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(Wyo.)-Cause Of Casper Mountain Fire Still Not Known



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/28/2012 08:18 AM

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) - Authorities still haven't determined what started the wildfire that burned more than 15,000 acres on Casper Mountain this summer.

Natrona County Fire Inspector Dave Baker says investigators believe it was human-caused. The leading theories are that the fire was accidentally started by ATV use or discarded smoking material or that it was intentionally set.

The fire destroyed 37 homes and cabins. Authorities know of only one person who has rebuilt so far.

Owen Jones, a retired elementary school principal, said he wanted a new cabin in time for the winter, his favorite time on the mountain. Like his old cabin, the new one serves as meeting place for the Dead Poet's Society - a group of retirees who meet to read poetry and play darts.