The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land...

~ Aldo Leopold
4FRI was selected for funding under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). CFLRP was established in 2009 to foster collaborative, science-based restoration on priority forest landscapes across the U.S.

CFLRP is unique among government programs in that it was established specifically to:
1) create job stability,
2) achieve a reliable wood supply,
3) restore forest health,
4) reduce the costs of fire suppression in overgrown forests and
5) leverage federal funding against private and other government investments.

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is a collaborative effort to restore forest ecosystems on portions of four National Forests – Coconino, Kaibab, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Tonto – along the Mogollon Rim in northern Arizona.

Ponderosa pine forest stretches almost continuously from the south rim of the Grand Canyon, across the vast Mogollon Rim, to the White Mountains in eastern Arizona. Forests across this expanse surround and support communities and provide invaluable wildlife habitat, recreational resources, and ecosystem services.

Unfortunately, these forests have been degraded by unsustainable historical land uses and fire exclusion. The result is an overgrown forest with thin, unhealthy trees and the threat of unnaturally severe wildfire.

The vision of 4FRI is restored forest ecosystems that support natural fire regimes, functioning populations of native plants and animals, and forests that pose little threat of destructive wildfire to thriving forest communities, as well as support sustainable forest industries that strengthen local economies while conserving natural resources and aesthetic values.

4FRI Boundary Map

4FRI Goals

- Plan and implement restoration treatments across 2.4 million acres of ponderosa pine forest.
- On average, treat 30,000 additional acres per year over the span of 20 years.
- Allow for increased use of fire to meet restoration objectives.
- Engage new industry so the cost of restoration is covered by the value of products removed.
- Assure that the science-based and socially-acceptable agreements forged over the last decade result in implementation of long-term, landscape-scale restoration.