

NEWS RELEASE

Kaibab National Forest

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Cross Fire Receives Rain, Activity Slows

WILLIAMS, Ariz. –The Cross Fire, 18 miles southeast of Williams, received measurable rain Monday afternoon, slowing fire activity considerably. It is now approximately 7,718 acres and 25 percent contained. If rain continues, managers expect minimal activity and limited growth. The percent contained reflects those areas on the east and north sides where actions were taken to prevent fire progression outside the planned management area.

Prior to the rain, crews were able to complete the planned aerial ignitions on both sides of Tule Canyon. These actions prevented the fire from becoming established in the drainage and rapidly spreading upslope. Tuesday, personnel plan to patrol and monitor containment lines.

Approximately 83 resources are assigned to the incident including the Grass Lake Wildland Fire Module, engines from the Coconino and the Kaibab National Forests as well as the Kaibab helitack crew, fuels crew, dozer and helicopter.

The lightning-caused fire is being managed to achieve several objectives including providing for firefighter and public safety, reducing hazardous fuel accumulation, managing smoke production and returning fire to a fire-dependent ecosystem. To meet these objectives, actions have been taken to prevent rapid fire spread toward the north and east, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce the management area size and protect cultural resources.

The forecast calls for similar weather patterns over Northern Arizona for the remainder of the week, with a chance of thunderstorm activity each day. Smoke production should be minimal.

There are no closures associated with the Cross Fire; however, forest visitors should use caution when traveling in the area and should watch for equipment and personnel.

Further updates on the Cross Fire will be provided if activity increases. For additional information, please visit www.inciweb.org/incident/1717/ or contact Punky Moore, Fire Information Officer, (928-635-5653).

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