



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon News Release

**Release date: Immediate**

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### **Cape Royal Road on the North Rim closes to allow Roosevelt Fire to burn**

**Grand Canyon, Ariz.** – The Cape Royal Road on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon has closed to allow the Roosevelt Fire to burn for resource benefit. The Roosevelt Fire, a Wildland Fire Use fire, is located seven miles east of the North Rim developed area on the Walhalla Plateau.

The Cape Royal Road is closed starting at its junction with the Point Imperial Road. National Park Service employees are asking people to leave areas of the Walhalla Plateau that are affected by the closure, which will remain in effect until further notice.

The Roosevelt Fire, a lightning-caused fire discovered July 19, is expected to grow from 80 acres to approximately 250-300 acres by the end of today. It is actively burning in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer. The fire is one-half to three-quarters of a mile west of the Cape Royal Road and is expected to reach the road this evening.

Moderate smoke impacts could occur in Page, Arizona this afternoon, and heavy smoke impacts could occur in some parts of the Grand Canyon overnight. Smoke should start to lift out of the canyon by mid-morning. These smoke trends could remain in effect over the next few days as warm, dry conditions return to northern Arizona.

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A Type II Fire Use Manager from Big Bend National Park will be taking over management of the Roosevelt Fire. Grand Canyon National Park fire personnel and the nine-person Groveland Fire Use Module from the Stanislaus National Forest are monitoring fire behavior, weather and smoke impacts to surrounding areas.

Wildland Fire Use is a strategy that allows some lightning-caused fires to burn within a defined area, when weather and wind conditions are favorable, to benefit the park's natural resources. Wildland Fire Use is designed to mimic the lightning-caused fires that once occurred at Grand Canyon National Park by reducing dead forest fuel accumulations to ash, releasing soil nutrients, increasing habitat diversity, and creating a more sustainable ecosystem.

Although the Cape Royal Road is closed from its junction with the Point Imperial Road, **all other North Rim roads and facilities are open. All South Rim roads and facilities also remain open.**

For more information about the Roosevelt Fire, please contact Pamela Walls, public affairs specialist at Grand Canyon National Park, at (928) 638-7958; call the park's recorded fire information message at (928) 638-7819; or go to the park's Web site at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

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