



How Waste Vegetable Oil Saved an Endangered Man-Made Species

**Steam Engines Dating Back to 1906 Will Pull Trains to Grand Canyon
on First Saturdays of March to October**



Photo by Rene A. Mack (permission to use)

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – February xx, 2018 – It's a rarity in America – authentic steam engines pulling historic passenger trains. But there are still some out there much to the delight of children, rail fans, photographers and romantics, and the Grand Canyon Railway is one of

those special places that the Iron Horse still gallops. As a matter of fact, the railway has two operating steam engines and both will run in 2018 pulling trains from Williams, Arizona, to the South Rim of Grand Canyon on the first Saturday of each month from March to October.

Nearly extinct due to their environmental impact, the people at the Grand Canyon Railway come up with the ingenious idea in 2009 to try to run a steam engine on waste vegetable oil, WVO (the stuff of French fry and fried shrimp fame). And it worked. Reclaimed rain water and snow melt is used as much as possible to generate steam power to reduce pulling water from underground aquifers. Not only do the old steam engines tread very lightly on the environment, the Grand Canyon Railway became the first tourist railway in the United States to receive ISO 14001 third-party certification of its environmental management system (EMS) after a two-year process involving complete review, development and implementation of environmental initiatives in all of its operations.

So now engine No. 4960 and No. 29 ride on the rails regularly. And these are no small engines. Grand Canyon Railway steam engine No. 4960, built in 1923, weighs in at 310 tons, and locomotive No. 29, built in 1906, tips the scales at 185 tons.

One or sometimes both of the engines will also operate on special dates in 2018 including:

Steam Saturdays

March 3 | April 7 | May 5

June 2 | July 7 | August 4

September 1 | October 6

February 17 Presidents' Day

April 21 Earth Day

September 15 Grand Canyon Railway Anniversary

The daily trains, usually powered by diesel engines except on the dates above and the first Saturdays from March to October, leave Williams at 9:30 a.m. and arrive steps from the South Rim of Grand Canyon (a distance of 65 miles) at 11:45 a.m. The train then departs the Grand Canyon at 3:30 p.m. returning to Williams at 5:45 p.m.

Grand Canyon Railway also offers hotel and accommodations packages.

It is estimated that traveling by train to Grand Canyon takes around 70,000 cars year out of the national park, further helping tread lightly on the environment.

For additional information on all train schedules, including the steam engines, visit www.thetrain.com or call 1-800-THE TRAIN (843-8724).

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Additional photos, video and interviews available upon request.