



Forest Restoration Planning, Initiatives and Resources

Catastrophic wildfire and the flooding that often follows destructive wildfires represents the number one public safety risk for Coconino County's citizens and communities.

- **Coconino County asks the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to bring innovation, creativity and affirm the Forest Service's commitment to the success of critical regional forest restoration projects such as 4FRI and FWPP.**
 - Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI): Issue an additional RFP for the western region of 4-FRI for up to 500,000 acres.
 - Ensure continuity of leadership within 4FRI. The Chief Executive for 4FRI will be away on assignments for 4 months over the course of a year and this creates operational challenges for the both the Forest Service and the Stakeholders Group. Leadership continuity is critical for success of the largest landscape scale restoration projects in US history.
 - Coconino County supports critical Forest Service reforms of contracts and agreements. Timber regulations and processes must recognize and reflect the low to no product value of the majority of timber coming off our Ponderosa Pine forests. By the Forest Service's own account, just 25% of all 4FRI acreage has a positive economic value yet contracts, agreements and processes do not reflect this reality.
- **Coconino County created a Forest Restoration Coordinator (FRC) Position to address the lack of progress on forest restoration initiatives with the goal of mitigating the impacts of wildfires and post-wildfire flooding. The FRC will:**
 - Evaluate the County's participation in Stewardship or Good Neighbor Authority Agreements with the USFS and act as a facilitator for interests and assets, and bring political leverage to mitigate the impacts of wildfire and post-wildfire flooding.
 - Prioritize areas for forest restoration that are at moderate to high risk for post-wildfire flooding.
 - Support the development of viable forest products industries (including biomass energy facilities) by streamlining contracts and agreements, and by revising U.S. Forest Service practices to reflect low/minimal value forest products such as Ponderosa Pine and slash.
 - Bring innovation to move regional restoration initiatives forward by deploying County assets, capacity and skills such as LIDAR analyses, road building and economic development support to serve the clear public benefit derived from healthy forests and watersheds.
- **Allow the U.S. Forest Service to enter into 20-year stewardship contracts and other innovative forest restoration agreements.**
 - Longer - term contracts are critical to attract the level of significant investment necessary to re - establish a viable forest products industry in Northern Arizona.
 - 20 - year agreements also provide long - term market access and ability to amortize investments over longer time frames.



- **Coconino County asks for federal funding for the Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Ecological Restoration Institute's (ERI) Biomass/Wood Utilization Business Incubator.**
 - The forest industry incubator will support the development of a diverse spectrum of industries necessary to make low value forest resources economically viable.
 - Utilization of bio-energy from forest biomass can serve to develop a secure energy micro-grid at Camp Navajo - a local military facility - and be an important R&D test-bed for emerging bio-energy technologies.
 - The incubator would also serve as a way to integrate workforce training, education, and create employment opportunities, especially for veterans and other citizens around Northern Arizona and at NAU.
 - Advance a formal scientific study and a data - based analysis to learn acceptable tolerances of infrared and particulates and their impact on critical astronomical military installations in the area.