



**U.S. Forest Service**  
**Kaibab National Forest**  
800 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Williams, AZ 86046  
Voice: (928) 635-8200  
Email: [mailroom\\_r3\\_kaibab@fs.fed.us](mailto:mailroom_r3_kaibab@fs.fed.us)  
Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab)

# News Release

**Media Contact: David Hercher**  
**(928) 643-8110**  
[davidjhercher@fs.fed.us](mailto:davidjhercher@fs.fed.us)



## **North Zone Firefighters' Message: "Dry spring increases wildfire potential"**

**Fredonia, Ariz., April 23, 2017 — For Immediate Release.** A red flag warning is in effect from noon today through 7 p.m. this evening due to strong winds and low relative humidity on the Kaibab National Forest.

Spring can be a fickle time of year for the Kaibab National Forest. Some roads are still impassable due to snow and mud, while others are wide open. Dormant foliage is either beginning to green up or dry out, and high winds are working overtime to create new potential pockets of tinder for the upcoming wildfire season.

"We just want our forest visitors to be aware of how quickly spring conditions can change on the Kaibab Plateau and use caution when camping or working on the forest," said North Zone Fire Management Officer Ed Hiatt.

Campers are also asked to ensure that all fires are extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving, to check local weather forecasts and the Kaibab National Forest website for any fire restrictions as fire restriction information can change daily.

Year-after-year, new fuel growth compounds the potential for wildfire growth, and year-after-year, firefighter managers continue to plan for the few days a year when the "conditions and resources" align so that fuels reduction work can resume.

During the interim, other non-fire tools are also used to help manage and protect forest resources; tools like the Pearl Stewardship Contract, which is part of the much larger Jacob Ryan Vegetation Management Project on the North Kaibab Ranger District. Under this contract, selected merchantable forest timber is exchanged for service work of creating fuel breaks in areas surrounding Jacob Lake.

To get the most current **fire restriction updates**, please visit [firerestrictions.us/AZ/](http://firerestrictions.us/AZ/).

To get the most current **fire activity updates** and maps 24-hours-a day, please visit or call:

Fire Information Line: 928-635-8311

Inciweb: [inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov)

Text Message: text 'follow kaibabnf' to 40404



A feller-buncher operator removes green ponderosa pine up to 9” diameter breast height to create a 100-foot fuel break at pre-determined key locations specified by fire managers. In this instance, the fuel breaks will help give firefighters better “control lines” to stop a potential wildfire that could threaten the wildland-urban interface at Jacob Lake. Credit the USFS, Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest.

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