



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Canyon National Park

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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

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Fawn Fire Discovered on North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park

On Saturday, August 23, fire personnel received a report of a lightning-started fire burning on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park near the Kaibab National Forest boundary. U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS) fire managers, working together as the North Zone Fire Management Unit (North Zone), are managing the fire jointly.

The Fawn Fire is burning approximately one mile south and west of the Kaibab National Forest boundary and one and one-half miles west of Grand Canyon National Park's North Entrance Station. The fire is about five acres in size and is currently smoldering in spruce and mixed conifer. Thus far, the fire has exhibited limited growth due to cool temperatures and rain.

In 2003, the Poplar Fire burned the area immediately south and west of the Fawn Fire. As weather conditions dry, fire activity on the Fawn Fire may increase, and this previously burned area is expected to significantly slow the fire's growth to the south and west. This means the Fawn Fire's greatest potential for growth is to the north and east—towards the forest boundary.

North Zone fire managers have made the decision to manage the Fawn Fire for resource benefits within Grand Canyon National Park. The Kaibab National Forest Fire Management Plan does not allow for the management of fires for resource benefits within this forest type. As a result, if the fire crosses the park/forest boundary, it will be under a suppression strategy on the National Forest side.

The Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park fire management programs are participating in a pilot program this season that allows fire managers a full range of management options on naturally ignited fires, including managing one fire for multiple objectives. With this full range of options available to them, North Zone fire managers will manage the Fawn Fire for resource benefits on Grand Canyon National Park and will actively suppress it on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

Although no roads or trails are closed at this time, visitors are advised to use caution when recreating in the area. Smoke impacts may be possible along Hwy 67.

For additional information, please contact the Grand Canyon Public Affairs Office at 928-638-7958, or the North Kaibab Public Affairs Office at 928-643-8172.

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