



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7779 phone
928 638-7609 fax
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Shannan Marcak
Phone number: 928-638-7958
Date: June 24, 2008

Holding Operations Continue on Walla Valley Prescribed Fire

Grand Canyon, AZ. – Holding operations on the Walla Valley Prescribed Burn located on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park continue to be effective. Initial blacklining to secure the perimeter of the fire began on Saturday, June 21, after predictive models and the behavior of a small test fire indicated that conditions were appropriate to burn. These ignition operations were suspended on Sunday, June 22, after several spot fires occurred at distances further than anticipated from the blackline, and after fire management officials determined that fire behavior was not within acceptable parameters to continue.

All spot fires have been controlled, and firefighters continue to be successful at holding the fire within the burn unit. Approximately 85 acres of the 6,000 acre Walla Valley Prescribed Burn Unit have burned, including approximately 35 acres below the canyon rim which is considered to be within the burn unit. Firefighters are now focusing on checking the fire's spread below the rim.

More than 75 personnel from Grand Canyon National Park, Kaibab National Forest, Summit Fire Department, Highlands Fire Department, Pinewood Fire Department, Flagstaff Fire Department, Zion National Park, Carson National Forest, Saguaro National Park, and the Blackfoot Nation continue to provide support in the holding operations.

Visitors may continue to see smoke in the vicinity of the fire and helicopters working in the area. In order to assure visitor and fire fighter safety, sections of the W4 and W1 roads remain closed at this time.

Fire management officials will re-evaluate weather and fuel conditions later in the season and may continue with the prescribed burn when conditions that effect fire behavior are more favorable.

For the latest information on the Walla Valley Prescribed Burn, visit the park's fire web site at http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/fire_info.htm or call the Grand Canyon Public Affairs Office at (928)638-7958. For recorded information on the fire, you may call (928)638-7688.

-NPS-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.