



## FEIS Q&A

- **What is the area included in the FEIS?** The Coconino and Kaibab National Forests are proposing 586,110 acres of restoration activities with approximately 355,708 acres on the Flagstaff, Mogollon, and Red Rock districts of the Coconino NF and 230,402 acres on the Williams and Tusayan districts of the Kaibab NF.
- **How much will taxpayers save through 4FRI?** It is estimated the 4FRI project will save taxpayers between \$156 and \$232 million as a result of using stewardship contracts over the 10-year treatment period.
- **Do the FEIS and draft Record of Decision speed-up the project?** Yes. Completed environmental analysis and a subsequent final ROD provide the legal authority to accelerate restoration activities on almost 1 million acres of northern Arizona forests.
- **What kinds of forest work are part of Alternative C?** Both thinning and prescribed fire are necessary work to achieve and maintain restoration of our ponderosa pine forests. Multiple combinations of fire and mechanical harvest may occur in an area over the course of the 10 years. Other actions include aspen enclosures and spring restoration work.
- **What size trees would be cut?** Primarily, trees 5in-18in dbh will be cut. This reflects key issues raised by the public and stakeholders to conserve large and old trees.
- **Are large and old trees protected?** Yes. By 2020, trees size 12in-24in dbh would meet or exceed the desired minimum. This incorporates key elements raised by the public and stakeholders to protect trees greater than 16in dbh whenever possible.
- **How many acres of prescribed fire are planned?** Alternative C proposes 40,000 to 60,000 acres per year over the next 10 years. However, additional acres of prescribed fire may be implemented in other projects such as the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP).
- **What about the bark beetle problem?** With Alternative C, it is estimated that the 'high' bark beetle hazard rating of 84 percent will be reduced to 22 percent by 2020.
- **Does the USFS have the money to implement 4FRI?** Yes. Through fiscal year 2015, additional funding of more than 8 million dollars has been provided to implement 4FRI restoration activities.
- **What actions has the USFS already taken to prepare for 4FRI implementation?** Additional funding has been provided to forest fire programs for equipment and staffing to reach increased prescribed fire targets (more acres). Likewise, timber programs are also increasing staffing to create a faster and increased volume for task orders.



- **Will I see more smoke in the air next year?** Yes, most likely. While all prescribed fire is condition dependent, Alternative C calls for 40,000 to 60,000 acres a year, in addition to other prescribed fire projects (e.g., FWPP).
- **Will I see more smoke in the air 10 years from now?** Hopefully no, but it's hard to know for certain. With fuel loading significantly reduced following implementation, there will be decidedly less smoke per acre from treated acres. However, to maintain a fire-adapted landscape, more acres will need to burn annually than do now.
- **Does 4FRI change travel management rules?** No. All current travel management rules for each forest will remain the same.
- **Will 4FRI help with water issues in AZ?** Yes. Currently, only 22 percent of watersheds in the project area function properly. Alternative C will restore 74 springs helping to create the highest water yield possible.
- **Isn't 4FRI just a big 'timber sale'?** No. 4FRI plans to use every tool available to help restore our forest and grasslands including fire and mechanical treatments that remove 100% of the biomass or 'slash' that are often left behind on traditional 'timber sales'. Other restoration action includes work with invasive species, watershed and spring improvements, and roads.
- **How will wildlife be affected?** Alternative C promotes the maintenance of prey habitat and large, old trees in MSO and goshawk habitat. Other species, like elk, will also benefit from a healthier forest.

## 218 Objection Process Q&A

- **What is the 218 objection process?** The 218 objection process is a pre-decisional review process designed to build on early participation and collaboration efforts with the intent of resolving concerns before a final decision is made. The 218 objection process is codified in 36 CFR Part 218.
- **What is the objection filing period?** The objection filing period is the 45 calendar days during which objections can be filed on the 4FRI draft Record of Decision. The objection filing period for the 4FRI project is December 5, 2014 through January 20, 2015 (allows for an observed federal holiday on Monday January 19th).
- **How long will the objection process last?** All objections must be received within 45 calendar days. The Forest Service then has 45 calendar days, in addition to a possible 30-day extension, to review and respond to objections. This amounts to a minimum of 90 calendar days and a maximum of 120 calendar days. A final Record of Decision will be issued after the objection process is complete.



- **What happens after all objections have been reviewed?** All objections that are determined to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8 will be reviewed and receive a response letter from the reviewing official, Regional Forester, Cal Joyner.
- **Can I object now if I didn't comment on the DEIS or during scoping?** No. Objections can only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a).
- **Will there be a comment period on the FEIS?** No. The FEIS will have an objection period and review period. General comments cannot be accepted.
- **How do I know if I have 'standing' to make an objection?** In general, individuals who had an accepted comment on the DEIS or during scoping have 'standing' to make an objection on the FEIS. However each objection will be reviewed for 'standing' and potential acceptance.
- **I commented on the DEIS. Where can I find my original comment?** Many of the original comments are available in a searchable database by name, organization, or keyword, at <http://tinyurl.com/q44sh92>
- **What can the Reviewing Official do?** The reviewing official has the delegated authority and responsibility to review eligible objections. He or she will then accept, partially accept, or set aside the objection in writing. The reviewing official also has the discretion to determine if a meeting is practical, the appropriate date, duration, agenda, and location for any meetings; and how the meeting(s) will be conducted to facilitate beneficial dialogue. The reviewing officer may consolidate objections and issue one response or may decide to issue a written response to each objection.
- **What can't the Reviewing Official do?** The reviewing official cannot extend the 45 calendar day objection period.
- **When will a final Record of Decision be signed?** A final Record of Decision will be signed after the objection process is completed, and is expected in April 2015.

### Restoration Action Status Q&A

- **How many acres have been restored since 4FRI started?** Since 4FRI began in 2010, restoration activities include; 14,000 acres of invasive species treated, 304,000 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat restored or enhanced, 300,000 acres of hazardous fuels treated, 92,000 acres restored to desired watershed conditions, and 32,000 acres thinned using timber sales or stewardship contracts.



- **What is happening with the stewardship contract that was issued to Good Earth Power AZ?** To date, GEPAZ is working within the term and conditions of the Phase 1 contract and individual task orders that have been issued. For more information on Phase 1 contract progress, please contact [info@az.goodearthpower.com](mailto:info@az.goodearthpower.com) or call 928-774-1480.
- **How many Phase 1 task orders have been issued and what is the status?** To-date, 19 task orders have been issued. Of those 13 have a notice to proceed. All current Phase 1 task orders are within their terms and conditions.
- **How long is a task order ‘good’?** 18 months or more is a common time frame for task order completion. Progress is continually monitored by the Forest Service.
- **Will industry have a steady supply of timber?** Yes. The 4FRI Phase 1 FEIS will provide significant additional acres for task orders. There are also 18 other existing NEPA-ready projects outside of the 4FRI project that are available for future task orders.
- **What is the Forest Service doing to speed-up thinning?** Accelerated restoration is key. By completing the FEIS, the USFS made more than 586,000 acres available for restoration activities. Also, additional USFS staff has been hired to increase task orders and contract availability.

## Objection Process Timeline

| <i>Date</i>           | <i>218 Rule Timeline Event</i>   | <i>Responsible</i>       |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>12/04/2014</b>     | Notice Published in the Arizona Daily Sun  | USFS- Staff              |
| <b>12/05/2014</b>     | Start of 45 calendar day objection filing period   | Objectors                |
| <b>01/20/2015</b>     | End of 45 calendar day objection filing period<br>(moved from 1/19/2015 federal holiday)                   | Objectors                |
| <b>01/21/2015</b>     | Start of 45 calendar day objection review period   | USFS & Objectors         |
| <b>03/06/2015</b>     | End of 45 calendar day objection review period/ Responses to objections (if not extended 30 calendar days) | USFS- Reviewing Official |
| <b>04/05/2015</b>     | End of 30 calendar day objection review period extension/ Responses to objections                          | USFS- Reviewing Official |
| <b>April/May 2015</b> | Final Record of Decision   | USFS- Forest Supervisors |