

THE LOOKOUT

Four Forest Restoration Initiative



Stakeholder Newsletter / Summer 2019

Working Groups and Partners

Natural Resources Working Group
[Jason Whiting](#)

Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership
[Anne Mottek](#)

4FRI Stakeholders
[Paul Summerfelt](#)

Multi-Party Monitoring Board
[Bryce Esch](#)

Comprehensive Implementation Work Group
[Hannah Griscom](#)

Communications Work Group
[Kelly Wolff](#)

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.

4FRI Milestones

This summer the Forest Service is releasing the Rim Country Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 4FRI's 2nd landscape-scale multi-forest analysis, as well as the Phase 2 Request for Proposals, 4FRI's 2nd large-scale, long-term contracting effort which would be one of the first in the Agency to utilize the new 20-year contracting authority. To learn more, stay tuned to the Forest Service 4FRI [webpage](#).

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership Receives 2019 National Wildfire Mitigation Award

The Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) received the prestigious 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Award. The GFFP partners accepted the award at the Wildland-Urban Interface Conference in March. 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 For-



est 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.

Arizona Forest Restoration Spurs Important Jobs and Income, But Wood Processing Infrastructure Still Lacking

The authors of this report studied restoration contractors and compiled economic data on Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 expenditures and contributions associated with 4FRI and the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project. Results showed that more than 12,000 acres in northern Arizona were mechanically thinned in FY 2017, leading to the removal of 400,000 green tons of saw logs and biomass for processing.

The economic activity tracked in this study included thinning, wood utilization, and other restoration activities. 4FRI restoration led to over 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) direct jobs in the region. When adding the additional jobs spurred by the local recirculation of ex-

penditures, more than 900 FTE jobs were maintained. In total, 4FRI restoration activities generated \$150 million in regional output, \$50 million in regional labor income, and impacted over 140 different industry sectors in FY 2017.

The report illustrates stark regional differences in wood utilization between the White Mountains region and the Flagstaff region and pointed to a lack of woody biomass utilization infrastructure near Flagstaff as the primary culprit in limiting forest restoration accomplishments.

— The report was conducted for the 4FRI Multi-Party Monitoring Board and was authored by economist Dr. Evan Hjerpe, director of CEI, and Anne Mottek Lucas of Mottek Consulting.

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

T-Six and Rosilda Spring Restoration

By Hannah Griscom, Arizona Game and Fish Department

In 2018, the 4FRI Comprehensive Implementation Work Group completed two spring restoration projects; T-Six Spring on the Coconino National Forest and Rosilda Spring on the Kaibab National Forest.

T-Six is a hillslope spring about 5 miles southeast of Munds Park that was diverted at its source in the early 1900s to feed a dairy operation on nearby private land. The water diversion had resulted in drier conditions in riparian meadow below. Our work focused on “plugging up” this diversion to allow the water to return to the section of the meadow that was historically wet. We also re-contoured the main channel below the spring which had seen erosion and head-cutting in recent decades. In addition we built 2 new fences; one in the lower section of the meadow to keep out livestock and ATVs and the other to keep elk, mule deer and livestock from grazing around the spring source. We will be monitoring the success of the project in the coming years. The project was funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and completed with help from the Friends of Northern Arizona Forests, Coconino National Forest, Natural Channel Design, Inc., and MD Merrett, Inc. Collaboration makes all the difference when tackling these large projects!

Rosilda Spring is located about 10 miles southeast of Williams. It is a perennial spring that feeds a livestock and wildlife water on the Williams Ranger District. A well had been excavated near the spring source and lined with rocks,



Northern Leopard Frog

which posed a hazard to wildlife. Also, grazing around the spring source was limiting the height and diversity of wetland plants growing at the spring. Funded by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Northern Arizona Forest Foundation, we worked with volunteers to fill in the well with rocks, protect the spring source with a tall fence, and plant willows to improve the habitat. Volunteers with the Grand Canyon Trust and Friends of Northern Arizona Forests as well as help from the Kaibab National Forest made this project possible.

The next project we are tackling is Houston Draw on the Coconino National Forest. A perennial section of Houston Draw and its surrounding meadow is experiencing down-cutting and riparian degradation. We now have an engineering design and will be working with our partners in 2019 and 2020 to restore this meadow to its proper condition.



Clockwise from top: T-six Spring from the spring source, 2017; before restoration; after restoration; volunteers made it possible (bottom left); Houston Draw – the CIWG and Arizona Elk Society’s next collaborative restoration project.



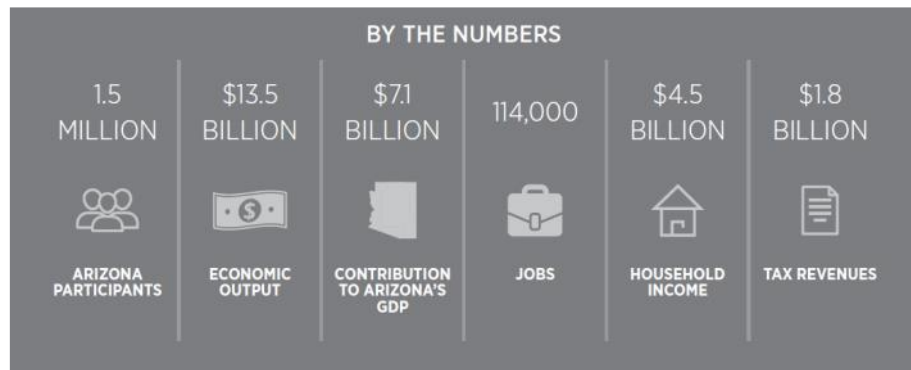
The Economic Impact of Arizona's Rivers, Lakes and Streams

How water-based outdoor recreation contributes to statewide and local economies

Arizona's waterways, enjoyed by more than 1.5 million residents each year, contribute \$13.5 billion to the state's economy and support 114,000 jobs, according to a report released by Audubon Arizona. The study was completed with guidance from business, civic, governmental, outdoor recreation, conservation and tourism representatives and conducted by economics research firm Southwick Associates. Water-based outdoor recreation as an industry ranks above mining and golf in terms of total economic output to the state.

The industry contributes \$7.1 billion to Arizona's GDP, provides \$4.5 billion in household income and generates

\$1.8 billion in tax revenues. The rivers, lakes and streams of Arizona are an economic powerhouse—these results prove that. The fate of birds and people are deeply connected. Our waterways need to be protected, not only for the vital bird, fish and wildlife habitat they provide, but also to sustain Arizona's economy today and into the future. In order to conserve and protect the waterways we care about, we're making the economic case for why their demise—due to drought, diversions, and a changing climate—would be so devastating for Arizona. For more information about the study, visit <https://www.audubon.org/economic-impact-arizonas-rivers-lakes-and-streams>.



Economic Contributions from Water-Based Outdoor Recreation by County

	AZ Resident Participants	Jobs	GDP	Federal Tax	State/Local Tax	Output
Apache	167,000	4,000	\$222,000,000	\$32,300,000	\$25,700,000	\$421,800,000
Cochise	78,000	2,000	\$147,300,000	\$21,400,000	\$17,100,000	\$279,300,000
Coconino	329,000	17,000	\$1,040,000,000	\$151,000,000	\$121,100,000	\$1,978,000,000
Gila	169,000	3,000	\$202,500,000	\$29,400,000	\$23,500,000	\$387,400,000
Graham	29,000	900	\$52,300,000	\$7,600,000	\$6,100,000	\$99,700,000
Greenlee	29,000	400	\$25,500,000	\$3,700,000	\$3,000,000	\$48,900,000
La Paz	44,000	2,000	\$119,000,000	\$17,400,000	\$13,900,000	\$227,600,000
Maricopa	743,000	44,000	\$2,800,000,000	\$400,900,000	\$323,600,000	\$5,400,000,000
Mohave	109,000	6,000	\$371,700,000	\$53,900,000	\$43,200,000	\$709,600,000
Navajo	118,000	4,000	\$220,000,000	\$31,900,000	\$25,600,000	\$420,400,000
Pima	222,000	12,000	\$758,600,000	\$109,400,000	\$88,100,000	\$1,500,000,000
Pinal	186,000	4,000	\$247,100,000	\$35,800,000	\$28,800,000	\$473,800,000
Santa Cruz	65,000	2,000	\$99,300,000	\$14,400,000	\$11,500,000	\$188,900,000
Yavapai	216,000	9,000	\$567,500,000	\$82,400,000	\$66,200,000	\$1,100,000,000
Yuma	92,000	3,000	\$194,300,000	\$28,100,000	\$22,600,000	\$372,000,000

Note: Numbers rounded. For precise numbers, read the full report available at audubon.org/AZRivers.