



# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service

**Kaibab National Forest**

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**For Immediate Release – July 23, 2007**

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### **Kaibab National Forest Managing Two Wildland Fire Use Fires and Planning To Begin Prescribed Burn**

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – The Kaibab National Forest is managing two wildland fire use fires. One wildland fire use fire is located on the Williams Ranger District, the other is on the Tusayan Ranger District. Forest fire managers are also planning to begin work on the Tusayan East prescribed burn project as soon as tomorrow.

#### **Wildland Fire Use Fires**

A wildland fire use fire is a fire that is managed for resource benefits. Before a fire is put into wildland fire use status, land managers evaluate several criteria. For example, if a fire threatens life, property or resources, it is not considered appropriate for wildland fire use and is immediately suppressed. Once a fire is put into wildland fire use status, it is actively managed, meaning that fire managers establish boundaries and define weather and fuels conditions under which the fire will be allowed to burn. All wildland fire use fires must be naturally-ignited (lightning).

**WFU Name:** Radio Wildland Fire Use Fire

**Time/Date Started:** Started July 16 at about 4 p.m.; Reported July 16 at 4:37 p.m. by the Bill Williams Mountain lookout tower

**Location:** Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest; The Radio Wildland Fire Use Fire is located just west of Forest Road 74 on the northeast side of Frenchy Hill. It is about 3 miles north of Interstate 40 in Pittman Valley.

**Cause:** Lightning (All WFUs must be naturally-ignited.)

**Fuels:** Ponderosa pine forest

**Acreage Treated:** 175 acres

**Resource Benefits:** Reduction of heavy accumulations of fuel on the forest floor; restoration of fire to the ecosystem; recycling of nutrients into the soil

**Closures:** No road/trail closures are in effect.

**Summary:** The Radio Wildland Fire Use Fire has been burning with very moderate fire behavior. Flame lengths over the last two days have been less than 6 inches in height. Smoke is visible from state Highway 64 and Interstate 40, but no significant impacts are anticipated. The fire use fire is being held within the established boundaries of forest roads 74, 65, 528 and 75. Future fire behavior is extremely dependent on weather conditions. Rain may retard the fire use fire's growth or extinguish it completely. However, a drying trend could lead to continued spread. Fire managers plan to keep the fire confined within the established boundary roads.

**WFU Name:** Watson Wildland Fire Use Fire

**Time/Date Started:** Reported July 19 at 10:21 a.m. by the Red Butte lookout tower

**Location:** Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest; The Watson Wildland Fire Use Fire is located west of Hull Cabin and is bordered by Forest Road 303 to the east and roads 302 and 2719 to the south.

**Cause:** Lightning (All WFUs must be naturally-ignited.)

**Fuels:** Ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper forest

**Acreage Treated:** 57 acres

**Resource Benefits:** Reduction of heavy accumulations of fuel on the forest floor; restoration of fire to the ecosystem; recycling of nutrients into the soil

**Closures:** No road/trail closures are in effect.

**Summary:** The Watson Wildland Fire Use Fire received significant rain Sunday morning. It is not growing. Smoke and some small flames are visible within the fire use fire's interior. Fire managers are monitoring the Watson Wildland Fire Use Fire, but no growth is anticipated unless conditions dry out significantly.

### **Prescribed Burning**

A prescribed burn is any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

If conditions aren't too wet, fire managers plan to begin prescribed fire treatments tomorrow in the Tusayan East project area on the Tusayan Ranger District. About 450 acres are available for burning in the area, which is located just east of the community of Tusayan. Fire managers plan to burn in small blocks of 100 acres or less. They will begin burning near the Tusayan Ranger Station and slowly work south toward Tusayan. Objectives of the Tusayan East burn are to increase protection to the Tusayan community, reduce hazardous fuels and the potential for undesirable fire behavior, stimulate the growth of native grasses and forbs, protect older trees and enhance wildlife habitat. If more rain is received in the area, the prescribed burn will likely be delayed.

**For more information, please call Nathan Sermonis at 928-635-8282 or visit [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) and select incident "Radio WFU" or "Watson WFU."**