

THE LOOKOUT

Four Forest Restoration Initiative



Quarterly Stakeholder Newsletter / Spring 2018

Meetings

Natural Resources Working Group	May 15 Jun 19 Jul 17
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	May 16 Jun 20 Jul 18
4FRI Stakeholders	May 23 Jun 27 Jul 25
Multi-Party Monitoring Board <u>Bryce Esch</u>	May 9 Jun 13 Jul 11
Comprehensive Implementation Work Group <u>Travis Bruner</u>	May 17 Jun 21 Jul 19
Communications Work Group <u>Sue Sitko</u>	May 14 Jun 11 Jul 9
Planning Work Group <u>Pascal Berlioux</u>	May 2 May 16 Jun 6

Annual Industry Roundtable Continues to Accelerate Forest Restoration

On March 19, the 4FRI Industry Working Group (IWG), Forest Service, and business/industry stakeholders held their annual “Industry Roundtable” meeting in Holbrook, Arizona. This was an opportunity for the Forest Service to present their schedule of upcoming sales across the 4FRI footprint, discuss harvesting, hauling, and processing input with industry members, and collaboratively develop a more efficient process to plan, schedule, deliver, and process wood from the northern Arizona forests.

Dick Fleishman, Forest Service 4FRI Implementation Officer and participant in the roundtable, is an enthusiastic supporter of these annual gatherings. “What I liked was that industry was talking more than the Forest Service was,” he said. Pascal Berlioux, Executive Director of the Eastern Arizona Counties Organization (ECO) and one of the key organizers of this event for three years in a row, agrees on the value of this forum. “The roundtable adds tremendous value in developing continuous improvement of Forest Service processes and offerings,” Berlioux said, “and helps resolve the operational challenges private industry faces while striving to meet 4FRI’s collaborative forest restoration goals.”

The range of roundtable participants included wood harvesters from across northern Arizona; trucking companies; and mill and manufacturing businesses creating products such as wood pellets, lumber, biomass power, and soil amendments. Academic research units from Northern Arizona University’s Ecological Restoration

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Stay Connected

4FRI Stakeholder Group website: www.4fri.org

Forest Service 4FRI webpage: www.fs.usda.gov/4fri includes all public documentation of the 4FRI project, including maps, contacts, and public input opportunities.



Electronic versions of this newsletter and more information can be found at www.4FRI.org

New “Forest Restoration and You” Brochure Available

With an uptick in forest treatments occurring over the past year, harvesters, forest managers, and elected officials have been receiving questions from the public on what’s happening in our woods. And, with heavy equipment in operation both in the forest and on forest roads, forest managers expressed a desire to relay safety information to the public.

The 4FRI Communications Work Group worked with 4FRI stakeholders and the Forest Service to design a brochure that serves multiple functions and can be used for any forest restoration project occurring across northern Arizona.

The brochure “Forest Restoration and You” highlights the following:

- ◆ Goals of forest treatments;
- ◆ Short descriptions of all aspects of forest operations, including mechanical treatments, managed fire and smoke, and other restoration activities;
- ◆ Safety precautions;
- ◆ Web-based resources on fire and smoke management, private land “Firewise” concepts, and websites for primary forest restoration managers (Forest Service’s 4FRI, AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management, and the 4FRI Stakeholder’s web page);
- ◆ How to volunteer for restoration activities; and
- ◆ A blank “sticky note” where current activities, meetings, or upcoming events can be printed (stickers or handwritten) by each distributing organization.

This effort could not have transpired without the input and support of the 4FRI Stakeholder Group, which reviewed several iterations of the brochure. The following 4FRI stakeholder organizations contributed financially to the graphic design or printing process:

Campbell-Global; Coconino County; Eastern Arizona Counties Organization; Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University; Grand Canyon Trust; Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership; NewLife Forest Products; The Nature Conservancy; and Trout Unlimited.

A total of 15,000 copies were printed and will be distributed among the 4FRI Stakeholder Group and Forest Service for their use and outreach efforts. Should this brochure need a re-print, we may be contacting stakeholders again for their contribution!

For more information, please contact Sue Sitko at ssitko@tnc.org or Tayloe Dubay at tayloe.dubay@nau.edu.



Forest Restoration and You



National Wildfire Preparedness Day Coming to Flagstaff

On Saturday, May 5, cities around the country will promote community wildfire preparedness, a campaign promoted by the National Fire Protection Association. Flagstaff will be one of the communities holding various events throughout the day, including neighborhood Firewise and fire information door-to-door outreach and pop-up information stations at high-traffic locations throughout the city. These events are staffed by volunteers, City of Flagstaff Wildland Fire Management, and Team Rubicon (veterans volunteering on disaster responses). For more information, contact Jerolyn Byrne, Flagstaff Fire Department Firewise Specialist, at 928-213-2510 or jbyrne@flagstaffaz.gov.

Contact our 4FRI Stakeholder Group Co-Chairs: [Pascal Berlioux](#) [Travis Bruner](#) [Tommie Martin](#) [Allen Reidhead](#) [Sue Sitko](#) [Greg Smith](#) [Paul Summerfelt](#) [Diane Vosick](#) [Paul Watson](#) [Jason Whiting](#) [Brad Worsley](#)

Forest Service's Citizen Science Program Awards Arizona Project

With today's emphasis on collaboration and support for partnerships in forest management, "citizen science" is increasing in scope and value. Citizen science happens when the public takes part in the scientific process, including forming research questions, collecting data, developing new technologies, or otherwise contributing to professional academia or resource management. Anyone can be a citizen scientist!

The Forest Service's Citizen Science program includes a Citizen Science (CitSci) Fund which provides annual competitive funding for collaborative projects that bring new information to managers and increase our knowledge about our national forests. In 2018, the CitSci Fund received 172 applications, and was able to selected four projects for nearly \$94,000 in total funding. With contributions from the Forest Service's Ecosystem Management Coordination and Office of Sustainability and Climate, an additional two projects were funded for a total of \$134,216.



San Carlos Apache Tribal member with Forest Service staff identifying culturally important plants, credit USDA-Forest Service

One of the successful projects will occur on the Kaibab and Tonto national forests in the 4FRI footprint. Proposed by Arizona and New Mexico tribes, the project will collect information on traditionally used plants that have cultural, medicinal, or economic values important to tribal communities, which is challenging due to the expanse of northern Arizona forests and the need for experienced botanists to correctly identify plant species. Volunteers will record observations of these plants using the iNaturalist app on their cellular

phones; data will be analyzed by volunteers to shape conservation and management goals. Tribal community engagement in public lands management will be strengthened by conserving traditional plants and sharing data between tribes and the Forest Service. In addition, public land management and cultural heritages will be connected for future generations. Project partners include Northern Arizona University, the Coconino and Kaibab national forest tribal liaisons, and tribal representatives.

- Forest Service

The National Timber Purchasers Committee will be meeting in Flagstaff and visiting the 4FRI project area over May 2 and 3. The NTPC consists of the larger national companies that purchase timber from the Forest Service around the country.

"This is a good opportunity to hear from national industry representatives about what factors contributed to their decision to invest in new mills elsewhere, predominantly in the southeast part of the country," said Henry Provencio, Innovations and Efficiencies Coordinator for 4FRI.

In addition, stakeholders from both 4FRI and the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP) have been asked to participate to showcase each project's desired conditions, wood supply, and technological innovations that are helping reduce costs and create a more favorable economic base for industry in northern Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) is hosting the 3rd Annual Living With Fire: Arizona Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and Firewise Summit April 27-28, 2018 at the Hon-Dah Resort outside of Pinetop. This two-day event will bring together homeowners, emergency responders, wildland firefighters, and resource experts to exchange information on wildfire preparedness to help increase safety and reduce losses in forested communities.

Residents will be informed of Firewise programs, WUI and other hazardous fuels reduction grants, fire-related insurance policies, fire-adapted community programs, Ready-Set-Go!, forest health and stewardship, and much more. Programs run Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact the DFFM at 602

-771-1400. The Hon-Dah Resort is located at 777 Hwy. 260, Pinetop, AZ.



Cedar Creek Fire outside Pinetop, June 2016.
Photo: Sue Sitko

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“Fire and Water” Film Screening in Flagstaff, May 17

The National Forest Foundation and Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership are hosting a screening of the award-winning short film “Fire and Water: Restoring Arizona’s Forests,” produced by the Salt River Project and narrated by Emmy Award-winner Peter Coyote on **Thursday, May 17, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Museum of Northern Arizona** (3101 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff).



Catastrophic wildfire impacts many aspects of life in Arizona, from the quality and sustainability of our water supplies to the safety and livelihood of people who live in mountain towns on the edge of our forests. After the film, discover what a coalition of Arizona organizations are doing to restore our landscape and protect our community, forests, and water from catastrophic fire. Together, we can make a difference! For more information, visit www.gffp.org.

Industry Roundtable, cont'd

Institute and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and the non-profits Grand Canyon Trust and The Nature Conservancy invested in the forest restoration effort and added value by sharing technology developments and research findings. Forest Service agency and county government representatives rounded out this gathering of nearly 50 individuals dedicated to improving restoration on the ground.

Opening statements from both Navajo and Greenlee County Supervisors (Jason Whiting and Richard Lunt, respectively), Brad Worsley (chair of the 4FRI IWG), and the Forest Service laid the groundwork for lively discussion on topics including appraisals, cruising, current outlook on supply and demand, and a review of the wood offering schedule for each northern Arizona national forest.

The 4FRI IWG will be following up on more than two dozen action items that arose from the meeting, including road management, timber valuation and scaling procedures, stewardship contract term lengths, biomass management, and integrating new technology into prescriptions and harvesting operations. Participants in the 2018 Industry Roundtable are listed below.

Industry:

Bob Lee & Sons Forestry
Campbell-Global
Canyon Creek Logging
Empire
Ethelbah Enterprises
Forest Energy
High Desert Investment
NAPCO Trucking
NewLife Forest Products
Novo Power
Perkins Timber
Suarez Forestry
Tri-Star Logging
Winner’s Circle Soil

Forest Service:

Apache-Sitgreaves
Coconino
Kaibab
Tonto
Region 3
4FRI
Other Organizations:
Grand Canyon Trust
NAU Ecological Restoration Institute
The Nature Conservancy
University of Arizona

County Government:

Apache County
Coconino County
Eastern Arizona Counties Organization
Greenlee County
Navajo County

For more information, contact:

[Pascal Berlioux](#)
[Dick Fleishman](#)
[Brad Worsley](#)



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Forest Service Works to Streamline Delivery of Forest Products: A Q&A on the Forest Product Modernization Effort

Excerpt in Q&A format from Forest Service presentation at March 28 4FRI Stakeholder Meeting

The Forest Service is committed to improving the condition of forests and grasslands. Part of this commitment is a review and refinement of our forest products delivery processes to meet obligations of caring for the land through responsible, science-based environmental stewardship. We have not significantly changed our systems or technology in the last 30 years. Many of the production processes and policies we now use were put in place decades ago and are based on the sale of high-value timber. Today's forest health treatments remove lower-value timber; the long-term value of land treated and restored is often more than that derived from the sale of timber. Here are some questions and answers from the Forest Service's Forest Product Modernization effort:

What is Forest Product Modernization? Forest Product Modernization, or FPM, is a strategic effort to create a comprehensive national approach to modernizing our delivery of forest products to improve forest conditions and sustain rural economies.

What is the goal of FPM? To align agency practices, policies, and guidance to be agile, flexible, and adaptable to better meet current and future forest improvement goals.

Why change now? Our forests need careful management in the face of changing climate, wildfire, insects, and disease that threaten their sustainability. Systems that have served us well in the past need to evolve to keep up with the best available science, changes in authorities, technology, markets, and stewardship goals.

We estimate restoration treatment needs of 80 million acres; we are not keeping up. Having sustainable, healthy, resilient forests in the future depends on our ability to increase the pace and scale of our restoration activities (timber harvest, fuel treatments) and prescribed burning. The goal in 2018 is 3.5 million acres treated. Even at this increased rate it would take 20 years to achieve restoration goals.

What is the Forest Service doing?

- ⇒ Updating employee training
- ⇒ Examining and reforming policy
- ⇒ Improving efficiency through better use of technology
- ⇒ Changing project management and delivery systems
- ⇒ Changing how we do business to get more work done on the ground
- ⇒ Exploring opportunities in all aspects of the forest products delivery system

This effort will include potential changes in personnel management; sale layout, transportation, and logging systems; timber sale accounting, appraisals, and contracting; and more. We identified priorities, and are pursuing short-, mid-, and long-term actions.

Who is working on this effort? National-level leaders are working with a guiding team of staff representatives from all nine regions to solicit input from field personnel. We are engaging with our partners to find out what is working well or needs to change. Feedback will inform how we can become the best forest products delivery organization in the country.

What does success look like? We are striving for a comprehensive national approach to modernizing our delivery of forest products in place by winter 2019.

How can partners, stakeholders, and communities be involved in Forest Service FPM? We are reaching out to several of our partners to ask for their ideas through workshops and listening sessions and invite everyone to contribute ideas, experiences, and innovations that can help achieve this change; input can be sent to: Allen Rowley, Director, Forest Management, Range, and Vegetation Ecology /// 202-644-4715 /// arowley@fs.fed.us

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Fire Adapted Communities' Concepts Shared with Yavapai Fire Department

The Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership (GFFP) presented fire adapted communities' concepts at a pancake breakfast meeting with the Yavapai Fire Dept. (YPD) in Kirkland, AZ on Saturday, April 14th. Attendees also came from nearby Yarnell, Skull Valley, and Congress.



GFFP is creating a statewide Fire Adapted Community Network called Arizona Fire Adapted Communities (AZFAC), and presenter Anne Mottek from GFFP was joined by AZFAC steering committee members Chris Jones (U of A Cooperative Extension) and Pinetop Fire Department Chief Jim Morgan as well as USAA Insurance representative Greg LaMontagne to showcase the AZFAC program and encourage the inclusion of these communities. Information was provided on what it means to be part of a fire adapted community such as AZFAC, the ignition zone and defensible space, homeowners' insurance perspective, FireWise landscaping, and Ember Aware. Chief Morgan spoke of the Waldo Canyon Fire and Greg Lamontagne shared his experience of being an evacuee of the same fire. YPD Chief Brassier stressed being prepared, and other fire staff shared ways of obtaining financial assistance to treat their properties through cost share grants. Later, the community discussed planning for fire incidents and evacuations. Watters Garden Center in Prescott donated FireWise plants as raffle prizes to reinforce the importance of applying Firewise principles near homes. Joining the AZFAC Network to share opportunities, challenges and lesson learned will help create secure communities and resilient ecosystems. All in all, the event was fun, well-attended, and a great success!

- Anne Mottek

Smoke Management Outreach

The national Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FACLN) funded a project led by the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) to develop a Wildfire Smoke Outreach Strategy, which will include a 4-page color newspaper insert with information on the ecological role of fire in our forests and prescribed fire use, smoke management practices, and resources for the public to help reduce health effects from smoke exposure.

This insert will be in Flagstaff, Sedona, Camp Verde, and Cottonwood newspapers and will be available on the GFFP website, www.gffp.org, by early summer. GFFP convened a working committee of several partners to produce the insert, including the 4FRI Communication Work Group, AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management, NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute, AZ Department of Environmental Quality, AZ Conservation Corp, the Forest Service, and national members of the FACLN.

2018 Legislative Highlights

In this congressional session, some forest management and restoration efforts made it into the federal Omnibus Appropriations Bill and other legislation:

- ◇ After several years trying to secure a "fire funding fix," the bill provides budget relief to the Forest Service under the Wildfire Suppression Disaster Cap Adjustment, which helps stabilize Forest Service and Department of Interior budgets to help meet suppression needs while leaving other programs intact. Disaster access begins in federal fiscal year 2020. For more information, please visit [here](#).
- ◇ The bill includes extending the stewardship contracting authority term limit from 10 years to 20 years, and the Good Neighbor Authority was improved for states to assist with management of federal lands.
- ◇ The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) was funded at its fully authorized \$40-million level.

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