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News Release

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Moonset Pit to re-open in May with limited use / Renovations scheduled

Williams, Ariz., April 13, 2017—For Immediate Release. The Kaibab National Forest, in cooperation with the communities of Parks and Sherwood Forest Estates, will reopen the Moonset Pit on May 13 of this year to local residents to dispose of herbaceous materials from private property. However, dates will be limited for use this year as scheduled renovations to expand the site an additional 5 acres are expected to begin by July.

“Opening up the space within the pit will allow for separation between the cinder operations and the woody debris piles which will provide for a much safer environment for all users” said Lands and Minerals Staff Officer Deirdre McLaughlin. “This will also provide a larger capacity and accommodate more users for this popular site in the future”.

Officials are planning to close the pit as monsoonal rains arrive which typically occur in July. This will allow fire crews to burn and consume the remaining materials accumulated from previous months with current disposals to prepare for the site expansion. Residents are strongly encouraged to get to the pit early this year due to the limited schedule for use this season. Once the pit is closed, it will not re-open until 2018. The pit will be open on the following four Saturdays from 7am to 2pm. May 13, May 27, June 10, and June 24.

The Moonset pit serves the local area providing a location for the disposal of natural forest debris. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this facility in order to make their private property more defensible against the threat of wildland fire. No garbage, household trash, building materials, lumber or other items will be allowed. Materials should not be bagged.

The success of this community provision is largely attributed to the volunteers of the Parks Area Connection and Sherwood Forest Fire Department who staff the pit on Saturdays during the open hours of operation. This annual service is also supported by the Kaibab National Forest and the Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership.

Moonset Pit is located just west of the Parks community on a dirt road east of Spitz Springs on the north side of old Route 66. For more information or to volunteer to staff Moonset Pit on open dates, contact Anne Dudley at (928) 635-0417 or Joanie Raetzel at (928) 635-0059.

For additional information on creating defensible space, visit www.firewise.org or www.fireadapted.org

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