NEWS RELEASE
Kaibab National Forest

For Immediate Release   **Contact: Jacqueline Banks, 928-635-8314**

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Kaibab National Forest Proposes To Repair Earthen Dam

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – The Kaibab National Forest is proposing to reduce risks to public safety and minimize potential downstream flood damage by modifying Railroad Tank Dam, which is located in the far eastern portion of the Williams Ranger District just north of Interstate 40 and about a mile east of the rest area in Bellemont.

Railroad Tank Dam is a historic railroad trestle that was abandoned by the railroad in the 1930s. The trestle is a large, earthen embankment that currently functions as a dam, given that the existing spillway for the trestle is relatively small and about 20 feet higher than the drainage immediately upstream.

The trestle is also used to provide access to nearby private property. Two residences sit directly beneath the dam on the downstream side and could be threatened in the event of a large flood.

Because of these concerns, the Kaibab National Forest is proposing to create a new, low level outlet to eliminate water storage behind the embankment. This will require excavating into the embankment to place a pipe and then refilling and compacting to restore the original shape of the embankment. Studies of downstream flow structures will be consulted to determine the proper size and flow capacity of the new outlet. Additional work is also proposed on the embankment and spillway.

The Kaibab National Forest is seeking comments on the proposal to repair Railroad Tank Dam, which should be submitted no later than Oct. 24. Details of the proposal and information on the various ways to submit comments are available by visiting the Kaibab National Forest website at http://go.usa.gov/NygT.

For additional information on the proposal, contact project lead Ed Monin at (928) 635-8370. For additional information on the Kaibab National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab.

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