

Stakeholders Report

COCOONINO

National



Forest

2008 STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

Dear Coconino National Forest Friends, Visitors, and Neighbors ~

On July 2, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Coconino National Forest by combining all or part of three previously established Reserves: Grand Canyon, San Francisco Mountains, and the Black Mesa. Thus, 2008 became a commemorative year for the Coconino National Forest and the Fort Valley Experimental Forest Station as we celebrated their Centennials.

This 100-year mark also brought many more celebrations with it, as we met numerous goals in forest thinning, fire management, wildlife programs, restoration projects, and also partnered with hundreds of outstanding organizations to manage and improve the forest. These partnerships evolved because surrounding community members and organizations have a broad and deep interest in the management of the Coconino National Forest, and we welcome these partnerships.

As one example, in 2008 forest personnel participated in discussions with community members about how, as a community, we can meet the challenges and opportunities of managing forested landscapes. This conversation led to the development of the *Community Conversation on Sustainability: Healthy Forests, Healthy Community*, a forum hosted by the Flagstaff Leadership Program on February 21, 2009 at the NAU deBois Center.

The *Community Conversation on Sustainability* is designed to bring together a broad array of stakeholders with the purpose of developing a shared vision of forest sustainability. This vision will help define the role of public forested lands in meeting community objectives for economic, social, and ecological sustainability, and integrating that vision into existing planning, decision-making, and resource management processes. As we revise the forest plan for the Coconino, this effort by the community will be invaluable in helping define our role in meeting community needs.

The Coconino is also partnering with other three other National Forests in northern Arizona to develop and implement a strategy to accelerate forest restoration across the four forests. This new partnership includes the Kaibab, Apache-Sitgreaves, and the Tonto. It is imperative to accelerate forest restoration to restore Arizona's forests and protect our communities. This belief is a result from discussions and a shared sense of importance and urgency amongst the Forest Service and other stakeholders, including the Arizona Forest Health Council.

We will continue to work collaboratively with forest stakeholders, utilize the best available science and approach the work at a broad landscape to improve the health of our National Forests as well as provide economic opportunities to local communities by utilizing excess biomass.

As you read the rest of our Stakeholders Report we think you will find a deep connection between the management of the Coconino National Forest and the communities and stakeholders associated with it. It is a long and important connection, one that we look forward to continuing in new and meaningful ways into the next 100 years.



Nora B. Rasare
Forest Supervisor



Joe Stringer
Dep. Forest Supervisor



Forest Wide

The Coconino National Forest welcomes approximately 3.3 million visitors each year, warranting ongoing projects to sustain the health of the Forest Pg.2-3



Peaks & Mormon Lake

From restoration projects, to programs involving students, the Peaks and Mormon Lake Districts report on their accomplishments and future plans Pg.4-5



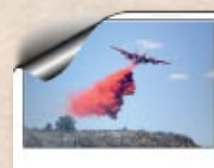
Red Rock

One of the most visited districts in the Coconino National Forest, our Red Rock District boasts of some incredible accomplishments year after year Pg.6-7



Mogollon Rim

With strong partnerships and community collaboration, the Mogollon Rim District is dedicated to finding creative ways to manage natural resources Pg.8-9



By the Numbers

Take a look at the latest figures on the Coconino's budget, expenditures, visitor data, volunteer information and more. We also would like to thank each of our volunteers and organizations for partnering with us throughout 2008 Pg.10-11



Forest Wide

Coconino National Forest

Fire & Fuels in 2008

The 2008 fire season was fairly quiet on the Coconino National Forest, and while the lack of catastrophic local incidents is due in part to the year's precipitation, much of the credit is also due to two very important factors: ongoing fuel reduction efforts, and the increasing awareness of forest users.

Because the southwest ecosystems need fire to continue functioning healthily, Fire Managers on the Coconino will always be busy managing planned and unplanned fires across the forest. To do so, they have several tools in their toolbox including thinning, prescribed burning, and Wildland Fire Use. In 2008, crews treated nearly 20,000 acres with prescribed fires, over 2,700 acres with thinning, and the forest managed five Wildland Fire Use (WFU) Fires which treated nearly 2,500 acres of forest land. Additionally, 2008 was the second year that the Coconino National Forest Fire Management Plan included the option of WFU fires – lightning-caused wildfires that meet certain criteria and are determined suitable to be managed to help reduce hazardous fuels and increase forest health – and they are so far proving to be a beneficial tool in the toolbox.

Perhaps the most vital tools, however, are the successful and invaluable partnerships developed to maintain consistent and collaborative fire preparedness programs.

The Coconino is part of the Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council (PFAC), a collection of federal, state, and municipal emergency agencies who, for over a decade have been working together to coordinate training, communication, and fire response efforts. In 2008, recognizing the value of interagency coordination, the members of PFAC began teaming-up on fuels treatment programs around Flagstaff. Crews from the Flagstaff Fire Department, Summit, Highlands, and Pinewood Fire Departments, and Coconino National Forest have been collaborating on thinning and prescribed burning projects, noting the opportunities to reach fuel treatment goals in less time, increase cost efficiency, and reduce the duration of local impacts.

Many fuel treatment plans are the products of a long-term partnership with the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership. The Partnership recognized a 300,000 acre area around Flagstaff (100,000 acres

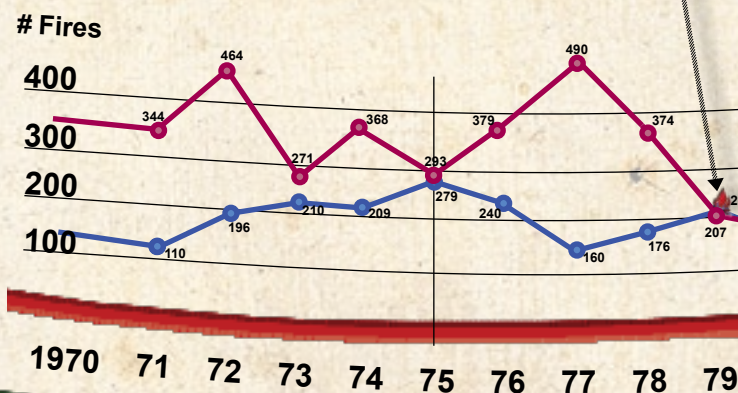
of FS land) in need of such treatment. The Coconino recently completed all of the landscape scale planning on Partnership projects and implementation has begun on most of them.

In addition to aggressive fuel treatments and successful inter-agency partnerships, the Coconino saw a milder fire season this past year because of a group of key players – forest visitors. Of the 246 wildfires on the Coconino this past year, only 89 were human caused – the second lowest number in the last three decades of fire history. The frequency of human-caused fires has been on a downward trend even though visitation continues to rise. This demonstrates how the public's consciousness of fire safety, and the personal investment each visitor is making in the forest's well-being, continues to play a key role in the ongoing management of our natural resources.

Preston Mercer, Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Mormon Lake District prepares for a prescribed burn. Drip torches (the canister just left) are used to ignite burns.



'79: More human than lightning





Travel Management Rule

The spectrum of uses and the numbers of visitors on public lands continues to grow. In the last several years, land management agencies across the nation have taken strides to re-assess land management practices as they pertain to the needs of visitors and the continued health of the natural resources. National Forests are employing the Travel Management Rule (TMR) process to address concerns about the impact of unmanaged motorized travel on National Forests.



One of the major reasons TMR is being implemented is to protect forests from destruction caused by careless motorized recreation, as pictured above. TMR will create better opportunities for sustainable recreation, better protection of the environment, increased public safety and a consistent framework for motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands.

The Coconino National Forest is nearing the final stages of the Travel Management Rule planning process. This past year, the forest completed the analysis of approximately 1,300 comments on the Proposed Action, and significant issues were defined from those comments. The Forest developed and analyzed a range of alternatives to address the significant issues in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), estimated to be complete in early Summer 2009.

As planning nears completion, the forest is also taking measures to prepare for on-the-ground implementation of the rule. One of the major concerns is that many forest users are still uninformed or misinformed about the existing rules and how they will change within the implementation of TMR. During the 2008 recreation season, forest employees (including non field-based employees) volunteered their time and increased field efforts to educate forest users about general forest etiquette and to provide information and answers about the TMR process. Informed forest users are key to the continued proper use of motorized vehicles on public lands.

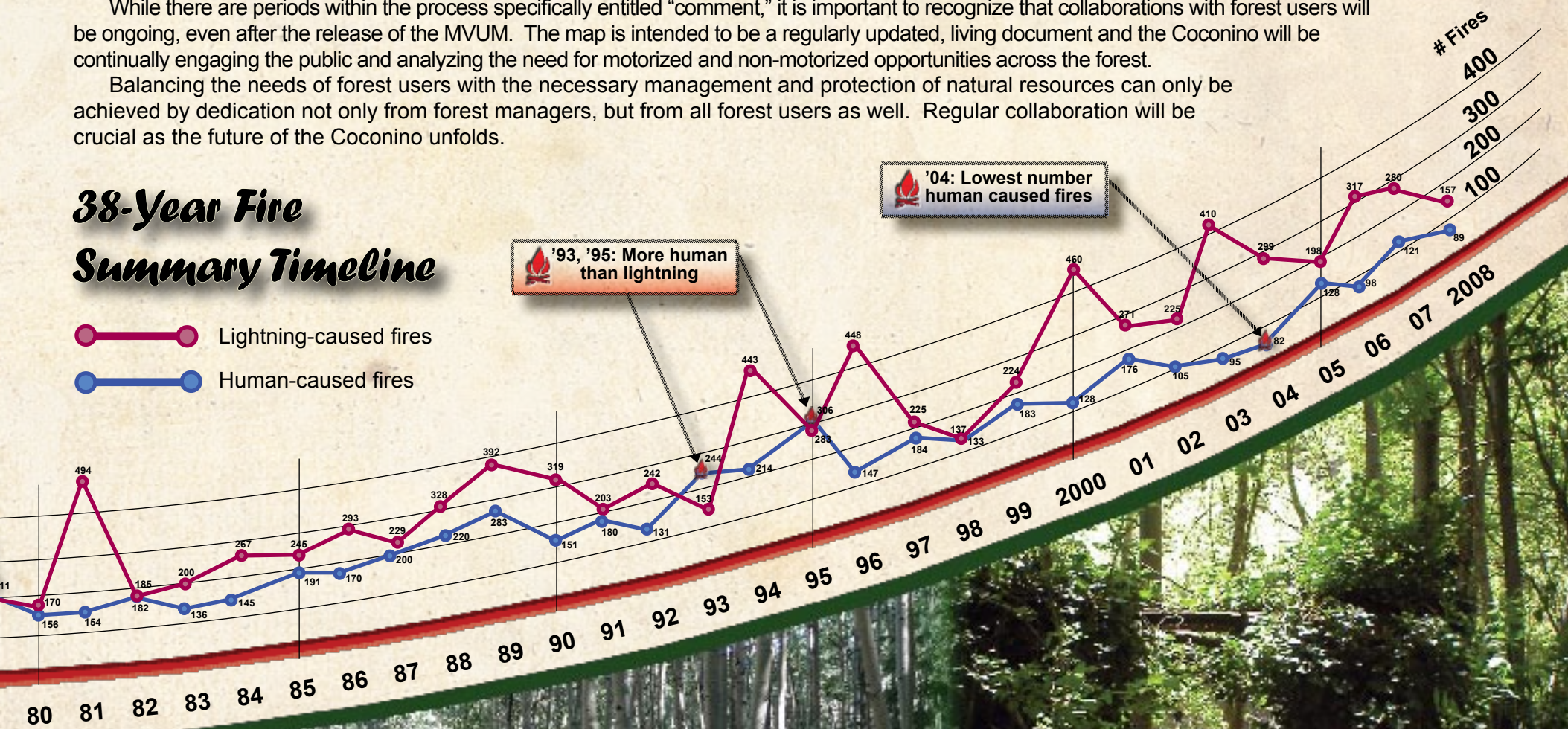
In addition to the continued education of visitors, the forest also planned for another aspect of implementation. The Coconino secured a Forest-Wide Feature Sign Development grant from Arizona State Parks for \$236,000. The grant came through the Motorized portion of the State's Recreation Trails Program and will be applied toward the purchase and installation of "place name" signs for various locations across the forest. The signage will be used to help visitors navigate through the forest once the final rule is in place. Following the release of the DEIS in the summer, there will be a 45-day comment period, subsequent comment analysis, and the forest will reevaluate alternatives. The Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement are projected to be released in late Fall, with implementation estimated to begin at the end of 2009 with the release of the free Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

While there are periods within the process specifically entitled "comment," it is important to recognize that collaborations with forest users will be ongoing, even after the release of the MVUM. The map is intended to be a regularly updated, living document and the Coconino will be continually engaging the public and analyzing the need for motorized and non-motorized opportunities across the forest.

Balancing the needs of forest users with the necessary management and protection of natural resources can only be achieved by dedication not only from forest managers, but from all forest users as well. Regular collaboration will be crucial as the future of the Coconino unfolds.

38-Year Fire Summary Timeline

- Lightning-caused fires
- Human-caused fires





I am thrilled to have joined the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts this year.

I am very impressed with the exceptional staff of professionals working for the district, and also with the contributions of our volunteers and other partners in the success of so many of our programs.

At this time when we report on the past year and embark on a new one, it is humbling and gratifying to

note how much stakeholder support and assistance has influenced our many accomplishments.

It is likewise exciting to know the potential for the coming year. We are committed to managing forest lands in a way that promotes the health and resilience of ecosystems, while providing for the sustainable use of resources and recreational opportunities where appropriate. I look forward to more great accomplishments with continued support and involvement from our stakeholders.

Michael T. Elson
Peaks & Mormon Lake Districts Ranger

Wildlife Program

During the 2008 field season, wildlife crews along with partners and volunteers completed numerous surveys and habitat restoration projects.

The Coconino National Forest is home to three species of leopard frog: the sensitive northern leopard frog and lowland leopard frog, and the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog. Wildlife crews found northern leopard frogs in many of their historic locations and even in a few new ones. Consistent precipitation plays a large role in the population dynamics of these sensitive species.

But surveys of ground creatures weren't the only projects for our crews. The Coconino, along with its partners and volunteers, also conducted bird surveys in 2008. Goshawk and spotted owl surveys were conducted on over 25,000 acres of Forest lands. Nearly 2,000 goshawk points and over 12 Mexican spotted owl family areas were surveyed. New nesting Mexican spotted owls, goshawks, golden eagles and peregrine falcons were discovered as a result.

In addition, every January the Coconino participates in the National Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey, coordinated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The survey helps determine the population trend and distribution of bald eagles throughout its range. Partnering with the National Audubon Society (Northern Arizona Chapter), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and citizen volunteers, we surveyed approximately 20 routes on the Coconino National Forest. A total of 40 bald eagles, 5 golden eagles, and 1 unidentified eagle were counted. Bald eagles counted on the Coconino consistently represent 18-20% of all Bald Eagles counted in Arizona during the annual survey.

Enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat is also a major component of the wildlife program. Anderson Mesa, located east of Mormon Lake,

Northern Leopard Frog



is home to many important habitat improvement projects. For pronghorn antelope, grassland restoration efforts involved removing thousands of small juniper trees that had encroached the area's grasslands.

Fire crews managed prescribed burns on approximately 500 acres of habitat to improve forage for wildlife.

To improve habitat for migrating ducks, six wetland enclosures were built in 2008, totaling 27 enclosed wetlands on the Mesa. The wildlife-friendly enclosures were designed to allow elk, deer, and antelope to move easily under or over the enclosure fence, but restrict livestock to a small portion of the wetland. The

enclosures will provide nesting habitat for migrating ducks.

The accomplishments on Anderson Mesa are possible because of the strong efforts from our many partners, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Diablo Trust, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association, Boy Scouts of America, and the Coconino Rural Environmental Corps.

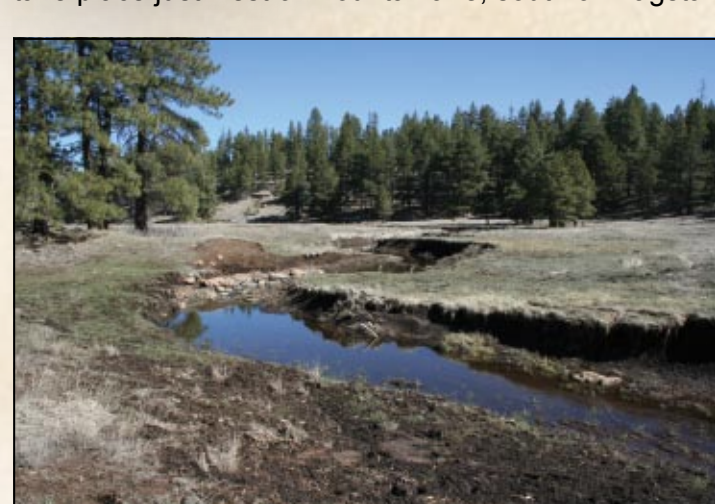
Peaks &



Upcoming Soil & Meadow Restoration Projects

In 2009, the Coconino National Forest plans to work on several Soil and Meadow Restoration projects across the forest – including two on the Peaks and Mormon Lake Districts.

Approximately 200 acres of meadow restoration is scheduled to take place just west of Mountainaire, south of Flagstaff.



The vertical banks pictured are evidence of the damage and instability of the Hoxworth drainage. The project is designed to stabilize the stream by cutting and filling the area to create a new channel alignment. After construction, the area will be re-seeded and protected from all grazing animals with an 8 foot high fence.

Restoration efforts will include removing the small pine trees encroaching on the existing meadows. This is a continuation of a meadow thinning project that occurred in 2007.

In addition, the Hoxworth Springs Stream Channel Restoration Project

is planned to begin late summer, funded by a grant from the Arizona Water Protection Fund. The Hoxworth Springs drainage basin lies within the Lake Mary watershed in the Coconino National Forest, approximately 15 miles south of Flagstaff, south of the Elk Park Meadows subdivision.

Work on the project is a continuation of work previously completed within the Hoxworth Spring Stream Channel, first in 1996, and again in 1998 and 2002. The main goal of this project is to restore the riparian function of the remaining .4 miles of degraded stream channel and the adjacent meadow. Doing so will improve meadow and stream water-storage capacity, revive the riparian plant community, improve habitat for riparian-associated threatened and endangered species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl, and reduce erosion and production of sediment that eventually reaches Lake Mary.

Efforts will begin with treatment of noxious weeds. Stream restoration, revegetation, and site protection work will continue through the summer.



Mormon Lake

Ranger Districts

Students in the Coconino

The youth of our nation are an important partner in our mission. We recognize the need to "cultivate" the precious resources that comprise the younger generations. In an era when partnerships are fundamental for successfully managing our public lands, the employees of the Coconino National Forest also recognize the value in partnering with the bright and eager youth who will one day "Care for the land and Serve the people."

Almost a decade ago, the Peaks and Mormon Lake Districts created a revolutionary partnership with Northern Arizona University. The ongoing graduate level School of Forestry course entitled Wilderness Management, offers weekly interaction with forest recreation employees of all grade levels from across the forest. The semester's curriculum addresses current forest wilderness issues, while semester-end projects provide district managers with possible management approaches. Semester topics have addressed managing urban wilderness, the role of outfitters and guides in wilderness, and most recently, the feasibility of a permit system for the Kachina Peaks Wilderness Area.

In addition, the Forest has been supporting the Wilderness Specialist Program since 2006. The program's main focus is to offer a hands-on wilderness field experience, while providing the support, training, and mentorship needs to university students seeking careers in natural resource and Wilderness area management. Coconino participation offers life-changing experiences in which the next generation of land managers can build upon in support of their own careers. To date, more than 20 university students from all corners of the nation have taken part in our Wilderness Specialist Program.

Our partnership with the next generation extends to more than just University students. In November 2008, 15 Kaibab and Coconino National Forest employees worked with 45 fifth-graders from Puente de Hózhó Elementary School on the "Leave No Trace" land ethic principles. During the event, students learned about the principles through games, group work, and hands-on activities. Smokey Bear even made an appearance to encourage our young partners to continue applying their lessons whenever they visit the forest. In February 2009, as the second piece of this project, students will develop "Leave No Trace" land ethics posters in Dine, Spanish and English and with the help of forest employees, the posters will be placed at key forest locations.



NAU Wilderness Mgt. Class '08



Leave No Trace Day 11/08



Leave No Trace Day 11/08

Coconino NF Plans to Co-locate Flagstaff District Offices

The Coconino National Forest is currently considering co-locating the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger District Offices to a single administrative site. Under this proposal, the existing Peaks Ranger Station and Mormon Lake Ranger Station properties would be sold to generate funds for construction of the new administrative site.

The Elden Lookout Trailhead is currently located on the Peaks administrative site and would therefore need to be relocated to a nearby site yet to be determined. This would likely involve rerouting trail access but would not affect the existing trail system currently accessed by that trailhead.

The two Ranger Districts are already operating as a single unit, under the direction of a single District Ranger; co-locating into a single office will improve operational efficiency. The new Ranger Station would be constructed on ap-

proximately 40 acres of National Forest System land located on Lake Mary Road adjacent to the City of Flagstaff Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant. It will provide easy access for tourists and local publics, be efficient for consolidated District activities, reduce maintenance, and allow for future needs.

A local environmental firm, SWCA, Inc., has been contracted by the Forest Service to develop an Environmental Assessment of the proposal. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be released mid-2009; sale of the existing sites and construction of the new site are anticipated to occur over the next two to four years.

Comments and questions are encouraged,

as public involvement is an important aspect of this project.

For additional information and to submit comments, contact SWCA, Harmony Hall, 114 N. San Francisco Street, Suite 100, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; 928-774-5500.

Red Rock

Ranger District



After three years on the job as Red Rock District Ranger, I am still impressed with the ever increasing energy and enthusiasm that our partners and volunteers exhibit as they help us meet the constant demands on our National Forest. Sedona is gifted with a wealth of skilled volunteers and individuals dedicated to accomplishing goals that help protect our natural and cultural resources. In total, volunteers and partners donated 44,000 hours to the Red Rock Ranger District in 2008, equating

to about one-third of our District's operating costs.

Thanks to the thousands of residents and visitors who purchased Red Rock Passes, we continue to be able to address impacts to our beautiful landscape, we provided increased law enforcement presence on the District, and quality visitor services to more than a half million visitors last year.

Our District accomplished a spectrum of projects in 2008 – from the construction of the new administrative site and visitor center; to the construction and maintenance of numerous trails; implementation of a hazardous fuels reduction project in Oak Creek Canyon; and the construction of several interpretive exhibits, just to name a few.

Programs to be accomplished this coming year include constructing new exhibits for our visitor center as part of the National Scenic Byway Grant Program; continuing to provide visitor services at our cultural heritage sites; implementing our Fossil Creek Arizona Water Protection Fund grant; and emphasizing the volunteer Wilderness Information program and patrol.

Thank you to friends, volunteers, and stakeholders for your significant contributions. I look forward to working with each of you as we complete more projects that lend to the health and sustainability of our beautiful District.

Heather Provencio
Red Rock District Ranger

New Admin Office & Visitor Center

The vision of a new high profile Red Rock Ranger Station with improved visitor information services has become a reality. In April of 2008 we welcomed more than 300 visitors and distinguished guests to an open house and "sneak preview" of the new administrative site and information center located 1 mile south of the Village of Oak Creek along State Route 179, near Woods Canyon Trailhead. Since the grand opening, over 80,000 guests have walked through the visitor center doors to gather vital information about what to do and see in Sedona's Red Rock Country. Most impressive is the administrative site location with its scenic vista situated beneath the red sandstone towers along Munds Mountain Wilderness.

The first ranger station in Sedona was built in the early 1900s in a remote setting later known as the "Heart of Sedona." Even though centrally located, the ranger station was not easy to find for the visiting public. With Sedona's popularity and growing 3.5 million annual visitors, increasing impacts to the National Forest were being experienced. In the mid 1990s, Forest Service managers began exploring options to relocate the station to increase visibility and to reach the greatest number of visitors to provide early and effective environmental education. We believe most forest visitors want to help protect the areas natural beauty if only they are aware of "Leave No Trace" practices.

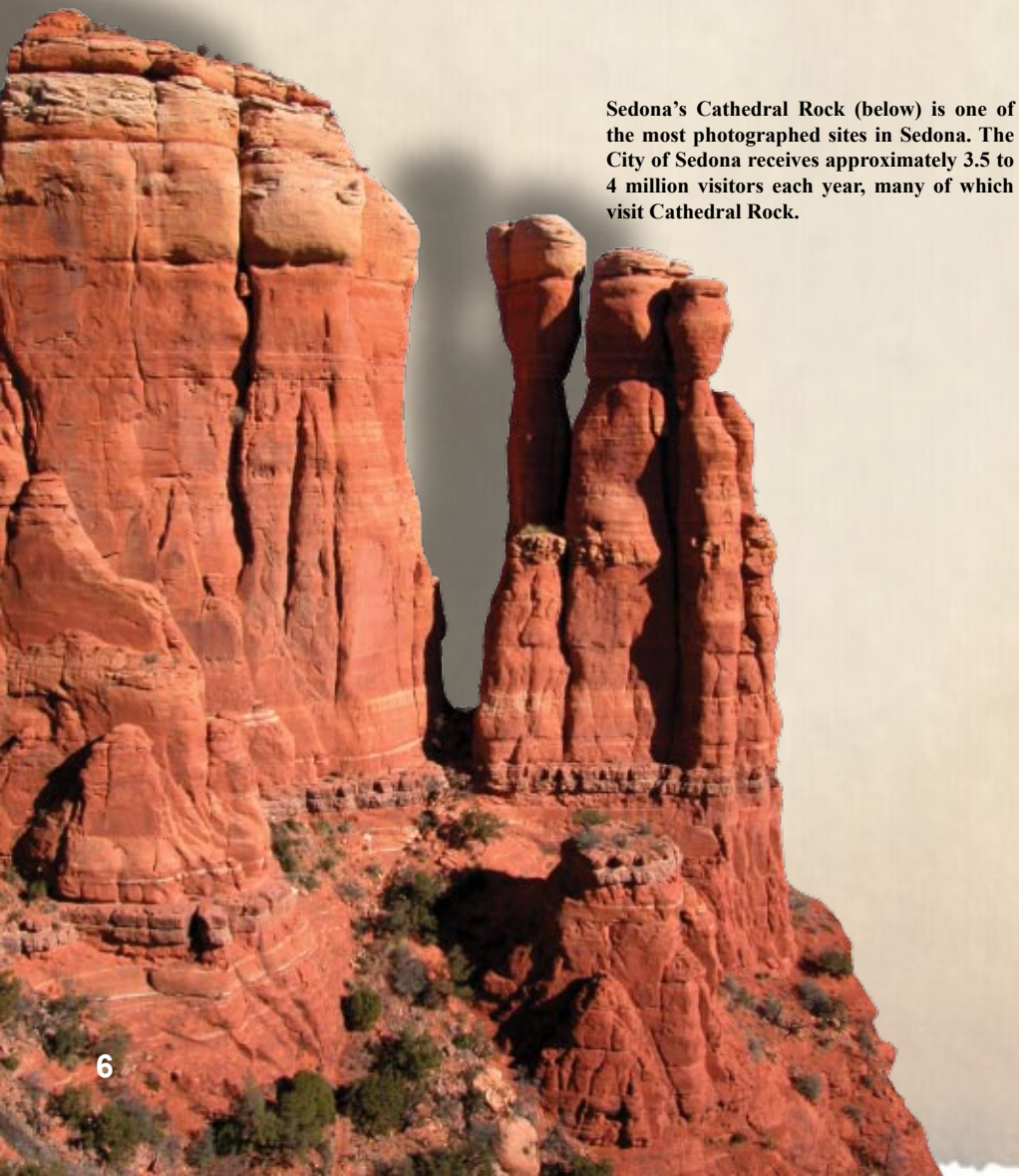
Two pieces of legislation helped paved the way for the relocation and vision: first, the Arizona National Forest Improvement Act (PL106-458) of 2000 and later, the National Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-54). Combined, these authorities allowed the Coconino NF to sell the original Brewer Road parcel for \$8.4 million and apply it towards the \$9.8 million cost to excavate and construct a new facility.

If initial success can be measured in the number of visitors reached with increased information services, this new facility is truly a success. Daily visitation is estimated at two and a half times the number of visitors contacted in the fall of 2007. A variety of educational displays and services are currently being offered at the information center covering local geology, native cultures, "Leave no trace" skills, ecosystem biodiversity and wildlife sign identification. Frontline information services of both volunteers and Forest Service personnel work to greet and assist visitors to help make their Red Rock Country visit most memorable.



The new Red Rock Ranger Station. Not included in this photo is the new visitor center located just left of the station.

Sedona's Cathedral Rock (below) is one of the most photographed sites in Sedona. The City of Sedona receives approximately 3.5 to 4 million visitors each year, many of which visit Cathedral Rock.





Broadening the Understanding of Narrow-Headed Garter Snakes

Found in Oak Creek, the Narrow-Headed Garter Snake is distinguished by its long, triangular-shaped head and dark checks on a gray/tan body. It spends most of its time foraging for fish, frogs, and tadpoles in the water or basking in the sun near the creek's edge.

But their numbers are rapidly declining. People are killing the NHGS either deliberately because they fear these snakes are poisonous, or unintentionally by handling them or driving across low-water crossings where young snakes bask in the shallows. In addition, the prey-base for the NHGS is decreasing because of non-native fish and increased sedimentation in Oak Creek.

Since the late 90s, herpetologists from the US Geological Survey, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Mesa Community College, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Forest Service have been monitoring the abundance and distribution of the Narrow-Headed Garter Snake in Oak Creek Canyon.

Many of the snakes now have pit tags, and each summer from July through September, the scientists capture the snakes, scan their tags if they have them, or insert tags if not. A pit tag gives each snake a unique number which allows the scientists to develop a history of the snake each time it is captured. From the data collected each time a snake is captured, scientists can tell where the snake was originally tagged, how many other times it was detected, and how far it has moved. The findings have helped scientists understand more about the habits of the Narrow-Headed Garter Snake, which will help with the future protection of this rare but amazing species.



Narrow-Headed Garter Snake

Upcoming West Fork Fish Restoration Project

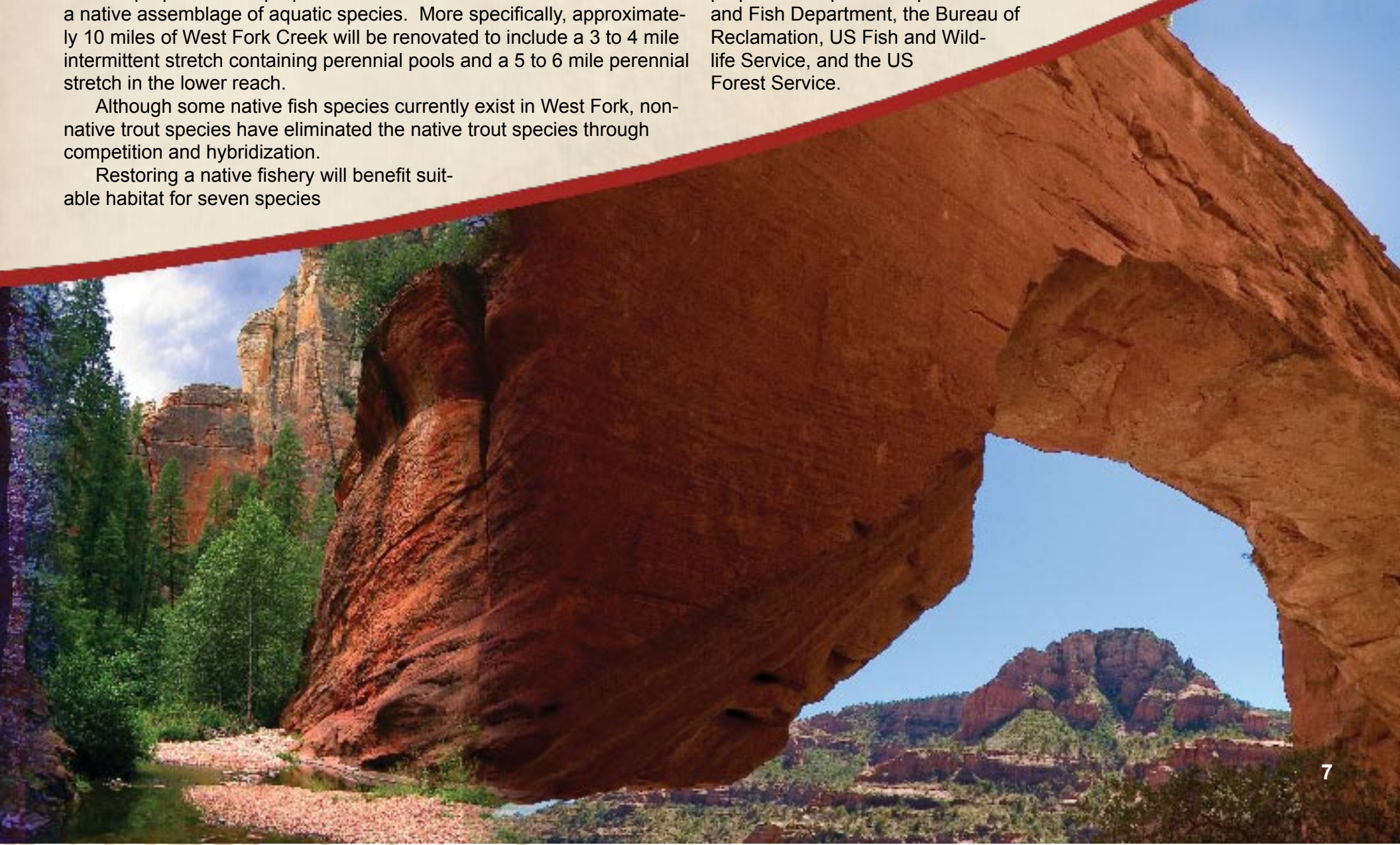
In early 2009, the Red Rock District will begin the Scoping Process and Environmental Analysis for the West Fork of Oak Creek Fish Restoration Project.

The purpose of the proposal is to restore West Fork of Oak Creek to a native assemblage of aquatic species. More specifically, approximately 10 miles of West Fork Creek will be renovated to include a 3 to 4 mile intermittent stretch containing perennial pools and a 5 to 6 mile perennial stretch in the lower reach.

Although some native fish species currently exist in West Fork, non-native trout species have eliminated the native trout species through competition and hybridization.

Restoring a native fishery will benefit suitable habitat for seven species

of fish (coldwater and desert). West Fork of Oak Creek is one of the few viable options on the Forest for restoring a native fishery because of its unique habitat conditions. This proposal is in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Forest Service.



Mogollon Rim

Ranger District



As I reflect on the many accomplishments on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District in 2008, I'm also reminded of the many worthwhile projects still needing to be done.

With costs steadily rising and budgets static as the nation works through these tough economic times, an old adage comes to mind: "Through every adversity comes a seed of an equal or greater benefit."

Our "seed" is in our employees, local community, and partners. That seed must be planted and nurtured in order to produce the harvest.

In 2008 the Mogollon Rim Ranger District harvested a significant "crop" of accomplishments. Here are a few community and partner contributions:

- Volunteers contributed time equaling nearly 5 full time employees to our recreation, wildlife, watershed, business, and facilities programs.
- The Blue Ridge community organized several meetings to inform and engage locals in the Travel Management Rule planning project.
- Fire personnel, working cooperatively with the Blue Ridge and Pine-Strawberry Fire Departments and Gila County, successfully managed over 60 wildfires.
- ADOT, APS, TDS, Coconino County, and Salt River Project improved their facilities that serve the public.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Parks, National Resource Conservation Service, Arizona Elk Society, and livestock permittees funded and supported projects totaling over \$300,000.
- Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Salt River Project, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Town of Payson joined the Forest Service for a "National Get Outdoors Day" event at C.C. Cragin (Blue Ridge) Reservoir.
- The local community discussed ongoing Forest Service projects with district employees at a district Open House held at the Starlight Pines Community Center.
- Campers from nearby Camp Colley maintained trails, picked up litter, and removed crayfish from East Clear Creek.

Finding creative ways to accomplish our work has never been more necessary. Along with our dedicated, hard working, community-minded district employees we will again engage interested citizens in 2009 to help accomplish the important work we do on the Coconino National Forest.

Mindee Roth
Mogollon Rim District Ranger





Dines Tank Crayfish Removal Project

During the summer 2008, the Mogollon Rim District Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (GCWC) conducted an intensive effort to remove non-native crayfish from Dines Tank in Leonard Canyon on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District. Dines Tank contains Little Colorado spinedace (*Lepidomeda vittata*), a threatened native fish in the Little Colorado River watershed.

Crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*) prey on the spinedace and are contributing toward their decline. Crayfish are also detrimental to many native fish and amphibian species, as well as other species including reptiles, insects, plants, and sport fish.

Over four weeks, 35 volunteers and nine staff worked and camped at Dines Tank, removed more than 23,000 crayfish! GCWC also weighed, measured and determined the sex and maturity of the crayfish removed as part of their research on the non-native species.

The GCWC is a leader in other restoration projects on the Mogollon Rim including closing user-created roads on the district and removing other crayfish populations in East Clear Creek. The GCWC has been an active restoration partner with the Mogollon Rim District since 2006.



National Get Outdoors Day at C.C. Cragin Reservoir



On June 14, dozens of families visited the Coconino for a free fishing event at C.C. Cragin Reservoir on Mogollon Rim Ranger District, sponsored by the Arizona Game & Fish Department, the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Salt River Project, the Town of Payson, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Partners designed the event to increase public awareness of each agency's role and to demonstrate the common interest we all have in watershed management which creates recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and drinking water.

Exhibit staff provided information about boating, fishing, reservoir operation, water conservation, watersheds, riparian areas, and quagga mussels. Several activities were also available for children including making wildlife masks and fishing for plastic fish from a wading pool. As the youngsters caught a "fish," they answered a water conservation question and were rewarded with Smokey Bear prizes.

Information about the history of C.C. Cragin Reservoir, formerly known as the Blue Ridge Reservoir, was also available. Salt River Project (SRP) and Phelps Dodge Corp. signed an historic water agreement in February 2005 as part of the Gila River Indian Water Rights Settlement that settled water-rights issues and allowed for the transfer of Blue Ridge Reservoir from Phelps Dodge to SRP.

The agreement was part of a long history of water agreements between Phelps Dodge and SRP that helped manage Arizona's water supplies. The reservoir will play a strategic role in meeting the Town of Payson's current and future water needs.



By the Numbers

2008 Coconino Forest Budget

| | Dollar Amount | Percent |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Fire Preparedness | \$4,647,624 | 21% |
| Administration | \$4,171,640 | 19% |
| Fuels Management | \$2,482,631 | 11% |
| Recreation | \$2,383,641 | 11% |
| Timber Management | \$1,430,740 | 07% |
| Road Maintenance | \$1,642,671 | 07% |
| Other | \$1,540,780 | 07% |
| Forest Planning | \$796,404 | 04% |
| Facility Maintenance | \$685,895 | 03% |
| Vegetative Treatment | \$557,529 | 03% |
| Lands and Minerals | \$386,000 | 02% |
| Wildlife Management | \$491,050 | 02% |
| Range Management | \$460,637 | 02% |
| Trails | \$230,787 | 01% |
| Total | \$21,908,029 | 100% |

Law Enforcement

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Damage to Government Property | \$14,265 |
| Cannabis Plots Eradicated | 2 |
| Public and Other Assists | 266 |
| Public Contacts | 12,000 |
| Incident Reports | 1,425 |
| Violations Issued | 891 |
| Warnings Issued | 415 |
| Arrests: | 41 |

Stewardship

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Volume of Timber Sold (Includes Fuelwood Permits) | 32,277ccf |
| Acres of Wildlife Habitat Restored/Enhanced | 16,840 |
| Acres of Soil and Water Improvement | 13,851 |
| Acres of Invasive Weed Treatment | 1,673 |
| Miles of Stream Habitat Restored | 10.5 |
| Acres of Timber Sold | 3,801 |

Recreation & Lands

Approximate Visitors Per Year 3,300,000

Number of Single-Unit Campsites Maintained

| | |
|--|------------|
| Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts | 282 |
| Mogollon Rim Ranger District | 196 |
| Red Rock Ranger District | 197 |
| Total | 675 |

Number of Group Campsites Maintained

| | |
|--|-------|
| Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts | 5 |
| Mogollon Rim Ranger District | 2 |
| Red Rock Ranger District | 4 |
| Rental Cabins | 3 |
| Picnic Areas | 17 |
| Total Miles of System Trails | 685 |
| Total Miles of System Roads | 6,225 |

NPS/USFS Interpretive Partnership Prgm

| Ranger Days/Programs | Audience |
|---|----------------|
| Ranger Programs at Arizona Snowbowl | 85 Days 9,508 |
| Ranger Programs at Natl' Monuments | 52 Days 3,843 |
| USFS Campground Programs | 91 Prgms 2,666 |
| Special Programs | 45 Prgms 1,919 |
| Programs for Children | 17 Prgms 556 |

Total People Reached 18,492

Volunteer Contribution

| Hours | \$Value |
|--|----------------|
| Peaks & Mormon Lake Ranger Districts | 14,994 292,546 |
| Mogollon Rim Ranger District | 8,910 173,837 |
| Red Rock Ranger District | 44,000 860,000 |

Total 67,904 \$1,326,383

Litter (Note: The Coconino NF does not employ trash collectors to clean-up after neglectful forest users. However, employees often set aside their core duties to remove litter from forest lands, reflected below).

| | |
|---|--------|
| Total Pounds of Trash Removed | 54,860 |
| Truckloads of Large Items Removed | 952 |
| Vehicles Removed from the Forest | 12 |

*WUI = Wildland Urban Interface

Fire Management

Human- vs. Lightning-Caused Wildfires

| | # Wildfires | # Acres Burned |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Human Caused | 89 | 257 |
| Lightning Caused | 157 | 2,372 |
| Total | 246 | 2,829 |

Wildland Fire Use Fires (WFU)

| | # Acres Treated |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yeager | 470 |
| Lost Eden | 1,500 |
| Black | 235 |
| Poor Farm | 140 |
| Deep | 2 |
| Total Acres Treated | 2,347 |

Initial-entry Broadcast Burn *WUI Accomplishments

| Project | Accomplish (acres) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| A-1 West | 300 |
| APS Powerline | 300 |
| East Clear Creek | 2,350 |
| Ft. Valley | 180 |
| Iron Mine/Maxwell (IMAX) | 450 |
| Kachina | 200 |
| Lake Mary | 150 |
| Ritter | 100 |
| Victorine | 2,500 |
| Total | 6,530 |

Slash-Pile Burning WUI Accomplishments

| Project | Accomplish (acres) |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A-1 West | 575 |
| Ft. Valley | 565 |
| Kachina | 1,035 |
| Oak Creek | 10 |
| Woody Ridge | 1,100 |
| Total | 3,285 |

Non-WUI Initial-Entry Broadcast Burn and WUI and NON-WUI Maintenance Burn

| Project | Accomplish (acres) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| A-1 West | 636 |
| Apache Maid/Stoneman | 1,100 |
| Blue Ridge | 1,200 |
| Ft. Valley | 200 |
| Mint | 1,895 |
| Pete | 1,340 |
| Rocky | 530 |
| Skunk | 100 |
| Valley | 3,000 |
| Total | 10,001 |

Thinning Treatments WUI and NON-WUI Accomplishments

| Project | Accomplish (acres) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Coconino County | 610 |
| Flag Private | 200 |
| Forest Highlands | 1,100 |
| Ft. Tuthill | 100 |
| Kachina Village Rest. | 61 |
| Mormon Lake Basin | 568 |
| Oak Creek | 70 |
| Total | 2,709 |

Planned FY 2009 Treatment Projects

| Project | WUI or Non-WUI | Type Burn (Broadcast, Pile, Thin) | Target |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| A-1 West | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 274 |
| A-1 West | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 700 |
| A-1 West | WUI | Pile Burn | 456 |
| Apache Maid/Stoneman ... | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 1,170 |
| Bald Mesa | WUI | Pile Burn | 200 |
| Blue Ridge | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 425 |
| Blue Ridge | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 1,430 |
| East Clear Creek | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 2,620 |
| East Side | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 439 |
| East Side | WUI | Pile Burn | 250 |
| Elden Elec. Site | WUI | Pile Burn | 16 |
| Elden Project | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 100 |
| Ft. Valley | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 200 |
| Ft. Valley | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 415 |
| Ft. Valley | WUI | Pile Burn | 444 |
| Good Enough/Tule | Non-WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 2,025 |
| Iron Mine/Maxwell (IMAX) . | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 2,600 |
| Kachina | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 400 |
| Lake Mary | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 500 |
| Lake Mary | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 415 |
| Mars Hill | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 75 |
| Mars Hill | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 100 |
| Mint | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 1150 |
| Mormon Lake Basin | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 200 |
| Mormon Mountain | WUI | Thinning | 30 |
| Mountaineire | WUI | Pile Burn | 50 |
| Oak Creek | WUI | Pile Burn | 10 |
| Oak Creek | WUI | Thinning | 70 |
| Ritter | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 100 |
| Ritter | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 200 |
| Rocky | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 605 |
| Rocky | WUI | Broadcast -Maint. | 1,000 |
| Skunk | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 100 |
| Woody Ridge | WUI | Broadcast -Init. | 250 |
| Woody Ridge | WUI | Pile Burn | 1,006 |
| Total | | | 20,025 |



A big

Thank You!



***...to our partners and volunteers who helped the
Coconino National Forest care for the land and serve people...***

All American Road Committee
 Arizona Antelope Foundation
 Arizona Archaeological Society
 Arizona Dept. of Agriculture
 Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality
 Arizona Dept. of Public Safety
 Arizona Dept. of Transportation
 Arizona Elk Society
 Arizona Game & Fish Commission
 Arizona Game & Fish Dept.
 Arizona Native Plant Society
 Arizona Natural History Association
 Arizona Partners for Amphibian & Reptile Conservation
 Arizona Partners in Flight
 Arizona Public Service
 Arizona Site Stewards
 Arizona Snowbowl
 Arizona State Forestry Division
 Arizona State Land Dept.
 Arizona State Parks
 Arizona State University
 Arizona Strip Weed Management Area
 Arizona Trail Runners
 Arizona Trails Association
 Arizona Water Protection Fund
 Arizona Wilderness Coalition
 Arizona Wildfire Academy
 Arizona Wildlife Conservation Council
 Arizona Wildlife Federation
 Aspen Fence Volunteers
 Backcountry Horsemen of Arizona
 Big Park Regional Council
 Blue Ridge Fire Dept.
 Boy Scouts of America
 Boynton Canyon Preservation Foundation
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Bureau of Land Management
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Cactus Kickers
 Camp Navajo
 Camp Verde Cavalry
 Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce
 Camp Verde Historical Museum
 Camp Verde Trails Coalition
 Camp Verde Unified School Dist.
 Chandler Rod & Gun Club
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Cinder Hills Rough Riders
 City of Cottonwood
 City of Flagstaff
 City of Phoenix – Camp Colley
 City of Sedona
 Clarkdale Heritage Center Museum
 Clemenceau Museum
 Coconino Community College
 Coconino County
 Coconino Natural Resource Conservation Dist.
 Coconino Rural Environment Corps
 Coconino Sportsmen
 Coconino Trail Riders
 Cocopai Trails

Colorado Plateau Water Advisory Council
 Community Conversation on Sustainability
 Copper Canyon Academy
 Cultural Heritage Site Hosts
 Dead Horse Ranch Trails Coalition
 Desert Botanical Garden
 Diablo Trust
 Dos Geckos
 Ecological Restoration Institute
 El Paso Natural Gas
 Elks Lodge #536
 Enchantment Resort
 Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc.
 Flagstaff Alpine Ski & Snowboard Team
 Flagstaff Biking Organization
 Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
 Flagstaff Hiking Group
 Flagstaff Leadership Program
 Flagstaff Nordic Center
 Flagstaff Ranch Fire Dept.
 Flagstaff Route 66 Rotary Club
 Flagstaff Unified School Dist.
 Forest Balance
 Fort Verde State Historic Park
 Friends of Camp Colton
 Friends of the Forest
 Future Farmers of America
 Gila County
 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
 Grand Canyon Trust
 Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
 Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership
 Happy Jack Lodge
 Hopi Tribe
 Institute of Eco Tourism
 International Order of Foresters
 Jerome Historical Society Mine Museum
 Jerome State Historic Park
 Keep Sedona Beautiful
 Life & Fire Safety Team
 Long Valley Store
 Lowell Observatory
 Montana Bird Group
 Mormon Lake Lodge
 Munds Park Trail Stewards
 Museum of Northern Arizona
 National Park Service
 National Weather Service
 Native Americans for Community Action
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Northern Arizona Audubon Society
 Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition
 Northern Arizona Flycasters
 Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance
 Northern Arizona Trail Runner's Assoc.
 Northern Arizona University
 Northern Arizona Weed Council
 Oak Creek Canyon Task Force
 Pine & Strawberry Fire Dist.
 Pink Jeep Tours, Inc.
 Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council - Associated Fire Departments & Members

Prescott College
 Recreation Resource Management
 Red Rock High School
 Red Rock Scenic Byway Committee
 Rim Country Rescue
 Roadrunner Prospector's Club
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Rocky Mountain Research Station
 Salt River Project
 San Francisco Peaks Weed Management Area
 Scottsdale Rotary Club
 Sedona Chamber of Commerce
 Sedona Heritage Museum
 Sedona Historical Society
 Sedona Magazine
 Sedona Oak Creek School Dist.
 Sedona Publishing Company
 Sedona Westerners
 Sedona-Bell Rock Kiwanis
 Sierra Club
 Skyliners Hiking Club
 Slide Rock State Park
 Southwest Engine Academy
 Southwest Fire Equipment Committee
 Southwestern Academy
 Southwestern Archaeology, Inc.
 Starlighters
 Starlight Pines HOA
 Stewards of Public Lands
 The Arboretum at Flagstaff
 The Hummingbird Society
 The Nature Conservancy
 The University of Arizona
 Town of Camp Verde
 Town of Payson
 Trail Resource Access Coalition of Sedona
 Trust for Public Lands
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Unisource Energy Services
 Verde Greenway
 Verde Valley 4 Wheelers
 Verde Valley Archaeological Society
 Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Verde Valley Horsemen's Council
 Verde Valley Weed Management Area
 Volunteers for Outdoor America
 Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona
 W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
 Walnut Canyon Technical Advisory Board
 West Yavapai Weed Management Area
 Wildlife Conservation Council
 Williams & Flagstaff Habitat Partnership Committee
 Willow Bend Environmental Education Center
 Yavapai Apache Nation
 Yavapai Cooperative Extension
 Yavapai County
 Yavapai Prescott Tribe
 YMCA

... and all others who we had the honor of working with in 2008! 11



Southwestern
Region

MB-R3-04-#

CONTACT US

www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/

Photos provided by Coconino National Forest employees, as well as Brian Deck, Ian Horvath, and Tom Brennan for providing photography used throughout this publication.

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