



**BRINS FIRE
UPDATE
7:00 PM**

Great Basin Incident Management Team 1
June 26, 2006

Current Status

Firefighters have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Sedona community. As demobilization continues, donations of food and sundries can no longer be accepted. Citizens who wish to show their appreciation for the firefighters may want to consider donating to the Friends of the Forest, an active volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining the scenic beauty of Sedona’s national forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations (www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org) or the Wildland Firefighters Foundation, which takes care of families of fallen firefighters (www.wffoundation.org).

Work today focused on the southeast and west sides of the fire. Fire hoses were removed from the areas along Oak Creek Canyon. There is still some work left to do on containment lines in the southeast corner of the fire. Firefighters were able to access the small areas of active fire on the west side near Lost Wilson Mountain and will finish extinguishing fire in that area before today’s shift is over. Tonight, firefighters will continue monitoring and enhancing containment lines.

As containment of the fire increases, demobilization of resources is also increasing. Mop-up and rehabilitation are continuing along the entire fire perimeter. Since much of the fire is in the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness, mop-up and rehabilitation efforts will focus on maintaining wilderness values and scenic beauty.

Chipping of fuelbreak material along Highway 89A is almost complete and should be finished tomorrow. Rehabilitation efforts will be “ramped up” as a Burned Area Rehabilitation Team (BAER) arrives tomorrow. This team will assess resource damage on the entire fire area and over the next few days and will develop a plan to minimize the fire’s impact to natural resources. The Coconino National Forest will then begin to implement the plan.

Highway 89A from Flagstaff south to Halfway Picnic area is open to residents and business owners only. Oak Creek Canyon and Highway 89A south of the Halfway Picnic Area to Uptown Sedona remain closed to all but fire traffic for safety reasons. Law enforcement personnel are stationed at the picnic area to enforce the road closure. The closure will be lifted Tuesday June 27 at 5:00 pm for homeowners, business owners and emergency & service vehicles only. Conditions will be reevaluated on a daily basis and it is anticipated that Highway 89A will re-open to the general public in a few days.

Threatened and endangered species habitat and wilderness values continue to be a concern during fire suppression, mop-up and rehabilitation efforts.

The point of origin for the wildland fire is closed to public access. An \$11,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the wildland fire. The number to call is 928-527-3600.

Estimated Acreage/expected containment

4,317 acres. Acreage is based on infrared imaging by aircraft. Containment is estimated at **65%**; full containment is predicted for June 28. Approximately **3.5** miles of fireline remain to be built.

Resources on the Fire/Costs

Crews: 18 Helicopters: 5 Engines: 20 Water tenders: 9 Total Personnel: 716
Demobilization is in progress. Costs to Date: \$ 5,300,000.

Cooperators

City of Sedona, Office of State Forestry, Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office, Coconino County Sheriff’s Office, Department of Public Safety, Arizona Department of Transportation, Sedona Fire District, Sedona Police Department, Sedona Airport Authority, Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

Evacuations and Public Meetings

A community meeting was held at the Elk’s Lodge near the Sedona Airport today (Monday, June 26), at 1:30 p.m. No further community meetings are planned. The fire information center will be open for a few more days and you may call 928-203-9648 or 928-203-9650 for fire information updates.

As of 5:00 pm Tuesday, June 27, Highway 89A from Sedona northward will be open to homeowners , business owners and service and emergency vehicles only. Arizona Department of Transportation will be reevaluating safety conditions along the Highway and it is anticipated that the highway will re-open to the general public in a few days. All drivers are encouraged to drive slowly and be alert to hazardous conditions

	<p>on the roadway. Do not stop along the roadway except for emergency situations.</p> <p>For current information on Arizona road conditions, including closures, contact the Arizona Department of Transportation at 511 or www.az511.com.</p>
Closures and restrictions	<p>Increasing fire danger conditions across the Southwest has warranted closure of the entire Coconino NF. The forest was closed to public access and use Friday morning, June 23, at 8 a.m. Closures in the past have proven to be an effective means of reducing the number of human-caused fires. Penalties for violation of this closure range from \$100 to \$5,000.</p> <p>Included in the Coconino NF closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All campgrounds, day use picnic areas and cabins on the forest. • All trails on the Coconino National Forest. • All lakes, including Lake Mary, Ashurst Lake, Kinnikinick Lake, Blue Ridge Reservoir, Stoneman Lake. • Cinder Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area north of Flagstaff. • St. Joseph's Youth Camp near Mormon Lake. • Arizona Snowbowl Skyride. • All National Forest System Roads will be closed, but all interstates, state and county roads through the Coconino National Forest will remain open.
Incident plans for tonight	<p>Firefighters will be patrolling along Oak Creek Canyon and on the west side of the fire tonight.</p>
Fire weather	<p>The forecast for tonight is for a continuing chance of widely scattered, dry thunderstorms (20%) for the next few days. Temperatures on the fire will be 46-53 degrees on Wilson Mountain and 51-65 degrees on the slopes and in the valley. Humidities are predicted at 29-40%. The extended forecast for Wednesday through Friday calls for a slight chance of dry thunderstorms each day, with high temperatures continuing throughout the week. Low level moisture as the result of thunderstorm outflows will linger.</p>
Fire and Other Information	<p>Although the National Forest is closed, Sedona and Flagstaff still offer many summer attractions and activities. Visit the Sedona Chamber of Commerce website (www.sedonachamber.com) for information regarding the many things to do in and around Sedona. Private campgrounds and the campground at Fort Tuthill County Park near Flagstaff will remain open with campfire and smoking restrictions. All Forest Service offices and visitor centers will be open. The closure will be lifted when sufficient precipitation is received to adequately reduce the risk of wildfire to a manageable level, and hot, dry weather conditions are not forecast to continue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For fire information and all media inquiries, please call the Brins Fire Information Center at 928-203-9648, 928-203-9650 or 928-203-7732. ■ For information related to the Coconino National Forest including fire restrictions/ and closures, please call the Coconino National Forest Information Center at 928-226-4601. ■ Arizonans can also visit www.AZ211.gov. <p>Fire Websites: For continued fire information on the national forest, visit www.coconinoforest.us. Specific information for the Brins Fire can be found at ftp://ftp.nifc.gov/Incident_Specific_Data/GREAT_BASIN_E/Brins2006/</p>