

# KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST A Centennial Celebration



KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST  
1908 • 100 YEARS • 2008

## 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
Forest Service



Southwestern  
Region  
MB-R3-07-8



## KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST TURNS 100!

The Kaibab National Forest celebrated its centennial anniversary August 8. The event, which was held at the Williams Ranger District office in Williams, Arizona, brought together current Forest Service employees and their family members with retirees, partners, volunteers and members of the local community. The regional forester for the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service, Corbin Newman, also joined in the festivities.

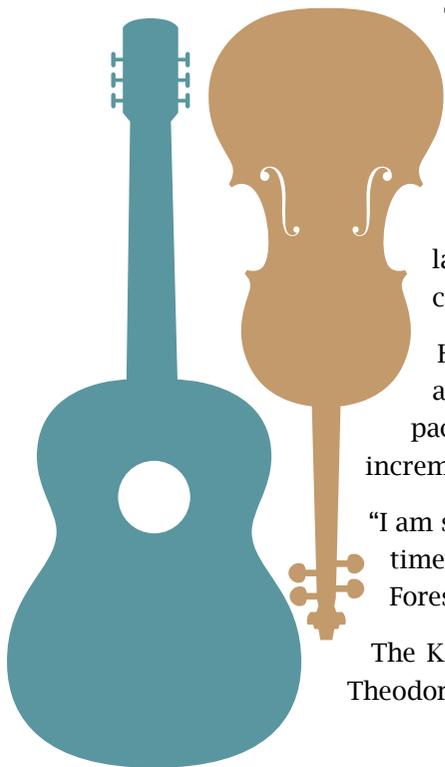
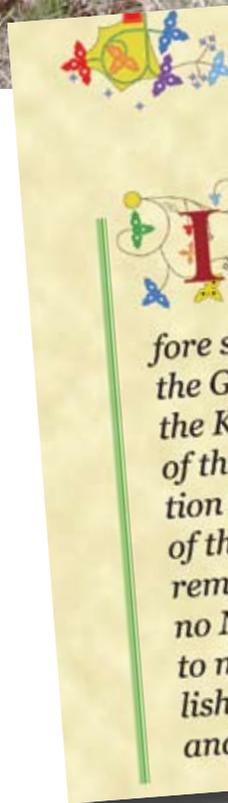
“It was a great event and a time for all of us to focus on the rich history of the forest,” said Kaibab National Forest Supervisor Mike Williams. “We owe a special thanks to the Fiddlin’ Foresters, who truly brought alive Forest Service culture and traditions through their performance.”

As the official, old-time string band of the Forest Service, the Fiddlin’ Foresters provide conservation education, enhance employee morale, and communicate the value of public lands through story and song. The four members of the group performed at the Kaibab centennial wearing traditional Forest Service uniforms and playing lively, old-time music.

Hands-on activities offered during the day-long event included slicing through logs using a historic crosscut saw; throwing ancient hunting tools known as atlatls and rabbit sticks; packing a horse; hiking through the forest to identify wildlife tracks and scat; and using an increment borer to extract a section of ponderosa pine.

“I am so pleased to be the forest supervisor of the Kaibab National Forest at such a significant time in its history,” Williams said. “This centennial celebration truly captured the spirit of the Forest Service and the important role we play within our local communities.”

The Kaibab National Forest was set apart in 1908 when then-President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt signed Executive Order 909.



# FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR . . .

Looking back on 2008 brings many memories I could share with you as part of our annual accomplishment report to stakeholders. First and foremost, we recognized history and tradition in a big way as we celebrated the centennial of the creation of Kaibab National Forest (NF). I could not have been more pleased that so many of you chose to join us and our colleagues of the Coconino NF back in August for that celebration. It was a special day for me as we recognized the 100th anniversary of then-President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt signing Executive Order 909, which set apart the Kaibab NF. Never mind that, way back then, the south side of today's Kaibab was part of the new Coconino NF, then split away to become the Tusayan NF in 1912. It wasn't until 1934 that the original Kaibab NF north of the Grand Canyon was consolidated with the Tusayan NF and began to look a lot like it does today. The event served as a reminder of all of the people who have and continue to care for this land—employees and their families, retirees who've led the way for us, volunteers, partners, tribal members, and friends and neighbors within our local communities. It was a special honor to share the day with the Fiddlin' Foresters, the old-time string band of the Forest Service, who entertained us with their unique blend of bluegrass music and conservation message.

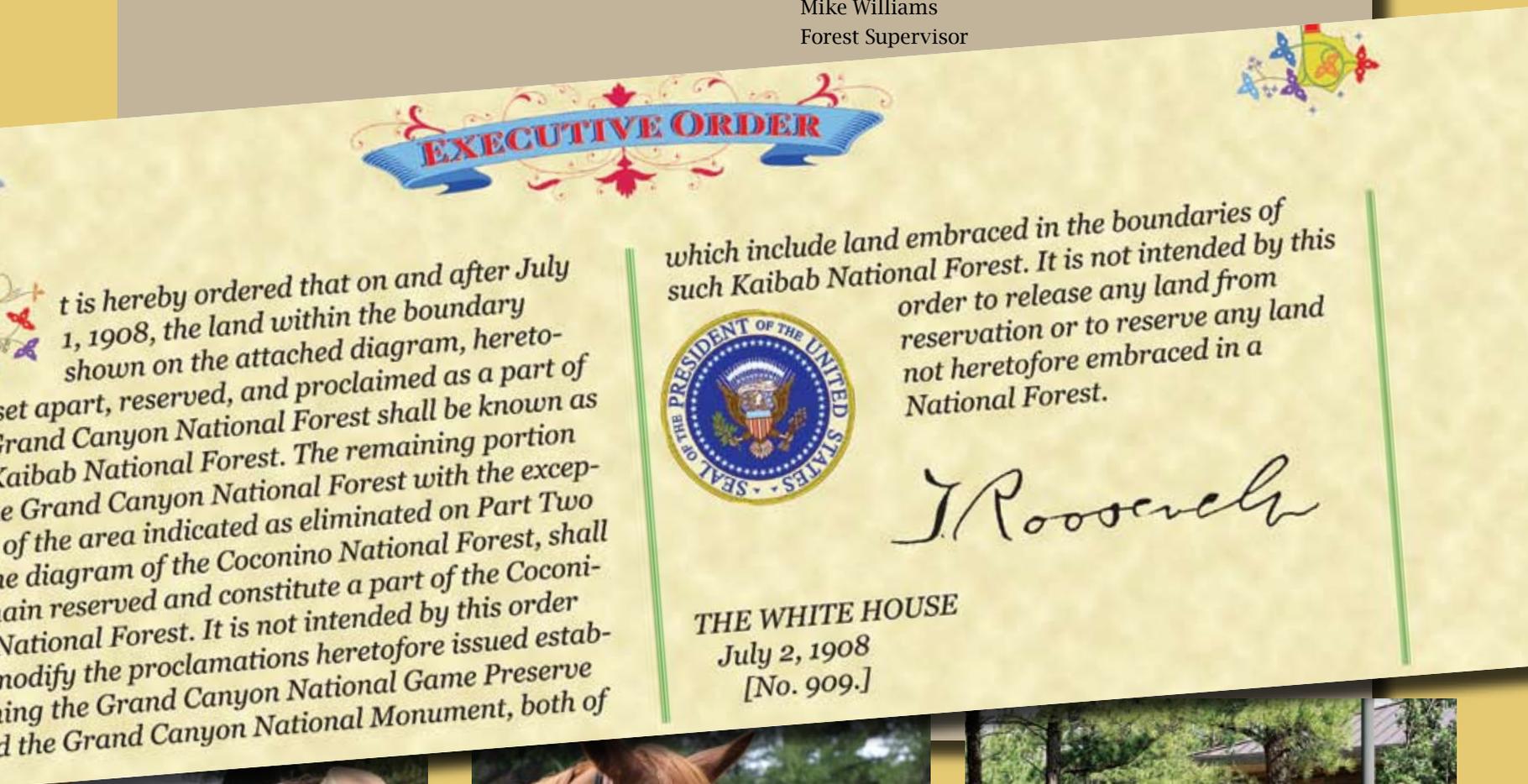
The year 2008 became another record year for fire management here with the accomplishment of more than 13,000 acres of natural fire managed for the benefit of our forest and rangeland resources. Over the past 5 years, Kaibab NF employees have managed some 52 fires for natural resource benefits over more than 54,000 acres—an awesome accomplishment! Members of the Kaibab fire organization proved once again that they are leaders in their field. We were selected this past year to test management practices that could change the way wildland fire is managed nationwide. Our employees who contribute to this effort, and to forest restoration activities of all kinds, continue to raise the bar for us on this forest and for the Forest Service at large as we treat more and more acres across this fire-adapted landscape both safely and cost effectively.

Despite already hectic schedules, many Kaibab employees made the time in 2008 to reach out to local youth through conservation education. From fishing at Kaibab Lake to dissecting owl pellets on the Kaibab Plateau, forest employees engaged with kids to encourage an appreciation of public lands and an understanding of environmental science.

There are many more Kaibab NF achievements I could mention, but I'll let the rest of our 2008 Accomplishment Report speak for itself.



Mike Williams  
Forest Supervisor



### Bird Surveys

Over the last 4 years, the Kaibab National Forest has conducted a forest-wide assessment of song birds. Wildlife biologists are using the information gathered to examine population trends for many different song birds.

### Northern Goshawk

Forest biologists assisted Research Wildlife Biologist Richard Reynolds in completing the final year of an 18-year study on goshawk population demographics. Since 1991, Reynolds had been investigating the ecology of the northern goshawk, testing many of the assumptions of goshawk recommendations, and evaluating effects of forest management on goshawk populations.

### Bats

In collaboration with the Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office and Bat Conservation International, Kaibab biologists surveyed for bats in and assessed the habitat value of mines and caves on the Tusayan Ranger District. They also continued a bat monitoring collaboration with Northern Arizona University by trapping bats on the district. Because of its proximity to the Grand Canyon and the presence of ponderosa pine forest and pinyon/juniper woodlands, the Tusayan Ranger District has a diversity of bat species.

### Small Mammals

The Williams Ranger District includes two large and expansive grasslands called Government and Garland Prairies. Working with the Rocky Mountain Research Station and Northern Arizona University, Kaibab biologists trapped small mammals in order to inventory the resident animals and look at their habitat characteristics. One of the species trapped — the spotted ground squirrel — had not previously been identified on the Kaibab National Forest.

“The diversity of wildlife found on enjoyment and aesthetic value for the lover, hiker, camper, and hunter.”



## TUSAYAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ACQUISITION of FOREST SERVICE LAND

After years of persistence and tireless effort, members of the Tusayan community joined together June 21 to celebrate the Grand Canyon School District’s acquisition of 80 acres of Forest Service land from the Kaibab National Forest’s Tusayan Ranger District.

The acquisition was made possible by the Education Land Grant Act, which allows up to 80 acres of Forest Service land to be conveyed to a public school district for educational purposes. The land conveyance has to serve public objectives that outweigh the objectives and values served by keeping the land as part of the National Forest System.

“I’m so excited about the possibilities that can happen on this property,” said School Board President Clarinda Vail, who was one of the early champions of pursuing the land grant. Vail added that initial development on the 80 acres will be recreation facilities for the community including sports fields and a park while the school district seeks funding to eventually build a high school.

# the Kaibab provides unsurpassed photographer, bird watcher, nature

- The Forest Plan Revision Team



## KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST DEVELOPS WILDLIFE WATER SOURCES

Since 2003, the Kaibab National Forest and Arizona Game and Fish Department have been collaborating on an expansive project to create new water sources for wildlife on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Once completed the North Kaibab Wildlife Waters Development Project promises 13 new watering structures within the lower elevation ranges, which are popular winter foraging sites for several species, including mule deer.

The developments have become increasingly important to wildlife as area water sources, like Kanab Creek, have become less able to sustain the wildlife populations they could 50 to 100 years ago, according to Todd Buck, Arizona Game and Fish Department game warden. By the time the North Kaibab project is complete, the number of reliable water sources is expected to have doubled.



### Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds out-compete native vegetation and replace natural communities with monocultures that provide little or no habitat for wildlife. These negative impacts affect insects, birds and mammals. The wildlife program has committed thousands of dollars to the effort of protecting native habitats from the spread of noxious weeds.



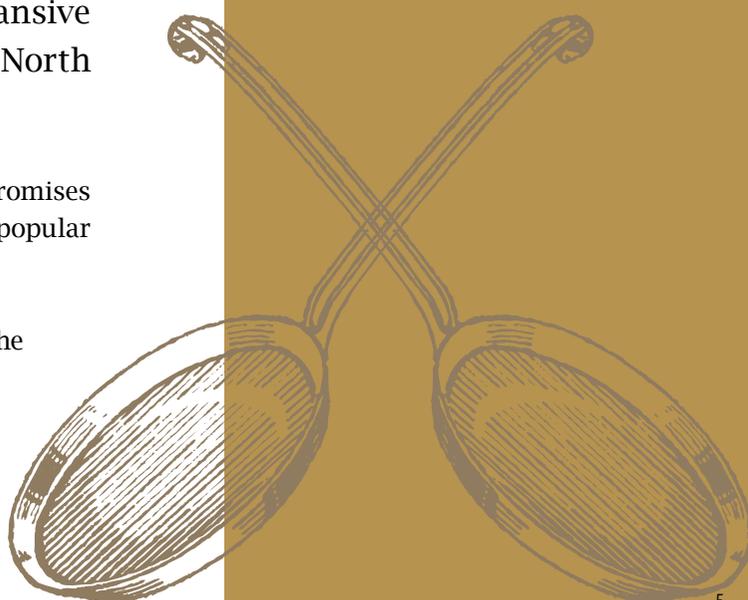
### Agra-Axe

Based in part on a grassland prioritization project completed several years ago, the wildlife program is heavily involved in using these powerful shears to cut pinyon and juniper trees that have invaded grasslands. Grasslands are one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America, and thousands of acres of grassland and open savanna have been invaded by trees due to the exclusion of fire in a fire-adapted ecosystem. Restoring these acres benefits bird species, small mammals and pronghorn antelope. Much of this work is being done in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.



### Aspen

An inventory of aspen stands on the South Zone of the Kaibab National Forest was initiated in 2008 and expected to be completed in 2009. Unlike many areas, aspen on the South Zone occur as small, scattered pockets. These islands of habitat diversity amidst a sea of conifers support unique invertebrate communities that, in turn, increase the abundance of many species of birds. Current elk populations limit aspen regeneration, and the mature trees are dying from a combination of weather events, parasitic insects and disease. This inventory will be used to prioritize projects intended to retain aspen across the landscape.



“I’m proud to be working for a forest that is as precious, sacred, and special as the Kaibab. To be a part of the management of natural resources on these lands gives employees an additional benefit to their daily work.”

— Richard E. Gonzalez, Forester

### Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance

The Kaibab National Forest is one of the Federal partners in the Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance (NANSA). NANSA is dedicated to producing abundant and affordable quantities of genetically diverse and ecologically appropriate native seed. The alliance is made up of individuals, agencies, nonprofit organizations and commercial businesses that support using native seed for restoration, conservation and vegetation projects. For more information on NANSA and its accomplishments, please visit [www.emaprogram.com/emaweb/ema/site/nansa.asp](http://www.emaprogram.com/emaweb/ema/site/nansa.asp).

### Engineering

Several important roads and facilities projects on the Kaibab National Forest were completed by the engineering team in 2008. Reconstruction of the Jacob Lake Campground on the North Kaibab Ranger District finished in late summer in preparation for reopening for the 2009 season. The new site layout incorporates universal design concepts to improve accessibility for all visitors while preserving the forest setting. Other improvements include replacement of all restrooms, picnic tables and fire rings.

Visitors to the Williams Ranger District will enjoy another phase of the ongoing rehabilitation of Kaibab Lake Campground. A toilet building was replaced with an accessible building, and additional campsites were outfitted with new tables and fire rings.

At the Williams Ranger Station, four historic buildings received a new exterior coating system that safely encapsulates the underlying lead paint in a cost-effective manner. A new water tank and pump system used to refill fire engines and helicopter dip buckets were installed at the Pittman Valley Helibase. This system uses rainwater collection from the building roof to augment the water hauled in to refill the tank. A rock crushing contract at Ruin Pit resulted in making 33,600 tons of gravel available for resurfacing nearby Forest Service roads.

At the Tusayan Ranger Station, the ongoing re-roofing of all the historic buildings was completed when the shop building roof was replaced with fire-retardant shakes similar to the original roofing materials. These unique structures from the 1920s are constructed with native sandstone walls and log roof rafters and are still in use today.





## ASPEN RESTORATION

Over the last 10 years, there has been a serious decline in aspen across the Kaibab National Forest. This decline is associated with extended drought and other environmental factors and has resulted in 60 to 95 percent mortality of low elevation (less than 8,500 feet) aspen. This is of particular concern on the southern portion of the forest where aspen is limited in quantity and is often found in small, isolated patches.

When aspen dies back, it attempts to develop new aspen by resprouting from the roots of the older trees. This is how aspen maintains its populations across the forest over time. Heavy elk and deer browsing on new aspen sprouts on the southern Kaibab National Forest has eliminated almost all of the new aspen sprouts that have attempted to develop in declining aspen stands. This has seriously impeded the ability of these declining stands to regenerate and perpetuate aspen across the forest. For these reasons, the forest is in danger of losing a significant portion of aspen in the south Kaibab.

The Kaibab National Forest is attempting to protect and restore aspen sites. There are two methods being used to maintain aspen on the landscape. One is to remove other tree species that exist within and around aspen sites. These other tree species compete with aspen for sunlight, nutrients and water. Their removal increases the vigor of aspen. This treatment is known as aspen release. The second method is to put up fenced enclosures around and within aspen sites. These enclosures keep elk and deer from entering the fenced areas and browsing down new aspen sprouts. This allows declining aspen stands to develop new regeneration, ensuring that they will continue to exist over time within these areas. After the developing aspen regeneration has reached a sufficient size to withstand repeated elk and deer browse, the fence may be removed. This may take 10 to 20 years.

These treatments are needed in order to maintain aspen across our forest and preserve this desirable tree species for future generations and for the wildlife species that use them. In 2008, the Kaibab National Forest fenced 47 acres of aspen. This included 12 separate fenced enclosures. Also, 8 acres of aspen release were accomplished.



### Fuels Management

Treating buildups of hazardous forest fuels continues to be a priority for the Kaibab National Forest. In 2008, managers reduced fuel accumulations and fire hazard on 12,237 acres. Fuels treatments included broadcast burning, thinning, piling and pile burning.

Most of these acres were treated with broadcast burns lit under prescribed conditions. In 2008, 9,802 acres were treated with broadcast burns. Over half of these acres—5,942—were in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), the areas where forest and communities meet. In addition to broadcast burning, managers also thinned 857 acres, piled 923 acres of slash, and burned 655 acres of slash piles. The majority of treatments took place in the WUI, which will help protect residences and improvements on private lands as well as the watersheds and infrastructure on forest lands.

Many thinning and slash piling projects take place on the forest every year that are not primarily focused on reducing hazardous fuels. Their primary purpose may be to improve timber stands, wildlife habitat and range forage, but they have secondary benefits in reducing fuels and fire hazard. While achieving their primary purpose, they also make the forest more resistant to uncharacteristically severe wildfires. In 2008, 9,708 acres were thinned and piled to improve forest resources while also reducing hazardous fuels.

When weather and forest fuel moisture conditions are right, naturally ignited wildfires started by lightning can be managed to reduce fuels and accomplish other resource benefits. These fires typically burn at low intensities, with isolated pockets of moderate to intense fire behavior. They mimic the way fires burned on the forest prior to European settlement, thus returning fire to the landscape as a natural disturbance. In 2008, eight fires on the Kaibab were managed to meet such benefits, burning a total of 8,170 acres. The three largest were the Dutch Fire that treated 3,251 acres on the Williams District, the Mill Fire that treated 1,710 acres on the North Kaibab District, and the Twenty-Two Fire that treated 1,255 acres on the Tusayan District.

All told, a total of 30,115 acres of Kaibab National Forest lands received hazardous fuels reduction treatments in 2008.

“In fall the North Kaibab Ranger District is nothing short of magical when showers of golden aspen leaves tumble through the pines.”

Holly Kleindienst  
Forest Fuels Specialist



“Kaibab National Forest is gracious to all who and use from its bounties. It takes care of us.”



## **VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE to UNDERSTANDING of PREHISTORIC PEOPLES**

Archeology is good dirty fun! Or so proclaims the bumper sticker on the truck owned by the Kaibab National Forest’s heritage program manager. And, many people seem to agree, if the volunteer turnout at this year’s Passport in Time project is any indication.

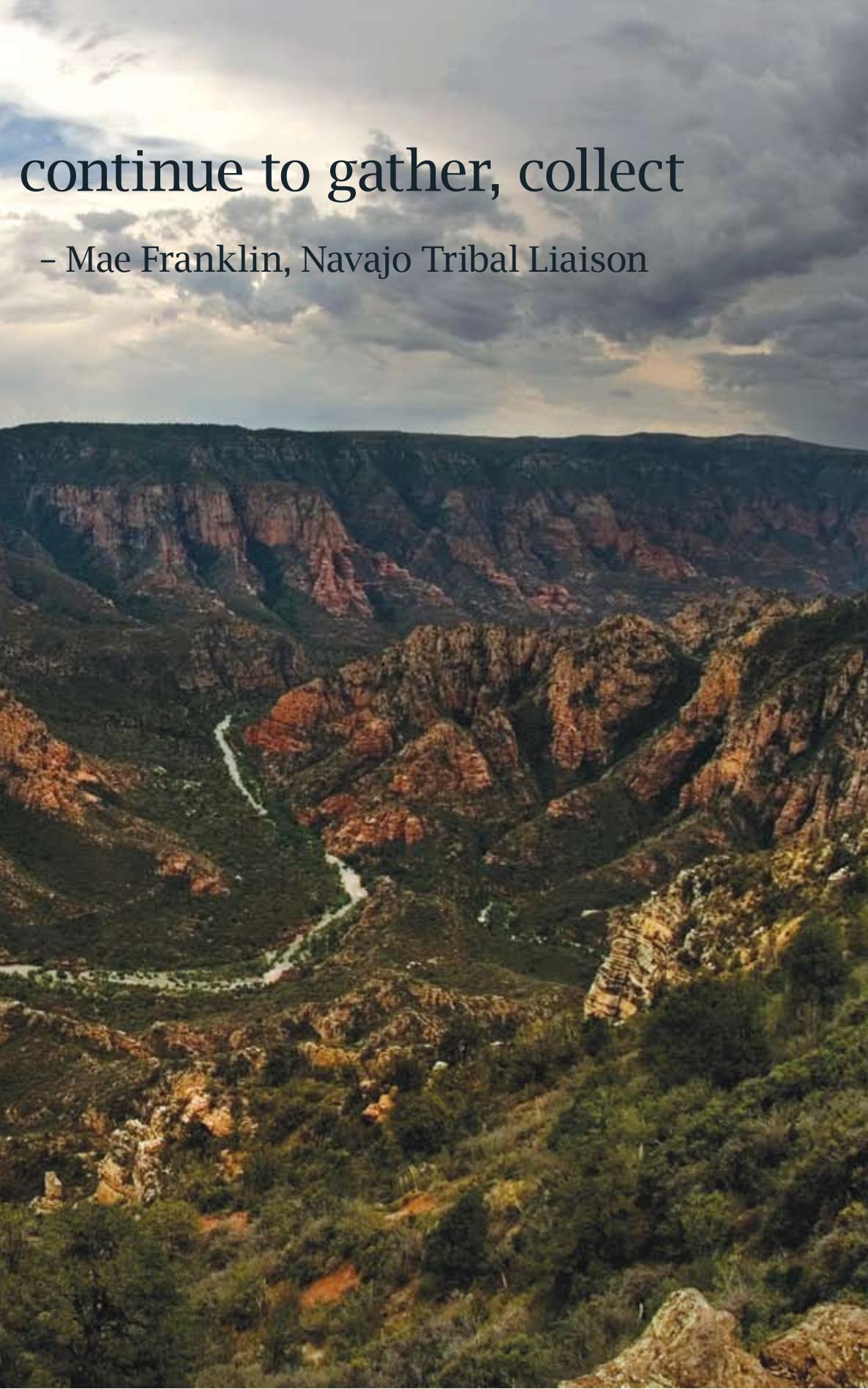


From September 21 to 27, 17 volunteers contributed 880 hours to helping Forest Service archeologists understand more about the prehistoric people who lived in the lands south of the Grand Canyon that are now part of the Kaibab National Forest.

Passport in Time (PIT) is a volunteer archeology and historic preservation program of the Forest Service. The goal of PIT is to preserve the Nation’s past with the help of the public. Volunteers work with professional Forest Service archeologists on diverse activities such as surveys and excavation, rock art restoration, historic structure restoration, analysis of artifacts, and more.

The Kaibab National Forest has hosted a PIT project annually for the last 18 years. Over those years, more than 300 volunteers have contributed about 13,000 hours to the Kaibab heritage program. That equals more than six person years of work completed by volunteers.





# continue to gather, collect

- Mae Franklin, Navajo Tribal Liaison

## Heritage

The Kaibab National Forest heritage program conducted more than 70 projects and surveyed 12,451 acres of forest land, recorded 134 new National Register-eligible archeological sites, and monitored the condition of about 300 previously recorded sites in 2008.

Five volunteer projects were accomplished including two Passport in Time projects. Passport in Time is a volunteer archeology and historic preservation program of the Forest Service. Other volunteer projects were the Saddle Mountain Wilderness Survey, the House Rock Valley Field School, and the Warm Fire Volunteer Archeological Survey. All told, 3,119 volunteer hours were contributed to the Kaibab National Forest heritage program in 2008.

The Kaibab heritage program also conducted a variety of outreach and preservation efforts. A total of 73 outreach programs was provided that reached 7,421 participants. These included two children's science fairs; four tours of Keyhole Sink, which is a prehistoric rock art site that has been developed into an interpretive hike for forest visitors; four lectures as part of archeology month in March; creation of a display in cooperation with the Coconino National Forest on the effects of wildland fire on cultural



## LOCAL GROUP RECEIVES ARCHEOLOGICAL AWARD

The truth of archeology today is a far cry from the glamorous cinematic adventures of Indiana Jones. It's often tedious work, under glaring sun, gusty winds, or blowing snow. Accommodations are often less than five-star.

But the work is critical to saving the Southwest's rich archeological heritage. A local government-private-tribal partnership—of which the Kaibab National Forest is a part—received the 2008 U.S. Forest Service Southwestern Region's Windows on the Past award for efforts to help professional archeologists protect the cultural resources of the Arizona Strip north of Grand Canyon.

The partnership is the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance. A letter from the Forest Service's Washington, DC, office stated that the alliance "leverages our ability to protect valuable resources, it engages the public and helps raise awareness of the importance of resource conservation." The alliance was commended "for recognizing a need and seizing an opportunity."



For additional information on the alliance and its many accomplishments, please visit [www.grandcanyontrust.org/programs/kane/kvcha.php](http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/programs/kane/kvcha.php).



resources for the annual Arizona Archaeology Expo; participation in two conferences; and the sponsorship of a camp for kids from the Kaibab Paiute Tribe on the North Kaibab Ranger District. Preservation projects included maintenance and restoration work at Hull Cabin on the Tusayan Ranger District and Jacob Lake Cabin on the North Kaibab Ranger District; and, stabilization efforts at sites across the forest.



“The Kaibab is far from the bustle of civilized great slice of Arizona from the deserts to the starry skies, the intimate hidden hollows, and



**Kaibab National Forest  
Receives Williams Alliance Award**

The Kaibab National Forest was one of a few organizations and individuals honored in 2008 for making a difference to the children of Williams.

Representatives of the Williams Elementary-Middle School (WEMS) and the Williams Alliance honored the Kaibab National Forest for its participation in the first-ever WEMS Science Camp. The Williams Alliance is a group of citizens and agencies organized to prevent and reduce substance use and abuse among youth.

The WEMS Science Camp, which was held in late April, was designed to expose sixth graders to science in the Forest Service. Topics included fire, biology, recreation, archeology, timber and silviculture. Workshops were meant to be fun and interactive, giving students the opportunity to learn and experience science in the field. The science camp also allowed the kids to learn about potential careers with the Forest Service.



**WILLIAMS SUMMER PROGRAM  
VALUABLE FOR KIDS & FOREST  
SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

During summer 2008, the Kaibab National Forest was provided the opportunity to participate in Williams Project SOAR, an afterschool and summer enrichment program for children in grades kindergarten through third in the Williams area.

For each of the 4 weeks of the summer program, forest employees provided interactive presentations and hands-on field trips during which students learned about wildland fire, forest recreation, archeology, silviculture and wildlife.

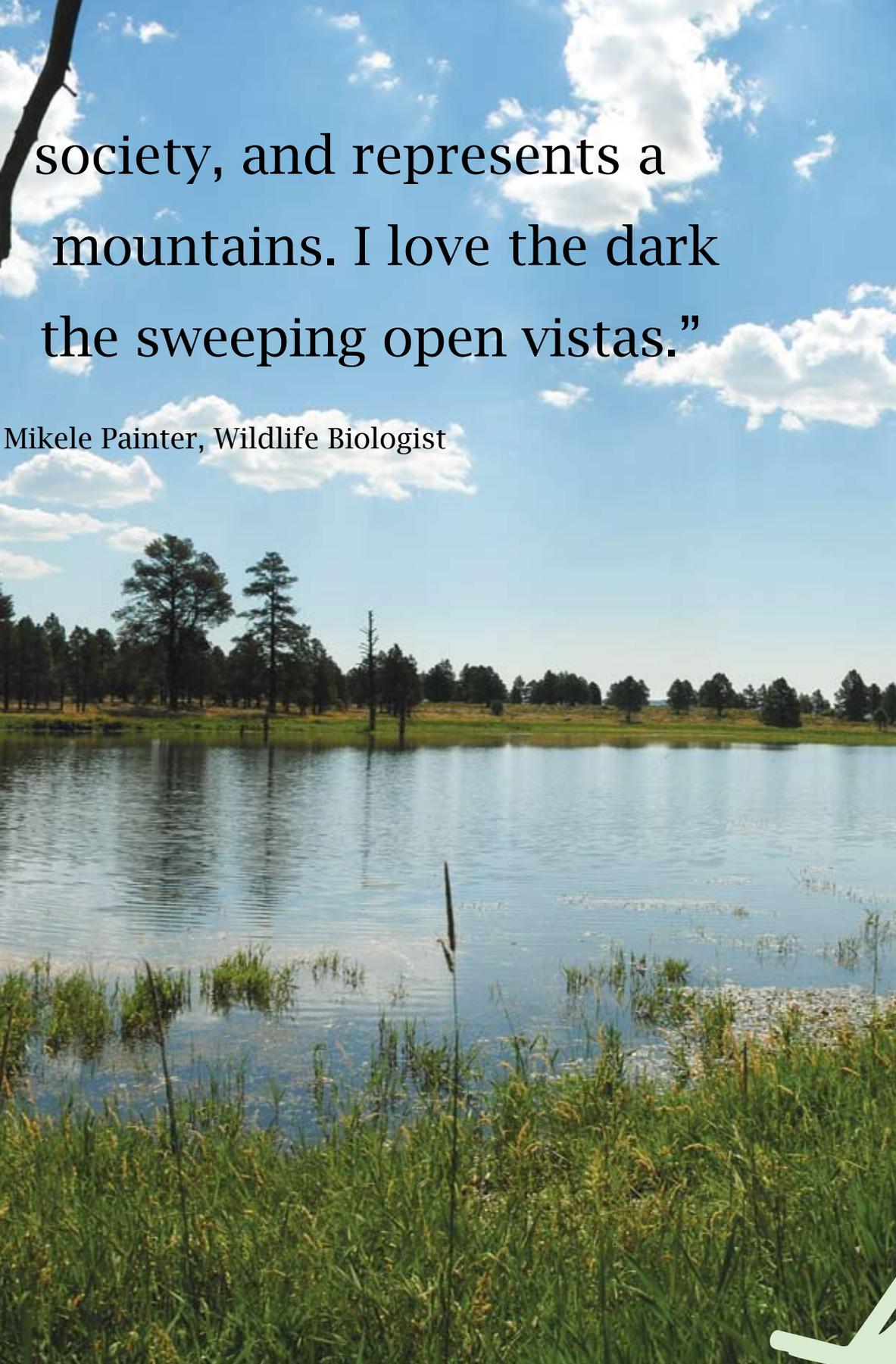
Examples of activities hosted by the Kaibab National Forest included an educational presentation on wetlands and aquatic ecosystems followed by an excursion to a local lake for fishing. Another week, the students learned about wildland fire and then got to tour a firefighter base with an engine, helicopter and other equipment.

Forest resource specialists designed programs, activities and field trips with the goal of educating the kids and getting them involved with public land in their own backyards. From examining tree rings and going on an environmental scavenger hunt, to making traditional pottery and recognizing wildlife sign in the woods, the kids were able to get up close and personal to the resources of their local forest.



society, and represents a mountains. I love the dark the sweeping open vistas.”

Mikele Painter, Wildlife Biologist



## KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST HOSTS CAMP FOR TRIBAL YOUTH

“Do you know what Kaibab means?” asked Angie Bulletts, Kaibab Paiute Tribe member, as she addressed 20 youngsters from her tribe. “It means the mountain lying down. This mountain was named for us. We are the mountain lying down people, and although we live on the reservation today, this is where our people came from.”

The children were all guests at a campout hosted by the North Kaibab Ranger District in August. Amongst the tall ponderosa pines near Three Lakes Campground, volunteers and employees from the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Grand Canyon Trust, Grand Canyon Association, Peregrine Fund, Arizona and Utah Bureau of Land Management and Kaibab National Forest provided tribal youth an opportunity to connect with their ancestral lands.

The children spent 3 days and 2 nights learning about forest and fire ecology, archeology, wildlife, and livestock wrangling, as well as participating in plant walks, a water quality study, orienteering and traditional Paiute crafts.

“One of the most popular events was dissecting owl pellets,” said Connie Reid Zweifel, North Kaibab Ranger District archeologist. “Owl pellets usually contain small bones from prey like mice and ground squirrels, and the kids found that fascinating.”



### **Kaibab National Forest Receives Hopi Foundation Certificate of Appreciation**

The Kaibab National Forest was awarded a certificate of appreciation for forest employees’ contributions to the 2008 Hopi Food and Agricultural Symposium.

Kaibab National Forest Archeologist Erin Woodard and student archeologists Sandra Coombs and Gabrielle Robinson-Bajuscik provided assistance to the Hopi Foundation in setting up and managing the event.

The 2-day Hopi Food and Agricultural Symposium addressed the changing agricultural traditions of the Hopi culture. To thank the Kaibab National Forest for its support, the Hopi Foundation presented the archeologists with a beautiful piece of Hopi artwork, which is now displayed at the Williams Ranger District office.



### **Kaibab National Forest Awards \$500 Scholarship to High School Senior**

The Kaibab National Forest Employees’ Association awarded its 2008 scholarship to Williams High School senior Lani Bilharz. The \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a local area senior showing interest in the environment, public service and/or a career in the natural or physical sciences.

Each year, the scholarship winner is chosen on the basis of a submitted resume and essay. For more than 10 years, the employees of the Kaibab National Forest have raised funds to support the scholarship program.



### **Forest Renews Agreement with Kaibab Paiute Tribe**

Ona Segundo, the Kaibab Paiute Tribe chairwoman, and members of the Kaibab National Forest leadership team commemorated the renewal of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the forest and the tribe this summer in Kanab, Utah.

The MOU, which was first signed in 2002, is a formal agreement that clarifies how the Kaibab National Forest and Kaibab Paiute Tribe cooperate with each other on cultural, economic and land management issues.

With the renewal of the MOU, Kaibab National Forest managers hope to build on the strong relationship that has developed with the tribe over the last decade. “The document is symbolic of our commitment to work together,” said Forest Tribal Liaison Mike Lyndon.





## FIRE MANAGEMENT

Total Number of Fires

Total Acres Burned by Suppression Fires

Human-Caused Fires

Human-Caused Acres



## WILDLAND FIRE PILOT PROGRAM

For the 2008 season, the Kaibab National Forest was one of two forests in the Southwestern Region selected to participate in a pilot program to test proposed changes to the Federal Wildland Fire Implementation Policy, 2003. The Kaibab was chosen in part because of its proactive wildland fire management program. Since 2003, the Kaibab National Forest has managed 52 fires for natural resource benefits on more than 54,000 acres.

The guidelines of the pilot program gave fire managers authority and flexibility to implement a full range of management options on lightning-started fires. Specifically, two of these management options were being able to manage a fire for more than one objective and having more than 8 hours to plan which management strategy to implement.

Under the old policy, once a fire was called “suppression” or “wildland fire use,” the objective could not change. Under the pilot program, fire and land managers had the flexibility to change strategies throughout the incident in order to best meet resource objectives. Managing a fire for more than one objective makes sense because fires often burn across the landscape at varying intensity levels, in different vegetation types, and near various values at risk, all of which requires a full spectrum of management options.

In addition, under the old policy, management decisions had to be made within 8 hours of the initial size-up of a fire. Under the pilot program, fire managers were able to monitor new fires while evaluating their potential for growth and resource benefit. Under the old policy, many fires that could have provided great benefits to forest resources would have been suppressed due to the 8-hour time limit.

Throughout the 2008 fire season, fire managers tested changes to the current policy on about 10 fires. Among these new starts, several notable fires emerged including the 10,778-acre Marteen Fire and 473-acre Oak Fire on the Williams Ranger District, the 747-acre Newt Fire on the Tusayan Ranger District, and the 1,710-acre Mill Fire on the North Kaibab Ranger District. These fires were successfully managed from July through December, and consequently, more than 13,000 acres benefited from fire’s natural disturbance, necessary in a fire-adapted ecosystem.





| 2001  | 2002  | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006   | 2007  | 2008  |
|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 246   | 146   | 202  | 276  | 152  | 225    | 159   | 118   |
| 1,670 | 5,856 | 95   | 706  | 755  | 42,189 | 9,573 | 2,160 |
| 44    | 35    | 24   | 27   | 21   | 21     | 32    | 25    |
| 436   | 123   | 14   | 196  | 88   | 7      | 27    | 2,070 |



### Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership

The Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership continued advancing its mission of reducing the threat of fire on private property near the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. In addition to the Kaibab, the partnership includes the Arizona State Forestry Division, Coconino County, local fire departments, the City of Williams, the University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University’s Ecological Restoration Institute.

The partnership secures funding through grants and assists landowners with assessments and treatments on their property for purposes of forest health improvement and wildland fire risk reduction. In 2008, the partnership accomplished treatments on 94 acres and involved 46 landowners in thinning projects. Since its inception in 2001, the partnership has treated more than 1,300 acres.



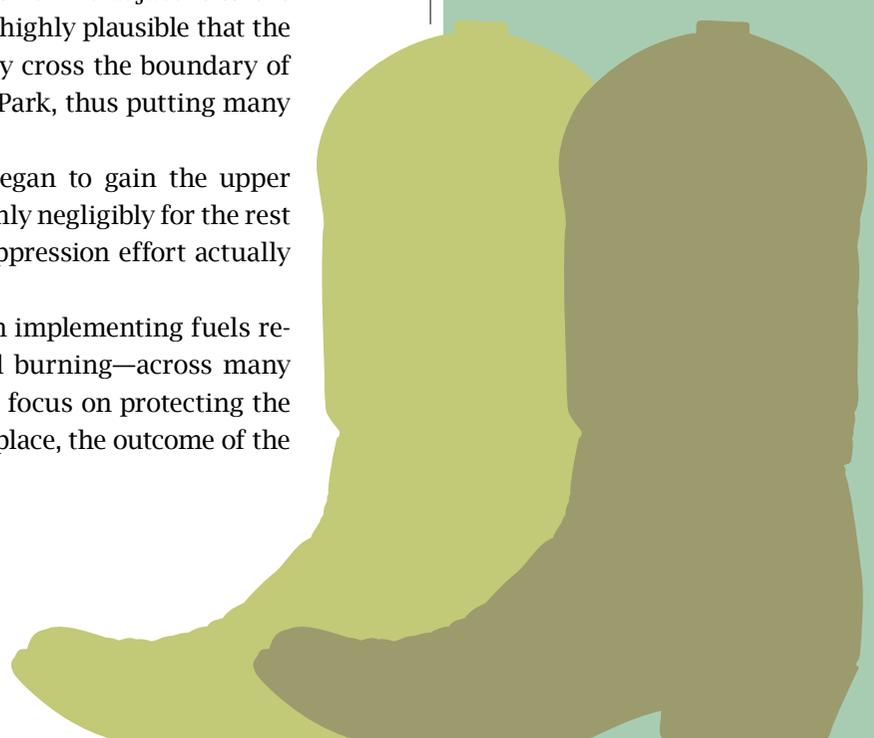
## X FIRE

The X Fire started from an abandoned campfire on April 29 and was driven by strong winds to more than 2,000 acres on the Tusayan Ranger District despite the height of the fire season still being many weeks away.

Immediate concerns included public safety, threats to private property at Ten-X Ranch, a campground, State Route 64, a major powerline adjacent to the highway, and the community of Tusayan. It seemed highly plausible that the fire’s rapid spread to the northeast would eventually cross the boundary of Kaibab National Forest into Grand Canyon National Park, thus putting many other values at risk.

Despite these challenges, firefighters quickly began to gain the upper hand on the X Fire that very first night, and it grew only negligibly for the rest of its existence. A huge factor in this successful suppression effort actually took place months and years prior to the fire itself.

For a number of years, forest managers had been implementing fuels reduction projects—such as thinning and prescribed burning—across many areas of the Tusayan Ranger District, with a special focus on protecting the community of Tusayan. Had these efforts not taken place, the outcome of the X Fire could have been much different.



## Youth Conservation Corps

Through a partnership with the Coconino Rural Environment Corps, the Kaibab National Forest hosted eight high school students for 6 weeks over the summer as part of a paid educational work program. The Youth Conservation Corps members earned money while learning about public lands and conservation, experiencing firsthand a future career possibility, and completing work projects that benefited myriad forest resources. Major accomplishments included fencing aspen stands to aid in regeneration, assisting in re-routing of the popular Bill Williams Trail, and working to repair fencing at historic Spring Valley Cabin.

## Recreation Facilities Receive Facelift

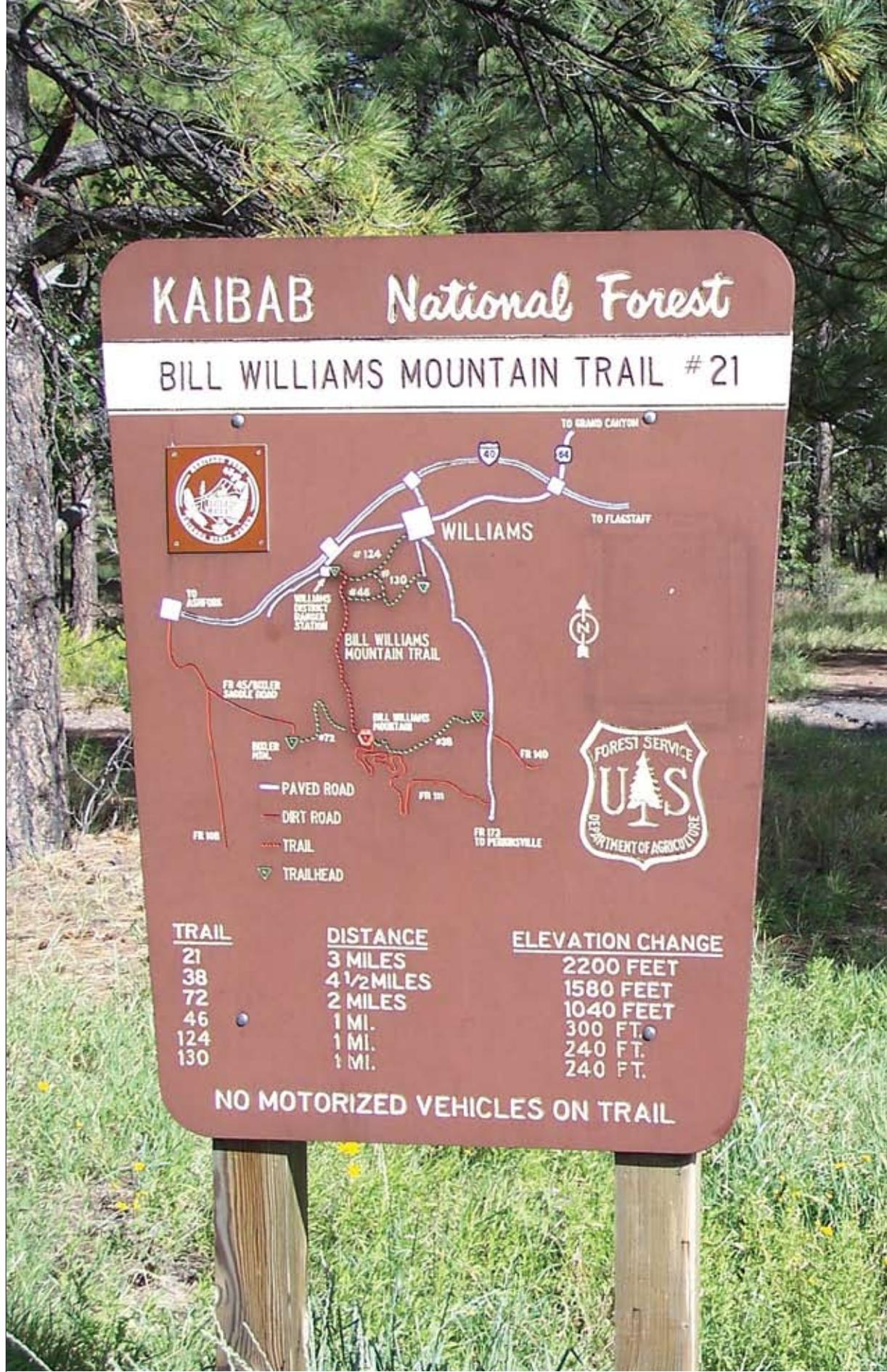
In 2008, many improvements were made to Kaibab National Forest recreation facilities.

The biggest undertaking was reconstruction of the Jacob Lake Campground on the North Kaibab Ranger District. This popular campground was made accessible for people with disabilities and more accommodating to larger recreational vehicles and trailers.

The Jacob Lake Campground reconstruction included a new design, construction of 41 new sites, installation of new bathrooms, and the reclamation of old sites and roads. The campground was closed for 2 seasons to allow for the work. All campsites are now fully accessible per the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also, a larger number of sites are now available for recreational vehicles and large trailers.

## Other Recreation Facilities Upgrades Included the Following:

- Spring Valley Cabin on the Williams Ranger District, which is part of the Forest Service's cabin rental program, received an intensive cleaning, and all carpeting and linoleum were replaced with laminate flooring. Also, the cabin deck was repainted.
- Hull Cabin on the Tusayan Ranger District, which is expected to eventually be added to the cabin rental program, was thoroughly cleaned, old furniture and appliances were removed, and the interior was painted. The cabin was re-roofed using fire-resistant shingles.
- The Dogtown Lake Campground group site received a new retaining wall and improved drainage capacity.
- White Horse Lake and Kaibab Lake Campgrounds received new restroom facility doors.
- Swing gates were installed to allow day use at campgrounds.



## KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST HOSTS SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT

The second annual National Trails Day event on the Kaibab National Forest proved to be a success, with about 16 volunteers participating to improve one of the forest's most popular trails.

Volunteers installed drainages, cleared vegetation and improved the hiking surface of Bill Williams Mountain Trail on the forest's Williams Ranger District June 7.

"The 2008 National Trails Day event was really something the whole community can be proud of," said Sean Murphy, a recreation specialist for the Kaibab National Forest and the National Trails Day event coordinator. "The volunteers accomplished quality work that will help maintain the trail and protect the watershed."



## Tribal Relations

During 2008, the Kaibab National Forest continued its efforts to build strong, mutually beneficial relationships with area tribes, conduct meaningful consultation with tribal governments and effective scoping of tribal communities, and conduct outreach to underserved tribal communities.

Major tribal relations accomplishments included the following:

- The forest worked with the Havasupai Tribe and Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians to successfully renew memoranda of understanding (MOU). The forest now has an MOU with the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe and Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians and is currently developing a draft memorandum with the Navajo Nation.

- The forest hosted its second annual intertribal gathering in Williams. The intertribal gathering is an opportunity for the forest and tribes to discuss projects and issues.

- The forest hosted a kids' camp in partnership with the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. Approximately 20 children, mostly tribal members, attended the campout and participated in a variety of environmental education activities.

- In collaboration with several tribes, the forest developed training for forest employees on policies related to the collection of medicinal, ceremonial and traditional resources by tribal members.

- The Kaibab National Forest was awarded certificates of appreciation by both the Hopi and Hualapai Tribes for conducting educational outreach to tribal youth.

- Forest employees conducted field training for staff of the Hualapai Tribe Department of Cultural Resources in GPS/GIS methods, pedestrian archeological surveys, and I-Mobile archeological site recording.

## Range and Watershed Management

### Range Management:

- The Kaibab National Forest administrated 31 grazing allotments in 2008. Forage production was good due to consistent moisture in most areas.

- Forest managers completed three range allotment National Environmental Policy Act projects in 2008 - Pine Creek, 7CBar and Twin Tanks. These projects included new allotment management plans and range permits.

- New monitoring protocols were established to better determine range and watershed conditions and trends. These new methods provide a statistically reliable data set to compare with historic information.

### Fire Rehabilitation:

- Forest managers treated 1,200 acres in the area burned by the Slide Fire on the North Kaibab Ranger District. Treatments included reseeding, establishing erosion control, fence repair, stock tank cleanout, and eradicating noxious weeds. New monitoring sites were also established to monitor the effectiveness of the treatments.

- In the Warm Fire area on the North Kaibab Ranger District, forest managers

worked on flood prevention in Trail Canyon, treated 90 acres of noxious weeds, and planted 1,589 acres of pine seedlings.

### Noxious Weeds:

- The forest was very active in inventorying and treating noxious and invasive weeds. The forest teamed with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Transportation to treat 1,458 acres of weeds.

### Agra-Axe Treatments:

- One of the best watershed improvement tools on the forest is cutting pinyon and juniper trees on historic grasslands with Agra-Axe clippers on small skid-steers. A total of 2,351 acres of grasslands was maintained using this technique and the efforts of forest employees, Arizona Game and Fish Department employees, and range permittees.

## Timber

The timber program is an integral part of the Kaibab National Forest's efforts in fuels reduction, forest health, wildlife habitat enhancement, and watershed improvement. Timber sales are an efficient way to accomplish needed thinning and other treatments by capitalizing on the value of the wood removed.

### South Zone:

On the Williams and Tusayan districts, the timber sales program was up slightly over 2007. New projects awarded in 2008 were the Government Hill #2 Timber Sale and the Elk Springs Stewardship Contract. The contracts are the final two to be awarded under the Spring Valley Fuels Reduction Project, which began in 2001. The 2008 contracts will treat 1,512 acres of forest and produce 18,039 CCF (hundred cubic feet) of wood for local markets. In 2008, logging of contracts awarded in prior years resulted in the treatment of about 1,200 acres of forest and provided 10,247 CCF (around 5 million board feet) of commercial wood products.

In addition to the large timber sales program, the South Zone sold 514 cords of pinyon/juniper commercial firewood to accomplish range, wildlife and watershed objectives on 200 acres in pinyon/juniper woodlands. Another 4,654 cords of firewood were provided for personal use to meet local home heating needs. Permits were also sold for Christmas trees (1,200 permits), fence posts, pine poles, decorative wood, wilding transplants, and pine cones.

### North Zone:

The 2006 Warm Fire created the need for timber salvage and/or tree planting on many acres. The ongoing integrated resource timber contract, called the North Kaibab Hazard Tree Removal Stewardship Contract, was awarded in fiscal year 2007 but continued in 2008 to remove fire-killed merchantable sawtimber along Forest Service roads. The contract is designed to provide



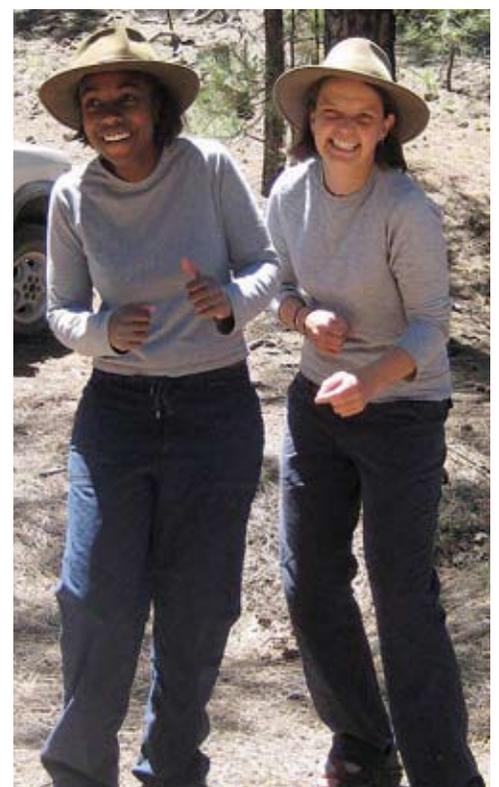
more than 11,700 CCF of merchantable sawtimber to local markets while treating hazard trees along 80 miles of roads and about 14 miles of the Arizona Trail.

The FR641U/225 Hazard Tree Salvage timber sale contract was offered and awarded in 2008. It will result in the removal of 381 CCF of Warm Fire-killed hazard trees on 62 acres along about 2 miles of forest roads. Another sale contract awarded in 2008 provided 9 CCF of timber removed during the Jacob Lake Campground Reconstruction project. Finally, the Fracas Timber Sale contract involves treating 675 acres to improve wildlife habitat and reduce fuels while providing an estimated 1,537 CCF of volume.

The local mill in Fredonia flourished with the wood fiber generated from the North Zone, while other local mills and operators also benefited. Several new private wood industry jobs were created, and there is local optimism that the North Zone can continue to provide a sustainable and responsible flow of wood products while performing sound ecosystem vegetation management treatments.

Other wood products sold from the North Zone included:

- Personal use dead firewood: 3,532 cords
- Posts and poles: 78 CCF plus 80 juniper posts
- Free use green pinyon pine and juniper firewood: 336 cords
- Ceremonial free use dead oak: 17 cords
- Personal use Christmas trees: 942 trees
- Commercial Christmas trees: 222 trees
- Green blue spruce cones: 1,354 bushels



# FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES REPLANT 90 ACRES A DAY TO REGENERATE FOREST GROWTH

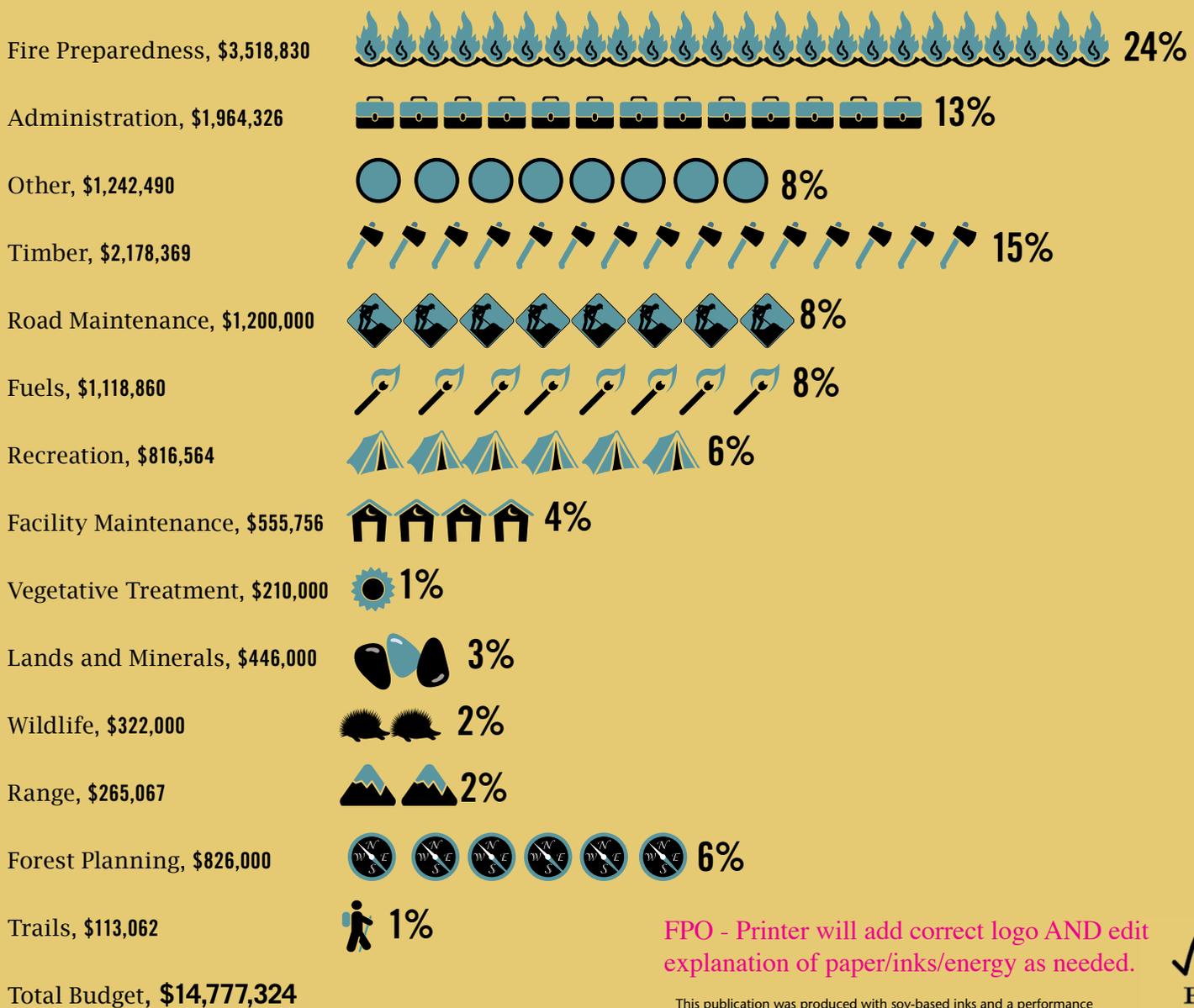
After the 2006 Warm Fire burned 58,000 acres of forest, some of them intensely, forest employees immediately recognized the importance of implementing an intensive regeneration project. Thanks to a \$75,000 donation from the American Forests' Global ReLeaf Program, a total matched by the Forest Service, 450,000 ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir seedlings were planted in only 16 days in the late spring.

This replanting initiative will provide numerous benefits to the forest, including soil erosion prevention, habitat regrowth and eventual timber harvesting.



## BUDGET & EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 2008

each icon = one percent



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This publication was produced with soy-based inks and a performance paper manufactured with emission-free, wind-generated electricity and 100 [or what amount is applicable] percent post-consumer waste fiber processed without additional chlorine. It was printed at a facility certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.



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Printed March 2009