



4 Jan 10

Randy Wilson
AZ Daily Sun
1751 S. Thompson St
Flagstaff AZ 86001

SUBJECT: Letter to the Editor
Two Editorials

The editorial in the Dec 30th edition – *Sharpen Regional Focus on Responding to Climate Change* – was timely. The Editorial Board correctly linked the threat our forests face from catastrophic wildfire and the impact this would have on our area. Example - A study some years ago, based upon experiences of others struck by a major wildfire, showed the first-year negative impact to our community of such an event could exceed \$60 million dollars.

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) has worked for the past 13 years to restore our forests, protect our communities, and work-toward development of sustainable small diameter wood-based businesses. Progress has been made, but challenges remain.

Chief among them is the creation of wood-based businesses which are critical to long-term success. Wind and solar are often singled out as potent sources of renewable energy. But, surrounded by a forest that is overgrown and at-risk of loss, biomass should also be a major part of any renewable energy discussion.

Recently, GFFP, the US Forest Service, and other partners throughout Arizona have engaged on the *Four Forest Restoration Initiative* (4FRI). This project has the potential to greatly expand successful forest treatments and bring much needed wood industry to our area. Environmental groups have been a faithful part of these discussions and the progress made to-date.

Finally, we appreciate the recognition provided by the Jan 1st editorial – *Continuing Challenges Face Flagstaff* – in which the success of GFFP in addressing unhealthy and unsafe forests was identified as a “national model and arguably the single most important accomplishment of the past 10 years in the region”. It is our goal that in 2020, when this decade is reviewed, that the reality of wood-based businesses can be lauded as a major accomplishment.

Respectfully,

Paul Summerfelt
President – Board of Directors