

# THE LOOKOUT

## Four Forest Restoration Initiative

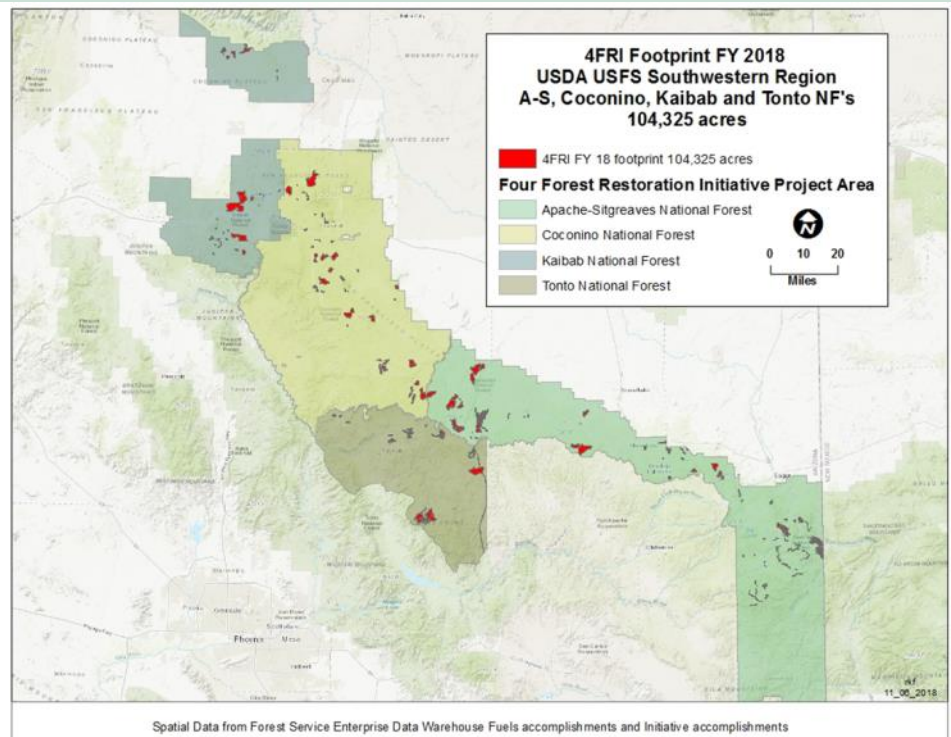


**Stakeholder Newsletter / Winter 2019**

### Meetings

Natural Resources Working Group	
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership	
4FRI Stakeholders	Feb 27 March 27
Multi-Party Monitoring Board <u>Bryce Esch</u>	
Comprehensive Implementation Work Group <u>Travis Bruner</u>	
Communications Work Group <u>Kelly Wolff</u>	Feb March

### 2018 Updates



### 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.

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) had another productive year in 2018, with the total footprint acres increasing by 104,325 acres (83,155 acres net footprint acres-see map above), with many of those acres coming from prescribed and wild-fire acres. The total acres of fuels treatments within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) were 88,826 acres, and fuels treatments within the non-WUI were 40,432 acres. Note that some acres have a dual fuels accomplishment so the total acres exceed the actual footprint for the project area. The total footprint of the project is now more than 712,000 acres since 2010 (see map next page).

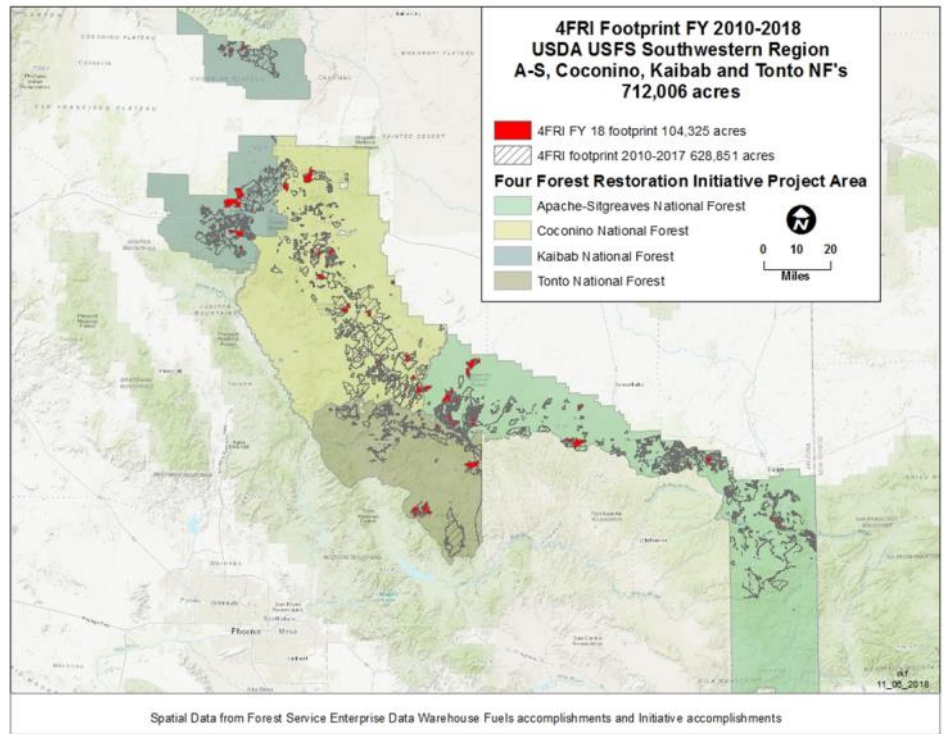
Mechanical harvest treatment accomplishments were a mixed bag in 2018. The Forest Service continued the accelerated timber offerings outside of the 4FRI phase 1 contract on the east side (a total of 18,489 acres were offered and awarded on the Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto national forests to existing White Mountain industries). The west side of the project on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests were very successful in preparing and offering 28,575 acres of contracts. However, multiple factors, including lack of markets for the offered products, led to eleven no bids on the west side of the project and only 6,714 acres awarded on the Coconino and Kaibab national forests.

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](#)





Looking to the future availability of restoration byproducts for industry, the Forest Service issued a second Request for Information (RFI) on a possible solicitation for a new long-term contract through FEDBIZOPS. The Forest Service and partners have synthesized the responses to the RFI and are putting together a New Request for Proposal in 2018/2019. Creating and stabilizing industry partners in a restoration economy will allow for the ability to get more acres treated through mechanical harvests, thus increasing forest resiliency across the initiative.




The partnership between the National Forest Foundation and Salt River Project, the Northern Arizona Forest Fund (NAFF) continued in FY18. The NAFF provides an opportunity for Arizona businesses and residents to invest in restoration projects on national forest lands in the Salt and Verde River watersheds. During FY18, the NAFF contributed \$345,000 to on-the-ground restoration in the 4FRI footprint in the Salt and Verde watersheds. Projects funded this year in the 4FRI footprint include the Long Valley Draw Restoration Project-Phase 2 on the Coconino National Forest, Rosilda Spring Restoration, and Twin Springs Fuels Reduction Restoration Project on the Kaibab National Forest, and the Black River Stream and Riparian Protection Project on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. A summary of these projects can be found at the NAFF [website](#). The NAFF increases the ability of the Forest Service to implement more restoration projects and increases resiliency across the landscape. This can also be a model for other collaborative to look at alternative funding sources to meet restoration goals.

Work continued on the 1.2-million-acre Rim Country EIS that covers portions of the Coconino, Tonto, and Apache-Sitgreaves national forests. A draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected in early 2019. On the Apache-Sitgreaves NF, work has begun on the Black River Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) that is expected to have a decision in late 2019. The CC Cragin Watershed Restoration EA was completed and signed in FY18.

The past year also provided opportunities for innovation across the landscape, which could be tied into the Forest Service's nationwide Forest Products Modernization process. The Ecological Restoration Institute hosted a 4FRI and Efficiencies two-day workshop in Phoenix that brought together Forest Service leaders from the Washington office down to the individual forests to discuss efficiencies that are being tested in 4FRI landscape. There are nine specific items being tested in the 4FRI landscape that are tied to the Forest Products Modernization effort. Many of these innovations are tied to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Stewardship Agreement. The agreement is a laboratory for testing efficiencies and cost saving measures such as the digital prescription guide, lengthened time to leave wood in the forest before hauling (which will lower log haul cost), and different log accountability measures.

Volunteer work across the project area was strong again in 2018. The Arizona Elk Society once again gathered an impressive number of volunteers and project accomplishments to complete the second phase of the Long Valley Meadow Restoration project. Check out their YouTube video [here](#). The Grand Canyon Trust continued to lead the way in marshalling volunteers for citizen science projects using a phone app to gather ephemeral stream course and wet/dry stream course data across the Coconino forests, as well as gathering volunteers for the Rosilda Springs Restoration project. Trout Unlimited continued being a major contributor of volunteer hours to gather stream temperature monitoring data across the 4FRI footprint, primarily on the Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests. In addition, Trout Unlimited volunteers provided the work force to plant woody riparian vegetation on the Black River Stream and Riparian Restoration Project on the Apache-Sitgreaves NF. The Friends of Northern Arizona Forests continue their impressive work providing the workforce to construct and maintain ungulate proof fencing around 70+ aspen or riparian areas on the Coconino National Forest. In addition to the work done on the 4FRI forests by FONAF, they were named by the *Arizona Daily Sun* as their organization of the year.



Tribal engagement was highlighted by two actions in FY18. The Forest Service received a \$25,000 grant through the Forest Service Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program to collaborate with NAU and southwestern tribes on the identification, documentation, and future management of culturally important plants within the 4FRI footprint. The intent of this project is to develop tools and management recommendations that can be applied across the 4FRI project area. As this is the first year for the CFP program, this project will be highlighted as a pilot project to develop best management practices for future citizen science projects.

The Forest Service and the San Carlos Apache, Tonto Apache, White Mountain Apache, and Zuni tribes have signed a Master Participating Agreement to partner on a wide range of restoration activities within the 4FRI footprint. Staff on all four forests have been discussing potential projects with tribes for some time, so implementation of the MPA will allow each unit to move forward on developing forest-level SPAs to implement these projects.

Finally, 4FRI hosted many outreach activities. During the first week of October, 4FRI hosted two separate groups to highlight the accomplishments and challenges with implementing the largest Forest restoration project in the country. The Eastern Arizona Counties Organization (EACO) hosted state and local elected officials in a tour of the eastern portion of 4FRI. At the same time, 4FRI hosted a national review of the CFLRP program from Forest Service leadership. Always willing to take advantage of spreading the word, both parties met in Payson for a BBQ lunch sponsored by EACO. The first week in May 2018 also brought the Federal Timber Purchasers Committee to Flagstaff with a highlighted section on the challenges of implementing mechanical treatments

## New Faces

### ***Robbin Redman, 4FRI Planning Coordinator***

Hi all, As I draft this letter, it is the beginning of my second week as the new 4FRI Planning Coordinator. I am getting up to speed on 4FRI and am quickly learning just how complex, challenging, and rewarding this project is going to be! It has been great taking the deep dive into the analysis and seeing incredible amount of work that the Planning Team and Collaborative have already put into the Rim Country Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). My focus is to capitalize on that hard work and move things along. This winter the team and I will be updating and completing the various components of the DEIS, as well as facilitating the internal reviews at the various levels of the Agency. We're currently planning to send the DEIS to the publisher in March. At the same time we will post it to Forest Service 4FRI [website](#) so stakeholders and public have an opportunity to begin review prior to the formal comment period. It usually takes 2 to 4 weeks for the publishing to take place. When the comment period begins we'll also establish Office Hours for the planning team members. Stay tuned for those schedules and plan to take advantage of it! In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us. I look forward to meeting you all in person and working with you!



### ***Jeremy Kruger, CEO 4FRI***



Many of you have already heard that I'll be joining the 4FRI organization the first week of February as the new CEO. Since I'm missing your first meeting of the year, I'm taking the opportunity to briefly introduce myself in your newsletter. I'm honored to join this impressive collaborative effort. Having worked in forest restoration in New Mexico, I know the work required to build successful partnerships. It is no surprise how much has been accomplished in such a short time with the range of expertise at the table and the relationships you've built. My own background includes a number of years in fire suppression, post-fire recovery, and southwest forest restoration. I am looking forward to joining the Coconino National Forest having started my career as a wilderness ranger on the Santa Fe National Forest. The past two years spent in Washington, DC with the Bureau of Land Management has broadened my understanding of policy and partnerships while recent events in California have offered a stark reminder

of how much is at stake in western forests. I am hopeful of what can be achieved through collaboration and believe 4FRI can make even greater strides forward toward restoring our forests. It will take me a bit to get up to speed. In the meantime, I'll be located in the same office and will have the same phone number as the previous 4FRI Chief Executives. Please feel free to reach out anytime.