



RESTORATION IN PROGRESS



Thinning projects help return the forest to a healthier state and reduce risk of severe fire. Expect to see exciting changes!

PROJECT LAYOUT (2-4 Months)

Trees are marked with paint to designate either the trees to be cut (blue) or those to leave (orange). Wherever possible, crews face the marks away from high traffic areas, and the paint will fade in a few years.

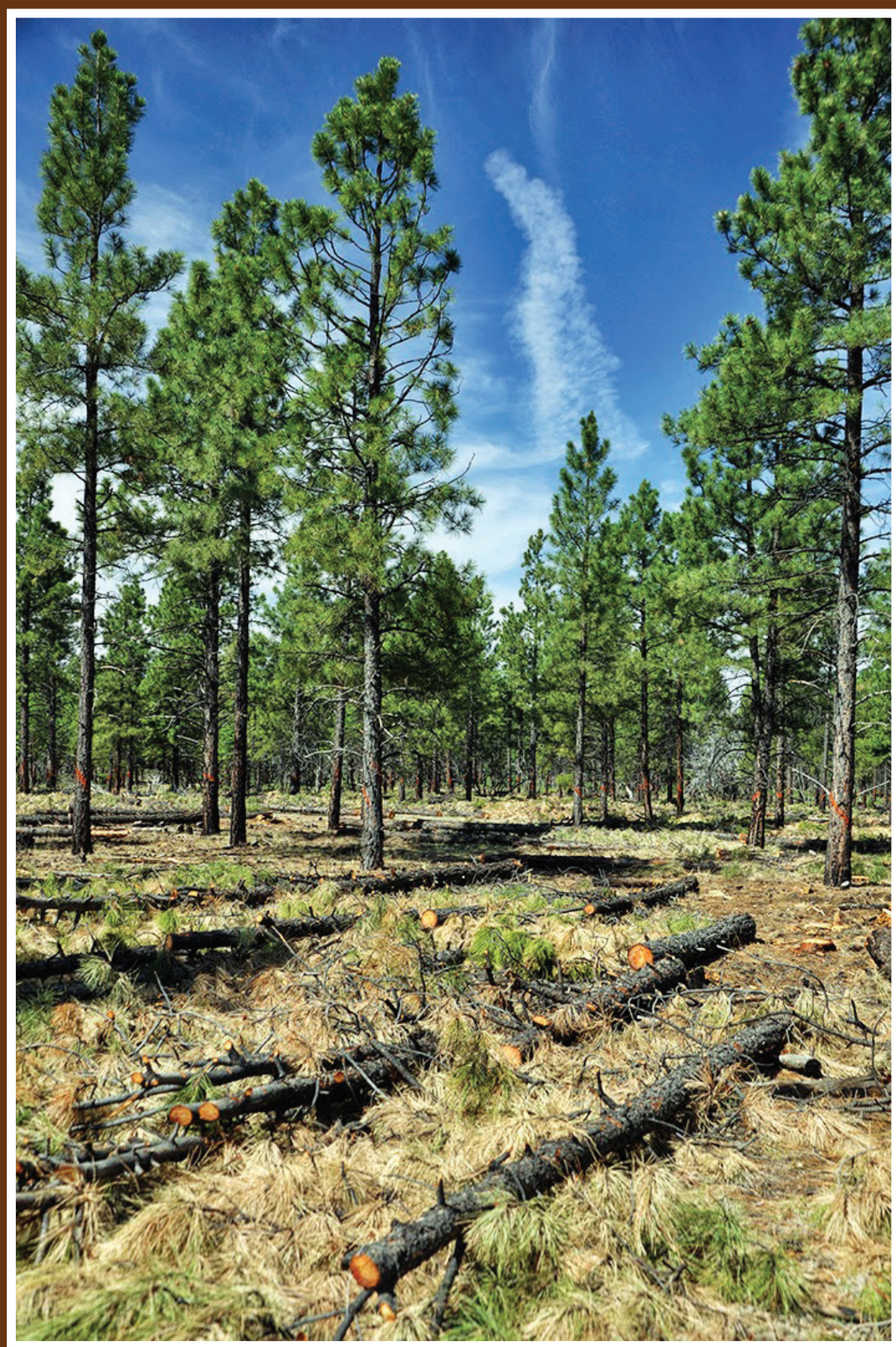


ACTIVE THINNING (1-5 Years)

Trees are removed to create groupings that are mixed with grassy interspaces. Felled trees are de-limbed, stacked in log decks, and hauled away. Remaining slash is hauled away or burned, which typically takes place in the winter.



The forest will look very different immediately after the area is thinned. It may be shocking at first, but the forest will recover quickly and look more beautiful than ever!



CLEAN UP (1-4 Weeks)

Temporary roads and tracks left behind by heavy thinning equipment will be obliterated. Natural forest materials that existed prior to thinning will be used to cover disturbed areas, which helps hold moisture in the soil. This creates a microclimate that enables new plants and grasses to thrive in the newly opened spaces.

BEFORE THINNING



AFTER THINNING



POST TREATMENT (Within 1-2 Years)

Wildlife, green plants, and grasses will be more abundant. **EXPECT FIRE TO OCCUR.** This ecosystem depends on fire, which will happen naturally and by prescribed fire. Frequent fire reduces forest fuels such as dead leaves and pine needles, recycles nutrients, and promotes healthy vegetation.



A healthy forest is rich in diversity. It includes tree species of various ages and sizes, and a variety of plants and wildlife.



For additional information visit your local Forest Service office or contact us at www.fs.usda.gov/4FRI

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