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For Immediate Release

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Residents Asked to Stop Use of Moonset Pit

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – The Kaibab National Forest and the communities of Parks and Sherwood Forest Estates request that residents stop using Moonset Pit to dump garbage and natural, woody debris until the area has reopened this spring.

The pit, which is located on National Forest land west of Parks, is open on specific dates every spring, summer and fall for community members to dispose of natural, woody materials from their property that could fuel a wildfire.

The material in the pit is then burned each winter. Adding debris on top of the smoldering ashes is a fire hazard and has resulted in the pile reigniting in previous years.

Moonset Pit is a service offered to the public by the Kaibab National Forest and the communities of Parks and Sherwood Forest Estates, in coordination with the Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership. The pit is staffed and open to the public on specific dates only. At all other times, dumping materials into the pit is illegal.

“Over the last three years, we have had to respond to fires in the pit because of people illegally dumping on top of the burned pile,” said Dave Bales, assistant fire management officer for the Williams Ranger District. “The pit will reopen to the public in the spring. Until then, nobody should be using the pit to dispose of materials.”

The Kaibab National Forest will release the 2013 Moonset Pit schedule sometime this spring.

For additional information, please call the Williams Ranger District at (928) 635-5600.

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