

# THE LOOKOUT

## Four Forest Restoration Initiative



*Stakeholder Newsletter / February 2023*

### **4FRI Working Groups**

Communications Working Group  
[Tayloe Dubay](#)

Comprehensive Implementation Working Group  
[Hannah Griscom](#)

Industry/Biomass Working Group  
[Adam Cooley](#) and [Brad Worsley](#)

Multi-Party Monitoring Board  
[Cerissa Hoglander](#)

Treatment Prioritization and Optimization Working Group  
[Todd Schulke](#), [Amy Waltz](#), [Travis Woolley](#)

### **4FRI Partners**

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership  
[www.GFFP.org](http://www.GFFP.org)

Natural Resources Working Group  
[Jason Whiting](#)

### **Stay Connected**

4FRI Stakeholder Group website:  
[www.4FRI.org](http://www.4FRI.org)



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

### **Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) Awarded Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) Grant**

The Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP), along with Campbell Global, recently completed a fuel reduction project on 133 acres owned by Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH). The GFFP was awarded a 2021 Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) Grant from the Department of Forestry and Fire Management. The thinning treatments were implemented on the potential site of Northern Arizona's only Level 1 trauma center and medical campus.

The NAH Project is located within Flagstaff's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and compliments several nearby treatments and reduces wildfire risk for many adjacent or nearby valued assets. The values at risk included Flagstaff's westside business district, Flagstaff Pulliam Airport, Fort Tuthill County Park, Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS), several neighborhoods, and major highways including State Route 89A/Beulah Boulevard and Interstate 17. In addition, the project added to landscape level fire resilience for the nearby Coconino National Forest's Southside Airport Project and the Fort Tuthill County Park Project (WFHF grant awarded to GFFP and Coconino County in 2018). To fulfill another project objective that included supporting local forest product industry,



*GFFP Partner Field Tour at the NAH Project. Photo by Niki vonHedemann (Ecological Restoration Institute)*

a local contractor, Dakota Logging, successfully implemented the NAH Project ahead of schedule.

GFFP and Campbell Global were able to showcase the project during a field tour this past summer, and Partners were able to personally meet and interact with the logging contractor and his crew. The tour inspired the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to nominate GFFP, and other involved partners, for the "[ADEQ Copper Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program \(VESP\)](#)" recognition. This acknowledgement is awarded each year for partnerships/collaborations "... that have completed a project that resulted in measurable improvements to the environment."

*(Continued on p. 2)*



Recently, GFFP was informed that the Partnership, NAH, Campbell Global, and Dakota Logging will receive this recognition, and ADEQ will present the award at an upcoming GFFP meeting (expected April 2023). GFFP Partners will continue to capitalize on opportunities to

reach out to the community with messaging that highlights the effects of these treatments, and overall forest health/restoration and FireWise/fire adaptation principles. ■

— Anne Mottek, GFFP



*Photos of before (left) and after (right) thinning treatments.*

## Conservationist Tom Mackin receives Flagstaff Citizen of the Year Award



Tom Mackin, dedicated outdoor volunteer and 4FRI Stakeholder Group member, received the Flagstaff Citizen of the Year award in 2022.

In a Dec. 29, 2022 [article](#) in the *Arizona Daily Sun*, Mackin is described by friends and colleagues as a strong leader and an active, effective volunteer.

Mackin has spent the past 40 years in northern Arizona volunteering for the USDA Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), and Friends of Northern Arizona Forests (FONAF). He has worked to increase volunteer participation on the area national forests, hauled water for wildlife, repaired water tanks, maintained water pipelines, repaired and removed miles of barbed wire fences, and built log fences, all in support of area wildlife populations.

In the article, Colby Walton, Wildlife Manager for the AZGFD, said, “Tom is the backbone of conservation in the Flagstaff volunteer community. His support will have lasting impacts on wildlife conservation for many generations to come.”

Mackin has received recognition for his conservation work in the past. In 2019, the AZGFD recognized him with a lifetime achievement award for his volunteer service.

According to the article, Mackin says the support of those around him, especially his wife, has allowed him to commit countless hours to service. He said that he hopes others are inspired to be stewards of the environment, and that stewardship can come in many forms.

“There are lots of opportunities for people to get involved,” Mackin was quoted saying in the article. “You don’t need to be a volunteer to pick up trash if you’re out there hiking. Nobody says that you need to ignore an empty soda can or beer bottle or water container. Nobody says you need to be a volunteer to pick that up. Take it with you. Pack it in, pack it out. As Teddy Roosevelt said, leave it better than the way we found it.” ■

— Information for this article was sourced from a Dec. 29, 2022 [article](#) by Sean Golightly in the *AZ Daily Sun*.



## Arizona Leaders Named to Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission

Last year, Lucinda Andreani, Coconino County Deputy Manager, and Neil Chapman, Flagstaff Fire Department Forest Health Captain, were named to the federal Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

The commission, as required in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, represents 50 people who bring a diverse range of perspectives, including federal agencies, state, local, and Tribal governments, as well as the private sector. The commission is tasked with forming federal policy recommendations and strategies on ways to better

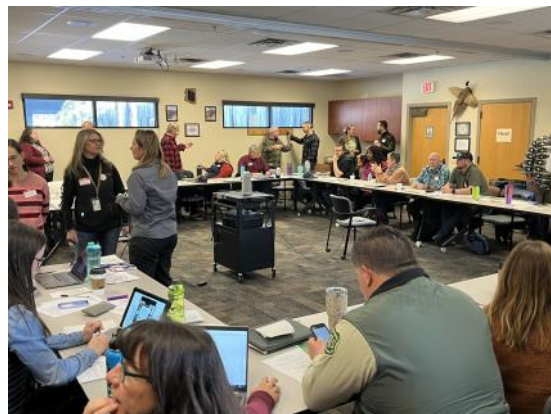
prevent, manage, suppress and recover from wildfires, and provide recommendations for aerial firefighting equipment needs. Together, their recommendations are submitted as part of required reports to Congress within a year of their first meeting. The commission's [Aviation Report](#) was released on Feb. 13.

The commission welcomes external feedback, which can be submitted online [here](#). ■

— Article sourced from USDA commission [website](#) and Sen. Kelly press release

## 4FRI Collaborative Group Meeting to Determine Next Steps

On January 25, 2023, the 4FRI Stakeholder Group met to advance shared learning across the collaborative and the Forest Service; to review accomplishments and challenges within the SHG; to determine what the collaborative would look like moving forward; to discuss and define future roles and responsibilities for the SHG; and discuss administrative next steps for the SHG. ■



Photos by Niki vonHedemann, ERI