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News Release

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Minimal Fire Activity Results in Limited Growth for Cat Fire

Fredonia, Ariz., Aug. 13, 2018 — For Immediate Release. Central West Zone Type 3 Team, continues to manage the Cat Fire with full suppression tactics. Fire management decisions are determined with consideration of firefighter safety, location of the fire, available resources, regional and national preparedness levels, and weather forecast.

Maintaining the integrity of cultural and natural resources within the Saddle Mountain Wilderness is a key management objective. "While we are concerned about these valuable resources, our most important resource is people," said Incident Commander Rob Williams.

Resources:

Total of 88 personnel including two hotshot crews and nine engines

Overview:

Date reported: August 6, 2018

Size: 2,511 acres

Location: The Cat Fire is about 25 miles southeast of Jacob Lake in the Saddle Mountain Wilderness on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

Fuel: Mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and pinyon-juniper.

Weather: Forecasters anticipate a continuation of scattered thunder showers in the area

Strategy: Full suppression

Situational update: Typically, there has been an increase in fire behavior during the warm afternoon hours. Due to cooler temperatures and higher moisture, activity was minimal with a small flare up that put up visible smoke for a short time in the afternoon. Crews are continuing to improve indirect line around the fire and clean up fuel breaks along Forest Road (FR) 219, as well FR 610 in order to tie into the Fuller Fire scar. Two local engines from the Cat fire were utilized to suppress two new lightning starts that were detected this afternoon on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Closures: Fire management resources have closed all roads within the planning area boundary, which includes FR 213 and 220 on the north, FR 610 on the east and south, and House Rock Valley Road 8910 on the east.

The following trails are closed: Arizona Trail from FR 213 to FR 610, North Canyon Trail, South Canyon Trail, Saddle Mountain Trail, and Pt. Imperial and Nankoweap Trails, which are both located on Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park land. The closure will remain in effect until it is considered safe to enter the area. Roads 213, 219, 220 south of 213, 610 (Marbleview, South Canyon), 611 (East Rim), and 8910 south of 220 are also closed.

Smoke: Smoke is visible on both the North and South Rims of the park, and there is a regional haze present in surrounding communities from multiple wildfires in the West. Individuals sensitive to smoke can learn how to help protect their health by visiting the Coconino County Public Health Services District website at: <http://bit.ly/SmokeHealthAwareness>.

For fire information on the Kaibab National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab and Inciweb under the name of the fire at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov> or visit us on Facebook and Twitter @KaibabNF or call (928) 635-8311 for recorded fire information.

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