

# FY2020 Flood Control District Budget

## Flood Control District Mission

Coconino County Flood Control District is committed to the prevention of post-wildfire flooding through forest restoration, to understanding potential flood impacts by conducting studies, and to mitigating flood impacts through a capital improvement plan and the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program.

*2019 North Schultz Flood Event*



## Fiscal Year 2020 Flood Control District Priorities

- ▶ Formalize an agreement with National Forest Foundation to conduct forest restoration on the steep slopes of Bill Williams Mtn beginning in FY2020.
  - Use funds allocated by the District Board to match funds from the NFF, Kaibab National Forest and private and corporate entities to develop and implement the restoration plan for BWM starting with 300 steep slope acres this fall.
- ▶ If approved by the Directors, then purchase an air curtain burner that will be used to address the high cost of transporting biomass from the restored forest, and to reduce the impacts of pile burning on human health and climate change.
- ▶ Using mostly grant funds, complete a LiDAR study of the Mormon Mountain, Oak Creek and Munds Park watersheds.
  - Information from this study will then be used by J.E. Fuller Hydrology and Geomorphology to analyze and determine the impacts from post-wildfire flooding on Upper Lake Mary and the Munds Park community, as well as secure a better understanding of potential flooding impacts to Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona.
- ▶ Continue to provide the National Flood Insurance Program services through Community Development.
  - Goals for FY2020 include working on improving our CRS rating by the following:
    - Coordinating with County residents with non-complaint elevation certificates to meet CRS requirements,
    - Exploring options for open space credit in Special Flood Hazard Areas,
    - Adopting Low Impact Development requirements, and
    - Constructing the Mountain Dell Drainage Project.
- ▶ Construct the Mountain Dell/Sinclair Wash FCD project after securing permits and easements. Engineering is complete.
- ▶ Complete the public process for the FEMA remapping of the Kachina Village/Mountaineer and Munds Park areas (waiting on FEMA for three years).
  - FEMA indicates that they hope to conduct this process in FY2020, however they continue to be consumed by major fires in California.
- ▶ Continue to maintain and monitor the rain gauges in the Schultz Flood Area, Bill Williams Mountain and other locations.
- ▶ Implement the City of Williams Pre-Disaster Plan by working with the stakeholders.
- ▶ Continue to implement the plan developed by the Forest Restoration Director.

### Service Improvement Request:

Continue to transfer the labor costs associated with several Community Development personnel from the District to the General Fund to accurately reflect the actual work performed by those in CD on behalf of the FCD. Service improvement request equals \$37,500. This dollar amount represents 25% of the CD FTE's to be moved to the General Fund. Another 1.17 FTE's remain to be moved in future years.

## FY19 Flood Control District

- ▶ Board of Directors addressed major legal issue with original formation of the District in 1984. In compliance with State Statute and the State Constitution, the FCD is now collecting the FCD property tax from all County taxpayers. This transition was accomplished with virtually no opposition from taxpayers. The District worked with the Treasurer to implement several significant communication efforts including a communication piece that was included in all tax bills this past fall.
- ▶ Successfully responded to the North Schultz Flood Disaster. The North Schultz Flood Disaster resulted from a 1,000-year storm event over the Thames and Peaceful watersheds in the Schultz Flood Area. Although the on and off forest flood mitigation measures responded very well, the measures sustained damage and homes and properties experienced flooding. Public Works and the Sheriff's Office responded quickly to assure public safety. Public Works spent over a month repairing roads and infrastructure, so the conveyances could safely carry water again and to return the roads to their prior condition. In addition, all private roads were made open and passable.
- ▶ Repaired the damage caused by the North Schultz Flood event to the Brandis Way Flood Mitigation measures.
- ▶ The District hired its first Forest Restoration Director, Jay Smith and reconfirmed that wildfires and post-wildfire flooding remain the greatest threat to public safety in our County and therefore forest restoration remains the top priority for the District.
- ▶ A Forest Restoration Action Plan was developed by the new director and as part of that plan the director also formed a Forest Restoration Industry Group to cultivate forest restoration businesses and support existing businesses.



# Accomplishments

▶ A proposal was made to the national leadership of the U.S. Forest Service to create a partnership to conduct forest restoration on Bill Williams Mtn. The County is developing a process with the support of the National Forest Foundation as well as the Kaibab National Forest to implement forest restoration that is desperately needed on Bill Williams Mtn. A NAU Economic Policy Institute study determined that post-wildfire flooding of Williams would result in a \$360 million - \$700 million economic impact.

▶ Completed the Williams Pre-Disaster Plan in the event that Bill Williams Mountain burns. The plan was partially funded through a USFS RAC grant as well as FCD funds. This plan reflected information provided by the FEMA funded Post Wildfire Flooding and Debris Flow Study.

▶ Advanced the Mountain Dell/Sinclair Wash Project – engineering is completed, easements are being or have been secured, and permits are being submitted, (City of Flagstaff, Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA) with the goal of going to construction in spring 2020. The District and its consultants addressed concerns raised by the City of Flagstaff by conducting a thorough, independent review of the hydrological and hydraulic studies that are the foundation of the project.

▶ Community Development maintained a Community Rating System (CRS) rating of 8 for a flood insurance premium reduction of 10%, which benefits approximately 500 policy holders in unincorporated Coconino County. The Floodplain Permit Application was updated to a digital version, which provides feedback to the user such as the requirements. Elevation Certificates are now uploaded to the Community



Development web site to allow efficient access by residents. In addition, Community Development updated the Standard Operating Procedures for Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage and Standard Operating Procedures for Floodplain Development Permits. Floodplain status reports were improved to provide the user a base flood elevation.

▶ With the completion of the jointly funded (Yavapai & Coconino Counties and FEMA) Oak Creek Drainage Hydrology Study, the FCD conducted a No Adverse Impact Study to determine if the proposed

Munds Park Wash Project would have downstream impacts. Unfortunately, the study concluded that there would be unacceptable downstream impacts and thus the project was terminated. The other options identified in the Initial Engineering Assessment for mitigating the significant flooding in Munds Park are not feasible. The plan now is to focus on forest restoration in the upstream watersheds so that if a wildfire occurs at least the impacts would be reduced.



## FY2020 Flood Control District Budget continued



### Forest Restoration Initiative

►The Forest Restoration Initiative developed the Bill Williams Mountain Forest Restoration Proposal, a collaborative partnership with the Kaibab National Forest and National Forest Foundation, as well as the private sector and individual donors. The County's role includes providing match funds through the Flood Control District as well as supporting securing private funding sources to pay for the high cost of restoration work on the steep slopes of Bill Williams Mountain. The goal of this project is to complete restoration work on approximately 4,000 acres of steep slope, over the next six to eight years, to protect it from catastrophic wildfire and post-wildfire flooding. Importantly, the project creates a platform for improving the legal, financial and technical processes underlying forest restoration with the goal of significantly increasing and accelerating forest restoration in Coconino County.

►In addition, the Forest Restoration Initiative created the Coconino County Industry Partnership to engage existing industry with local and regional government officials to determine efficiency measures that support accelerating forest restoration. The partnership helps to develop the forest restoration industry by providing information to new and existing industry regarding timber value, potential site locations and industry support contacts.

►The Forest Restoration Director is also working with ADOT and County Public Works to increase acceptable weight limits on state highways and County roads for those hauling forest-related products thus reducing transportation costs.

►The initiative assisted Facilities Management in thinning 57 acres of County property behind Sechrist School to decrease the threat of wildfire and to improve forest health on the property. The work was completed through a partnership between the County, Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership and Campbell Global.

### Citizen Impact

►The most important impact on citizens was the response to the North Schultz Flood Disaster. With several hundred private properties and significant infrastructure impacted, the District, through Public Works and its consultants and contractors responded quickly and effectively to address the impacts to citizens by repairing roads and drainage structures, provision of sand bags and barriers, cleaning up properties (through volunteers), and providing solid waste services.

►Worked to mitigate flooding risks in Mountain Dell through advancing the Mountain Dell Drainage Project.

►Completed the Williams Pre-Disaster Plan, which establishes the process for preparing for and responding to post-wildfire flooding from Bill Williams Mtn.

