

# FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## Kaibab National Forest



website: [www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/KaibabNF](http://www.twitter.com/KaibabNF)

---

For Immediate Release  
August 8, 2013

Contact: **Connie Birkland**, 928-635-8227 or 928-853-4617

### Lightning Caused Fires Increase in Size Due to Drier Conditions

**TUSAYAN, AZ.** – Today, lightning caused fires on both the North and South Zone of the Kaibab National Forest picked up activity given warmer temperatures and reduced relative humidity. These fires continue to burn in fire-adapted ecosystems, reducing overall forest fuel accumulations. Similar fire activity is expected to continue over the next several days with slightly increased smoke and reduced visibility at times. For public and firefighter safety, visitors are encouraged to use caution and to reduce driving speed in these areas.

#### South Kaibab Zone:

**Mud Fire** – 2.5 acres, reported July 29, is located 1 mile Southeast of Summit Mountain and South of Williams. This lightning caused fire is burning in Ponderosa Pine/Oak brush vegetation with low intensity. Fire spread is upslope and to the south with a 25% active fire perimeter and 3-6” flame lengths.

**Skinner Fire** - 985 acres, is located 5 miles East of Tusayan. Fire activity was moderate to high today with isolated group tree torching in the Ponderosa Pine/Oak brush vegetation. A large smoke column was visible East of Tusayan for a short duration, mid-day.

#### North Zone Fires:

**Cooper Fire** - 739 acres, is located 3 miles Northwest of Jacob Lake and North of 89A. Fire activity was moderate to high today with isolated tree torching in Ponderosa pine. A low intensity burnout operation was conducted around the perimeter of the fire today creating smoke and short term impacts along State Route 89A. Both Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) assisted with traffic along 89A during burnout operations.

**Castle Fire** – 83 acre fire is located 1 mile East of Big Springs Lookout. This fire burned with low intensity today in Ponderosa Pine vegetation. Burnout preparations were conducted along the Southwest boundary of the fire along Forest Road 4102 and Forest Road 454.

Even with increased fire activity, these lightning caused fires continue to meet resource objectives and are burning within designated planning areas. Cooperative interagency fire personnel assisting with these fires include: National Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Arizona DPS and ADOT.

###