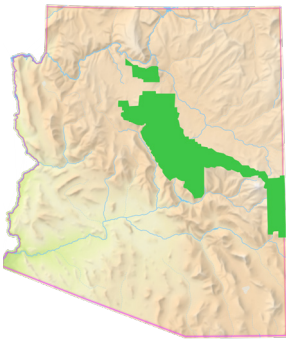
Four Forest Restoration Initiative

Arizona relies on its continued success

Resilient forests are Arizona's first line of defense

Catastrophic wildfires increasingly threaten communities and natural resources, putting water systems and other critical infrastructure at risk. Arizona's timber industry relies on healthy forests and watersheds which provide a sustainable and reliable wood supply while maintaining ecological balance and rural prosperity.

4FRI: A proven model for large-scale forest restoration



The **Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)** is a nationally significant effort to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest and watershed health in northern Arizona through:

- A 2.4-million-acre national priority firescape
- A multi-stakeholder effort to reduce catastrophic wildfire
- A science-based collaboration to reduce post-fire flooding and associated social and economic costs to communities.

Beneficial Fire

927,949
Acres Treated

(Prescribed fire, managed fire, and pile burning)

1.53 million acres treated by 4FRI since 2010

64% of 2.4M acre goal

2010 — 2025

4FRI has 140,000 acres of timber supply available in the next five years, and over 2 million NEPA-ready acres for restoration

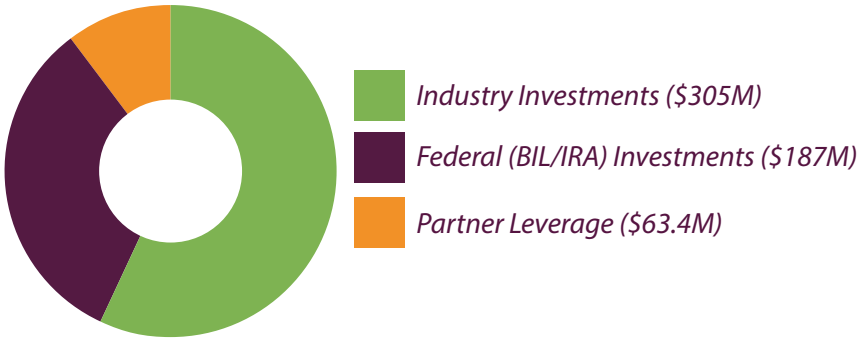
Mechanical Thinning

610,228
Acres Treated

(Commercial, non-commercial, hand thinning, and strategic small-diameter thinning)

Investing in 4FRI: Support drives restoration

4FRI has relied on federal funding to leverage partner investments. 4FRI receives funding from multiple sources. Over the past four years, funding has generally included the following sources:



2022–2025

Since 2010, individuals and members of **local, county, state and multiple federal government entities, environmental groups,** and **industry representatives** have joined 4FRI to accelerate restoration of northern Arizona's forests.

Biomass: A critical bottleneck in forest restoration

Forest restoration generates large volumes of biomass that must be removed to reduce wildfire risk and restore forests. Disposal capacity and markets have not kept pace, **creating a bottleneck that limits restoration progress** and private-sector viability, and the amount of biomass is **increasing**.

Industry is already struggling to consume the current biomass production of 15,000–20,000 treated acres annually, and this challenge will only intensify as 4FRI increases treatment levels to 35,000 acres per year.

Biomass refers to non-merchantable trees, tops, limbs, and sawmill residues generated during forest restoration.

How much biomass are we talking about?

*Each acre of restored forest generates approximately **27 tons of biomass.** At a treatment goal of 35,000 mechanically restored acres per year, this equates to an estimated **945,000 green tons** of biomass produced annually.*

17 tons
of biomass fiber are produced through thinning operations per acre of restoration

10 tons
of sawmill residuals are produced for every acre of restoration

Biomass Management Solutions

Excess material, limited pathways

- **Leverage Momentum for Multiple Scales of Utilization**
- **Reduce Costs Through Smarter Operations**
- **Improve Transportation & Logistics**
- **Build Workforce and Industry Capacity**
- **Unlock Value Through Policy**

Maintaining 4FRI funding decreases wildfire risk and strengthens Arizona's timber industry.

$30.5M investment in FY25 sustained this work.

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative is more than halfway to an unprecedented 2.4-million-acre treatment goal thanks to a decade of collaboration and committed investments from 4FRI partners, forest industries, and the USDA Forest Service. Investing in 4FRI protects communities, public safety, habitats, infrastructure, and natural resources.

4FRI.ORG

This document was collaboratively produced by the 4FRI Stakeholder Group in February 2026.