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News Release

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Labor Fire: Moderate growth today, prep efforts continue moving forward

Fredonia, Ariz., Sept. 7, 2016 — For Immediate Release. Over the past 24 hours, fire managers have seen moderate growth on the Labor Fire, which is currently 93 acres. The fire continues to slowly move from south to north within the established 430-acre planning area. Today, crews conducted key tactical burnout operations along the south and east flanks of the fire, forming a ‘catcher’s mitt’. This strategy helps firefighters secure the boundaries and reduce potential smoke impacts to Highway 89A.

This suppression strategy also aligns with the wildland firefighting community’s “Life First” leader’s intent by helping fire leadership insure firefighter safety within the area of operations and increase the odds that everyone goes home safely at the end of shift.

“Consistent with all wildfire operations, public and firefighter safety remain our number one priority,” said North Zone Fuels Specialist Dave Robinson. “Today, we saw moderate fire behavior on the fire and during our burnout operations. We are very pleased with today’s results and our objectives are being met.”

Tonight and tomorrow, smoke impacts are anticipated to be minimal along Highway 89A. However, with west winds forecasted to increase 10-to-20 mph Thursday and Friday, hunters and forest visitors are asked to use caution when traveling in the vicinity of the fire operations and observe all posted signs and any traffic-control measures that may be in place.

Date/Time Reported: Monday, Sept. 5, 2016

Location: 19.5 miles southeast of Fredonia

Cause: Lightning

Size: 93 acres

Fuel Type: Predominantly ponderosa Pine

Fire Behavior: Low intensity with 1-to-6 inch flame lengths

Planning Area: 430 acres

Anticipated Smoke Impact: Light smoke is anticipated within the vicinity of Jacob Lake. For more information on how smoke can affect you, please visit www.phoenixvis.net/PPMmain.aspx.

Additional information is available through the Kaibab National Forest Fire Information Phone Line (928) 635-8311 or via text message – text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404.

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Low intensity fire behavior as seen on the Labor Fire yesterday afternoon, approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Jacob Lake. Credit the U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest.