

2004 Projects

Woody Ridge Forest Restoration Project

For many years, fire personnel and resource specialists have been concerned about a large wildfire burning in the forests in the Flagstaff area and the effects such a fire would have on our communities, wildlife habitat, and the forest as a whole. The Woody Ridge Forest Restoration Project is intended to change fire behavior and improve declining forest health in the area. An Environmental Assessment for this project has been developed by the Coconino National Forest and the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership and was released for public review in late January 2004.

Cross-Country Travel Plan

As off-highway vehicles become more popular and their use increases within the National Forests, the associated negative environmental impacts are also increasing on National Forest lands. The National Forests in Arizona currently have different management directions for cross-country travel. In early 2004, an Environmental Impact Statement focusing on a common policy for cross-country travel for five National Forests in Arizona will be released.

Arizona Snowbowl Improvement Project

The Coconino National Forest formally accepted a proposal from the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Area in September 2002 comprising a comprehensive set of upgrades and improvements at the ski area. The central feature in the proposed action is Snowbowl's request for approval to make artificial snow using reclaimed water purchased from the City of Flagstaff. The forest will release an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that will analyze effects of the proposal in early February 2004.

Fossil Creek Area Plan

The Fossil Creek area of the Coconino and Tonto National Forests is unique with its beautiful clear waters, travertine depositions, native fish, and rich cultural resource values including the National Register listed hydropower operation. Arizona Public Service's proposal to decommission the power plants and leave the area, resulting in restoration of full flows of water to Fossil Creek itself, has resulted in the Forest Service determining that there was a need to plan the future emphasis and guidance for this unique area. In cooperation with the Payson Ranger District, Tonto NF, the Coconino NF has developed a proposal that addresses recreation use, resource protection, access, and interpretation. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal was released for public review in early 2004.

Verde Wild and Scenic Comprehensive River Management Plan

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 added a portion of the Verde River to the Wild and Scenic River system. The 18.3 mile section of the Verde River, from Beasley Flat just below Camp Verde to the mouth of Fossil Creek and the boundary of the Mazatal Wilderness, was designated a "Scenic" River. The continuing 22.2 mile section of river through the Mazatal Wilderness to the confluence of Red Creek was designated a "Wild" River. A Comprehensive River Management Plan is required by the Wild and Scenic River Act and has been worked on by the Tonto and Coconino National Forests for years. The Comprehensive River Management Plan is nearly complete and a Decision Notice for this plan will be released in March 2004.

Anderson Mesa Landscape Scale Assessment

The Coconino National Forest is developing a comprehensive Landscape Scale Assessment for Anderson Mesa, an area covering approximately 263,500 acres on the forest. The assessment is needed to address Management Indicator Species habitat requirements, wetland and riparian area protection, increased recreational use, and lands that currently have no management direction in the Forest Plan. A holistic approach to studying the Anderson Mesa landscape will be organized into a Landscape Scale Assessment document that describes current and desired conditions and identifies possible management strategies to best achieve those desired conditions. A final Landscape Scale Assessment document is planned for release in late summer 2004, followed by public review.

Coconino National Forest Statistics

Acres 1,821,495
Elevation Range 2,600' - 12,633'

Fire Management

Note: WUI refers to the Wildland/Urban Interface

Acres of WUI Fuels Reduction	18,515
Rx Burn cost/acre:	
First Time WUI	\$200
First Time non-WUI	\$100
Maintenance WUI	\$100
Maintenance non-WUI	\$50
WUI Pile Burning	\$50
Non-WUI Pile Burning	\$25
Number of Wildfires	
Human Caused	95
Lightning Caused	410
Total	505
Wildfire Acres Burned	
Human Caused Acres	162.65
Lightning Caused Acres	8,300.85
Total	8,463.5

Law Enforcement

Total Incidents	1,659
Warnings Issued	583
Arrests	22
Assists	12
Violation Fines Collected	\$34,729.00
Total Value of Damage to FS Property	\$59,857.00
Total Value of FS Resource Damage	\$41,950.00
Incidents/Violations Responded To:	
Occupancy Use Incidents/Violations	566
OHV & Forest Road & Trail Incidents/Violations	401
Sanitation Incidents/Violations	301
Fire Incidents/Violations	271
Timber Incidents/Violations	122
Drug & Alcohol Incidents/Violations	52
Fire Investigations	101
Cannabis Plots Eradicated	5
Drug Labs and Dump Sites	3

Human Resources

Permanent Employees	226
Temporary/Seasonal Employees	91
Volunteer Information:	

	People	Hours	Value
Volunteers:	2,239	53,635	\$567,160.00
Youth Conservation Corps:	8	2,560	\$25,702.00
Hosted Personnel:	55	16,686	\$188,724.00
Senior Community Service Employment Program:	19	18,479	\$242,258.00
Totals:	2,321	91,360	\$1,023,844.00
Average Volunteer Contribution per individual for 2003:		39.4	\$441.12

Recreation & Lands

Number of visitors to the forest (Data Collected in 2000):	1.89 million
Number Of Individual Camp Sites:	
Peaks Ranger District	76
Mormon Lake Ranger District	185
Red Rock Ranger District	196
Mogollon Rim Ranger District	93
Number Of Group Camp Sites:	
Peaks Ranger District	3
Mormon Lake Ranger District	1
Red Rock Ranger District	2
Mogollon Rim Ranger District	5
Picnic Areas	9
Rental Cabins	3
Miles of Trail	641
Number of Trailheads	43
Miles of Forest Road	5941

Red Rock Pass Program:

Total Receipts	\$734,633
Visitor Center Visitor Contacts	471,533
Recreation Guides Handed Out	99,000
Trash Picked Up (Includes only trash found on the ground)	16,300 lbs
Dump Sites Rehabilitated	24
Miles of Trail Maintained	22
Interpretive Products/Programs Produced	62
Square Feet of Graffiti Removed	331
Leave No Trace Talks Given	203
Visitor Field Contacts	6,270

Stewardship

Acres of Noxious Weed Treatment	2,770
Acres of Soil and Water Resource Improvement	720
Miles of Fish Habitat Enhancement	5
Acres of Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	656
Wood Product Permits Issued	4,000
Wood Product Permit Revenues	\$136,439.40

Contact Us:

Coconino National Forest
Supervisor's Office
1824 S. Thompson
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 527-3600

Peaks Ranger District
5075 N. Highway 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
(928) 526-0866

Mormon Lake Ranger District
4373 S. Lake Mary Rd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 774-1147

Red Rock Ranger District
250 Brewer Rd.
PO Box 300
Sedona, AZ 86339
(928) 282-4119

Mogollon Rim Ranger District
HC 31, Box 300
Happy Jack, AZ 86024
(928) 477-2255

Visit our website at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino>

• **"Coconino" is the word the Hopi use for Havasupai and Yavapai Indians. The Coconino National Forest was so named because it is located in the central portion of Coconino County.**

• **Created in 1944, the Smokey Bear campaign is the longest running public service campaign in U.S. history.**

• **The five San Francisco Peaks are named Humphreys, Agassiz, Fremont, Doyle, and Schultz.**

• **The ecological concept of "life-zones" was developed by C. Hart Merriam while studying the diverse vegetation of the San Francisco Peaks in the late 1800s.**

• **Mormon Lake received its name when Mormon settlers started a dairy operation at the lake in 1878.**

Did you know?

• **The largest natural lake in Arizona, 5,000-acre Mormon Lake, once supported large tour boat operations. The lake began to dry up in the 1920s.**

• **The Coconino National Forest is part of the world's largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest.**

• **The Coconino's first designated wilderness area was the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness.**

• **The "red rocks" of Sedona are composed largely of Supai Sandstone.**

• **The Coconino National Forest encompasses 1,821,495 acres of public land.**

• **The landscape of the Coconino National Forest ranges in elevation from 2,600' to 12,633'.**