



FLAGSTAFF WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT 2014 Benchmarks

Accomplishment Report

GOALS	Completed
1. Complete and Adopt the GFFP Monitoring Framework	X
2. Execute USFS SPA Agreement and complete boundary line surveys	X
3. Finalize rebuild of Forest Road 420 (Schultz Pass Rd)	X
4. Review/award Orion Timber Sale	4FRI
5. Execute Equestrian Treatment Agreement w/ASF and initiate treatment work (400 acres)	X
6. Initiate Obs Mesa Open Space treatments (50 acres)	X
7. Final State WBBI-grant agreement to partially offset some treatment work at Observatory Mesa	X
8. Complete required acres for State SFA-grant funded treatment work on City/private lands	X
9. Conduct series of public meeting for DEIS review	X
10. Develop/submit formal response/comment to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) re Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	X
11. Finalize EIS and issue a Draft Record of Decision (ROD)	CY15
12. Reach mutual agreement on treatments (scope, timeframe, methodology) for Navajo Nation in-holding in Dry Lake Hills	X
13. Advertise and fill the City's Field Operations position	CY15
14. Complete FWPP program overview video	-----
15. Host public meetings and workshops as needed/required	X
16. Complete the July-Dec 2014 Bi-Annual Report	X
17. Update Partner Contribution Financial Leverage Report	X
18. Add minimum of two new videos to YouTube channel	-----
17. Research and identify potential grants, contracts, or donations that would facilitate monitoring	X
19. Based on Proposed Action (PA)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comments, determine messaging gaps and create general outreach/messaging to address gaps	X
20. Use recommendations from the 4FRI <i>Socioeconomic Report-Focus groups/interviews</i> to steer future outreach	X
21. Review and update website format and content	X
OTHER	
22. Conduct cable-logging field tour(s) & respond as appropriate	X
23. Host international professionals	X
24. Present FWPP at various regional/national workshops and meetings	X
25. Approve IGA w/ERI to fund/conduct MSO vegetation monitoring	X
26. Build/install Info Kiosks - City Y and Brookbank Meadow	X
27. Complete Cost Avoidance study with NAU-RPI	X
28. Host Logging Operators - 2 Steep ground based and 1 Helicopter	X
29. Completed 1,000 acres of treatments	X
30. Distributed "Open Letter" Update to Community	x



Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Report July-Dec. 2014



Background

In the November 2012 election, City voters overwhelmingly approved (74%) a \$10 million dollar bond to fund the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP). This forest treatment effort, involving City, State, and Federal lands, is designed to reduce the risk of severe wildfire and subsequent post-fire flooding in the Rio de Flag (Dry Lake Hills) and Upper Lake Mary (Mormon Mountain) watersheds. This report highlights significant accomplishments from July-December 2014.

Project Planning

The US Forest Service (USFS) developed four treatment alternatives, which were analyzed and compared in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS was released for public comment in early July. Two open houses were held at the Flagstaff Aquaplex to provide an opportunity for the public to review and ask questions about the DEIS; we also hosted an open house and project update meeting for the Mormon Lake community. The 45-day public comment period ended on August 18th. The comments will be used by the USFS to develop the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision (ROD), expected late spring of 2015. Once published, there will be a 45-day objection period for those who provided comments followed by a 45-day resolution period. The final ROD, which will contain the final decision for treatment, is expected fall 2015.

Some of the harvesting methods analyzed in the alternatives included the use of cable logging and helicopter logging, both atypical for northern Arizona. To more fully understand the potential of utilizing cable logging, we visited past sites with local experts in both the White Mountains and in southern Arizona. Similarly, to better understand the potential use of both steep-terrain ground-based equipment and helicopters, two out-of-state operational experts visited the project area. Although implementation methods that will be used have not been decided, these site visits confirmed these types of harvesting methods can be effectively implemented in the project area.

Implementation

City and USFS crews have been busy doing treatment work in the Dry Lake Hills project area, which involves hand thinning, pile burning of slash, broadcast burning, and noxious weed treatments. Implementation of treatments in the Dry Lake Hills is a priority and is expected to be in full swing once the Final ROD is approved. For previously approved projects on federal lands, a total of 135 acres of hand thinning, 200 acres of prescribed burning, and 125 acres of noxious weed treatments have been completed. City crews treated 185 acres in the Rio de Flag watershed and another 80 acres on Observatory Mesa. On Brookbank Meadow, a parcel owned by the Navajo Nation, City crews removed encroaching small ponderosa pines (35 acres) to achieve meadow restoration. To enable future work within the Dry Lake Hills area to proceed, re-surfacing portions of the Schultz Pass Road was completed and similar work on the Mt. Elden Lookout Road will begin in the spring of 2015, when conditions allow. On State Trust land, the project's first mechanical thinning was completed on 400 acres in Equestrian Estates. To-date, over 1,200 acres have been treated across the FWPP project area. We expect the pace of annual accomplishment to increase beginning next year following the Final ROD.



Outreach

Outreach continued at a vigorous pace, including public meetings, community events, field visits, installation of an informational trail kiosk at Brookbank Meadow, production of various publications, displays, presentations at local and regional events, and updating the project's website and Flickr account. We also hosted several events for the annual Festival of Science, which included Science and Engineering Day, a brown bag lunch presentation and a hike into the Dry Lake Hills' project area. FWPP hosted Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Ecological Restoration class on a site visit to Dry Lake Hills so students could learn first-hand about the effort and team members also visited classes on NAU's campus. The project has been highlighted in several local and state media stories, including several features by KNAU Arizona Public Radio.

Monitoring

A City Monitoring Plan has been finalized and is posted on the FWPP website. The plan contains four capacity monitoring frameworks: 1) Fire Behavior, 2) Hydrologic Response, 3) Socioeconomic, and 4) Other Ongoing/Potential Monitoring Projects. The City Monitoring Plan, which is independent of the environmental planning process underway for treatment on the National Forest, is designed to address voters' questions, provide project transparency, and identify potential partners and external funding sources. As these projects are implemented and tracked, the monitoring plan will be updated and related reports will be posted on the website.

One early result of the monitoring effort is the "FWPP Cost Avoidance Study" by NAU's Rural Policy Institute. Released in October, this report estimated the economic impact an uncharacteristic stand replacing wildfire and subsequent flooding would have in the FWPP project areas. The conservatively estimated impact and projected cost savings ranged from \$573 million to \$1.2 billion in damages, making the case that the City's \$10 million bond is a sound investment.

Tribal Engagement

Tribes in northern Arizona, including the Hopi Tribe, have been consulted as part of the USFS planning process. Project managers have been working closely with the Navajo Nation to examine opportunities for treatments in Brookbank Meadow, a 140-acre in-holding located within the Dry Lake Hills. This resulted in a mutual decision to extend FWPP treatments into Brookbank Meadow. The meadow restoration and construction of the informational kiosk described above signify the first phase of this partnership effort.



Financial Investment and Leveraged Funds

To date, through either cash contributions or in-kind services, various partners have provided slightly over \$2 million to FWPP; this is in addition to the City's \$10 million commitment. Since the bond passed, the project's financial portfolio has grown by 20%. The bulk of this additional investment has come from the USFS, but over 10 other partners have also contributed to the project, demonstrating the widespread support the project has received. Two grant awards from Arizona State Forestry, totaling \$200,000, were received to offset costs to treat Observatory Mesa. We've also joined the Salt River Project and others throughout Arizona to collaborate and develop new funding approaches for forest restoration within our State.

Summary

We continue to make great progress in our quest to reduce the threat of severe fire, protect two critical watersheds, and enhance community well being. In the beginning of this year, we identified key goals and we are pleased to report we were able to fully accomplish the majority of these. Additionally, we look forward to the Final EIS and Record of Decision. This will mark a milestone of intense planning for the project with the goal of full-scale implementation expected next fall. We thank you for your support and we are devoted to the success of this innovative project for the betterment of our community.



Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Biannual Report (Jan-June 2014)



Background

In the November 2012 election, City voters overwhelmingly approved (74%) a \$10 million dollar bond to fund the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP). Forest treatments will occur primarily on federal lands outside of the City, as well as on City and State lands, within City limits; all treatments are designed to reduce the risk of severe wildfire and subsequent post-fire flooding in the Rio de Flag (Dry Lake Hills) and Lake Mary watersheds. This report highlights significant accomplishments in the first half of 2014.

Project Planning

Based on input received on the Proposed Action released in April 2013, the US Forest Service (USFS) developed four treatment alternatives, which are analyzed and compared in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which will be released for public comment in early July. The public is encouraged to provide feedback during the 45-day comment period ending August 18th. The USFS will use the comments received to develop the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision (ROD); these will be published later this year. Once the FEIS and draft decision are published, there will be a 45-day objection period for those who provided comments followed by a 45-day resolution period. The final ROD, which will contain the final decision for treatment, is expected early next year (2015). Two open houses are scheduled at the Flagstaff Aquaplex July 17th and 22nd from 5:00-7:30 PM to review the DEIS. In addition, several Supplemental Project Agreements were initiated between the USFS, the City and Coconino County to complete boundary line surveys for the project area by the end of this summer. Lastly, implementation of 400 acres on State Trust land surrounding Equestrian Estates will begin this summer and we anticipate completion in this area in the next year.

Implementation

City and USFS crews have been busy doing treatment work in the Dry Lake Hills project area, which involves hand thinning, pile burning of slash, and broadcast burning. For the federal lands, these areas were within previously approved projects. To date, the USFS has completed approximately 115 acres of hand-thinning along Mt. Elden Lookout Road (Forest Road 557) and another 120 acres is underway on the east side of Schultz Pass Road (Forest Road 420). The Orion Task Order will be released by the end of this summer and will be implemented as part of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative contract; this will be one of FWPP's first mechanical treatments on National Forest land. To enable work within the Dry Lake Hills area to proceed, portions of the Schultz Pass Road have been re-surfaced, and similar work on the Mt. Elden Lookout Road should begin later this year. Implementation of treatments in this area is a priority and is expected to be in full swing by next summer (2015). To date, City crews have hand thinned 110 acres and broadcast burned another 75 acres in the Rio de Flag watershed. In addition, the City acquired four parcels of Arizona State Trust land on Observatory Mesa as open space last winter and City crews are planning to initiate



**Hand Thinning
Dry Lake Hills**

approximately 500 acres of hand and mechanical thinning in this area this summer. Treatments will continue on the remaining 1,700 acres on the Mesa in the coming years.

Outreach

Outreach has been on going, including public meetings, community events, field visits, production of various publications, displays and updating the project's website and Flickr account. Project update meetings were held for the Mormon Lake Advisory Group and for those interested in Observatory Mesa. We attended events such as Earth Day and the Home and Garden Show to share and distribute project information with the public. FWPP hosted an international watershed tour, with individuals representing 28 countries, to evaluate the project as a case study in collaborative watershed management and restoration. In addition, we hosted a group of public officials from Germany, as well as a delegation from the Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs; both of these groups also participated in field tours to learn about the unique partnership and project. Newspaper articles and editorials were published in the *Arizona Daily Sun* and in *City Scape* and *Headwaters Economics*, US Forestry Endowment and *Forest Business News* also highlighted the project in their publications.



FWPP Booth at the Home & Garden Show

Monitoring

Several public workshops were held last year to design a monitoring program to address voters' questions, provide project transparency, and identify potential partners and external funding sources. Based upon input, we developed four capacity monitoring frameworks: 1) Fire Behavior, 2) Hydrologic Response, 3) Socioeconomic and 4) Other Ongoing/Potential Monitoring Projects. The frameworks were designed to assess capacity - what is currently being addressed by other studies, identify gaps where studies initiated by FWPP may be necessary and the respective cost, and other relevant opportunities. A monitoring plan is being finalized and we will begin implementing the plan this year.

Tribal Engagement

In addition to numerous meetings with tribal official from both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, a field trip was held at Brookbank Meadow with several officials from the Navajo Nation. The meadow is a small parcel located in the middle of the Dry Lake Hills area owned by the Navajo Nation. During the field trip, the City, the USFS, and the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) representatives discussed with Navajo officials potential meadow restoration treatment and how a potential partnership and agreements can be formulated to achieve this goal. In addition, discussion included using the existing road to access this area as well as other adjacent sites.



Navajo Nation Field Tour

Financial Investment and Leveraged Funds

To date, various partners have through either cash contributions or in-kind services, provided nearly \$1.5 million to the project in addition to the City bond \$10 million commitment. The project's financial portfolio has grown by 15% in the first year and a half, with the bulk coming from the USFS. Two grant awards from State Forestry, totaling \$200,000, were received to offset costs to treat Observatory Mesa. Finally, we have joined other leaders to participate in an on-going "Strategies To Fund Restoration in Arizona" forum hosted by the Salt River Project to develop new funding approaches for Arizona forest restoration.

Summary

We continue to make great progress in our quest to reduce fire threat, protect two critical watersheds, and enhance community well being. We look forward to public participation in the DEIS review and comment period in the second half of this year, with the goal being full-scale implementation in the next year. We thank you for your support and we are devoted to the success of this innovative project for the community of Flagstaff.

For more information see:

www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org

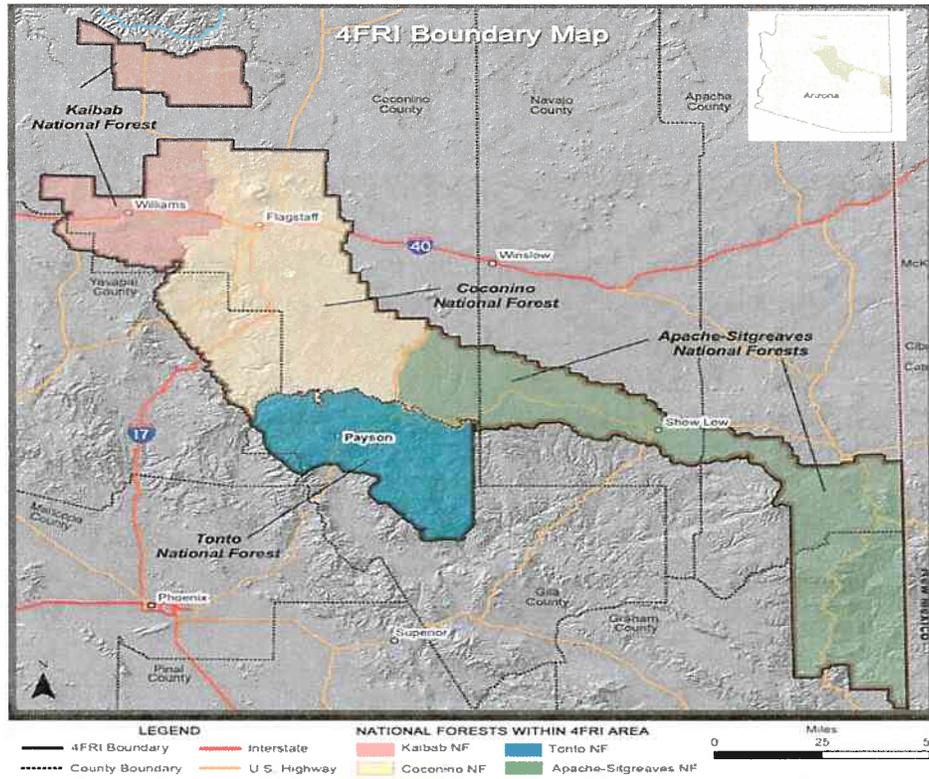


Four Forest Restoration Initiative

<http://www.4fri.org/>

Overview and History

- The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) includes over 30 stakeholder groups and the Forest Supervisors and staff of the Coconino, Kaibab, Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The 4FRI landscape spans 2.4 million acres across the Mogollon Rim of Northern Arizona and is the largest landscape scale restoration project selected by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program or CFLRP (Established under section 4003(a) of Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009). Information about the 4FRI Stakeholder Group (SHG) can be found at <http://www.4fri.org/>. Information about the work of the United States Forest Service 4FRI activities can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/4fri>



- The 4FRI builds from many years of collaboration, research, and action going back to the mid-1990s. Ongoing and past efforts play a major role in the success of the 4FRI. These efforts include: The Natural Resources Working Group, The White Mountain Stewardship Contract, The Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, the Western Mogollon Plateau Landscape Assessment, the White Mountains Landscape Assessment, the Kaibab National Forest Health Assessment, and the Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests and the Governor's Forest Health Council.

- **The increasing size, severity, and frequency of unnatural wildfire over the last 15 years in Arizona, in addition to predictions of hotter conditions and persistent drought have catalyzed the desire for action that unifies the stakeholders.** The two largest fires in Arizona history, the Rodeo-Chediski Fire (468,000 acres) and the Wallow Fire (538,000 acres) occurred within the last 14 years. These fires are expensive in terms of ecological, social and economic costs. The Rodeo-Chediski Fire cost over \$308 million and just the cost of fighting the Wallow Fire was \$109 million. The 15,000-acre Schultz Fire of 2010 that burned on the east side of the San Francisco Peaks was not only a destructive fire but also resulted in devastating post-fire flooding. A recent study estimates that the full cost of the Schultz fire will exceed \$133 million. Tragically, the flooding led to the loss of life as well.

Recent 4FRI Milestones (from current to older)

- **Release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD). November 2014**
 - ✓ The Final EIS and Draft ROD can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/main/4fri/planning
 - ✓ The document analyzes approximately one million acres on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests. The selected alternative would mechanically treat 431,049 acres of vegetation and use prescribed fire on 586,110 acres.
 - ✓ A 45 day period in which to file formal objections will begin with the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the FEIS in the Federal Register. The NOA is expected to be published December 5, 2014.
 - ✓ A final Record of Decision is expected in spring 2015.
- **The 4FRI Stakeholder Group completes a biophysical and socio-economic monitoring and adaptive management plan for the 4FRI project. Summer 2014.** This plan is included in Appendix E of the FEIS.
- **The 300,000 4FRI thinning contract is acquired by Good Earth Power from Pioneer Forest Products. September 2013.** Campbell Global a timber management firm is hired to manage harvest operations.



Get involved

- The 4FRI Stakeholder Group (SHG) meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend and join the 4FRI SHG. The monthly meeting location rotates between the east and west sides of the project area. For meeting location, time and agendas go to the public website at <http://www.4fri.org/>
- You or your organization can become a voting member of the 4FRI SHG by signing the 4FRI Charter. This can be at: http://www.4fri.org/pdfs/4FRI_charter_amended_022713.pdf

4FRI January 13, 2015 Update

Current Status of 4FRI phase 1 contract

Summary by Fiscal Year	Acres awarded and task order signed by fiscal year	Acres awarded & notified to proceed by fiscal year	Acres Treated by fiscal year	% Harvested of notice to proceed task orders	% Harvested awarded all task orders	Acres remaining notice to proceed task orders	Acres remaining all task orders
Fiscal Year 2013 (Oct 1, 2012 to Sept 30, 2013)	15,233	15,233	800				
Fiscal Year 2014 (Oct 1, 2013 to Sept 30, 2014)	17,151	5,777	1,547				
Fiscal Year 2015 (Oct 1, 2014 to Sept 30, 2015)	0	585	935				
Total to date	32,384	21,595	3,282	15%	10%	18,313	29,102
Treatments since last report			168				

Completed 4FRI phase 1 contract

Completed Project/Task Order Name	Forest	Project Acres	Task Order Year	Issued	Notice to Proceed	Completion Date
Ranch	A-S	932	2013	4/5/2013	5/24/2013	8/11/2014
TOTAL		932				

Open task orders 4FRI phase 1 contract

Open Project/Task Order Name	Forest	Project Acres	Task Order Year	Issued	Notice to Proceed	Task order term	Acres treated	% Treated
Alder	A-S	1,322	2013	9/9/2013	3/25/2014	720 days	995	75%
Bobs	Coconino	2,017	2013	9/16/2013	5/2/2014	360 days	0	0%
Christopher/Hunter-Mercer	Tonto	952	2013	9/16/2013	12/18/2013	360 days	90	9%
Clark	Coconino	1,684	2013	9/16/2013	6/11/2014	360 days	0	0%
Dogtown	Kaibab	1,716	2013	9/12/2013	5/8/2014	240 days	85	5%
Elk Park	Coconino	2,901	2013	9/16/2013	6/11/2014	360 days	0	0%
KA	Kaibab	1,046	2013	9/12/2013	6/11/2014	240 days	55	5%
Pomeroy	Kaibab	1,646	2013	9/12/2013	6/11/2014	240 days	85	5%
Weatherford	Coconino	1,017	2013	9/16/2013	6/11/2014	180 days	0	0%
Total 2013		14,301					1,310	9%
89 Mesa	Coconino	1,447	2014	7/1/2014	N/A	360 days	0	0%
Community Tank	Kaibab	1,039	2014	4/24/2014	N/A	240 days	0	0%
East Clear Creek	Coconino	4,295	2014	7/1/2014	8/27/2014	460 days	0	0%
Holden	Kaibab	1,819	2014	9/29/2014	N/A	240 days	0	0%
McCracken	Kaibab	3,571	2014	9/2/2014	N/A	240 days	0	0%
Orion	Coconino	891	2014	7/1/2014	N/A	360 days	0	0%
UBC-Jacks/Buck	Coconino	2,022	2014	7/1/2014	N/A	270 days	0	0%
West Fork	A-S	1,482	2014	7/1/2014	8/15/2014	420 days	1,040	70%
Woodchuck	Tonto	585	2014	9/2/2014	12/24/2014	360 days	0	0%
Total 2014		17,151					1,040	6%

FY 15 Expected Task Order Offerings 4FRI phase 1 contract

Project/Task Order Name	Forest	Project Acres	Task Order Year
Isham	Kaibab	1,273	2015
Leo Grove	Tonto	700	2015
Rim Lakes-Bear	A-S	1,768	2015
Rim Lakes-Willow	A-S	1,300	2015
Schoolhouse	Coconino	3,159	2015
UBC Mrs Jones	Coconino	1,314	2015
UBC-Stoneman	Coconino	2,553	2015
Wing Mountain East	Coconino	4,576	2015
Clints South	Coconino	6,900	2015
Hochderffer (Hart Prairie)	Coconino	4,700	2015
Total 2015		28,243	

Current Status of Timber Sales outside of 4FRI phase 1 contract

Awarded Sale Name	Forest	Acres	Status	Awarded To
Dipping Vat	A-S	1,691	awarded 8/8/14, currently limited activity-- mud	WW Cattleguards
Mud Springs	A-S	1,018	Harvest/hauling started and ongoing,	Tri-Star
Woolhouse	A-S	2,800	Range project-30% complete, no activity, wet	Tri-Star
Show Low South	A-S	3,454	No activity, wet conditions	Tri-Star
Mr Jones	Coconino	611	Open but waiting on ground conditions to resume work	Jay Beecroft
Saginaw 2	Coconino	1,102	prework complete, waiting on ground conditions	Southwest Forest Products
Howard	Coconino	2,208	cut out of Payment units 1 & 2 with some final work to complete. 3 payment units remain	Southwest Forest Products
Moose Stewardship	Kaibab	1,200	harvest and haul completed, some cleanup work to complete	James Perkins
Round Mountain East	Kaibab	839	Sold	Newpac Fibre
Cave	Tonto	505	All 505 acres cut; minor clean-up to be done when ground conditions allow	Tri-Star
Sheep Springs	Tonto	1,179	Active in December; about 215 acres cut; too muddy as of	Tri-Star

Awarded Sale Name	Forest	Acres	Status	Awarded To
			January 5	
Sinkhole	A-S	825	Tri Star moved to Mud Springs 1/2/15	Tri-Star
Fulton	A-S	1,818	Harvest/hauling started and ongoing. PU 1	Forest Energy
Tule 3	Coconino	954	Sold, no activity	Southwest Forest Products
Burro Stewardship Agreement	A-S	856	prework complete, waiting on roads	Navajo Co –Eastern Arizona Co— awarded to Forest Energy
Wallow West Unit 27	A-S	431	mudded out, request for extension	Forest Energy Corp.
San Juan Road hazards salvage	A-S	291	cut out some final work to complete	Reidhead Bros Lumber mill
Nutri 1B Blowdown Salvage	A-S	30	completed	Reidhead Bros Lumber mill
Chitty Blowdown Salvage	A-S	183	Active in December; about 215 acres cut; too muddy as of January 5	Reidhead Bros Lumber mill
TOTAL		21,995		

6th Month firm and tentative timber sale offerings outside 4FRI phase 1 contract

Forest	Sale Name	Project Acres
A-S	Zrama	1,500
A-S	West Sundown PJ	1,517
A-S	Crook	1,850
A-S	Mesa	2,500
A-S	Timber Knoll	2,600
Coconino	Munds Park	650
Coconino	Railroad	250
Tonto	Colcord Stewardship	263

There is one sale currently marked on the Coconino that could be offered, Little Springs (approx. 900 acres). Prairie is also marked on the Kaibab and could be offered (see sales available above).

NEPA Status

Forest	Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation
A-S	Apache-Sitgreaves NFs Revised Land & Resource Management Plan EIS	Forest Plan	In Progress FEIS NOA in Fed Register October of 2014	Expected: January 2015	Spring 2015
A-S	Larson Forest Restoration Project EA	Forest Restoration	In Progress Scoping Start 11/12/2013 Est. Comment Period September 2014	Expected March 2015	May 2015
A-S	Upper Rocky Arroyo EA	Forest Restoration	Analysis in progress	September 2015	Fall 2015
A-S	Escudilla East EA	Forest Restoration	data collection, NFMA analysis ongoing	September 2016	2016
A-S	Heber Allotment Analysis	Grazing and grassland restoration	In progress, Scoping began August 2014	April 2015	May 2015
A-S	Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest TMR	Road management - Recreation management	On hold	On hold	On hold
Tonto	Tonto National Forest Motorized Travel Management EIS	Road management - Recreation management	In Progress DEIS NOA in Federal Register 07/03/2014 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 03/2015	Expected: June 2015	September 2015
Coconino Kaibab	Four-Forest Restoration Initiative EIS: Kaibab and Coconino EIS	Forest Restoration	FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2014 In objection period	Expected winter spring 2015	summer 2015

Forest	Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation
Coconino	Plan Revision for the Coconino National Forest EIS	Forest Plan	In Progress DEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/20/2013 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 06/2015	Expected: June 2015	summer 2015
Coconino	Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project EIS	Watershed management - Fuels management	In Progress DEIS NOA in Federal Register 07/03/2014 BAE submitted to USFWS, FEIS expected after consultation	Expected: June 2015	Summer 2015
Coconino	Turkey Butte/Barney Pasture Forest Health Restoration EA	Forest Restoration	In Progress Scoping Start 05/02/2012. Est comment period 2/2015	summer 2015	summer 2015
Coconino	Mahan-Landmark Forest Restoration Project EIS	Forest Restoration	NOI in Federal Register 11/2014	summer 2015	summer 2015
Coconino	C. C. Cragin Fuels Reduction Project EA	Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Notice of Initiation 10/201	05/2017	06/2017
Kaibab	Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project EIS	Forest Restoration	In Progress DEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/08/2013 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2014	May 2015	July 2015

Prescribed and Managed Fire Activity

The following table displays the acres of prescribed fire on the 4 Forests within the initiative boundary since October 1. Additional prescribed fire acres are planned through the spring.. No managed fires are occurring at this time.

Forest	Rx Project Name	Size
A-S	Nagel	25
A-S	Rodeo-Chediski	1,250
A-S	Scattered Piles	2
A-S	Los Burros Piles	250

Forest	Rx Project Name	Size
A-S	Blue Ridge/Morgan Piles	62
A-S	District Piles	1,341
A-S	Greer Boadcast	1,529
Coconino	Eastside	135
Coconino	Misc. Piles	200
Coconino	Oak Creek	15
Coconino	A-1	445
Coconino	Eastside	125
Coconino	Montainaire	272
Coconino	Mormon Lake Basin	10
Coconino	Hart Prairie	10
Coconino	Lake Mary	115
Coconino	Fort Valley	525
Coconino	UBC	460
Coconino	Blue Ridge Urban Interface	2,885
Kaibab	McCracken	679
Kaibab	Russell	817
Kaibab	Kendrick	441
Kaibab	Twin	318
Kaibab	Scott	1,759
Kaibab	Frenchy	306
Kaibab	City	1,273
Kaibab	Kendrick-Beale	265
Kaibab	Flying J	509
Kaibab	WRD-North-Side Piles	33
Kaibab	WRD-South-Side Piles	606
Kaibab	Tusayan Misc. Piles	192
Tonto	Chamberlin	506
Tonto	Pine/Strawberry	608
Tonto	Verde	975
Tonto	Christopher Hunter	642
Tonto	Myrtle	425
TOTAL		20,010



January 16, 2015

Forest Supervisors Bosworth, Stewart, Williams, and Zornes
Four Forest Restoration Initiative
Apache/Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab and Tonto National Forests

Dear Supervisors Bosworth, Stewart, Williams, and Zornes;

After five years of intense collaborative work on the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), the Stakeholder Group would like to commend the U.S. Forest Service on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Record of Decision for the 4FRI First Analysis Area. The Stakeholder Group feels that the collaborative work between all Stakeholders and the Forest Service Team had a very positive influence on the final analyses. In particular, the final analyses and decision honored or directly incorporated many of the recommendations provided by the Stakeholder Group in their comments on the Draft EIS and we are grateful for this. In addition, the Stakeholders would like to specifically extend their appreciation to the Interdisciplinary Team staff and leadership for their commitment to the collaborative process and their ability to continually seek positive resolution.

The 4FRI Stakeholder Group has therefore made the decision to support Alternative C of the 4FRI Final Environmental Impact Statement as the closest representation of their collaborative vision of restoration on the Four Forests: "landscape-scale restoration efforts across the Mogollon Rim that will support healthy, diverse stands, supporting abundant populations of native plants and animals; thriving communities in forested landscapes that pose little threat of destructive wildfire; and sustainable forest industries that strengthen local economies while conserving natural resources and aesthetic values" (The Path Forward, 2010). While no document can possibly encapsulate the integral embodiment of so many different Stakeholders' and Agencies' individual visions, and while individual stakeholders may seek adjustments on specific issues during the objection process and through future collaborative efforts, we believe that the Draft Record of Decision adequately translates the Forest Service and Stakeholder Group common restoration goals for the 4FRI First Analysis Area.

The Stakeholder Group looks forward and remains committed to continued engagement during the implementation, monitoring and adaptive management decisions of the Record of Decision in the 4FRI First Analysis Area, and is committed to engage as promptly as possible in the analyses of the EIS of the Second Analysis area for the next phase of 4FRI, in collaboration with the industry partners that make accelerated landscape scale restoration activities possible.

We look forward to continued collaborative and ecological success in 4FRI.
Sincerely,

Pascal Berlioux
4FRI Co-Chair

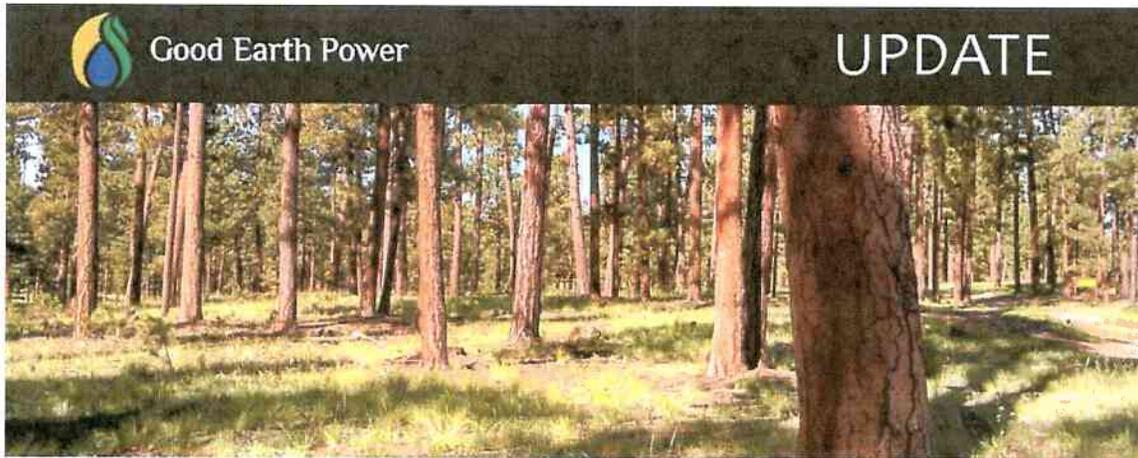
Steve Gatewood
4FRI Co-Chair

Sue Sitko
4FRI Co-Chair

Diane Vosick
4FRI Co-Chair

Operations Continue To Expand as Good Earth Power AZ Kicks Off the New Year ...

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New Year, New Growth

GEPAZ Expands Soils Division and Plans New Mill as Productivity Climbs at Lumberjack Mill

January 12, 2015 -- December was a busy and productive month for **Good Earth Power AZ** and 2015 is off to an equally strong start.

In December, GEPAZ announced that it has signed a lease on a 37-acre parcel in Williams, AZ that will become the site of a **lumber mill and processing facility**. The mill is expected to process smaller diameter trees that will be thinned on 4FRI task orders on the west side of the project region. Biomass from nearby task orders will be trucked to Williams for composting or chipping. GEPAZ is working with the City of Williams to obtain the necessary permits to allow development work to begin at the site.

GEPAZ At Work

January 2015



Work began on the KA Task Order in December.



Restored acreage on the Dogtown Task Order.

The Williams site will also become the initial processing center for GEPAZ's **Soils and Bagged Product Division**. In January, GEPAZ announced that it has partnered with Flagstaff-based **Roots Composting, LLC** to produce a line of enriched soil products that will be sold and distributed throughout the southwest. GEPAZ expects to eventually process 60,000 tons of biomass a year from its forest restoration activities on the west side. Slash will be composted into soils on site and the facility will feature two bagging lines for composted and chipped products.

Roots' proprietary composting process utilizes far less water than most industrial composting operations. It also repositions food waste as a raw material that can be used to produce rich, water-retentive soils. Using food waste to help compost biomass into soil diverts it from local landfills, which works to protect air quality through carbon avoidance.

"Using the outputs of forest restoration to improve soil, protect air quality, conserve water resources and provide new ways to feed and fuel our communities is an excellent example of full-circle sustainability that is completely aligned with Good Earth Power's mission," according to **CEO Jason Rosamond**.

GEPAZ also completed significant improvements



Working in the snow on the West Fork Task Order.



Work continues through the winter, weather permitting.



Loads of chips made their way down snowy roads as winter began near the West Fork task order.

and added a second shift at the **Lumberjack Mill** in Heber during December. A four-phase expansion project at the mill is expected to be completed in February. That project has included the addition of new and upgraded equipment, night lighting and infrastructure improvements. Second shift workers reported for the first time on December 18. The mill has seen a 60% improvement in production since improvements began and daily log demands have tripled. A kiln upgrade, a new planer and conveyors will allow the mill to also produce higher value, kiln-dried smooth surface lumber. The **Sierra Madre** pole operation also commenced on site in December.

GEPAZ is seeing an increasing demand for its products that come out of the forest (logs, chips). Customer demand for products coming out of Lumberjack (lumber, poles) is also keeping pace with increased production. Inquiries from prospective customers are increasing in all categories, including soils and bagged products. Restoration activity will increase significantly in the coming months, weather permitting, to match demand and to meet contract goals.

GEPAZ expects to hold a job fair in Williams in February. GEPAZ is also partnering with northern Arizona workforce agencies to help fill positions for its expanding operations throughout the region. By fall, those operations are expected to directly employ nearly 450 people across all GEPAZ locations.

Lumberjack Mill



First log processed on the second shift at Lumberjack Mill (12/18/14).



Moving down the log line on the second shift at Lumberjack Mill.



Lumberjack Night Shift Supervisor Bob Thomas and General Manager Mike Herbert work hard to ensure smooth transitions between two shifts.

Meet GEPAZ

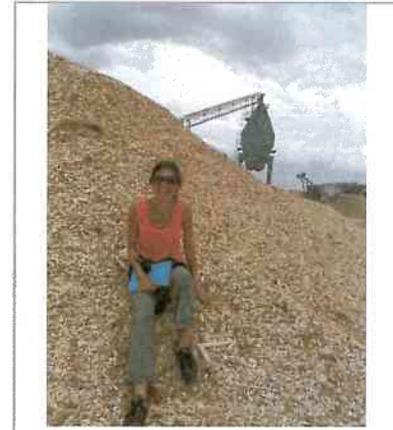
Task Order Update

To date, 13 Task Orders have received Notices to Proceed from the USFS.

There are 4 Active task orders: **Dogtown** (1,716 acres in Kaibab) has 85 acres restored to date, **KA** (1,046 acres in Kaibab) has 55 acres restored to date; and **Pomeroy** (1,646 acres in Kaibab) has 85 acres restored to date. **West Fork** (1,482 acres in Apache-Sitgreaves) has 1,040 acres restored to date with operations suspended due to weather.

There are 8 Inactive task orders, including **Alder** (1,322 acres in the Apache-Sitgreaves), with 995 acres restored to date and operations ceased for winter. **Bobs** (2,017 in Coconino); **Clark** (1,684 acres in Coconino), **Elk Park** (2,901 acres in Coconino) and **Weatherford** (1,017 acres in Coconino) have road maintenance completed by GEPAZ, with USFS road work ongoing. **East Clear Creek** (4,295 acres in Coconino) and **Woodchuck** (newly released, 585 acres in Tonto) are awaiting suitable operating conditions. **Mercer** (952 acres in Tonto) has 90 acres completed and will resume activity in 2015.

The **Ranch** task order was completed in 2014. To date, 3,282 acres have been restored. Nearly 2,400 of those acres have been restored by GEPAZ since January 2014. The rate of restoration will increase



Good Earth Power Co-Founder Maya Minkova in the chip pile at Lumberjack Mill last fall.



Good Earth Power CEO Jason Rosamond and Campbell Global Area Manager Steve Horner at Lumberjack Mill in Heber.

Microsite Update

significantly in 2015, as processing capacity continues to expand.

[View the USFS chart of Phase 1 Task Orders HERE](#)

[View the USFS 4FRI Task Order map HERE](#)

Good Earth Power AZ is growing! We'd like to welcome these new members of our team: **Kevin Ordean, Patrick Pfeifer** and **Matt Laessig**, who have joined Good Earth Power Soils, Ltd. from Roots Composting; **Jade Navarro, Greg Palmer, Michael Fleury** and **Mark Rome**, who have joined the team at GEPAZ's Mesa regional office; and all of our new second shift workers at the Lumberjack Mill, who are managed so successfully by new **Night Shift Supervisor Bob Thomas** and long-time **General Manager Mike Herbert**. GEPAZ is very fortunate to have so many dedicated team members who are committed to the long-term success of its projects!

The GEPAZ northern regional office is located at 1645 S. Plaza Way in Flagstaff, which is also home to the regional office of **Campbell Global (CG)**. **GEPAZ Managing Director Darren Gurner, CG Area Manager Steve Horner, GEPAZ Soils and Bagged Products Division Director Martin Gillard** and members of the **Good Earth Power Soils, Ltd.** team have offices on site and can be reached at (928) 774-1480. GEPAZ also has a regional office located in Mesa, AZ.



See More Photos Online

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