



4FRI Fast Facts

Fast Facts: There are four major groups of information. Those groups address the need for action, preferred alternative, restoration status, and the objection process.

1. FEIS: Purpose and Need for Action:

- 1.1. The **purpose of the project** is to re-establish and restore forest structure and pattern, forest health, and vegetation composition and diversity.
- 1.2. Dense, over-stocked forests are not a **natural condition** and they set the stage for insect and disease outbreaks, high-intensity wildfires, and conditions that are unsustainable for our forested ecosystems.
- 1.3. The Forest Service and **stakeholders** are unified in a desire for action due to the increasing size and severity of suppression wildfires over the last 15 years in Arizona, coupled with continuing predictions of hotter conditions and persistent **drought**.
- 1.4. This FEIS is incredibly **significant** because almost **1 million acres** across the northern Arizona forests will now have the **legal authority for restoration** action.
- 1.5. This is the **largest site-specific environmental analysis** in Forest Service history. It is also then the largest authority for accelerated restoration action in Forest Service history.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. Approximately 77 percent of ponderosa pine in the project area has a high hazard rating for **bark beetle**.
- 1.8. Currently, just 22 percent of the analysis area has a properly functioning **watershed**.
- 1.9. In this analysis, all ponderosa pine is managed as **habitat** for either Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) or Goshawk and their prey species.
- 1.10. Over the 10-year treatment period the project would save between \$156,000,000 and \$232,000,000 of **cost to the taxpayer** as a result of using stewardship contracts.
- 1.11. Currently, 38 percent (191,000 acres) of the project area has **crown fire potential** which generally results in 100 percent ponderosa pine mortality.

2. FEIS: Preferred Alternative: Alternative C & Draft Record of Decision (DROD)

- 2.1. Alternative C and the DROD **best meet the desired condition** of our forests by restoring almost 600,000 acres through timber/vegetation work and prescribed fire.
- 2.2. Alternative C will mechanically **thin and burn** up to 431,049 acres, and will also prescribe burn an additional 155,061 acres.
- 2.3. 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.



- 2.4. Twenty-three (23) percent of at risk and 42 percent of impaired **watersheds** would be restored. This would result in the highest **water yield** of all action alternatives.
- 2.5. The preferred alternative is 100 percent consistent with the 2014 Kaibab NF **forest plan** and the 1987 Coconino NF forest plan as amended.
- 2.6. By 2020, the ‘high’ **bark beetle** hazard rating would be reduced to 22 percent from 84 percent seen today.
- 2.7. Vigorous **aspen regeneration** is a key feature of the preferred alternative and DROD.
- 2.8. The preferred alternative and DROD best meets public recommendations for increased **grassland restoration** at about 50,000 acres.
- 2.9. On-going small mammal and watershed **research** are incorporated into and supported by the preferred alternative and DROD.
- 2.10. Approximately 860 miles of existing and user-created **roads** would be **decommissioned** to enhance watersheds.
- 2.11. Tribal consultations have been on-going since 2009 with seven federally recognized tribes. Traditional and **sacred forest uses** would continue under all alternatives.
- 2.12. The preferred alternative has the largest amount of **forest product- timber removal** at over 3.6 million cubic feet.
- 2.13. The preferred alternative and DROD anticipates the highest number of forest related **employment at 1,615 jobs annually**.
- 2.14. The preferred alternative anticipates the **least amount of smoke emissions** over a 10 year period. However, short term smoke impacts would increase due to current heavy fuel loads across the forests that produce more smoke.
- 2.15. The preferred alternative anticipates **fire** on an average of **40-60K acres every year** over ten years.
- 2.16. **Climate change** is addressed by increasing forest resiliency and stable carbon storage over time across the landscape.
- 2.17. The preferred alternative and DROD would treat the most **Goshawk habitat** at over 555,000 acres. **MSO habitat** will be restored in alignment with the revised 2012 MSO Recovery Plan.
- 2.18. The preferred alternative and DROD best meet the purpose and need of the project by identifying a combination of restoration treatments that will put almost 600,000 acres on a trajectory toward **increased resiliency and sustainability**.

3. Status of Restoration Activities:

- 3.1. Since 4FRI began in 2010, restoration activities include; more than 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 from timber sales.
- 3.2. The positive **effects of restoration extend** beyond the ‘footprint’ of treated acres. From 2010-2014, 100 percent of the landscape has seen positive change in watershed conditions.
- 3.3. The completed FEIS gives legal authority and makes more than **586,000 acres available** for restoration activities and task orders both inside and outside of the Phase 1 contract.



- 3.4. 4FRI Phase 1 task orders are very different than **traditional ‘timber sales’** in that they require 100 percent removal of forest biomass. This biomass or ‘slash’ is often left on the forest in more traditional sales.
- 3.5. **‘Acres thinned’ does not equal ‘acres restored,’** but rather that an action has been taken to move through the multi-dimensional process that is forest restoration in our ponderosa pine forests.
- 3.6. All Phase 1 task orders (about 32,000 acres to-date) are **within their contractual requirements** with about 2,600 acres harvested and the remaining having on-going road or other maintenance occurring since 2013.
- 3.7. To date in 2014, a total of nineteen task orders have been issued for approximately **32,000 acres**. Thirteen have an issued notice to proceed.
- 3.8. Approximately **28,000 acres remain** to be harvested out of the FY13 and FY14 task orders.
- 3.9. For the 19 issued task orders, there has been a **positive value to the government** on 18 of the 19 task orders, with an average payment to the government of \$41.16 per acre.
- 3.10. The Forest Service is continually assessing **contractor performance** based on the accomplishment of task orders. To date, all task orders are in compliance of order terms and conditions.

4. FEIS 218 Objection Process:

- 4.1. Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart from the Coconino National Forest and Forest Supervisor Mike Williams from the Kaibab National Forest are the **deciding officials** for the FEIS and Record of Decision (DROD).
- 4.2. Over **2,000 individual comments** were received on the DEIS resulting in the development and analysis of six key issues including the conservation of old and large trees and smoke emissions.
- 4.3. The objection process is designed to build on early participation and collaboration efforts with the intent of **resolving concerns before a decision** is made.
- 4.4. On December 5, 2014, a **legal notice** will be published in the newspaper of record, the Arizona Daily Sun, announcing the beginning of the objection process on December 6, 2014.
- 4.5. Objections must be submitted within **45 calendar days** following the publication of the notice in the Arizona Daily Sun. By law, this cannot be extended.
- 4.6. Objections will 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 §218.5(a).
- 4.7. All **objections** that are determined to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8 will be reviewed and receive a **response letter** from reviewing official, Regional Forester, Cal Joyner.
- 4.8. A final Record of Decision is anticipated in late spring 2015.



Charts

Project Area Proposed Actions	Preferred Alternative
Timber and Forest Product Mechanical Treatments (acres)	431,049
Prescribed Fire Treatments w/ Mechanical Treatment (acres)	586,110
Prescribed Fire Objectives (acres annually)	40-60K
Restored Springs	74
Aspen Fencing (miles)	82
Stream Restoration (miles)	39
Temporary Road Construction and Decommission (miles)	520
New Permanent Road Construction (miles)	0
Existing/Unauthorized Road/Route Decommission	860

Project Area Expected Outputs	Preferred Alternative
Forest Products Harvested- Timber (cubic feet)	3.6 million
Cost Savings to Taxpayers	\$156-232 million
Forest Related Jobs (annually)	1,615

Ponderosa Pine in the southwestern US	
Desired Condition of Trees per acre (average)	12-125
Existing Condition of Trees per acre (average)	500