

THE LOOKOUT

Four Forest Restoration Initiative



Stakeholder Newsletter / Summer 2018

Meetings

Natural Resources Working Group	Sep 18 Oct 16 Nov 20
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	Sep 19 Oct 17 Nov 21
4FRI Stakeholders	Sep 26 Oct 24 Nov 28
Multi-Party Monitoring Board <u>Bryce Esch</u>	Sep 12 Oct 10 Nov 7
Comprehensive Implementation Work Group <u>Travis Bruner</u>	Sep 27 Oct 25
Communications Work Group <u>Kelly Wolff</u>	Sep 10 Oct 8 Nov 12
Planning Work Group <u>Pascal Berlioux</u>	Sep 5 Oct 3 Nov 7

GFFP Smoke Campaign Insert: Featured in Flagstaff, Sedona, Camp Verde and Cottonwood Newspapers: July '18

The focus was on the characteristics of severe fire versus prescribed fire and how these types of fires and resulting smoke events affect those living in a fire adapted ecosystem. The insert included scientific information that illustrates trends of larger and more destructive wildfires. The insert also described the ecological role of fire in our forests, long-term benefits of using prescribe fire versus the short-term costs, repercussions of severe wildfire, prescribed fire smoke management practices, and resources to lesson health effects from smoke exposure. Resulting from this, GFFP developed a comprehensive smoke resources page that is available on the [GFFP website](http://gffp.org/smoke) (gffp.org/smoke). The insert was distributed in newspapers in Flagstaff, Sedona, Camp Verde, and Cottonwood with a total circulation of 42,000. The insert is available for further distribution on the [GFFP website](http://gffp.org/essential_grid/gffp-newspaper-insert/) (http://gffp.org/essential_grid/gffp-newspaper-insert/). This project was completed with assistance from many [GFFP Partners](#).

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.



EDR Field Visit and Workshop

On May 17, 2018, the Planning Working Group and Forest Service conducted a field visit to the Chimney Springs, Fort Valley, and Mountaineer implementation projects to look at the different ranges of treatments being proposed in the Rim Country Project. The group looked at one stand not yet treated to visualize the existing conditions and then moved on to examine five additional stands that have been treated with uneven-aged prescriptions ranging from 10–40 percent to 55–70 percent openness.



The field visit considered successful in representing what stands look like after different levels of treatment, with broad participation by stakeholders. Good discussions were continued on key concerns such as how acres were identified for more open treatments (extended duration), where more open treatments are appropriate and how they would be prioritized, how regeneration openings are added to the openness of a treatment, how WUI is defined, and a consistent way to measure interspace between groups.



The field trip on the 17th was followed by a workshop on the 18th, to continue discussions on the need for, value of, and the science behind increasing the intensity of some treatments. More work is needed in order to answer these questions and clarify how the flexible toolbox approach would be implemented, and the Planning Working Group will continue to pursue resolution on these important components of the Rim Country analysis.

4FRI “Fiesta” Held June 28

A gathering of stakeholders celebrated two events: one rowdy lunch after the June stakeholder meeting in Flagstaff and a celebration for Sue Sitko also in Flagstaff. The first event allowed the stakeholders to congratulate each other and our Forest Service partners on the 2018 implementation of the first treatments under 4FRI’s first forest restoration environmental impact statement. “We wanted to recognize the effort we all made to resolve long-standing forest restoration concerns and develop a shared vision for a significant part of northern Arizona’s forests,” said Diane Vosick, ERI’s policy director, 4FRI SHG co-chair, and organizer of this first Fiesta. “Informal celebrations to honor everyone’s commitment is important in the collaborative process, plus it’s fun!”

The second event celebrated the contributions of stakeholder Sue Sitko, The Nature Conservancy’s conservation program manager for northern Arizona and co-chair of the 4FRI SHG. Sue retired July 6 from a 28-year career in natural resource management, working for both the Arizona Game and Fish Department and later The Nature Conservancy during that time, with most of her work focused on forest restoration efforts across northern Arizona. “Getting together with these colleagues and collaborators, all of whom I consider personal friends, was a great honor,” said Sue. “To celebrate a major milestone like the first restoration treatment under a long-term plan doubles the sense of accomplishment, as I can also see that so many good people are committed to continue pushing to achieve our vision.”



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

Monitoring Activities

The 4FRI Multi-Party Monitoring Board (MPMB) is tasked by the broader Stakeholder Group with designing monitoring questions, monitoring indicators, indicator metrics, sampling methods/ techniques, triggers (thresholds indicating possible need for change), and the resulting adaptive management measures. Since 2015, the MPMB has monitored diversity, structure, and composition of ponderosa pine-dominated forests by completing 683 pre-treatment, ground-based forest plots. In its entirety the monitor plan is comprised of 32 biophysical indicators and 83 socio-economic indicators.

Along with pre-treatment data collection, 2018 will be the first year where post-treatment ground plot collection will likely occur. The first pre-treatment data analysis will be conducted on the previous year's plot data. Water function monitoring for 2017 included gathering inventory for spring status and for 2016-2018 wet-dry stream mapping surveys. Spring monitoring for 2018 include: monitoring the effectiveness of spring restoration at Rosilda Springs and three additional spring locations with the Springs Stewardship Institute to develop a study design to measure spring/groundwater response to forest restoration treatments.

Wildlife monitoring for the past three years has included Mexican spotted owl (MSO) occupancy and reproduction and pre-treatment abundance and diversity of breeding birds. In 2015, the MPMB also monitored Northern Goshawk pre-treatment occupancy. Pre-treatment surveys measuring changes in breeding bird species abundance and diversity will also continue in 2018. Also, in 2018, a model of pre-treatment landscape permeability for collared pronghorn will be completed. Additional monitoring activity for 2018 include: The Nature Conservancy and AmeriCorps assisting with pre- and post-treatment invasive plant surveys; LiDAR and UAV (drone) flights; economic assessment survey results for fiscal year 2017 are expected later this year.

www.4FRI.org Website Gets a Makeover

Administered by NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI), the goals of this website are to be a source of information for the public as well a multi faceted resource for stakeholders. 4FRI's Communications Work Group combed through every link, sub-page, and file on the site, and worked with Heath Norton, ERI's webmaster, to create a simple, easy-to-navigate website that is short on flash-ads and pop-ups (there are none!) and long on clarity and substance. So, take a look!

- ⇒ Check out the top navigation bar and the six icons to get you moving
- ⇒ "Restoration in Action" showcases 4FRI's stories and will also include monitoring highlights as more is learned from our restoration efforts
- ⇒ Photos, videos, and maps (oh my!)

***We all extend our deepest appreciation to Heath as he completely re-built the website and fielded a multitude of comments and changes from many of us. Thank you, Heath!*

4FRI Home ABOUT US RESTORATION IN ACTION RESOURCES VIDEOS AND PHOTOS USDA 4FRI SITE

Working together to restore forests across northern Arizona

FOUR FOREST RESTORATION INITIATIVE

"Landscape-scale restoration efforts should adopt and make full use of rigorous science, that enhances our understanding about their ecological, social, and economic implications"

4FRI, The Path Forward

WHO ARE WE

RESTORATION IN ACTION

GET INVOLVED

4FRI DOCUMENTS

4FRI MAPS

WORKING GROUPS

Upcoming Events

JUL 25 Wed	9:00 am Stakeholder Meeting @ Pinetop Arizona Game and Fish Region I office
AUG 22 Wed	9:00 am Stakeholder Meeting @ Flagstaff Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office

Add View Calendar

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Fire Conditions: Excerpt from Payson Roundup, guest editorial by Jim Strogen

Are you frustrated and scared during this fire season? We are living with dangerous fire conditions all around us. Some of us are fortunate to live in communities that have made great strides in thinning the forests around their neighborhoods, and have enacted stringent fire-wise practices. Many of our towns and villages have not done enough to protect us. Instead we continue to act as if the wildfires will strike somewhere else; never where we live. While in reality, at least in the back of our minds we all know it is a matter of when, not if, a fire will destroy our forests and possibly our town.

We remain complacent as the state legislature continues to support personal freedoms in the name of fireworks use, while several municipalities and fire departments do their best to enact strategies to deal with this lunacy. As most of you know, fireworks were the cause of a recent fire on the Rim.

The water pipeline from C. C. Cragin Reservoir that Payson has been planning for years that is nearing completion has required millions of dollars and an unbelievable amount of planning and foresight that could be lost in an instant. That expense and effort will be for naught if that watershed becomes a fire wasteland where ash and silt fill the reservoir and render it unusable for years to come. We continue to skirt that horrendous scenario as fires erupt on the edges of the watershed and miraculously have not advanced to the point beyond control. I fear the next fire will be that catastrophe before we have provided the extensive prescriptive fire protection the area demands.

People from the Valley are coming up to the forests around my town and your town and making campfires, because that is what folks do in the woods. Too many of these visitors leave their campsites when they are ready to drive home with the fire not completely out, or with fires still fully burning! I have heard from friends who have encountered folks doing just that, and having to put the fires out after these visitors have left their campsites.

I love spending time in our forests, but it should not have taken this long to close them. Unfortunately, even the action of closing the forests doesn't guarantee their safety. It does reduce the number of people considering a trip up to the forests from the Valley, but it only takes one illegal campfire. There are not enough personnel to man road closures into the forest or patrol the woods to enforce these fire restrictions.

We must be willing to fund efforts to rectify the dangerous conditions of our forests that has been building for decades. We must support efforts to promote healthy forests and their protection. We must do that through our legislative representatives, and we must do it as individuals.

If your town has not made significant strides toward a comprehensive fire-wise plan, you are a spark away from disaster. Besides the dangers from forest wildfires, any homeless shelter camp site within town limits, or even an unattended backyard charcoal grill could level a town in an instant under these incredibly dry conditions.

What have you done to protect your forests and your town from burning down? Have you fire-wised your property? Have you talked to neighbors and friends about fire-wising their properties and helped them with that effort? Have you talked to businesses in town and expressed your thanks to those businesses taking an active role in protecting our forests and town through forest protection signage and responsible sales? Or asked those businesses still selling fire products to stop doing so? Does your town government do their best in terms of communicating dangers to the public and enacting practices to keep the town safe from catastrophic fire by working closely with the US Forest Service, ADOT, the Chamber of Commerce and whoever can provide assistance, education, and publicity to engage common sense fire safety practices? If not, what are you doing about it? Have you made your concerns about fire safety known to the various government officials? Lets all do what we can before it is too late.

