

# Northern Arizona Changing Forest Landscapes



Historic photographs document the forest conditions prior to logging and grazing. It is important to understand the management practices when re-photographing these areas.



The photo on the left shows a member of the Beale Wagon survey crew at Russell Tank in 1863, about 10 miles north of Ash Fork. Notice how the juniper trees have taken over the grassy flat in the 1988 photo.



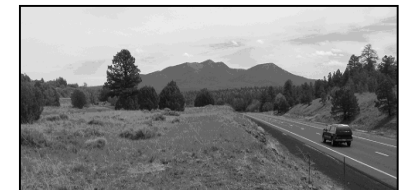
The Moqui Stage Station was an important stop for early travelers visiting the Grand Canyon via stage coach (Photo taken 1882). There are still the remnants of a water cistern and a cabin. Junipers have greatly encroached on the grasslands in this area. Notice how in the current photo (2003) tree spacing has been minimized.



Notice how the pinyon pine and juniper have taken over Laws Hill between the 1868 photo (right) and the 1988 photo (left).



Notice the dramatic changes between the 1875 John Hillers photo (above) and the 2004 photo (below). A wildfire in 1996 created the dead trees seen in the left hand side of the 2004 photo. Very little evidence of any management practices can be seen on the ground which makes this an important example of how our Forests have changed.



While few changes are evident in the foreground from when Route 66 was constructed in 1922, notice how the grassland in front of Bill Williams Mountain is no longer visible in the 2003 photo (Route 66 is now under I-40).



Note the small trees on the left hand side of the photo (1937).

In the 2003 photo (right), the trees have filled in and blocked the view of Bixler Mountain, Williams, Arizona. The tallest tree is now a snag hidden by the dense forest.