

Greg Burch
Zone Fire Management Officer
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Westside Ranger District
Pocatello, ID

During my experience in fire management I have had the opportunity to visit several of the proposed treatment units identified in the Portneuf Westbench Fuels Management Project. I have identified many of these units as Condition Class III as defined in Schmidt et al. 2002 as fire regimes that have been significantly altered from their historic range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. Vegetation attributes (species composition and structure) have been significantly altered from their historic range. Fire frequencies have departed (either increased or decreased) from historic frequencies by multiple fire return intervals. This results in dramatic changes to one or more of the following: fire size, frequency, intensity, severity, or landscape patterns. Specifically these units are 7, 8, 22, 9, 23, 24, 25, 26, 20, 30, 10, 4, 19, 5, 14, 15, 17, 18, 42, 6, 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 16.

Greg Burch ZFMO

Date