



Warm Fire Update

Date: June 26, 2006, 8 p.m.

Warm Fire Contact Phone Numbers: 928-643-6804, 928-640-6103, 928-640-6104, 1-800-958-5171

Management of the Warm Fire transitioned from the Rocky Mountain Area Wildland Fire Use Team to the Northern Arizona Type 2 Incident Management Team at 6 a.m. today.

Website: www.nazteam.com, www.inciweb.org

Fire Name: Warm Fire

Time/Date Started: June 8, 2006, 3 p.m.

Location: North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest; The Warm Fire is about 2 miles south and east of Jacob Lake. It is about 13 miles north of the Grand Canyon National Park boundary.

Cause: Lightning; The Warm Fire was being managed as a wildland fire use fire. All wildland fire use fires must be started by a natural ignition source (lightning). The fire is no longer being managed as a wildland fire use fire. The fire is being actively suppressed.

Fuels: Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, pinyon/juniper woodlands

Size: 49,680 acres

% Contained: 5%

Resources Committed: 6 Type 2 hand crews, 5 helicopters (1 heavy, 2 medium, 2 light), 26 engines, 4 dozers, 8 water tenders. Total personnel = 427. Additional firefighting resources are arriving.

Estimated Cost to Date: \$3.2 million

Predicted Weather: Relative humidity levels are increasing gradually as thunderstorms begin moving into the area. Winds may be more erratic due to the thunderstorm activity. However, winds are expected to generally be light and out of the east. More favorable weather conditions over the next few days could provide a window of opportunity for firefighters to conduct more aggressive suppression actions.

Structures: No structures have been lost.

Closures: The North Kaibab Ranger District will close to public access at 8 a.m. tomorrow (June 27) and remain closed until further notice due to the Warm Fire and firefighting activity. All Forest Service roads, trails and lands on the district will be closed. Arizona State Highway 67 remains closed from Jacob Lake, Ariz., to the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The closure will be evaluated on a daily basis. U.S. Highway 89A from Kanab, Utah, to Bitter Springs, Ariz., remains open; however, fire or firefighting activity may necessitate future delays or closures.

Jacob Lake Inn, Jacob Lake Campground and Kaibab Camper Village at Jacob Lake remain open, as do Kaibab Lodge and the North Rim Country Store at DeMotte Park. For updated information about the North Kaibab Ranger District closure, contact the district office at (928) 643-7395 or visit the Kaibab National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai.

The North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park also closed today until further notice. Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc. (Xanterra), a park concessioner and Spherix, a company that manages the North Rim Campground are prepared to accommodate those guests that are on the North Rim for the next several days if necessary. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 visitors and employees are currently on the North Rim.

Park staff is currently contacting visitors with North Rim backcountry permits to inform them that permits will be cancelled for all North Rim hikes. Park rangers are sweeping the North Rim trails and will escort hikers out of the North Rim when it is determined to be safe. No additional permits will be issued until access to the North Rim is reestablished and the park is reopened. For additional information on the status of North Rim permits, please call the Backcountry Information Center at (928) 638-7875. Visitors with hotel reservations at the Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim can contact Xanterra at 1-(888) 297-2757 regarding the status of North Rim hotel reservations.

Summary: Hotshot crews are working overnight to clear safety hazards, such as snags and fallen debris, from Highway 67. When the highway is deemed safe for travel, fire personnel will escort North Rim visitors and employees out of the area. That escorted egress could happen as soon as tomorrow morning.

Firefighters worked today to develop an anchor point on the Warm Fire. An anchor point is an area from which firefighters can begin constructing fireline. Firefighters conducted burnout operations today on the fire's western flank. Because of the burnout operations, the fire has remained east of forest roads 217 and 462 and south of Forest Road 212.

Tomorrow, firefighters will continue patrolling and mopping up on the fire's northwestern flank, which is the area closest to Jacob Lake. During mop up operations, firefighters seek out and extinguish hotspots within the fire's perimeter. Firefighters will also patrol and mop up on the fire's northern flank. The northern flank has been the fire's least active area. Firefighters will also continue preparations for burnout operations. Structure protection will be provided at Jacob Lake. Structure protection assessments will also be completed for Big Springs, Kaibab Lodge, Pleasant Valley Cabin, fire lookouts and other buildings.