



# Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

*Overview, History and Accomplishments*

August 2019

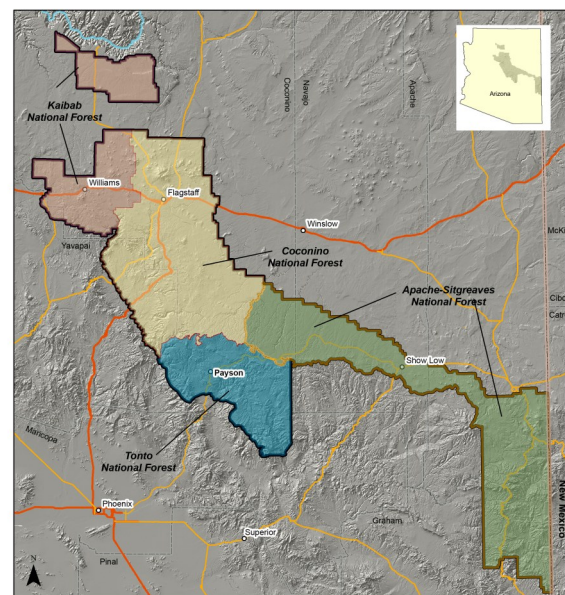
## Introduction

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) **includes more than 30 stakeholder groups** and the **Forest Supervisors and staff** of the Coconino, Kaibab, Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The 4FRI landscape spans **2.4 million acres** across the Mogollon Rim of northern Arizona and is the largest landscape-scale restoration project selected by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, or CFLRP (established under section 4003(a) of Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009).

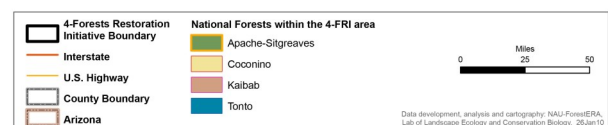
The 4FRI envisions healthy, resilient forests in northern Arizona that support natural fire regimes and pose decreased risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire, foster quality habitat to support healthy populations of native plants and animals, and support thriving human communities, with high aesthetic values and sustainable forest activities, including recreation and forest restoration industries.

*The following strategic goals are listed in the 4FRI Strategic Plan (2017):*

- Accelerate the pace and scale of restoration treatments.
- Collaborate and engage.
- Support sustainable forest restoration industries.
- Innovate.
- Improve Forest Service business practices.
- Learn and adapt.
- Apply an all-lands approach.



Overview of the 4-FRI area with administrative boundaries, counties and roads



## 4FRI Accomplishments

- In 2010, the 4FRI Stakeholder Group developed a Charter that provides operating guidelines.
- In 2011, stakeholder group members and the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing collaborative processes and aligning the agency and group.
- On April 17, 2015, the Forest Service signed the final Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the first analysis area in the 4FRI landscape, authorizing 586,110 acres for restoration.
- From 2010–2019, over 700,000 acres have been mechanically thinned and burned as part of 4FRI. This includes acres treated prior to completion of the 2015 environmental review.
- The NEPA environmental review is currently underway for the second 4FRI EIS Rim Country analysis area.

## Conclusion

The **success** of 4FRI depends on:

- **Adequate federal funding for 4FRI.** This includes funding of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and adequate base funding. Base funding is needed to support the second EIS, and forest management activities not linked to CFLRP funding.
- **Accelerating thinning, managed burning, and biomass removal and utilization.** Increased capacity for harvesting and processing small logs and biomass is needed across the four National Forests. Achieving our goal of restoring one million acres over the next 15 years requires providing adequate and appropriate acres and increasing industry operations.
- **Rigorous monitoring and adaptive management.** The first 4FRI EIS includes a monitoring and adaptive management plan to ensure that as more of the landscape is treated we are achieving desired ecological and fire outcomes on the National Forests. This information and ongoing assessment is crucial for rebuilding trust. Adequate funding for monitoring is crucial for the 4FRI to succeed.

### **4FRI: Landscape-scale restoration through rigorous science, advancing technology and collaboration**

#### **RESTORE:**

- Structure
- Pattern
- Composition
- Natural fire process and fuels reduction

#### **PROVIDE:**

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Plant diversity
- Local industry, business and employment
- Watershed health
- Old growth protection
- Science-based and socially acceptable agreements for landscape-scale restoration



Before (left) and after (right) restoration treatments. This photo sequence shows a 4FRI treatment area that was thinned and burned. The forest is now more open, allowing for a more diverse understory of grasses and forbs and a reduced chance of crown fire. *Photos by Tom Bean*

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For more information visit:  
4FRI Stakeholder Group website: [4fri.org](http://4fri.org)  
USDA Forest Service 4FRI website: [fs.usda.gov/4fri](http://fs.usda.gov/4fri)