



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

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Interagency News Release

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Prescribed Fires Planned for North Rim and North Kaibab.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS) fire managers, working together as the North Zone Fire Management Unit (North Zone), are making preparations for their fall prescribed fire season. Working together as the North Zone, these agencies are able to share resources and to coordinate fire management activities across the landscape.

The North Zone consists of the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park and the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest. Plans call for up to eight prescribed fires this fall, ranging in size from 200 to 2200 acres. This year's North Zone prescribed fires will be focused on areas south and west of Big Springs within the forest and in the vicinity of Hwy 67 within the park.

Prescribed fires are used by fire managers as a tool to achieve defined resource objectives and to reduce dangerous accumulations of fuels, which increase the potential for wildland fire hazards to visitors and adjoining private and public lands. Some of the resource objectives to be achieved with these fires are to reduce the buildup of hazardous vegetation and to maintain natural processes in this fire-dependent ecosystem.

Based on the objectives they wish to achieve, fire managers develop a plan for each prescribed fire. Each fire's plan contains a prescription—a set of parameters that define when fire managers can initiate burning based on environmental factors such as wind, relative humidity, temperature and expected weather patterns, and on fuel conditions. If all prescriptive parameters within a fire's plan are not met, the fire will not be started. Extensive coordination with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality occurs before and during any prescribed fire.

Information about specific fires within the North Zone will be made available by the NPS and the USFS as plans for these fires progress and as conditions allow for the burns to be initiated.

For more 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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