

FIRE NEWS RELEASE

Kaibab National Forest



Website: www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab
Twitter: www.twitter.com/KaibabNF

For Immediate Release
July 31, 2013

Contact: Holly Krake, 928-635-5653

Skinner Fire Helps Build Tusayan Fire History

TUSAYAN, AZ – On July 26th, 2013 a lightning caused fire was reported on the Tusayan Ranger District in the Skinner Ridge area off of FS road 343. Named the Skinner Fire, this fire was immediately noted by Fire Management Officer, Quentin Johnson, to be in a location largely surrounded by previous wildfire and prescribed fire, but unburned itself. To increase protection ability, reduce ground fuels, and return fire to the ecosystem, the Skinner Fire will be allowed to spread naturally. “We have a hole in the map that has not seen fire in our recorded history. This is a great opportunity to return fire where it is ecologically needed and historically accurate” said Johnson.

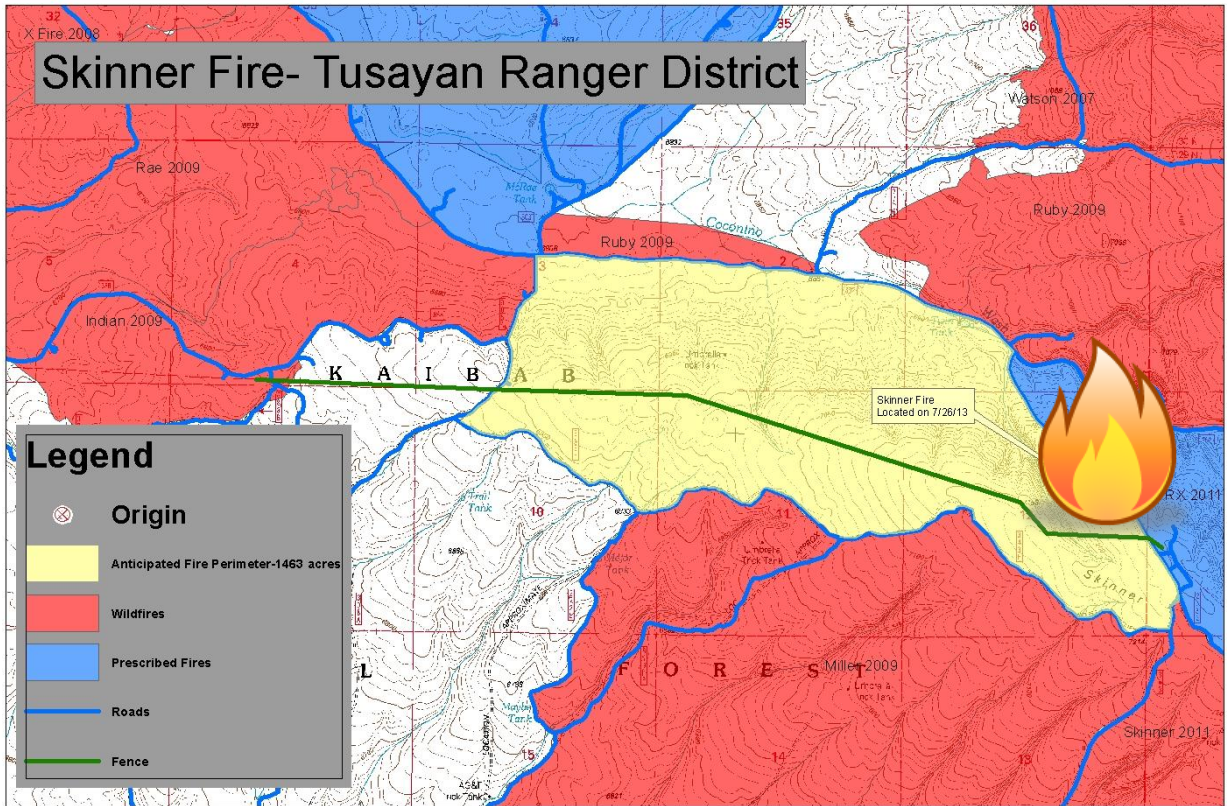
Forecasted drying trends will support fire growth though intensity is likely to remain low with creeping, smoldering, and some backing fire behavior. To plan for fire growth, officials have identified a specific planning area in which the fire will be allowed to spread. At this time, the 6 acre fire is spreading naturally with 1-2 acre growth potential each day over the next several days. Other management options, such as perimeter road ignitions, may be utilized for objectives such as firefighter safety and resource protection.

Date/Time Reported: Friday July 26th, 2013
Location: 5 Miles East of Tusayan
Cause: Lightning
Size: 6 Acres
Landscape/Fuels: Ponderosa Pine
Fire Behavior: Low intensity, 6-12 inch flame lengths
Planning Area: 1,463 acres

Smoke impacts should be minimal, if any, for the Tusayan area, south rim of the Grand Canyon, and surrounding communities. However, smoke may become highly visible from Highway 64 as the fire is currently showing an approximately 400 foot smoke column. If managed ignitions occur, the smoke column could increase to over 2,000 feet. Winds are forecasted to be southwest around 8 mph.

For additional information, please call Holly Krake (USFS), Fire Information Officer, 928-635-5653

-USFS-



Map of the Skinner Fire planning area in yellow.



Low intensity fire behavior as seen on the afternoon of July 30th, 2013.