



Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership Recipient 2019 National Wildfire Mitigation Award

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The Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) has received the prestigious 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Award. GFFP Partners travelled to the Wildland-Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada to accept the award on March 27th. GFFP will also be recognized at the joint Flagstaff City Council/Coconino County Supervisor meeting on April 1st at 4:00 PM at City Hall.

This award is the highest national honor and recognizes the outstanding work and significant program impact GFFP has in wildfire preparedness and mitigation. By honoring the GFFP, the award sponsors see the Partnership as an exemplary model that others can learn from and transmit in their communities. The Wildfire Mitigation Award was established in 2014 by the National Association of State Foresters, National Fire Protection Association, USDA Forest Service and the International Association of Fire Chiefs to recognize outstanding wildfire mitigation programs and projects that are increasing communities' preparedness and protecting their values across the nation.

Established in 1996, GFFP is one of the longest-standing collaborative groups in the country. This award recognizes all of the GFFP Partners who contributed to this success over the last 23 years. Recent projects and accomplishments that were highlighted in the award included the Coconino County [“Fort Tuthill Park Thinning Project.”](#) The Park is especially vulnerable to severe wildfire because it is located within Flagstaff's main fire vector, it is directly adjacent to homes, and is a highly used recreational area. To accomplish the on-the-ground forest treatments, multiple GFFP partner organizations came together to develop several forest treatment prescriptions and employed novel digital technologies that greatly improved efficiency and lowered costs.

In addition, GFFP designed [two educational kiosks](#) and a demonstration area in the Park. The easily accessed Park provides opportunities for public education and outreach to thousands of visitors and is a learning laboratory for forestry professionals, political leaders and professors and students at Northern Arizona University. GFFP also produced two color newspaper inserts - [“We Can Adapt to Wildfire, A Look at Forest Treatment Effectiveness”](#) and [“Defend What Matters.”](#) The inserts were published in the local newspaper, to non-subscribers and in three papers south of town.

More information on the awards can be found at: <http://stateforesters.org/mitigation>.

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