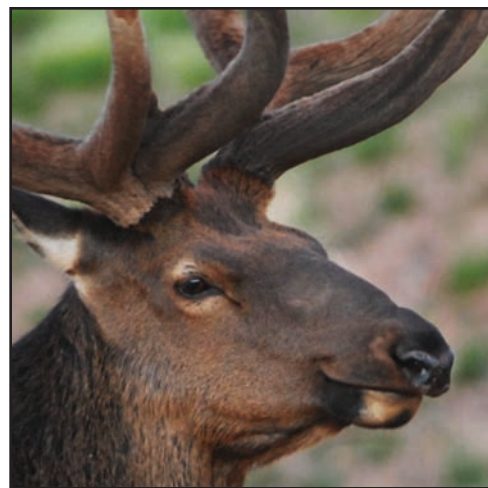
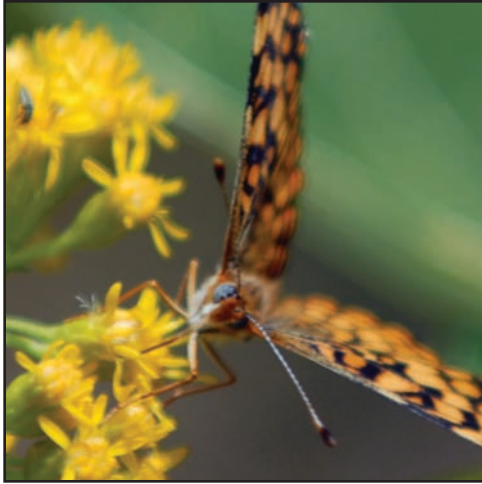


Kaibab National Forest

2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



WHAT'S INSIDE

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----|
| Forest Supervisor's Message | 1 | Rangeland Management | 7 |
| Kudos & Awards | 2 | Wildlife Management | 7 |
| Rural Communities Fuels Management | 2 | Timber Management | 8 |
| Partners & Volunteers | 3 | Budget | 9 |
| Heritage Resources | 4 | Interagency Cooperation | 9 |
| Engineering | 4 | Recreation Program | 10 |
| Fire Management | 5 | Forest Plan Revision | 11 |



A Message from the Forest Supervisor

Every year I look forward to sharing this annual accomplishment report with you – our neighbors, our visitors, our customers, our partners -- all of you our stakeholders. I'm proud of the employees and the work we do here on the Kaibab National Forest, and I think it's useful to summarize the key accomplishments we've made over the year. Inside this report are more details about the progress we've made and the challenges we face in managing this national forest. I encourage you to spend a few minutes reading through it.

As I reflect back on the year 2006, I think about the Kaibab National Forest most often as a forest in transition. As beautiful as this forest is, trees and other vegetation within our forest are unnaturally dense and overgrown in many places after a century of fire suppression, and growing more so every year – an unhealthy state getting worse. Non-native plant species are invading and spreading further into the forest. Increasing human populations in our communities, and in more distant urban areas, bring more off-highway vehicle users to this forest and create more tracks, trails and disturbed areas. Open space on private land is being developed at a faster pace than ever, causing more and more people to become interested in the national forest and to come here for a host of different uses and experiences.

While I'm pleased that we've made good progress thinning, using prescribed fire, and controlling invasive weeds over the last few years, we have a huge challenge before us to restore our fire-adapted ecosystems fast enough to avoid the consequences of growing wildfire severity. We've managed fire for resource benefits for the past four years, using lightning-caused fire to consume fuel and thin small trees as a lower-cost alternative to more expensive thinning and prescribed fire treatments. While we had our greatest accomplishment yet of wildland fire use acres burned for resource benefits this past year (nearly 21,000 acres), we did not achieve the end result we wanted from the Warm Fire on the North Kaibab Ranger District last June. That fire burned more intensely than we wanted and burned roughly 40,000 acres beyond the boundary we set for it. As I write this, a team of Forest Service resource specialists is working with stakeholders to identify desired conditions for the Warm Fire area and exploring possible management activities that will move the area toward those conditions. The after-action review of the Warm Fire identified lessons we must apply to future wildland fire use events. Our knowledge of current vegetation and fuel conditions on the Kaibab Plateau and across this national forest confirms that we must make use of the tools available to us - including fire and timber harvesting - to help restore ecosystems.

We started some important work last year that we'll continue to focus on through the next couple of years. Revising the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), in place since 1988, is critically important to future management of this forest. Our planning team has been hard at work throughout 2006 laying important ground work for the Forest Plan Revision, which will guide the management of the forest for the next five to ten years. Implementing the Travel Management Rule, a new regulation issued a year ago that gives direction for how we manage motorized travel across our forest, has occupied substantial time during 2006 on the Tusayan Ranger District. In 2007 the focus shifts to the Williams Ranger District, then moves to the North Kaibab Ranger District the following year. Given all of these planning processes, there will continue to be many opportunities for you to be involved and have a say in how we manage the forest. I encourage you to seek information, learn the issues, make your concerns known to us, and participate. By doing those things, you will be helping us make better decisions about how the forest will be managed.

Finally, I think it's important to recognize and thank all of you who continue to provide support and assistance to us to help manage our public lands. I encourage you to share your comments and suggestions about any of our land management activities with our local District Rangers and with me. Our phone numbers and e-mail contact information are listed in this report - let us know how we're doing.

Mike Williams



Left: Members of the goshawk research team led by Dr. Richard Reynolds band a juvenile goshawk and record important information on the young bird. Over the last 16 years individual birds have been marked and tracked as part of a population monitoring project on the Kaibab Plateau. Right: A young goshawk rests after the banding process and before being released; it was returned to its nest soon after the photo was taken.

Employees of the Kaibab National Forest, Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office and Rocky Mountain Research Station received international recognition by the Wings Across the Americas program for their outstanding accomplishments in research, management and conservation of the Northern Goshawk.

Their project, entitled "Ecology and Management of the Northern Goshawk in the American Southwest," received the Research and Management Partnership Award. The award, along with other 2006 Wings Across the Americas awards, was presented at the 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The Wings Across the Americas awards ceremony is an annual international event that celebrates exceptional work that helps conserve birds and their habitats across the Americas,

identifying the important roles that birds play in the environment as well as their value to human society.

According to information provided by the Wings Across the Americas program, the Northern Goshawk partnership "has achieved remarkable success in resolving one of the most controversial and critical issues in management of the forests in America's Southwest. It is a shining example of ground-breaking research and effective adaptive management through hard work

and collaboration among research scientists and forest managers."

The partnership's efforts helped determine the distribution and density of goshawk nests, diets, demography, habitat uses, mate and territory fidelity, home range characteristics, and the effects of forest management practices on goshawk populations.

Since 1991, Research Wildlife Biologist Richard Reynolds led the partnership in order to investigate the ecology of the Northern Goshawk, test many of the assumptions of goshawk

recommendations, and evaluate effects of forest management on goshawk populations. The work has been unprecedented in that it has occurred over the entire Kaibab Plateau (1,285 square kilometers) and has involved more than 120 goshawk territories. A study of that magnitude has never before been done for the species.

For more information on the Wings Across the Americas program, please visit: www.fs.fed.us/global/wings.

RURAL COMMUNITIES FUEL MANAGEMENT

All told over the last several years, private landowners, fire department personnel, and other community members have contributed a staggering 19,500 hours toward making their property and their communities more defensible against wildland fire.

The Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership (RCFMP) once again exceeded its record for acres treated in a year. In 2006, the partnership thinned 151.5 acres of private property – just over its 2005 accomplishment – in several communities and subdivisions near the Williams Ranger District. Those included Sherwood Forest Estates, Parks, the Woods Subdivision, Pine Meadows, Ski Village, Whispering Pines, and areas south of Williams.

Including the 2006 accomplishment, RCFMP has treated 641 acres of private property since the partnership was formed in mid-2001. Those treatments have reduced the risk that wildland fire poses to private property and improved forest health conditions in communities. While the Kaibab National Forest treats the lands within its boundaries, RCFMP focuses on treating the private property outside Forest Service jurisdiction. Because the Kaibab National Forest is represented within the partnership, treatments

for both public and private lands can be planned and implemented jointly, enhancing the overall safety of local communities.

Local communities have been integral to the success of RCFMP. Local volunteer fire departments are involved in every stage of the project process – from encouraging local residents to sign up for the treatments to assisting with the burning of material removed during treatments. The Ponderosa and Sherwood Forest Estates fire departments staff cinder pits on National Forest over many weekends through the spring, summer and fall. This enables private citizens from the local



communities to dispose of natural, woody debris from their property.

In these years of large, dangerous wildland fires, RCFMP is leading the way in tying private property treatments into larger fuels reduction initiatives, combining the big-picture view of hazardous fuels reduction with the local

perspective of community assistance. The project's partners understand that in order to be truly effective in the fight against devastating wildland fires, communities within the wildland-urban interface need treatment just as public lands do. Given the major fires of recent years, local residents are looking for ways to protect their

families and their property. The partnership has truly become a template to be replicated in other wildland-urban interface communities threatened by fire.

Members of the Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership are the Kaibab National Forest; Arizona State Land Department; University of Arizona – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Northern Arizona University's Ecological Restoration Institute; Coconino County; Arizona Department of Corrections; Coconino Rural Environment Corps; City of Williams; and Ponderosa, Sherwood Forest Estates, and Williams fire departments.

NORTH ZONE

Familiar individuals and groups returned to volunteer on the Kaibab Plateau this year, but the North Kaibab Ranger District also welcomed two important new groups to its partnership rolls.

The district selected the Grand Canyon Association to manage its Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center sales outlet at Jacob Lake, Ariz., and improve visitor education programs. GCA (www.grandcanyon.org) is a nonprofit organization that supports education, research, and visitor services at Grand Canyon National Park and its vicinity. The group operates bookstores, publishes books and other educational materials, sponsors lectures and offers guided classes through its field institute.

The district also validated the Grand Canyon Trust's North Rim Ranch as livestock grazing permittee for the Central Winter, Central Summer and Kane allotments. The Trust (www.grandcanyontrust.org) is partnering with the forest to manage livestock grazing and maintain and restore the ecological, cultural and scenic values of the allotments. The Trust is designing volunteer projects and leveraging private, federal and state funds to help the forest achieve goals that it has not been able to accomplish due to a lack of financial and human resources.

SOUTH ZONE

Although partners and volunteers contributed to many South Kaibab programs, the heritage resources program was one of the biggest beneficiaries.

Les and Jan Cooney brought 28 members of their family to preserve the Cooney Baby Grave site, helping Kaibab archaeologists Mike Novotny and J.P. Schubert restore the gravestone that dates to 1882. Pine Springs Ranch grazing permittee Richard Younker and ranch manager Benny Aja also contributed time and materials to help preserve this important piece of Williams area history.

Don Christensen continued his rock art research on the South Zone, netting 160 hours. Ross and Maiya Galia spent 355 hours recording and monitoring sites in the Upper Basin and Spring Valley Wash. Arizona Site Stewards spent 82 hours monitoring archaeological sites in the Spring Valley and Ash Fork areas.

Finally, Alan Sullivan's University of Cincinnati students spent eight weeks surveying and documenting sites in the Upper Basin. They also began creating a model using infrared photographs to predict how site patterns relate to soils in the Upper Basin.



Top: The Kaibab's heritage team worked with members of the Cooney family to stabilize one of the forest's few marked historic headstones in early summer 2006. The headstone is dedicated to Michael Edward Cooney, who died of an unknown cause on June 12, 1882, at the age of 14 months. Both the headstone and its surrounding wood fence were leaning and on the verge of collapse.

Bottom: The headstone of baby Cooney is now up-right and protected. The Cooney Headstone Stabilization Project was a unique opportunity to celebrate and preserve a direct and vibrant connection with one of the oldest historic sites on the Williams Ranger District.



The partnership with CREC has truly made the YCC a better program

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Over the last two years, the Youth Conservation Corps program on the Kaibab National Forest has been transformed due to a highly successful partnership with the Coconino Rural Environment Corps, an AmeriCorps program that promotes stewardship by implementing a variety of conservation and service initiatives.

Due to funding difficulties, the Kaibab National Forest sought a partner in 2005 to help it keep the YCC program running. CREC accepted the challenge and improved the overall program in the process. "The partnership with CREC has truly made the YCC a better program," said Deirdre McLaughlin, a recreation specialist and the manager of the Kaibab National Forest YCC program. "The kids have received better and more extensive training and have had more resources available to them. Because of CREC's involvement, the forest has gotten better work



out of the YCC members, and the YCC members have gotten a better experience out of the program."

As part of the partnership, CREC employs and trains the YCC members under their youth program, and the Kaibab National Forest pays for the crew's labor on a fee-for-service basis. In 2006, YCC spent six weeks on the forest building and maintaining silvicultural fences, performing preparatory work for prescribed burns, maintaining trails, and conducting inventories and

eradication of noxious weeds.

YCC is a summer employment and job mentoring program for young women and men from the local community between the ages of 16 and 18. Besides providing employment to young people, the program also seeks to instill a respect for public lands into its members and get much-needed work accomplished on the forest.



Above Left: The Williams and Flagstaff YCC crews worked together maintaining trails on the Williams Ranger District in order to build inter-crew camaraderie. **Above:** Two YCC crewmembers complete an aspen plantation enclosure near Spring Valley.



NORTH ZONE

The biggest news from the North Kaibab Ranger District was the establishment of the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance.

Spurred by Coconino County Supervisor Carl Taylor, the Kaibab National Forest, BLM Arizona Strip Field Office, Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Canyon Trust established the group in order to increase interest in archaeological research on the Arizona Strip and develop active educational, inventory and volunteer programs. The North Kaibab Ranger District and Grand Canyon Trust co-sponsored several alliance meetings, field trips and workshops. Archaeologists from such organizations as the Museum of Northern Arizona, Northern Arizona University and Brigham Young University participated in these meetings or expressed interest in assisting the alliance.

The alliance is currently developing a charter to guide the group. Grand Canyon Trust is organizing the effort and, with Coconino County, providing funding to hire a part-time alliance coordinator. The coordinator's initial efforts will include developing a regional literature library, integrating agency databases and identifying potential research designs and volunteer projects.



Top Left: Members of the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance gather at Big Springs Field Station to discuss how to increase interest in archaeological research on the Arizona Strip. **Top Right:** Passport in Time volunteers Bill Nightwine, Pam Kalish and Larry Offenbergs inspect a large rubble mound that is typical of Pueblo III period structures on the Coconino Rim. **Middle:** Ancient ruins stand above Sycamore Canyon. **Bottom Left:** Historic preservation specialist John Azar puts fire-proof shingles on Hull Cabin. **Bottom-right:** After completing the re-roofing project of historic Hull Cabin, Passport-In-Time project volunteers gathered for a group photo.

SOUTH ZONE

Interpretation was the name of the game for South Zone archaeologists in 2006. The team presented 23 interpretive programs and research papers to a variety of vocational and professional archaeology groups, and attended the State Historic Preservation Office's annual Archaeology Fair. South Kaibab archaeologists presented to almost 1,700 people.

Archaeologists also created two new interpretive posters, and worked with the Peaks Ranger District recreation staff, the Eppley Institute and several other partners to develop an interpretation plan for the historic stage line that ran from Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon between 1892 and 1901, which hopefully will be developed as a non-motorized recreational trail in the future.

The South Kaibab hosted the forest heritage team's 17th "Passport in Time" project in the Upper Basin on the Tusayan Ranger District. Fourteen volunteers studied projectile points, recorded new archaeological sites, monitored priority heritage assets, surveyed a fire use area, studied evidence of 12th century Cohonina migration into the area, and re-roofed Hull Cabin, the Grand Canyon area's oldest standing cabin (dating to 1888), with fire-proof shingles.

ENGINEERING

The engineering team was extremely successful in 2006. Of special interest to the visiting public was the completion of the rehabilitation of DeMotte Campground on the North Kaibab Ranger District. This renovation makes DeMotte Campground fully accessible and, through thoughtful redesign and the use of new materials, should ensure an even more inviting and pleasant stay for campers. Recreation users on the South Zone of the forest will be pleased with the replacement of multiple toilet facilities at Kaibab Lake Campground. The engineering team was also able to successfully accomplish the repaving of the roads at the Tusayan Ranger Station, which had been a

long-standing priority for the employees, residents and visitors of the Tusayan district.

The engineering staff truly went above and beyond regional goals in maintaining forest roads. An extra 100 miles of high-clearance roads, as well as an additional 100 miles of passenger car roads, were maintained and brought back to suitable standards. These 200 miles of roads were in excess of the required mileage to be maintained in 2006. Their maintenance will result in greater access for forest visitors. On top of exceeding roads maintenance targets, engineering also performed Burned Area Emergency Response work on priority projects by helping with the restoration of roads and soils

following fires. This work will help to ensure that roads remain passable in areas affected by fires.

Other key accomplishments in 2006 included preparatory work for the upcoming Jacob Lake Campground rehabilitation project on the North Kaibab Ranger District, which will begin in 2007. This prep work will not only ensure a successful campground rehab project, but it will also enable the engineering team to continue overachieving roads maintenance targets in 2007 because necessary equipment will be pre-positioned in the area. In addition to all the visible projects, the engineering team was successful in ensuring that 100 percent of its data management priorities were met.



This toilet is typical of those installed during the rehabilitation of DeMotte Campground on the North Kaibab Ranger District. The rehabilitation was completed in 2006.



FUELS MANAGEMENT

The Kaibab National Forest fire organization exceeded fuels treatment targets for fiscal year 2006 and is poised to continue that trend in fiscal year 2007. For fiscal year 2006, the hazardous fuels treatment target was 14,660 acres. The Kaibab's fire organization treated more than double the target, accomplishing a total of 34,743 acres of hazardous fuels treatments. The almost 35,000 acres of treatment included wildland fire use acres.

Even without the fire use acres, the Kaibab National Forest fire organization would have still exceeded its hazardous fuels treatment target through a combination of thinning, piling, broadcast burning and pile burning. Broadcast burning is the use of prescribed fire to remove the buildup of fuels on the forest floor. Pile burning is the use of prescribed fire to burn stacks of trees and limbs that resulted from

thinning projects. Not counting fire use acres, the forest completed just over 16,000 acres of fuels treatments.

About a third – 5,326 acres – of that accomplishment was in the wildland-urban interface, the areas where forest and communities meet. The vast majority of WUI treatments take place on the Williams and Tusayan districts because that is where most of the WUI is located.

Besides the thinning work completed for fuels reduction objectives, a substantial amount of other noncommercial thinning work was completed by the forest. An additional 2,813 acres were thinned for various reasons including improving wildlife habitat, reducing dwarf mistletoe infections, improving forest health, and restoring grasslands.

A Kaibab National Forest engine crewmember monitors the progress of the West Wildland Fire Use Fire on the Tusayan Ranger District.

**SUPPRESSION/
PREPAREDNESS**

The 2006 fire season was primed to be an intense one. Through the fall of 2005, the winter of 2005/2006, and the spring of 2006, precipitation was far below normal. Drought conditions were persisting, and fuels across the forest were dry. The February Fire, which started on Feb. 6, burned more than 4,000 acres north of Payson on the Tonto National Forest and had Arizonans bracing for the worst. In order to prepare, the Kaibab National Forest brought in additional firefighting resources such as engines and hotshot crews from other parts of the country and pre-positioned them on forest.

Some late winter/early spring precipitation provided just enough moisture to delay the onset and reduce the potential severity of the impending fire season. Still, fire restrictions had to be implemented in order to prevent person-caused fires. Campfire and smoking restrictions were implemented on the Williams and Tusayan districts on May 24, and on the North Kaibab district on June 5. An area closure for the Bill Williams Mountain Watershed went into effect on June 23.

The largest fire on the Kaibab National Forest in 2006 was the Warm Fire. The Warm Fire was first detected on the North Kaibab Ranger District after a lightning storm moved through the area on June 8. From June 8 through June

25, the Warm Fire was managed as a wildland fire use fire and provided ecological benefits to promote the health of the forest including recycling nutrients into the soil, enhancing wildlife habitat, thinning excessively dense stands of trees, and reducing accumulations of fuels. On June 23, the Warm Fire started to push against portions of the boundary that had been established for it. On June 25, management action shifted from a wildland fire use strategy to a full suppression wildland fire strategy. A total of 40,430 acres burned after management action shifted to suppression. The Warm Fire was fully contained July 4.

In 2006, forest managers were pleased with the low number of person-caused fires. A total of 21

fires were started by people, accounting for only 7 acres burned. Over the last several years, the number of person-caused fires on the Kaibab National Forest has been decreasing. In 2006, the forest brought in three teams of fire prevention specialists in order to continue that trend. Each team spent about two weeks on forest spreading the prevention message far and wide. Besides the fire prevention teams, fire managers credit forest visitors' vigilance for the decreasing number of person-caused fires.

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| TOTAL# OF SUPPRESSION FIRES | 246 | 146 | 193 | 266 | 140 | 207 |
| TOTAL ACRES BURNED BY SUPPRESSION FIRES | 1,670 | 5,856 | 95 | 706 | 843 | 42,196 |
| PERSON-CAUSED FIRES | 44 | 35 | 24 | 27 | 19 | 21 |
| PERSON-CAUSED ACRES | 436 | 123 | 14 | 196 | 88 | 7 |



**Wildland Urban Interface
2006 Projects**

- Kendrick Broadcast Burning – treated 1,602 acres north of Parks
- Beacon Pile Burning and Broadcast Burning – treated 647 acres adjacent to Interstate 40 west of Pittman Valley
- City Thinning – treated 300 acres near Williams
- Clover High Pile Burning and Broadcast Burning – treated 420 acres near Williams
- Dogtown Thinning, Piling, and Broadcast Burning – treated 846 acres near Dogtown Lake
- Twin Thinning and Broadcast Burning – treated 240 acres south of Williams
- Tusayan South Piling and Broadcast Burning – treated 215 acres south of Tusayan
- Topeka Thinning – treated 400 acres northwest of Tusayan



| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| BROADCAST BURN ACRES | 12,983 |
| PILE BURNING ACRES | 1,547 |
| THINNING ACRES | 918 |
| PILING ACRES | 585 |

WILDLAND FIRE USE

Despite some challenges in 2006 with the Warm Fire (during which management action shifted from a wildland fire use strategy to a full suppression wildland fire strategy), the Kaibab National Forest wildland fire use program continues to grow and offer opportunities to restore fire to the ecosystem. Forest managers have been pleased with the results of WFUs on the Kaibab National Forest, especially on the Tusayan Ranger District where WFUs have begun to truly create a mosaic across the landscape over the last few years. They have burned in areas outside of planned treatment projects, areas recently treated with prescribed fire, areas previously burned by wildland fire use fires, and areas scheduled for treatment. For example, the Tusayan Ranger District was able to claim 1,300 acres of a wildland fire use fire as a fuels management target because they were within a pre-existing project area that was scheduled for prescribed fire treatments.

During 2006, the Kaibab National Forest managed nine WFUs for a total of 20,618 acres of treatment. The largest of those was the Warm WFU on the North

Kaibab Ranger District. Other significant WFUs in 2006 included the West and Bar WFUs on the Tusayan Ranger District, which burned at the same time as the Warm WFU. The West WFU started on June 8 and treated 1,925 acres. The Bar WFU was discovered on June 11 and treated 176 acres. On the Williams Ranger District, the largest WFUs were Pomeroy, which treated 260 acres, and Overland, which treated 53 acres.

In 2007, fire managers will continue to evaluate each natural ignition to determine its appropriateness for wildland fire use for resource benefit. Wildland fire use is a valuable tool, along with prescribed fire and mechanical tree thinning, to help restore fire-adapted ecosystems.

Engine captain Cody Payne gives instructions via radio during the July 2006 Topeka Burn on the Tusayan Ranger District.





NORTH ZONE

Reauthorization of grazing on two allotments and post-fire recovery on a third dominated the North Kaibab rangeland management program in 2006.

The district completed an environmental assessment of the Houserock and Ryan grazing allotments, which comprise roughly 74,000 acres on the northern Kaibab Plateau and in Houserock Valley. The district decided to implement a plan that will increase the density of cool season grasses and browse species, reduce soil erosion, and improve watershed conditions,

wildlife habitat, and economic and cultural opportunities for ranchers.

North Zone rangeland managers and grazing permittee North Rim Ranch had to scramble in the wake of the Warm Fire, which burned about 40,000 acres of grazing land on the Central Summer Allotment's North Pasture just weeks before the North Rim Ranch was to turn out their 720 head of cattle. Grazing was shifted to the South Pasture, and Forest Service, North Rim Ranch and volunteer workers conducted extensive fire line rehabilitation, burned area seeding, fence repairs and water tank cleaning.

SOUTH ZONE

Noxious weeds were the focus for the South Zone rangeland management program, treating over 350 acres. Range conservationists used chemical pesticides to eradicate weeds in Bull Basin and on Kendrick Mountain, and biological controls – in the form of the stem-boring mecinus weevil – to attack toadflax in Garland Prairie. South Zone employees and volunteers also grubbed weeds by hand in the environmentally sensitive area around JD Dam.



Top: Looking east from Government Prairie many well known landmarks are visible including Government Knolls, middle ground on the right, Kendrick Mountain on the left in the background, and off in the distance, mid picture, is the San Francisco Peaks. **Above:** Some North Rim Ranch cattle were delivered to the Pleasant Valley cabin, a historic Central Summer allotment line shack back in use once again.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

NORTH ZONE

The North Kaibab Ranger District focused on two major wildlife habitat improvement projects in 2006.

In collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the district developed the West Side Habitat Improvement Project, which aims to increase the abundance and diversity of forage on important mule deer winter range habitat west of the Kaibab Plateau. The project calls for seedbed preparation and planting of shrub species on about 7,000 acres of burned uplands and drainage bottoms, plus thinning of juniper trees on about 15,000 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands and old pushes.

The district completed project development in 2006, and expects to begin implementation in 2007.

The North Kaibab also began implementing the Ryan One Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project, which will ultimately thin about 1,100 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland, and seed about 100 acres with natural plant species. The project's intended result is to improve mule deer winter range

habitat in the northwest corner of the district. Reducing tree density in the area will increase the amount and diversity of browse species for wildlife, and reduce the potential of losses from disease and insects.

SOUTH ZONE

South Zone wildlife biologists oversaw the modification of 10 miles of fence to allow pronghorn antelope to move from one area to another. Antelope usually go under fences rather than jump them, so the lower wire was raised 18-20 inches. In one area, a wire sheep fence was removed entirely to allow access.

Another project treated about 75 acres to restore aspen being lost to pine tree encroachment, age and disease. Foresters felled and jackstrawed pine trees to keep elk out of the stands and allow the aspen to sprout.

Biologists also deepened a stock tank to allow trout to winter over, and created channels in the shallow area of the tank to eventually provide future habitat for amphibians and waterfowl.



A treated portion of the Ryan One Habitat Improvement Project (foreground) shows how dense stands of pinyon and juniper trees have almost completely eliminated mule deer browse species in the area. Reducing tree density will increase the amount and diversity of browse species for wildlife, and reduce the potential of losses from disease and insects.



1875



2004

These before and after photos provide strong evidence of how northern Arizona forests have changed over the last 130 years.

The purpose of the timber sale program on the Kaibab National Forest is to provide a tool for accomplishing vegetation management in a cost-efficient manner to meet various land management objectives. Objectives include fuels reduction, forest health, wildlife habitat improvement, and watershed improvement. Timber sales can be much more cost efficient than other methods of vegetation treatments since the purchasers of the timber pay for the removal of the merchantable wood products while still accomplishing treatment objectives.

NORTH ZONE

In the Southwest Region of the Forest Service, no area has had a greater decline in forest product markets than the North Zone of the Kaibab National Forest. Despite such challenges, the North Kaibab Ranger District worked hard in 2006 to lay the foundation for reintroducing timber management as a vegetation treatment option.

During fiscal year 2006, 3,004 CCF, or approximately 1.5 million board feet, were removed from timber products sold from the North Kaibab Ranger District. That included the Dry Park Timber Sale, personal use fuelwood, and the post and pole program. A total of 516 cords (408 CCF) was provided to the local community in the form of free-use fuelwood. About 1,100 permits were issued for Christmas trees and other timber products.

In 2006, commercial logging and vegetation treatments associated with the Dry Park Timber Sale continued. The 5,300-acre Dry Park sale contract was awarded in 2002 and terminates in 2008.



Logging operations on the Spring Valley timber sale, Williams Ranger District.

The contract is about 70 percent complete. During fiscal year 2006, about 600 acres within the sale boundary were treated with thinning for goshawk management purposes. The Dry Park Timber Sale purchaser has been responsible for closing many miles of excess roads to the public within treatment units. In fiscal year 2006, about 15 miles of excess roads were closed to the public by logging operators.

Although no timber sales were offered on the North Kaibab Ranger District in 2006, the decision document was signed for the Fracas Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project. The Fracas project is expected to generate approximately 1,500 CCF of commercial sawtimber volume from about 700 acres. The project would also result in an additional 840 acres of non-commercial

thinning of young, dense pine thickets. The objectives of the project are to improve wildlife habitat, decrease the risk of stand-replacing wildfire, reduce insect infestation and disease, and enhance the health of aspen stands.

SOUTH ZONE

The South Zone experienced great success in 2006 in its timber sale bidding process, and that is resulting in much-needed treatments occurring on the ground. During fiscal year 2006, four large timber sales were offered and sold that will accomplish treatments on the Spring Valley Fuels Reduction Project, the Elk/Lee Project, and the Frenchy Vegetation Management Project. Total wood volume sold was 19,973 CCF (hundred cubic feet). This is equivalent to

10 million board feet. Added to what was already under contract from fiscal year 2005, the South Zone had a total of 38,128 CCF of wood under contract at the end of fiscal year 2006. More importantly, the removal of this wood will thin or otherwise treat 5,013 acres of forest lands (2,577 acres for sales sold in fiscal year 2006). Money collected from these sales will be put back into improvement work such as non-commercial thinning, removal of trees infested with dwarf mistletoe, and fencing to protect aspen regeneration from elk damage.

In addition to the large timber sales program, the South Zone sold 596 CCF of pinyon/juniper commercial fuelwood to accomplish range, wildlife, and watershed improvement objectives on 298 acres in pinyon/juniper woodlands. Another 4,386 cords of fuelwood were provided for personal use. Permits were also sold for Christmas trees (1,200 permits), fence posts, pine poles, decorative wood, wilding transplants, and pine cones.

The opening of a new sawmill in Ash Fork that processes small diameter logs and the prospect of other small tree timber manufacturing facilities in northern Arizona have strengthened the South Zone timber program and provided the possibility of future expansion.

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST BUDGET & EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR 2006: 10/01/05 – 09/30/06

FOREST BUDGET: \$14,672,719
NATIONAL FOREST ACRES: 1.6 MILLION

EMPLOYEES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Permanent/Full-time | 103 |
| Permanent/Seasonal | 35 |
| Temporary | 79 |
| Student Career Experience Program | 4 |

LAND USE SPECIAL USE PERMITS

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Communications | 32 |
| Power lines | 11 |
| Oil and gas lines | 8 |

| MINERALS | AMOUNT | ROYALTIES |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Sandstone contracts* | 103,998 tons | \$624,000 |
| Cinder contracts | 4,564 cubic feet | \$3,651 |

* Sandstone quarries on the Kaibab NF account for approximately 45-50 percent of national production. The stone is used for building material in the construction industry.

RECREATION SITES FEES COLLECTED

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Ten-X Campground | \$41,457 |
| Spring Valley Cabin | \$18,182 |

(approx. 180 rented nights)
(Fees collected under authority of the Recreation Enhancement Act. About 95 percent of fees collected are returned to the Kaibab and used to maintain the sites)

HAZARDOUS FUELS TREATMENTS ACRES

| | |
|--|--------|
| Prescribed burns (broadcast and pile burns) | 14,530 |
| Thinning and piling | 1,503 |
| Wildland Fire Use | 18,187 |

(Approximately one third of the total treated acres were in the wildland urban interface, areas where forest and communities meet)

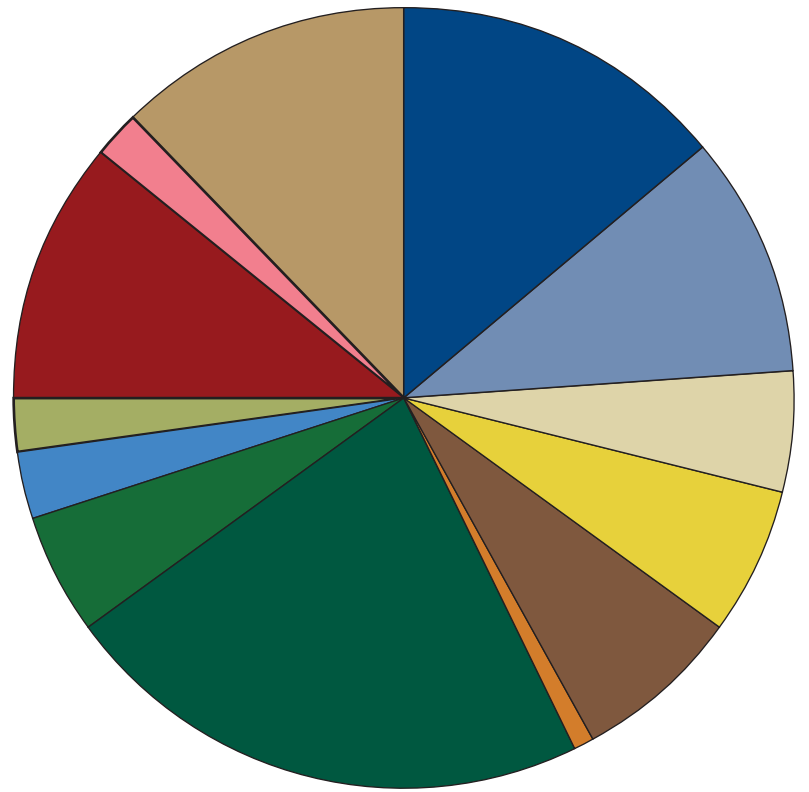
TIMBER PRODUCTS AMOUNT

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 timber sales | 19,980 hundred cubic ft |
| Personal-use firewood | 4,900 cords of wood |

(includes fee and free permits)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Other personal-use permits issued | 2,300 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|

(Uses includes fence posts, pine poles, Christmas trees, pine cones)



- FIRE PREPAREDNESS = 22%
- ADMINISTRATIVE & OVERHEAD = 14%
- OTHER = 12%
- TIMBER MANAGEMENT = 11%
- ROAD MAINTENANCE = 10%
- FUELS MANAGEMENT = 7%
- RECREATION = 6%
- FACILITY MAINTENANCE = 5%
- VEGETATIVE TREATMENT = 5%
- LANDS & MINERALS = 3%
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT = 2%
- RANGE MANAGEMENT = 2%
- FOREST PLANNING = 1%

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION



Kaibab National Forest helitack crewmember Cole Orozco serves as a spotter while another helicopter crewmember prepares to rappel out of a helicopter simulator.

FIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION DESIGNED FOR BETTER EFFICIENCIES

The Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park solidified their commitment to interagency cooperation in 2006. The two agencies developed and began implementation of a proposal to create an interagency fire management organization to oversee the fire programs for the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest and the North District of the Grand Canyon National Park. This organization, which will take final shape in 2007, will be totally integrated across the administrative area boundaries of the two units. Managers for both agencies believe this combined

fire organization will result in increased efficiencies and better coordination.

The South Zone of the forest also worked to solidify interagency bonds with the park by conducting joint helitack training. Both the forest and the park have highly active helicopter programs. In 2006, the two program managers developed an extensive plan for how the modules would train and work together. This resulted in interagency orientation, training and operational opportunities. A highlight of this interaction was an extended fire assignment in Montana for which the park provided the helicopter, the forest provided the helicopter manager, and both the park and forest provided helitack crewmembers.



JD Dam is a popular location for those who enjoy fishing (catch and release) and wildlife viewing.

Recreational use, particularly off-highway vehicles, appears to be increasing on the forest. Forest recreation managers, forest users, and rural homeowners are expressing concern about the loss of quiet and resource damage from some recreational activities. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule addressing some of the concerns directly related to travel off designated routes is in progress.



The rider of the off-highway vehicle is one of an increasing number of forest users who enjoy motorized recreation.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

As required by the 2005 Forest Service travel management rule, the Kaibab National Forest is working to establish a system of routes and areas designated for motorized travel. This system is being designed collaboratively with interested citizens, clubs and groups, and local governments to better protect resources while meeting the needs and interests of off-highway vehicles (OHV) riders and other motorized vehicle users.

Forest managers first conduct a travel analysis process, which assesses the values and impacts of roads, trails and areas as they relate to the various forest resources, including cultural, fire management, range, recreation, soils and watershed, lands and special uses, timber and wildlife. The results of the travel analysis drive recommendations as to which roads, trails and areas should be open to motor vehicles. These recommendations are then submitted for public review through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The ultimate result is a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), a legal document showing the authorized motorized travel system.

We completed the travel analysis process for the Tusayan Ranger District in 2005, and submitted our recommended motorized

BEFORE

AFTER

MINERALS PROGRAM

Over the last two years, 10 percent of the quarry acreage on the Williams Ranger District has been reclaimed. The purpose of this reclamation is to re-establish the areas to their former rangeland conditions. The cost of quarry reclamation is about \$2,000 to \$5,000 per acre. This cost is assumed by the quarry operators. The forest requires quarry operators to provide reclamation bonds to

ensure that this important work takes place. The Williams Ranger District has about 85 quarries under contract. Most of them are located near Ash Fork. The current number of quarries is down by about 20 percent since 2004 due to the reclamation process. A significant quarry reclamation in 2006 took place at Hell's Bells Quarry, which is located northeast of Ash Fork. About 6 acres were reclaimed in that project.

travel system for public comments in 2006. We hosted an open house in Tusayan in September to explain our proposal and hear your comments. We expect to issue a final Tusayan MVUM in 2007.

We focused on the Williams Ranger District travel analysis process in 2006. We held open houses in Williams and Phoenix in October to explain the process and hear our stakeholders' thoughts about specific roads to

be closed or left open. Based on those thoughts, we will develop recommendations and submit them for public review through the NEPA process in 2007. We expect to issue the final travel map for the Williams District in 2008.

We will begin the travel analysis process for the North Kaibab Ranger District in 2007. The NEPA process is scheduled for 2008, with the MVUM following in 2009.

VOLUNTEERS

For the love of wilderness and a deep commitment to public service six volunteers from the Williams, Flagstaff and Phoenix areas spent countless hours trekking throughout Kendrick Mountain. Known as the Kendrick Mountain Wilderness Stewards the group of hikers spent their time talking and educating fellow hikers about "Leave No Trace" principles and wilderness ethics. They made approximately 21 trips up the four different Kendrick Mountain trails over the course of the summer.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Renovation of DeMotte Campground on the North Kaibab district was completed late in 2006. Major improvements were made to the campsites, access roads and parking spurs, existing toilets and the amphitheater were replaced, and a potable drinking water system was installed. The campground is expected to open for public use in 2007. In addition, four campsites at White Horse Lake campground were made fully accessible.

Southwest Recreation, the campground manager/concessionaire for White Horse, Kaibab and Cataract Lakes, provided a free night of camping the first Saturday in June 2006. This took place in conjunction with Free Fishing Day, an annual event sponsored by AZ Game and Fish.



A new barrier-free amphitheater was constructed at Demotte Campground; part of the renovation project completed in 2006.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006



FOREST PLAN REVISION

In late summer of 2006 the forest started the revision process of its land management plan. Two rounds of public meetings were hosted in a number of northern Arizona communities; public meetings were also held in Phoenix. The meetings were designed as an orientation to the forest's revision process and to begin working with our stakeholders on forest management concerns, desired management guidelines and direction, and desired forest conditions.

The current forest plan, approved in 1988, is outdated in some instances, and not suited to adopting needed changes in a timely manner. Additionally, our new planning rule has changed the purpose and intent of what a forest plan should be: more adaptable; more responsive to local needs and conditions; developed collaboratively with the public; less detailed and less prescriptive in the direction provided; and more focused on the outcomes of management and less on the "how to" of management.

Water flowed through Pomeroy Tanks well into the summer because of a very wet spring in 2005.

This revision process is not going to change all management direction in the current plan. The emphasis will be on a few key areas of management where new information indicates the existing management direction is no longer appropriate or where there is need for additional information. Also, the budget and timeline for this revision effort are tightly constrained. We have three years or less to complete the revision process.

In the public meetings we asked stakeholders what they enjoyed and appreciated about the forest. We also asked stakeholders what they thought needed to be changed in the current plan. This preliminary work was done in preparation of developing a vision statement describing management direction for the revised plan and the desired future conditions we and our collaborators envision for the Kaibab. In 2007, the forest supervisor will ultimately decide what areas of management we'll focus our efforts on.



CONTACT US

For more information, or to comment on our land management activities please contact the nearest Kaibab National Forest Office. If you would like to comment on this report, address your comments to Kaibab Accomplishments and send them through the postal service, or send them electronically to the following email address: mailroom_r3_kaibab@fs.fed.us.

Visit us through the internet at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai

Kaibab National Forest
Headquarters
Mike Williams, Forest Supervisor
800 S. 6th Street
Williams, AZ 86046
(928) 635-8200

North Kaibab Ranger District
Louise Congdon, District Ranger
P.O. Box 248
Fredonia, Arizona 86022
(928) 643-7395

Williams Ranger District
Steve Best, District Ranger
742 South Clover Road
Williams, Arizona 86046
(928) 635-5600

Tusayan Ranger District
Rick Stahn, District Ranger
P.O. Box 3088
Tusayan, Arizona 86023
(928) 638-2443

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