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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Walla Valley Fire Declared Out

Grand Canyon, AZ. – The Walla Valley Fire, located approximately nine miles west of the developed area on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, has been officially declared “out” by fire managers.

The Walla Valley fire began on June 21, 2008 as a prescribed fire with the stated resource objectives of mimicking a natural fire scenario within the project area (by using a unique ignition technique and allowing the fire to progress over a period of weeks), managing fuels within the project area and maintaining fire disturbance in a fire dependant ecosystem. Shortly after operations to secure the perimeter of the project area were initiated, managers began observing fire behavior that was not within acceptable parameters and ignition operations were halted. Efforts to hold the existing fire then began.

On June 25, fire managers determined that the fire was not burning within acceptable parameters and was unlikely to meet resource objectives if it continued burning, and declared it a wildfire. At the peak of suppression efforts, there were 8 engines, 2 crews, 3 fire use modules, 4 helicopters, 5 water tenders and 3 single engine airtankers assigned to the fire for a total of 136 personnel.

As the Walla Valley Fire burned out the fuels within the containment zone created by firefighters, its activity gradually decreased, until last week, it was declared out by fire managers. The fire burned about 450 acres within the 6000 acre project area.

For more information on the Walla Valley Fire, please contact the Grand Canyon Public Affairs Office at 928-638-7958 or 928-638-7779. If you would like to learn more about visiting the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, please see our web site at www.nps.gov/grca or call 928-638-7888.

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