



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Grand Canyon Fire Managers Prepare to Implement Several Prescribed Fires

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – With warming temperatures and shrinking snow patches, fire managers at Grand Canyon National Park are preparing for a busy prescribed fire season. Spring and fall weather conditions along the rims of the Grand Canyon are typically favorable for treating vegetation and fuels with prescribed fire. These are the times of the year when surface vegetation and fuels are dry enough to burn at low intensities, but the underlying soils remain moist from seasonal snow and rainfall.

Fire managers use prescribed fire to achieve ecosystem stewardship goals that include: reducing the amount of wildland fuels available in the path of wildfires; sustaining ecological processes like nutrient and biomass recycling; balancing plant regeneration and mortality; and providing a diversity of habitats for native plants and animals.

Several prescribed fires are planned for both rims of Grand Canyon National Park this year. At the South Rim, approximately 3,400 acres are expected to be treated during the spring months of March, April, and May. At the North Rim, as many as 13,000 acres may be treated during the fall months of September, October, and November as weather and fuel conditions allow. Each of the planned fire treatment areas are described below.

South Rim Prescribed Fires - Spring 2007 (March – May)

The **Grandview** unit consists of 1,870 acres of ponderosa pine forest with scattered patches of pinyon and juniper trees along the north side of East Rim Drive between the Duck-on-a-rock Overlook and the New Hance Trail. The fire will occur on both sides of the Grandview Point access road and parking lot.

The **Tusayan/Lonetree** units include 1,500 acres of ponderosa pine forest with scattered patches of pinyon and juniper trees located east of the South Rim Entrance Station near the park's south boundary with the Kaibab National Forest. These units are approximately two air miles north of the community of Tusayan and three air miles south of the Grand Canyon Village.

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North Rim Prescribed Fires - Fall 2007 (September – November)

The **Northwest 1, 3, and 5** units include about 4,340 acres of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest. They are located approximately 15 air miles northwest of the North Rim Developed area along the Swamp Ridge road.

The **Range** unit includes 2,340 acres of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest located along Highway 67, approximately four air miles north of the North Rim Developed Area. The Arizona Trail traverses through this unit from north to south.

The **Southwest Roost** unit consists of 2,130 acres of ponderosa pine with white fir located at the junction of the W-1 and W-4 roads approximately 9 air miles northwest of the North Rim Developed area and 5 air miles north of Point Sublime.

The **Uncle Jim** unit consists of 3,350 acres of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest along Fuller Canyon road located approximately 2 air miles northeast of the North Rim Developed area. A portion of the North Kaibab Trail forms the west boundary for this unit.

The **Walhalla Neck** unit is found at the northern end of the Walhalla Plateau, located about 3 air miles northeast of the North Rim Developed area. This prescribed fire will treat approximately 1,030 acres of ponderosa pine with scattered white fir. This unit is adjacent to the Cape Royal Road.

General Prescribed Fire Information

Minor traffic delays are possible in the vicinity of the fires. Public safety personnel will direct traffic in these areas. Fire information staff will be available to provide additional information about the prescribed fires.

Smoke columns will be visible on days when the prescribed fires are ignited. Residual smoke impacts may occur in the Park's South Rim and North Rim developed areas, the Inner Canyon area, Jacob Lake and surrounding communities, Page and Tusayan for 2-4 days following the fires.

Prior to prescribed burning, fire managers will evaluate weather conditions and coordinate with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. If conditions do not meet predetermined standards for air quality, burns will be postponed until conditions are appropriate.

Additional specific information for each prescribed fire will be provided to community residents and park visitors prior to and during prescribed fire implementation.

For further information, please call Mary Rasmussen at (928) 638-7947, or Maureen Oltrogge at (928) 638-7779. For a recorded message on current fire conditions call (928) 638-7918.

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