National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

Fire Information
928 638-7819 Recorded Message
928-638-7821 Information Officer
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www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon National Park
Prescribed Fire Update Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Overview: Firefighters are planning on conducting three prescribed burns at Grand Canyon National Park this spring. The *Picnic Prescribed Burn* (approximately 220 acres) was last burned in 2000. The *Quarry Prescribed Burn* (approximately 320 acres) was last burned in 2000. The *Moqui Prescribed Burn* (approximately 240 acres) was last burned in 1996.

Location: Near Highway 64 between the South Rim Entrance Station and Grand Canyon Village

Vegetation: Ponderosa pine, pinyon/juniper, grass and brush

Objectives: These prescribed burns are being conducted to decrease risks to life, property, and park resources by reducing hazardous fuels accumulations and to maintain the natural role of fire in a fire-dependent ecosystem.

Strategy: Firefighters may begin ignition as soon as Wednesday, May 13 and will continue through Saturday, May 16 if conditions are favorable. Fire managers plan to burn these units one at a time, starting with the Picnic prescribed burn, the farthest unit from the South Entrance Station and the town of Tusayan. After the Picnic burn is completed, fire managers will move on to the Quarry Prescribed Fire. The smoke impacts from both of these fires will be assessed before a final decision is made to initiate the Moqui Prescribed Fire. If the smoke impacts exceed fire managers' expectations, the Moqui Prescribed Fire will not be initiated. Additionally, if the Moqui burn is initiated, fire managers plan to burn only the northern half of the unit. This would keep fire activity at least one half mile north of the South Entrance Station. All ignition will be conducted by hand using driptorches. Fire behavior, weather, and smoke will be monitored throughout the prescribed burns. Burning will only be conducted if appropriate weather and wind conditions exist.

Weather: The current forecast predicts favorable light West-Southwest winds on Wednesday. Temperatures in the mid to upper 70s and lower 80s are expected.

Smoke: During these prescribed fires, temporary smoke impacts may occur on Highway 64 between the South Rim Entrance Station and Grand Canyon Village. If smoke drifts across the road temporary, intermittent delays along Highway 64 are possible. Please slow down, turn your headlights on, and watch out for fire personnel working along the road. Weather conditions should result in favorable smoke dispersal, however some residual smoke may be present for several days following the completion of these projects. Throughout the project, fire managers will work closely with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to manage smoke and reduce local impacts.

Park Status: Grand Canyon National Park remains open during the project. For your safety, please do not stop along the road in the vicinity of the burn.

The Arizona Trail runs through portions of these burn units. During the prescribed fires, these portions of the trail will be closed. Signs will be posted on the trail where it enters the burn units advising trail users of the fire activity and providing alternate routes.

Resources Assigned: Approximately 35 peronnel including 2 fire module crews, 4 engines, and various support staff. Additional contingency resources are available locally if needed.

Cooperators: Kaibab National Forest, Saguaro National Park, Flagstaff Fire Department, Highlands Fire Department

Information: For more on these fires, please, contact Fire Information Officer Michelle Fidler at 928-638-7821.