

September 9, 2026

Public Safety Announcement for the Flagstaff Community

As many of you are aware, the Lowell Observatory Fuels Reduction Project is underway in Section 17, privately owned by Lowell Observatory, on Observatory Mesa. The main goal of the Project is to improve forest health and its' sustainability and reduce wildfire risk to Lowell Observatory and the Flagstaff community. For more information see this [link](#).

Last weekend, signage that is meant to inform recreationists on Section 17 about the ongoing logging operations was removed. The signage is purposely placed in the active logging area so that hikers, dog walkers, and bikers are aware and avoid travelling through the active logging operations site, which is dangerous and could result in someone being injured.

For your safety: Please do not travel through the active logging site.

For others' safety: Do not remove any signage in the active logging area. These signs are there to protect the safety of those who choose to recreate on Observatory Mesa. Removing them only puts others at risk.

The project team decided to only close the active logging operations site, which is indicated by on-the-ground signage and on a trail closure map (see this [link](#)). Partial area closures and access to Section 17 is generously offered by Lowell Observatory, the property owner, so that recreationists could continue to use other areas in Section 17. In consideration of public safety, if the logging operations signage removal continues, the next step is to close the entirety of Section 17 for the duration of the project.