National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim facilities to close for the season in mid-October

National Park Service operations will be extended until late November or until snow closes Hwy 67

Grand Canyon, Ariz. – Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that many of the park's North Rim facilities will close for the season on October 15. The National Park Service will continue park operations through November 30, unless snow closes Highway 67 leading into the park prior to that date. Visitors will no longer be able to access the park by vehicle starting on December 1.

Reservations for the Grand Canyon Lodge North Rim, operated by Forever Resorts, will be accepted through the night of October 15. All other concessioner-related visitor services, with the exception of the gas station, will close at the end of the day on October 15. The last meal served at Grand Canyon Lodge will be breakfast, which ends at 10:00 a.m. on October 16. The final day for mule rides on the North Rim will be October 15. Gas and diesel fuel will continue to be available in the park through November 30 or until snow closes Highway 67.

The National Park Service North Rim Visitor Center and Bookstore, as well as the Backcountry Permits Office will remain open until November 30. From October 16 until closure, these facilities will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Regularly scheduled ranger-led programs, as advertised in *"The Guide"*, will be offered through October 15. Starting October 16, campsites with limited services, such as portable toilets, will be available for a \$12 fee on a first-

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come, first-served basis. Water will only be available outside the National Park Service administration office. Entrance fees and campground fees will continue to be collected as long as park operations are maintained.

As in previous years, hikers and cross-country skiers will be permitted to use the park's group campsites throughout the winter months if they have obtained a permit through the park's South Rim Backcountry Information Center or the Visitor Center at Pipe Spring National Monument. The South Rim Backcountry Information Center is open year-round and can be reached by calling (928) 638-7875, Monday through Friday, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. MST. Permit requests can be faxed year-round to (928) 638-2125. Permits are not considered earlier than the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start date.

The Kaibab Lodge, located four miles north of the park boundary, will have full services through October 31. The Kaibab Lodge will close for the season after breakfast November 1. The North Rim Country Store, also located outside of the park boundary across from the Kaibab Lodge, will remain open until November 10, weather permitting.

Jacob Lake Inn, restaurant and gas station, located 45 miles from the North Rim developed area, remains open year-round. The Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center at Jacob Lake will have reduced hours starting in mid-October.

Arizona Department of Transportation officials will try and keep Highway 67 open through the end of November, but a major storm with heavy snowfall could close the road earlier. After October 15, visitors are encouraged to call Arizona Highway information at (888) 411-7623 in advance of their trip to check on the status of Highway 67.

Visitors can contact the North Rim Visitor Center at (928) 638-7864 for additional information on North Rim operations.

The South Rim and Inner Canyon facilities remain open year-round. For additional trip planning information, please write:

Trip Planner (or) Backcountry Trip Planner Grand Canyon National Park PO Box 129 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Additional information can also be obtained by logging onto the park's website at <u>www.nps.gov/grca</u> or by calling the park's main information line at (928) 638-7888.

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