



U.S. Forest Service
Coconino National Forest
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News Release



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Lightning fires managed for multiple objectives

Flagstaff, Ariz., Aug. 1, 2016, For Immediate Release — Fire managers on Coconino National Forest continue to use several lightning-caused fires to benefit the landscape by allowing them to burn in confined areas.

The fires will consume heavy fuel accumulation—dead vegetation on the forest floor—which will cultivate healthier wildlife habitat by breaking down dead underbrush and releasing nutrients into the soil so new vegetation can thrive.

The following comprise active lightning-caused fires that are currently being managed:

EDEN FIRE

Start Date: July 27, 2016.

Location: Four miles northeast of Clints Well.

Current Size: 500 acres.

Resources: Two engines, two crews, one fuels crew; total of about 55 firefighters.

Smoke: Predicted to disperse to the east toward Jacks Canyon. Moderate smoke will be visible to travelers along state Route 87 and the Clints Well/Blue Ridge community. Smoke may shift directions during thunderstorms and settle in low lying areas near the fire.

Closures: The closure area is bounded by these Forest Roads: Forest Road 211, FR 211G, FR 211E, FR136, and FR 9728. FR 211, FR82, and FR136 are open for public travel outside of the affected area. All other roads in the restricted area are closed. This order only applies to National Forest Land. The closure order and map is available online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/4898/31976/>.

Operations: Resources will focus on firing operations along the Forest Road 211 to protect values at risk. In addition, crews constructed hand lines in specific areas that tie in with existing forest roads to be used as control features. The fire is burning unabated between Forest Road 211K and 9746E. If effects are desirable, ignition operations will continue to the south.

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CRACKERBOX FIRE

Start Date: July 20, 2016.

Location: Four miles southeast of Clints Well.

Current Size: 150 acres.

Resources: One engine; total of about five firefighters.

Smoke: This fire has received a lot of moisture recently and is slowly creeping across the landscape, so not producing a lot of smoke. Predicted to disperse to the east/southeast today. Smoke will be minimal and light, but visible to those in the immediate area of the fire, Forest Road 300 and possibly by those recreating at Blue Ridge Reservoir.

Closures: None.

Operations: This fire has received intermittent rain showers over the last couple of weeks. Fire crews conducted management ignitions along Forest Road 123 up to Forest Road 9724V. Crews will continue to prep control features to the north and east of the fire area.

Follow us on Twitter @CoconinoNF for quick updates on these fires and other happenings around the forest, or visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/unit/303/> to keep up-to-date on the details of managed and other large fires on the Coconino National Forest.

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