



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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Prescribed fire scheduled to occur on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park Friday and Saturday

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – A prescribed fire is scheduled to take place in the Grandview burn unit on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park Friday and Saturday August 24 and 25, 2007. The 1,800-acre Grandview burn unit is located 10 miles east of Grand Canyon Village on the north side of Highway 64 near Grandview Point. Fire managers plan on burning the first half of the Grandview unit from Grandview Point east to Bugglin Hill today, and complete the burn tomorrow, if conditions permit. The second half of the burn would consist of an area from Grandview Point west to an area approximately four miles east of the South Entrance Road and Highway 64 (Desert View Drive) junction.

Motorists on Highway 64 are asked to drive with caution through the area adjacent to the burn unit, as fire fighters will be working in close proximity to the roadway.

Thorough planning is used to minimize smoke impacts; however, it is impossible to predict weather patterns and smoke behavior with complete accuracy. Smoke impacts are expected to occur along the highway during the burn. When this occurs short delays can be expected. Fire personnel will also be on hand to escort motorists through the area, when conditions warrant.

Smoke impacts are possible over the next few days in the adjacent community of Tusayan. Smoke impacts may also occur along the Colorado River and in the inner canyon at night and during the early morning hours, since smoke settles when the air temperature cools and lifts during daylight hours when the air temperature warms. No park closures are anticipated at this time, but Grandview Point will have limited access for backcountry permit holders.

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Prescribed fires are ignited when environmental factors such as wind, temperature, and relative humidity are favorable, in order to meet specific resource objectives. They are one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for restoring fire-dependant ecosystems. The purpose of these fires is to achieve ecosystem stewardship goals that include reducing hazardous fuels that can lead to destructive 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.

For additional fire information, please call 928-638-7819. You may also visit Grand Canyon's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/>

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