



**BRINS FIRE
UPDATE
8:00 AM**

Great Basin Incident Management Team 1
June 27, 2006

Current Status

Highway 89A in Oak Creek Canyon, from Midgley Bridge to Halfway Picnic Area, will be opening to residents, business owners, service providers and emergency vehicles beginning at 5 PM today, Tuesday June 27. Individuals being allowed into the area will need to provide identification. The road will remain closed to the general public to avoid conflicts with fire traffic and to give residents and business owners time to return to their properties and resume normal activities. Law enforcement personnel are stationed in the area to enforce road closures. It is anticipated that Highway 89A will re-open in the near future to the general public.

Today's work will focus on the south boundary of the fire. Firefighters will be securing the fire line with the assistance of helicopters. Tonight, firefighters will continue monitoring containment lines.

As containment of the fire nears, demobilization of resources is 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 (vegetation) along Highway 89A is complete and chipping around residences and businesses should conclude today. Rehabilitation efforts will continue as a Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER) arrives today. This team will assess resource damage on the entire fire area over the next few days and will develop a plan to minimize the fire's long term impact to natural resources. The Coconino National Forest will implement the BAER team's plan.

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.

Firefighters have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Sedona community. As demobilization continues, donations of food and other items 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).

**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: 9 Helicopters: 3 Engines: 5 Water tenders: 3
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.

Public Meetings

No future public meetings are planned.

Closures and Restrictions

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.

Included in the Coconino NF closures:

- 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.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | Firefighters will be patrolling along Oak Creek Canyon and on the west side of the fire tonight. |
| Fire weather | The forecast for today is for a continuing chance of widely scattered, dry thunderstorms (50%) for the next few days. Temperatures on the fire will be 84-90 degrees on Wilson Mountain and 90-96 degrees on the slopes and in the valley. Humidities are predicted at 10-18%. Thursday – Saturday The potential for thunderstorms continues into the weekend. The dominant high pressure ridge will be pushed to the east, which will allow a little more moisture to come into play. This moisture will cause thunderstorms to begin to produce more measurable precipitation. Hot conditions will continue |
| 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> <p>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. The fire information center will remain open for a few more days only. Please call the Coconino NF below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. ■ For current information on Arizona road conditions, including closures, contact the Arizona Department of Transportation at 511 or www.az511.com ■ 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> |