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News Release

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Prescribed Fire Update: Jacob Ryan North Basin Unit Rx

Fredonia, Ariz., June 4, 2017 — For Immediate Release. Yesterday firefighters began firing on the Jacob Ryan North prescribed fire Basin Unit. Operations went well with 1,200 acres treated. Smoke in the vicinity of Jacob Lake remained light.

Today firefighters started the day's operations with the morning test fire. Because fire managers have various firing techniques at their disposal to accomplish burn objectives, a test fire is conducted daily before any mass firing ignitions commence. Additionally, firing techniques will vary from unit to unit based upon topography, fuel type, wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity, temperature, fuel moistures and atmospheric stability.

The skillful application of fire to a small test area of wildland fuels will provide the burn boss with valuable information to include smoke behavior, fire behavior and fire intensity. This information is critical to determine if operations are a "go or no-go" – in other words do firefighters move forward with the day's operational plan or postpone for a day when conditions are more ideal.

Upon successful completion of this morning's test firing on the Jacob Ryan North Basin Unit prescribed fire, firefighters resumed general ignitions by applying fire along Highway 89A, blacklining along the north end of the unit and continuing to utilize aerial ignitions to work interior portions of the burn unit. Winds along Highway 89A remain favorable and are ventilating smoke away from the highway.

Smoke is expected to continue dispersing away from sensitive areas; however, fire officials remind motorists to always use caution when driving on roadways where visibility could change and potentially impact travel on the highway. Based on topography, down-slope-down-valley winds will continue to carry smoke away from the burn unit to the east-northeast this evening. Fire managers anticipate the potential for localized moderate-to-heavy impacts in the vicinity of Johnson Wash.

Additional fire information for the Kaibab National Forest can be obtained through the following sources:

- Fire Information Recorded Hotline: 928-635-8311
- Find us on Facebook: [@KaibabNF](https://www.facebook.com/KaibabNF)
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/KaibabNF
- (Text 'follow kaibabnf' to 40404 to receive text messages.)
- Kaibab website "News & Events": www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab
- InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5194/>

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Just two days ago fire managers conducted small-scale pile burning in lieu of large-scale broadcast burning on the Jacob Ryan North Basin Unit prescribed fire due to unfavorably forecasted transport winds that may have possibly smoked-out Jacob Lake and Highway 89A Today winds remain favorable to adequately ventilate those sensitive areas to the north-northeast, and fire managers continue to work with cooperators to help maximize firefighter and public safety along the highway. Credit the U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest.