



Four Forest Restoration Initiative *Quarterly Stakeholder Newsletter*



Finding Common Ground: 4FRI Collaborative Planning Takes to the Forest

This newsletter edition shares with readers how the 4FRI Stakeholder Group leadership and subcommittees work to formalize our efforts in supporting forest restoration across northern Arizona.



The second large analysis, the Rim Country Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), picks up on a challenging aspect of planning that needed further collaboration and support from stakeholders after the first EIS—that of managing “stands with a preponderance of large, young trees” (SPLYTs). They’re not “old growth” yet, but they could be considered future old growth. The objectives are to retain and enhance some proportion of these areas to achieve structural diversity across the landscape and to maximize recruitment of old growth through the restoration process. In early August, the Planning Work Group took to the field to discuss how to identify and analyze these stands. The result was an increased understanding of how digital imagery tools such as LiDAR can help determine which stands should be targeted for providing fire risk reduction while retaining future old growth characteristics at the same time. The Planning Work Group continues to evaluate this topic, as well as other aspects of the Rim Country EIS, and closely coordinates with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the 4FRI Stakeholder Group.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Natural Resources Working Group	Nov. 15 Jan. 17
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Nov. 15 Jan. 17
4FRI Stakeholders	Nov. 16 Jan. 25
Multi-party Monitoring Board	Contact Bryce Esch

Indonesia Forestry Professionals Visit Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project

This Labor Day, the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP), in conjunction with the USFS [International Program](#) (IP), hosted a delegation of forestry professionals from Indonesia. The IP promotes sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally. By linking forestry skills between the USFS and overseas foresters, shared information can improve forest conditions across the globe.

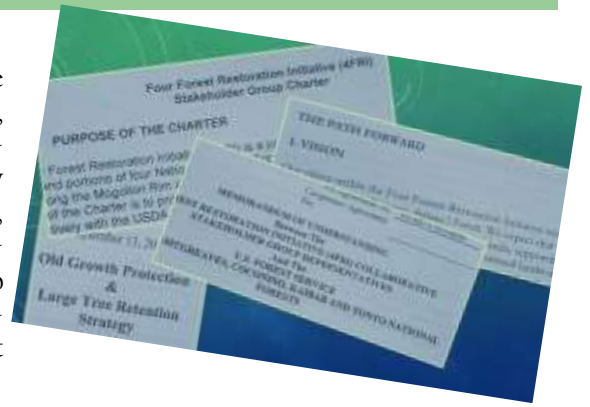
Anne Mottek, representing the [Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership](#) (GFFP), along with Yeon-Su Kim (NAU School of Forestry) and Larry Fisher (U of A), served as the group’s tour guides. After visiting the Tucson area, the group came to Flagstaff and toured Observatory Mesa, which is in the FWPP footprint.



The tour included visiting log trailers waiting to be hauled to mills and recently treated sites. The group discussed environmental planning and implications for land managers; [best management practices](#); [harvesting methods](#); and emerging tablet technology being used in marking and harvesting on the mesa. The Indonesia contingent appreciated the strong sense of commitment by local government to forest and watershed health; the level of public engagement; and were especially interested in learning more about the economic benefits of recreational opportunities our forests provide. And, as one indicated, there is an obvious “passion” for forest restoration portrayed by all. At the end, a celebratory barbeque allowed for informal interaction, with connections and new friends made for future shared learning.

Setting the Stage

After submitting a proposal and receiving federal support under the 2009 Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), 4FRI stakeholders created foundational documents to guide group collaboration for this effort. A Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the four forest supervisors and 20 stakeholders representing industry, environmental, county, and academic interests, outlined the group's commitments to the project. *The Path Forward* detailed shared agreements to guide 4FRI project implementation. A stakeholder group charter, providing operating guidelines and a framework for decision-making, also set forth leadership roles and responsibilities.



Chairing the 4FRI Stakeholder Group



4FRI Stakeholder Group leadership is conducted using a rotating co-chair model. At any time, a lead chair (called the “hot” co-chair) and an assistant, or “cold,” co-chair share the responsibilities to oversee monthly stakeholder meetings. A co-chair will step into the rotation as a “cold” chair for three months, and then become the “hot” chair for three months (as a new co-chair rotates into the “cold” role). Part of their responsibilities include leading both Stakeholder Group and Steering Committee meetings. As such, they work closely with the 4FRI Administrator (supplied and supported by the Ecological Restoration Institute); any hired facilitator; and the Steering Committee to: 1) review meeting and Steering Committee minutes; 2) develop agendas for both sets of meetings; and 3) represent the Stakeholder

Group and sign Stakeholder-approved documents.

While providing representation and leadership to a group of more than 30 stakeholders may seem overwhelming at first, there can be several benefits: becoming much more cognizant of 4FRI project details; being a strong voice for forest restoration across northern Arizona; and improving one's skills in being an impartial, fair facilitator of various, and often opposing, perspectives.

This shared model has proven to be quite successful. Currently, 12 members of the stakeholder group have volunteered to act as rotating co-chairs. The Ecological Restoration Institute provides and supports administration for the chairmanship of 4FRI. If you are a charter member of the Stakeholder Group and would like to step into the rotation, please contact Allison Jourdan at allison.jourdan@nau.edu.



4FRI Steering Committee

The Steering Committee serves the Stakeholder Group, and is open to any stakeholder in good standing. Ideally, the committee represents all or most interests on the stakeholder group and helps share the workload of the group and its co-chairs. The committee manages the logistics of the stakeholder group, sets agendas, organizes meetings, and maintains appropriate documentation of activities and decisions. Typically, the Steering Committee is comprised of 4FRI co-chairs, working group or sub-

committee leads, and any interested 4FRI member. This is often where more in-depth 4FRI-related discussions are conducted, particularly at the direction of the stakeholder group. Steering Committee members have regularly scheduled monthly calls the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. There are additional times when e-mail communication on specific topics occurs in order to obtain input and agreement in a timely manner.

Steering Committee calls are production-oriented, and have agendas and minutes that are reviewed and documented in the 4FRI administration archive. The Ecological Restoration Institute provides and supports administration of this group. If a stakeholder wishes to participate in the Steering Committee, please contact Bryce Esch at bryce.esch@nau.edu.

Working Groups

4FRI Planning Work Group

The 2.4 million-acre landscape that is 4FRI is a mix of portions or all of the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests. As federal land, any activities undertaken on national forests must undergo a public planning process where proposed actions are determined, analyses are undertaken, and decisions are made, following the National Environmental Policy Act and other mandates. The 4FRI Stakeholder Group provides consensus-driven inputs in this planning process for USFS consideration.

For example, the planning effort for the first large environmental impact statement, covering nearly one million acres of the Coconino and Kaibab national forests, incorporated shared agreements derived from 4FRI Stakeholder Group members. Often, the details of these agreements or inputs are determined by the Planning Work Group. In addition, the Planning Work Group works intensively to draft input and comment letters for parts of the environmental planning process (Proposed Action; Draft EIS) on behalf of the stakeholder group. Currently, the Planning Work Group is focusing on providing comprehensive input to the Rim Country EIS.

The current lead for the Planning Work Group is Pascal Berlioux. If you have an interest in participating, please contact him at pberlioux@easternarizonacounties.us.



Forest Supervisors Williams and Stewart sign first large Environmental Impact Statement decision

4FRI Multi-Party Monitoring Board

The 4FRI Multi-Party Monitoring Board's (MPMB) mission is to ensure that 4FRI monitoring leads to collaborative learning and to determine if treatments are meeting the desired conditions of a restored fire-adapted ecosystem and resilient ecological and socioeconomic processes across the entire 2.4 million-acre landscape. It is comprised of a widely representative subset of 4FRI Stakeholder organizations and works closely with the USFS Monitoring Coordinator (Dan Kiper-vaser). Board goals include: 1) fostering a long-term, data-driven, multi-party and multi-scale learning process among all 4FRI partners; 2) improving comprehensive monitoring through integrating both USFS implementation monitoring efforts and effectiveness monitoring protocols designed and/or adopted by the Stakeholder Group; 3) ensuring monitoring data inform science-based restoration goals for forest structure, pattern and function; and 4) ensuring that monitoring data inform the project's socioeconomic goals.



The MPMB implements ongoing monitoring projects on songbird occupancy, Northern goshawk occupancy, forest structure and vegetation, landscape metrics, socio-economic indicators, and invasive species. It also organizes learning opportunities for the MPMB and the Stakeholder Group, such as the Mexican Spotted Owl learning workshop in January 2016. The MPMB is looking for members to join who are willing to provide capacity in ongoing and future projects that meet the group mission. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., and are open to all interested parties. For more information, please contact Bryce Esch at bryce.esch@nau.edu.



Working Groups, cont'd

4FRI Industry Work Group

Restoration treatments may be planned in offices, but they happen on the ground. The USFS implements mechanical restoration treatments by preparing sites for private industry harvesting contracts. The 4FRI Industry Work Group focuses on the socio-economic desired conditions of these contracts to assure that the supply of prepared sites and wood for businesses is in balance with industry needs to sustain these business's viability.

This group currently focuses on 1) creating a revolving "dashboard" of metrics that indicate progress toward meeting restoration treatment acres and wood supplies; 2) providing socio-economic inputs for the Rim Country EIS; and 3) coordinating with the USFS to develop a more robust collaboration to facilitate economic needs. This group meets on an as-needed basis. Anyone interested (you do not have to be a chartered stakeholder member) in helping industry economic viability is welcome to join the group; please contact co-chairs Brad Worsley at Bradley.worsley42@gmail.com; Pascal Berlioux at pberlioux@easternarizonacounties.us; or Steve Horner at shorner@campbellgroup.com.



4FRI Comprehensive Implementation Working Group



Mechanical restoration treatments (the focus of the above Industry Work Group) are not the only restoration treatments occurring across the 4FRI landscape. Other restoration activities include spring and stream channel rehabilitation; conducting managed fires; promoting aspen regeneration; creating wildlife habitat structures; and many more activities. The Comprehensive Implementation Working Group (CIWG) is a new effort to improve the coordination and tracking of these activities and work with the USFS and other partners to identify and prioritize projects. In addition, the CIWG facilitates project funding and participates in project design and implementation; solicits economic and ecological input from external parties; provides a forum for understanding and evaluating project implementation; and conducts outreach to interested organizations and the general public.

Comprised of primarily members from the 4FRI stakeholder group and USFS staff, the CIWG is open to anyone who has an interest in such activities and/or the capacity to add to implementation efforts. The CIWG will also work closely with all other working groups and the stakeholder group to inform them of ongoing accomplishments. The group meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information or to join this group, please contact Travis Bruner at tbruner@grandcanyontrust.org.

4FRI Communications Work Group

The Communications Work Group (CWG) was formed to share information about the full suite of 4FRI activities and forest restoration occurring across northern Arizona to the stakeholder group; the general public; government from locals to Capitol Hill; media; business and industry; and all partners.

The CWG works closely with all working groups and the USFS, obtaining factual information and creating formal documents for distribution. The pathway for approval of outreach material proceeds from the CWG to the Steering Committee, and then to the full stakeholder group, where we strive for 100 percent agreement on all statements made to the public. The CWG places all formal stakeholder documents on the 4FRI website (www.4FRI.org), which is supported and maintained by the Ecological Restoration Institute. Due to this process, it can be challenging to provide timely information! Our current focus is to provide this quarterly outreach newsletter; develop stakeholder speaking points for various issues to facilitate stakeholder group representation for media queries; and updating the 4FRI website. For more information or to join this group, please contact Sue Sitko at ssitko@tnc.org.