning



Prior to restoration

It is estimated that aspen has declined by 60 percent in this area. Many of the aspen stands are not regenerating. Without regeneration, the species can disappear from the site as large trees die.

## The Need for Restoration

Once aspen disappear, it can take centuries to be restored and, in some cases, can never be restored. Douglas-fir trees and sagebrush are the primary encroaching species affecting the survival of aspen. The total project area is approximately 40,000 acres.

## Value of Aspen

Aspen provides the following unique values in the forest:

- Nesting by cavity-nesting birds; 13 species of these types of birds are located on the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests.
- Used for foraging by deer and elk.
- Grouse feed on the aspen buds.
- Biodiversity – another species of trees in the forest.
- Magnificent displays of autumn colors.
- Groves of aspen are fairly fire resistant during part of their life cycle.

## The Results



Healthy aspen stand

In October 2002, 1,750 acres were treated with fire during the first phase of the project. This work concentrated on the northeast portion of the area to minimize the risk of spread. A number of aspen stands were mapped and targeted for the initial phase.

The Sawtooth Hotshot Crew and Boise National Forest fire personnel burned approximately 4 miles of ridgelines that served as fuel breaks and prevented the fire from uncontrolled spread.

In 2003, nearly 45 personnel burned approximately 3,500 acres.

Over 1,700 of the targeted aspen stands were successfully treated.

In the fall of 2004, approximately 4,500 acres are planned for burning.

## Meeting the Objectives

This project supports the primary goals of the Healthy Forest Initiative and the National Fire Plan. Actively managing these natural resources, through the use of prescribed fire, reduces the fire danger and returns these forest and rangeland areas to a much healthier state. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a funding partner for the project.