



Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) Accomplishments

January 31, 2023

Highlights From the Last 10 Years

GFFP is a valued and accomplished non-profit for 27 years; GFFP has the ability to:

- apply for and/or support partners' grants
- act as fiscal sponsor
- act as another voice, outside of government entities, and proactively address misinformation or concerns from interest groups and residents
- provide an expansive professional network to accomplish government entities' goals
- increase government's capacity and resources, with subject matter experts, to accomplish mutual goals and objectives
- organize and facilitate meetings, with related subject matter experts, for collaborative partners, leadership, and/or the public

GFFP is the Recipient of Recent Awards:

- [Copper Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program Recognition](#) (2022)
- [National Wildfire Mitigation Award](#) (2019) – GFFP received a [State of Arizona Commendation](#) from Governor Ducey and a Certificate of [Special Congressional Recognition](#) from Senator McSally
- [Two Chiefs Partnership Award](#) (2015)

GFFP Supports/Influences Local, State and National Initiatives, Forest Industry and the Public:

For the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP), GFFP:

- is the primary stakeholder group, and assisted the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the City of Flagstaff (City), as needed
- assisted with developing "[FWPP News and Accomplishments Report](#)" (Oct. 2022)
- annually hosts Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Ecological Restoration class on field tours to Observatory Mesa (part of FWPP)

For the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), GFFP:

- served six-month appointments as 4FRI Chair and Co-Chair of the Stakeholder Group and the Steering Committee
- funded representation on 4FRI's Multi-Party Monitoring Board (MPMB) (served as a nexus to the FWPP Monitoring Plan) and served as a representative in the 4FRI Stakeholder Group
- assisted with securing grant funding and support to complete the "[Regional Economic Contributions of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative](#)," which analyzed the regional economic contributions of 4FRI-related projects in FY17. An associated article, "[Modeling Regional Economic Contributions of Forest Restoration: A Case Study of the 4FRI](#)," was published in the *Journal of Forestry* (Hjerpe et al. 2021)

- is the recipient of 4FRI MPMB's grants received to-date (four in total)
- assisted as lead author of "Socioeconomic Monitoring" of the "Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan" for the Final Environment Impact Statement for the first analysis area and [updated this section](#) (pg. 63) for the 4FRI Rim Country Project - the second analysis area on the eastside of the state
- in cooperation with the USFS, contributed to several virtual round table sessions to consider innovative conservation finance mechanisms that could be used to accelerate forest restoration treatments
- participated in and contributed to outcomes of the national "[Confronting the Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#)" Roundtables. The Roundtables were designed to assist the USFS in developing this strategy to assure a dramatic increase in the scale and pace of forest health treatments

For the National Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net), GFFP:

- has been a national core member for ten years and has completed numerous activities that support exchanging information, collaborating to enhance the practice of fire adaptation, and working together at multiple scales to help communities live safely with fire
- co-chaired the Wood Utilization Community of Practice, which is a forum to share challenges, lesson learned and practices to improve wood utilization success across the west
- solicited participation in the Wood Utilization Community of Practice at the Council for Western State Foresters' Forest Products Committee's annual meeting
- established, maintained, and chaired the Steering Committee of the Arizona Fire Adapted Communities Network (AZFAC). AZFAC's mission is to "create fire adapted communities that understand the beneficial role of fire on our landscapes, embrace responsibility for their risk, and take actions to protect the social, economic and ecological values threatened by wildfire."
- in conjunction with AZFAC Steering Committee members, presented at two community meetings -- Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC) and at a pancake breakfast at the Yavapai Fire District, near Yarnell and People's Valley, to convey awareness for AZFAC and how communities can increase fire adaptation efforts
- hosted and participated in events to promote AZFAC that included Arizona Fire District Association meeting; Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) site visit in Pinetop-Lakeside; a state network training in Durango, CO; Forest Health Symposium and Western Extension Forestry Coordinating Committee meeting; and at several Association for Fire Ecology conferences
- hosted and presented to the Southwest Fire and Prevention Information Committee – this occurred in collaboration with Fire Adapted New Mexico Learning Network
- hosted the first "AZFAC Virtual Learning Exchange" with three communities (Pinetop, Prescott, and Strawberry/Pine) to share and learn about fire adaptation issues and practices occurring across the State
- attended several "Network Coordinator's Workshops" to fine tune strategies to assure AZFAC's growth and sustainability
- hosted an AZFAC membership drive webinar and designed a Podio online communication space so that members can connect and communicate about fire adaptation issues in their communities
- received annual funding from awarded FACLN proposals to complete forest restoration/fire mitigation projects each year and many of the activities are highlighted in this document

For Numerous Partnering Agencies and Organizations, GFFP:

- provided opportunities for peer connections to share research and current and upcoming projects and programs, meet new forest product industry and agency leaders, conduct peer assist problem solving sessions and learn about innovations and novel technologies
- holds monthly meetings, which are a forum for forestry professionals, researchers, and fire practitioners to exchange ideas and work together to implement projects
- redesigned gffp.org that provides “Partner Spotlight,” news items, sharable products, updates on current projects and initiatives (4FRI and FWPP), events, a smoke resources page, various outreach materials, an interactive online kiosk that promotes and explains the importance of forest health and forest restoration practices, etc.
- assisted with outreach to key groups like the County Supervisor Association Legislative Summit, USFS International Seminar on Watershed Management, USFS International Program Indonesian delegation, Arizona Municipal Planners’ Association, Western State Foresters/Western Forest Leadership Council, Northern Arizona University’s (NAU) School of Forestry Advisory Council and NAU’s Ecological Restoration class
- partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a “Conservation Implementation Strategy” that paved the way to apply for funding for treatments on private, state and municipal lands
- supported representation at the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes’ “Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop” to share successes, lessons-learned and to develop actionable strategies on cross-boundary, collaborative efforts to restore fire adapted forest landscapes
- hosted teachers enrolled in summer seminars with NAU’s Dine Institute for Navajo Educators. During these field tours, GFFP showcased the Ft Tuthill County Park Forest Restoration Project and demonstration area so that teachers could improve their knowledge in forest health and restoration and effectively transmit this information to their students

For Residents and the Community, GFFP:

- through a Healthy Forest Initiative grant (awarded in 2021), hired a local forestry contractor who thinned and removed biomass from 133 acres owned by Northern Arizona Healthcare. This reduced wildfire risk to Flagstaff’s business district and airport, many neighborhoods, two high-voltage powerlines, major highways, the Flagstaff Urban Trail System and Ft Tuthill County Park
- designed and developed cocowildfire.org. This website is designed to assist residents in Coconino County with accessing centralized information so they can make informed decisions regarding their actions when out of control wildfires strike near or within their communities. This website is designed as a “one stop shop” clearinghouse of reliable websites and social media sites that will assist in locating the most pertinent information during an emergency wildfire situation. In 2022, GFFP added Spanish, and other language, translation to the website
- completed [cost-share thinning](#) on Coconino County land (60 acres behind Sechrist Elementary School, and 325 acres in Ft Tuthill County Park), Flagstaff Unified School District’s Camp Colton, and several private parcels in Hart Prairie (\$200,000)
- assisted Coconino County in developing a communication plan and outreach materials (letter to residents and [brochure](#)) for the Ft. Tuthill County Park thinning project
- completed 475 acres of cost share thinning treatments on Observatory Mesa and [192 acres in Ft. Tuthill County Park](#), the Arboretum, and privately owned land (\$292,000)
- secured grant funding (since 2004) of upwards of \$2 million distributed to property owners to treat more than 3,350 acres

For Reducing Treatment Cost and Increasing Acres Treated, GFFP:

- developed and tested a “Designation by Description (DxD) Cutter Select Method” and a “Digital Restoration Guide” tablet technology to reduce the need to mark trees with paint, thus increasing efficiency and reducing cost
- completed the revision of the [“Greater Flagstaff Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)”](#) (2018)
- participated in Ecological Restoration Institute’s panel for review of western CWPPs and in the “All-lands Planning Coordination and Wildfire Risk Reduction Project”
- submitted formal recommendations for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program (funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) as it was being developed
- submitted a CWDG grant application, during the first round, for a property (~70 acres) containing steep slopes on the westside of the San Francisco Peaks
- participated and contributed to the Forest Biomass Coalition (FBC), a GFFP sponsored working group, to address the lack of forest biomass processing facilities on the western side of the State

For Increasing Public Awareness and Support for Forest Thinning and Prescribed Fire, GFFP:

- worked with Coconino County and a planning group in the development of an outreach campaign for the Parks’ community that included a collaboratively developed letter outlining future plans for a “Parks Community Forest Health and Safety Fair.”
- designed and installed two kiosks (see [here](#) and [here](#)) in Ft Tuthill County Park, including a demonstration area, and created a related interactive web-based [“Forest and Fire Ecology Kiosk”](#) linked to science
- designed and published, [“We Can Adapt to Wildfire - A Look at Forest Treatment Effectiveness”](#) newspaper insert to illustrate how forest treatments reduce severe wildfire effects
- designed and published [“Defend What Matters,”](#) a newspaper insert, which describes scientific evidence of the characteristics of severe wildfire versus prescribed fire and the differences between these types of fires and smoke events. The insert was distributed in newspapers in Flagstaff, Sedona, Camp Verde, and Cottonwood with a total circulation of 42,000
- held multiple [“Forest Treatments, Harvesting Methods & Fire Adapted Communities”](#) events with logging equipment and other interactive activities at Flagstaff’s Aquaplex and at Festival of Science
- hosted a field tour during the Festival of Science, in conjunction with Coconino County, at Ft Tuthill County Park’s forest restoration kiosk and demonstration area
- developed and tested a [“Rapid Wildland Fire Risk Home Assessment Pilot Project”](#) designed to raise awareness and actions in mitigating wildfire risk to properties and communities
- exhibited logging equipment and a display booth at the County Fair
- created and distributed [Firewise property owner signs](#) to recognize their wildfire mitigation efforts
- hosted a “Fire and Water Restoring Arizona’s Forests,” film screening that included an expert panel at the Museum of Northern Arizona. This event was attended by more than 100 residents and visitors and emphasized the current fire danger of an extremely dry winter and how we can work together to mitigate the greatest public safety issue within the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County.
- organized and hosted several “Firewise Landscape Contests” and an awards’ luncheon with the winners congratulated by county and municipal leaders (3 years)