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Grand Canyon National Park

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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

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Update: Lower Fire, September 4, 2011

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – The Lower Fire is approximately 100 acres. Fire behavior includes low intensity surface fire with occasional individual and group tree torching. Firefighters are monitoring the fire's growth. They are also preparing cultural, historical, and heritage resources like the Hull Cabin near the current fire perimeter by creating defensible space around them or wrapping them with a fire-resistant aluminum material that reflects heat to help protect them in the event the fire burns around them. If conditions are favorable, firefighters will be implementing management ignitions north of Forest Road 307 to meet resource and protection objectives to keep fire in the designated management area. Increased smoke is likely. Smoke may settle in the evening but usually lifts during the day as temperatures increase.

Lower Fire Facts:

Start Date: The lightning-caused Lower Fire was discovered on August 19, 2011.

Acreage: Approximately 100 acres

Location: The fire is located about 12 miles southeast of Grand Canyon Village. It is 1½ miles south of Moran Point and ¾ mile southeast of Desert View Drive (also known as Highway 64), burning within Grand Canyon National Park and the Tusayan District of the Kaibab National Forest.

Arizona Trail: Trail users need to be prepared to detour from the trail near Grandview Lookout due to fire activity. The detour will be at the junction of Forest Road 310 and Forest Road 307. Take Forest Road 307 east for about ½ mile until it reconnects with the trail.

Fuels: Ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper

Management Objectives: The Lower Fire is being managed for resource and protection objectives, including returning fire to a fire-adapted ecosystem, improving wildlife habitat, recycling forest nutrients in order to maintain forest health, and protecting sensitive cultural resources, Hull Cabin, and the Arizona Public Service power line corridor.

Resources: There are approximately 90 resources currently assigned to the fire, including five engines, one water tender, two fire modules, and two fire crews.

Smoke Impacts: Smoke from the fire may be visible from Desert View Drive near Moran Point. Coordination with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is ongoing.

Additional Fire Information: http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2528/

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