



Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Projects -Flagstaff Area Wildland Urban Interface 1999 - Present

Project Description

The Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership (GFFP) Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Projects – located on the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts of the Coconino National Forest – include a 300,000 acre gross area and 100,000 acres of net Forest Service area that surrounds the City of Flagstaff and adjacent communities. Projects began shortly after the 1996 fire season, a particularly intense fire year on the Coconino, and a time when the West began experiencing increased fire intensity and size along with increased activity in the Wildland Urban Interface.

The GFFP, an alliance of more than 20 environmental, governmental and business organizations, formed to promote the need for fuel treatments and to make planning efforts more efficient. The Partnership recognized a 300,000 acre area around Flagstaff (100,000 acres of FS land) in need of such treatment. Over the past decade, the Coconino National Forest and other management agencies have been collaborating to reduce fuels and fire risk and improve forest health.

Implementation Plan and Accomplishment to Date

The Coconino recently completed all of the landscape scale planning on Partnership projects. In general, the projects include Fuel Risk Reduction and Forest Health Restoration and Improvement on six landscape scale projects. A total of 80,000 net acres are now under decision.

Implementation has been initiated on all of the projects using a variety of contracting tools including timber sales and stewardship and service contracting. To date, over 45,000 acres have been or are currently under contract to be thinned and over 30,000 acres have received follow-up prescribed fire treatments.

Implementation will continue on an annual basis, thinning approximately 5,000 acres per year and burning 10,000 acres per year, until all projects under decision have been completed. At the current implementation rate, thinning is expected to be complete by 2014.

The Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership and the resulting projects have been highly successful. The work completed has greatly reduced the fire threat to Flagstaff and the associated urban interface areas, improved forest health, and made significant progress in restoration of fire adapted ecosystems.

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