



U.S. Forest Service
Kaibab National Forest
800 S. 6th St.
Williams, AZ 86046
Voice: (928) 635-8200
Email: mailroom_r3_kaibab@fs.fed.us
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab

News Release

Media Contact: Bob Blasi
(928) 635-5653
bobblasi@fs.fed.us



Bert Fire near Valle continues to increase in size

Williams, Ariz., June 3, 2016—For Immediate Release. With consistent warmer temperatures present, the Bert Fire is steadily growing in size and continues to significantly benefit the forest and surrounding communities by consuming hazardous fuels, restoring historic grasslands, improving wildlife habitat, and protecting cultural resources.

Fire managers on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest are taking advantage of drier weather conditions to allow the Bert Fire to continue moving across the landscape using a desired moderate intensity ground fire.

Yesterday, the fire reached 375 acres and burned primarily to the south. To plan for fire growth, officials have identified a specific planning area in which the fire could spread.

“Due to the available fuels still holding some moisture before this warming trend, we have had tremendous success in managing this natural fire to play a role in keeping the forest healthy and our communities safer,” said assistant fire management officer Mike Uebel. “However, we’ve listened to public smoke concerns and we will continue to do everything we can to minimize smoke impacts in and around the communities affected by this wildfire.”

Today, crews will work toward securing the north and east perimeters of the fire edge in order to reduce the risks of fire moving in an unwanted direction while preparing for an increase in fire behavior activity. Firefighters will be working alongside Highway 180 and will be visible from traffic on the roadway. Motorists are again asked to use elevated caution when passing through the area and reduce speeds for the safety of all.

To view recent spherical panoramas and photos of the Bert Fire and the area in which it is burning, visit <http://bit.ly/BertFire2016>.

Additional fire information for the Kaibab National Forest can be obtained through the following sources: InciWeb <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4751/>; Kaibab National Forest Fire Information Phone Line (928) 635-8311; Text Message – text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404.



Firefighters securing the perimeter along roadways of the Bert Wildfire

###