

Stakeholders Report

# COCOONINO

National



Forest

2008 STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

## Dear Coconino National Forest Friends, Visitors, and Neighbors ~

On July 2, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Coconino National Forest by combining all or part of three previously established Reserves: Grand Canyon, San Francisco Mountains, and the Black Mesa. Thus, 2008 became a commemorative year for the Coconino National Forest and the Fort Valley Experimental Forest Station as we celebrated their Centennials.

This 100-year mark also brought many more celebrations with it, as we met numerous goals in forest thinning, fire management, wildlife programs, restoration projects, and also partnered with hundreds of outstanding organizations to manage and improve the forest. These partnerships evolved because surrounding community members and organizations have a broad and deep interest in the management of the Coconino National Forest, and we welcome these partnerships.

As one example, in 2008 forest personnel participated in discussions with community members about how, as a community, we can meet the challenges and opportunities of managing forested landscapes. This conversation led to the development of the *Community Conversation on Sustainability: Healthy Forests, Healthy Community*, a forum hosted by the Flagstaff Leadership Program on February 21, 2009 at the NAU deBois Center.

The *Community Conversation on Sustainability* is designed to bring together a broad array of stakeholders with the purpose of developing a shared vision of forest sustainability. This vision will help define the role of public forested lands in meeting community objectives for economic, social, and ecological sustainability, and integrating that vision into existing planning, decision-making, and resource management processes. As we revise the forest plan for the Coconino, this effort by the community will be invaluable in helping define our role in meeting community needs.

The Coconino is also partnering with other three other National Forests in northern Arizona to develop and implement a strategy to accelerate forest restoration across the four forests. This new partnership includes the Kaibab, Apache-Sitgreaves, and the Tonto. It is imperative to accelerate forest restoration to restore Arizona's forests and protect our communities. This belief is a result from discussions and a shared sense of importance and urgency amongst the Forest Service and other stakeholders, including the Arizona Forest Health Council.

We will continue to work collaboratively with forest stakeholders, utilize the best available science and approach the work at a broad landscape to improve the health of our National Forests as well as provide economic opportunities to local communities by utilizing excess biomass.

As you read the rest of our Stakeholders Report we think you will find a deep connection between the management of the Coconino National Forest and the communities and stakeholders associated with it. It is a long and important connection, one that we look forward to continuing in new and meaningful ways into the next 100 years.



**Nora B. Rasare**  
Forest Supervisor



**Joe Stringer**  
Dep. Forest Supervisor



### Forest Wide

The Coconino National Forest welcomes approximately 3.3 million visitors each year, warranting ongoing projects to sustain the health of the Forest ..... Pg.2-3



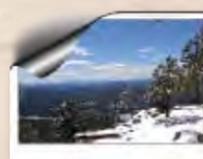
### Peaks & Mormon Lake

From restoration projects, to programs involving students, the Peaks and Mormon Lake Districts report on their accomplishments and future plans ..... Pg.4-5



### Red Rock

One of the most visited districts in the Coconino National Forest, our Red Rock District boasts of some incredible accomplishments year after year ..... Pg.6-7



### Mogollon Rim

With strong partnerships and community collaboration, the Mogollon Rim District is dedicated to finding creative ways to manage natural resources ..... Pg.8-9



### By the Numbers

Take a look at the latest figures on the Coconino's budget, expenditures, visitor data, volunteer information and more. We also would like to thank each of our volunteers and organizations for partnering with us throughout 2008 ..... Pg.10-11



# Forest Wide

## Coconino National Forest

### Fire & Fuels in 2008

The 2008 fire season was fairly quiet on the Coconino National Forest, and while the lack of catastrophic local incidents is due in part to the year's precipitation, much of the credit is also due to two very important factors: ongoing fuel reduction efforts, and the increasing awareness of forest users.

Because the southwest ecosystems need fire to continue functioning healthily, Fire Managers on the Coconino will always be busy managing planned and unplanned fires across the forest. To do so, they have several tools in their toolbox including thinning, prescribed burning, and Wildland Fire Use. In 2008, crews treated nearly 20,000 acres with prescribed fires, over 2,700 acres with thinning, and the forest managed five Wildland Fire Use (WFU) Fires which treated nearly 2,500 acres of forest land. Additionally, 2008 was the second year that the Coconino National Forest Fire Management Plan included the option of WFU fires – lightning-caused wildfires that meet certain criteria and are determined suitable to be managed to help reduce hazardous fuels and increase forest health – and they are so far proving to be a beneficial tool in the toolbox.

Perhaps the most vital tools, however, are the successful and invaluable partnerships developed to maintain consistent and collaborative fire preparedness programs.

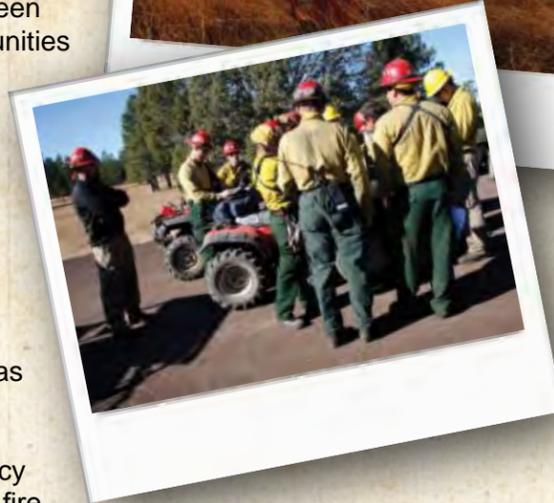
The Coconino is part of the Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council (PFAC), a collection of federal, state, and municipal emergency agencies who, for over a decade have been working together to coordinate training, communication, and fire response efforts. In 2008, recognizing the value of interagency coordination, the members of PFAC began teaming-up on fuels treatment programs around Flagstaff. Crews from the Flagstaff Fire Department, Summit, Highlands, and Pinewood Fire Departments, and Coconino National Forest have been collaborating on thinning and prescribed burning projects, noting the opportunities to reach fuel treatment goals in less time, increase cost efficiency, and reduce the duration of local impacts.

Many fuel treatment plans are the products of a long-term partnership with the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership. The Partnership recognized a 300,000 acre area around Flagstaff (100,000 acres

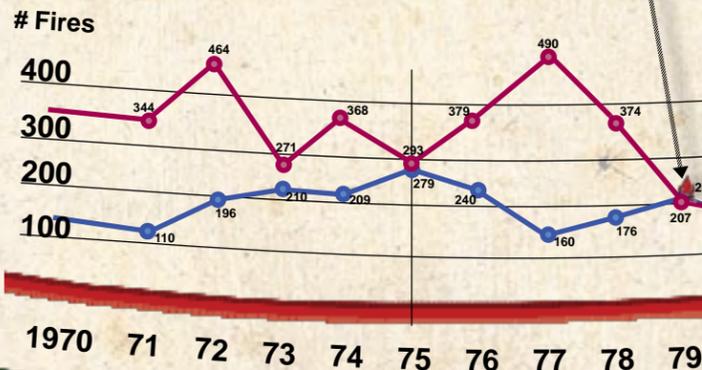
of FS land) in need of such treatment. The Coconino recently completed all of the landscape scale planning on Partnership projects and implementation has begun on most of them.

In addition to aggressive fuel treatments and successful inter-agency partnerships, the Coconino saw a milder fire season this past year because of a group of key players – forest visitors. Of the 246 wildfires on the Coconino this past year, only 89 were human caused – the second lowest number in the last three decades of fire history. The frequency of human-caused fires has been on a downward trend even though visitation continues to rise. This demonstrates how the public's consciousness of fire safety, and the personal investment each visitor is making in the forest's well-being, continues to play a key role in the ongoing management of our natural resources.

Preston Mercer, Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Mormon Lake District prepares for a prescribed burn. Drip torches (the canister just left) are used to ignite burns.



'79: More human than lightning



# Travel Management Rule

The spectrum of uses and the numbers of visitors on public lands continues to grow. In the last several years, land management agencies across the nation have taken strides to re-assess land management practices as they pertain to the needs of visitors and the continued health of the natural resources. National Forests are employing the Travel Management Rule (TMR) process to address concerns about the impact of unmanaged motorized travel on National Forests.



One of the major reasons TMR is being implemented is to protect forests from destruction caused by careless motorized recreation, as pictured above. TMR will create better opportunities for sustainable recreation, better protection of the environment, increased public safety and a consistent framework for motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands.

The Coconino National Forest is nearing the final stages of the Travel Management Rule planning process. This past year, the forest completed the analysis of approximately 1,300 comments on the Proposed Action, and significant issues were defined from those comments. The Forest developed and analyzed a range of alternatives to address the significant issues in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), estimated to be complete in early Summer 2009.

As planning nears completion, the forest is also taking measures to prepare for on-the-ground implementation of the rule. One of the major concerns is that many forest users are still uninformed or misinformed about the existing rules and how they will change within the implementation of TMR. During the 2008 recreation season, forest employees (including non field-based employees) volunteered their time and increased field efforts to educate forest users about general forest etiquette and to provide information and answers about the TMR process. Informed forest users are key to the continued proper use of motorized vehicles on public lands.

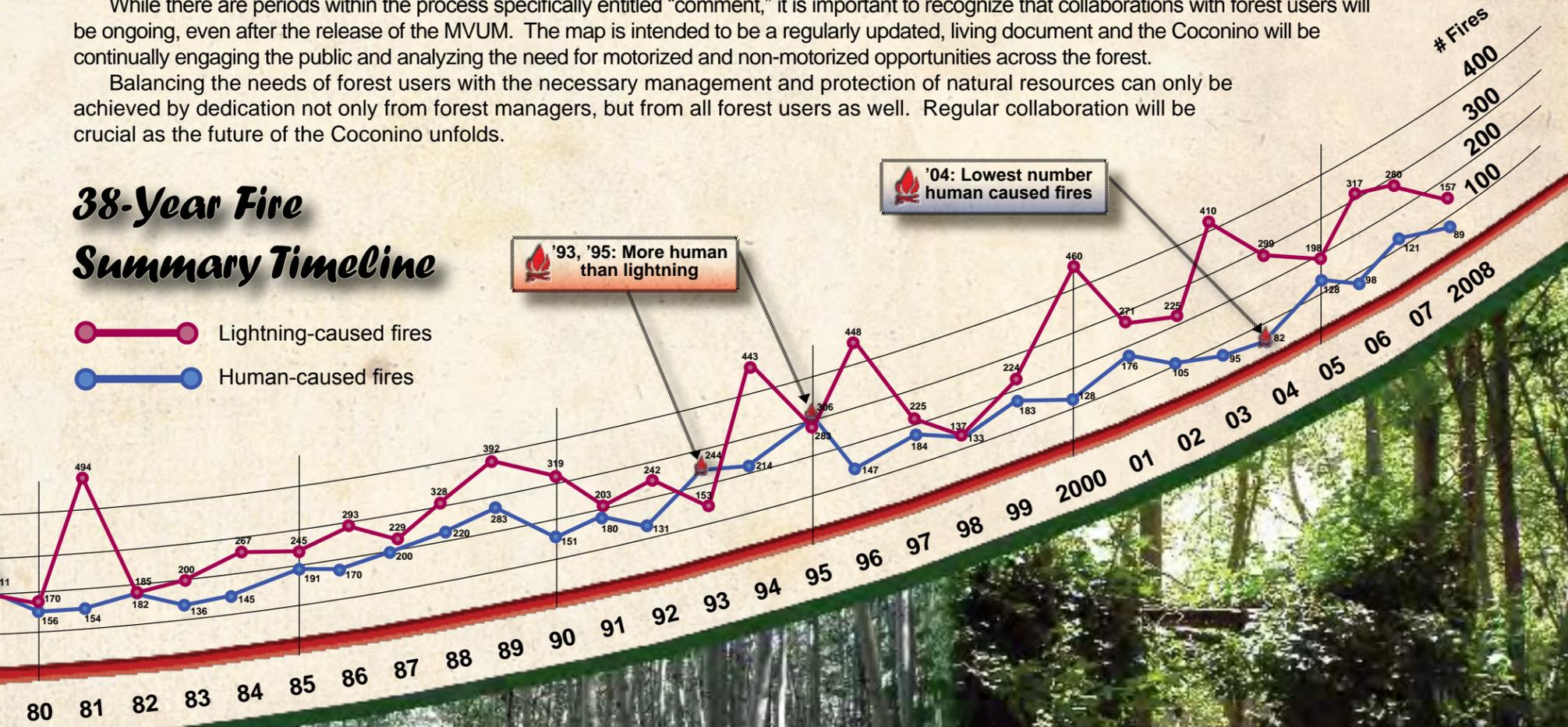
In addition to the continued education of visitors, the forest also planned for another aspect of implementation. The Coconino secured a Forest-Wide Feature Sign Development grant from Arizona State Parks for \$236,000. The grant came through the Motorized portion of the State's Recreation Trails Program and will be applied toward the purchase and installation of "place name" signs for various locations across the forest. The signage will be used to help visitors navigate through the forest once the final rule is in place. Following the release of the DEIS in the summer, there will be a 45-day comment period, subsequent comment analysis, and the forest will reevaluate alternatives. The Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement are projected to be released in late Fall, with implementation estimated to begin at the end of 2009 with the release of the free Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

While there are periods within the process specifically entitled "comment," it is important to recognize that collaborations with forest users will be ongoing, even after the release of the MVUM. The map is intended to be a regularly updated, living document and the Coconino will be continually engaging the public and analyzing the need for motorized and non-motorized opportunities across the forest.

Balancing the needs of forest users with the necessary management and protection of natural resources can only be achieved by dedication not only from forest managers, but from all forest users as well. Regular collaboration will be crucial as the future of the Coconino unfolds.

## 38-Year Fire Summary Timeline

- Lightning-caused fires
- Human-caused fires





I am thrilled to have joined the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts this year.

I am very impressed with the exceptional staff of professionals working for the district, and also with the contributions of our volunteers and other partners in the success of so many of our programs.

At this time when we report on the past year and embark on a new one, it is humbling and gratifying to

note how much stakeholder support and assistance has influenced our many accomplishments.

It is likewise exciting to know the potential for the coming year. We are committed to managing forest lands in a way that promotes the health and resilience of ecosystems, while providing for the sustainable use of resources and recreational opportunities where appropriate. I look forward to more great accomplishments with continued support and involvement from our stakeholders.

*Michael T. Elson*  
Peaks & Mormon Lake Districts Ranger

## Wildlife Program

During the 2008 field season, wildlife crews along with partners and volunteers completed numerous surveys and habitat restoration projects.

The Coconino National Forest is home to three species of leopard frog: the sensitive northern leopard frog and lowland leopard frog, and the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog. Wildlife crews found northern leopard frogs in many of their historic locations and even in a few new ones. Consistent precipitation plays a large role in the population dynamics of these sensitive species.

But surveys of ground creatures weren't the only projects for our crews. The Coconino, along with its partners and volunteers, also conducted bird surveys in 2008. Goshawk and spotted owl surveys were conducted on over 25,000 acres of Forest lands. Nearly 2,000 goshawk points and over 12 Mexican spotted owl family areas were surveyed. New nesting Mexican spotted owls, goshawks, golden eagles and peregrine falcons were discovered as a result.

In addition, every January the Coconino participates in the National Bald Eagle Midwinter Survey, coordinated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The survey helps determine the population trend and distribution of bald eagles throughout its range. Partnering with the National Audubon Society (Northern Arizona Chapter), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and citizen volunteers, we surveyed approximately 20 routes on the Coconino National Forest. A total of 40 bald eagles, 5 golden eagles, and 1 unidentified eagle were counted. Bald eagles counted on the Coconino consistently represent 18-20% of all Bald Eagles counted in Arizona during the annual survey.

Enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat is also a major component of the wildlife program. Anderson Mesa, located east of Mormon Lake,

Northern Leopard Frog



is home to many important habitat improvement projects. For pronghorn antelope, grassland restoration efforts involved removing thousands of small juniper trees that had encroached the area's grasslands.

Fire crews managed prescribed burns on approximately 500 acres of habitat to improve forage for wildlife.

To improve habitat for migrating ducks, six wetland enclosures were built in 2008, totaling 27 enclosed wet-

lands on the Mesa. The wildlife-friendly enclosures were designed to allow elk, deer, and antelope to move easily under or over the enclosure fence, but restrict livestock to a small portion of the wetland. The

enclosures will provide nesting habitat for migrating ducks.

The accomplishments on Anderson Mesa are possible because of the strong efforts from our many partners, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Diablo Trust, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association, Boy Scouts of America, and the Coconino Rural Environmental Corps.

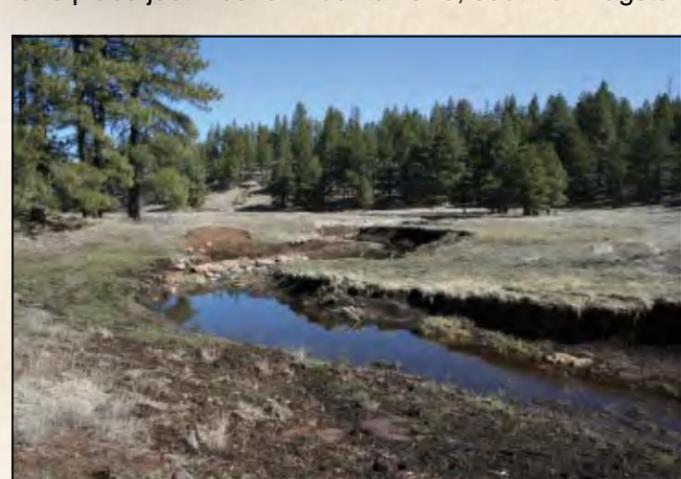
# Peaks &



## Upcoming Soil & Meadow Restoration Projects

In 2009, the Coconino National Forest plans to work on several Soil and Meadow Restoration projects across the forest – including two on the Peaks and Mormon Lake Districts.

Approximately 200 acres of meadow restoration is scheduled to take place just west of Mountainaire, south of Flagstaff.



The vertical banks pictured are evidence of the damage and instability of the Hoxworth drainage. The project is designed to stabilize the stream by cutting and filling the area to create a new channel alignment. After construction, the area will be re-seeded and protected from all grazing animals with an 8 foot high fence.

Restoration efforts will include removing the small pine trees encroaching on the existing meadows. This is a continuation of a meadow thinning project that occurred in 2007.

In addition, the Hoxworth Springs Stream Channel Restoration Project

is planned to begin late summer, funded by a grant from the Arizona Water Protection Fund. The Hoxworth Springs drainage basin lies within the Lake Mary watershed in the Coconino National Forest, approximately 15 miles south of Flagstaff, south of the Elk Park Meadows subdivision.

Work on the project is a continuation of work previously completed within the Hoxworth Spring Stream Channel, first in 1996, and again in 1998 and 2002. The main goal of this project is to restore the riparian function of the remaining .4 miles of degraded stream channel and the adjacent meadow. Doing so will improve meadow and stream water-storage capacity, revive the riparian plant community, improve habitat for riparian-associated threatened and endangered species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl, and reduce erosion and production of sediment that eventually reaches Lake Mary.

Efforts will begin with treatment of noxious weeds. Stream restoration, revegetation, and site protection work will continue through the summer.



# Mormon Lake

## Ranger Districts

### Students in the Coconino

The youth of our nation are an important partner in our mission. We recognize the need to "cultivate" the precious resources that comprise the younger generations. In an era when partnerships are

fundamental for successfully managing our public lands, the employees of the Coconino National

Forest also recognize the value in partnering with the bright and eager youth who will one day "Care for the land and Serve the people."

Almost a decade ago, the Peaks and Mormon Lake Districts created a revolutionary partnership with Northern Arizona University. The ongoing graduate level School of Forestry course entitled Wilderness Management, offers weekly interaction with forest recreation employees of all grade levels from across the forest. The

semester's curriculum addresses current forest wilderness issues, while semester-end projects provide district managers with possible management approaches. Semester topics have addressed managing urban wilderness, the role of outfitters and guides in wilderness, and most recently, the feasibility of a permit system for the Kachina Peaks Wilderness Area.

In addition, the Forest has been supporting the Wilderness Specialist Program since 2006. The program's main focus is to offer a hands-on wilderness field experience, while providing the support, training, and mentorship needs to university students seeking careers in natural resource and Wilderness area management. Coconino participation offers life-changing experiences in which the next generation of land managers can build upon in support of their own careers. To date, more than 20 university students from all corners of the nation have taken part in our Wilderness Specialist Program.

Our partnership with the next generation extends to

more than just University students. In November 2008, 15 Kaibab and Coconino National Forest employees worked with 45 fifth-graders from Puente de Hózhó Elementary School on the "Leave No Trace" land ethic principles. During the event, students learned about the principles through games, group work, and hands-on activities. Smokey Bear even made an appearance to encourage our young partners to continue applying their lessons whenever they visit the forest. In February 2009, as the second piece of this project, students will develop "Leave No Trace" land ethics posters in Dine, Spanish and English and with the help of forest employees, the posters will be placed at key forest locations.



NAU Wilderness Mgt. Class '08



Leave No Trace Day 11/08



Leave No Trace Day 11/08

### Coconino NF Plans to Co-locate Flagstaff District Offices

The Coconino National Forest is currently considering co-locating the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger District Offices to a single administrative site. Under this proposal, the existing Peaks Ranger Station and Mormon Lake Ranger Station properties would be sold to generate funds for construction of the new administrative site.

The Elden Lookout Trailhead is currently located on the Peaks administrative site and would therefore need to be relocated to a nearby site yet to be determined. This would likely involve rerouting trail access but would not affect the existing trail system currently accessed by that trailhead.

The two Ranger Districts are already operating as a single unit, under the direction of a single District Ranger; co-locating into a single office will improve operational efficiency. The new Ranger Station would be constructed on ap-

proximately 40 acres of National Forest System land located on Lake Mary Road adjacent to the City of Flagstaff Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant. It will provide easy access for tourists and local publics, be efficient for consolidated District activities, reduce maintenance, and allow for future needs.

A local environmental firm, SWCA, Inc., has been contracted by the Forest Service to develop an Environmental Assessment of the proposal. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be released mid-2009; sale of the existing sites and construction of the new site are anticipated to occur over the next two to four years.

Comments and questions are encouraged,

as public involvement is an important aspect of this project.

For additional information and to submit comments, contact SWCA, Harmony Hall, 114 N. San Francisco Street, Suite 100, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; 928-774-5500.

# Red Rock

## Ranger District



After three years on the job as Red Rock District Ranger, I am still impressed with the ever increasing energy and enthusiasm that our partners and volunteers exhibit as they help us meet the constant demands on our National Forest. Sedona is gifted with a wealth of skilled volunteers and individuals dedicated to accomplishing goals that help protect our natural and cultural resources. In total, volunteers and partners donated 44,000 hours to the Red Rock Ranger District in 2008, equating

to about one-third of our District's operating costs.

Thanks to the thousands of residents and visitors who purchased Red Rock Passes, we continue to be able to address impacts to our beautiful landscape, we provided increased law enforcement presence on the District, and quality visitor services to more than a half million visitors last year.

Our District accomplished a spectrum of projects in 2008 – from the construction of the new administrative site and visitor center; to the construction and maintenance of numerous trails; implementation of a hazardous fuels reduction project in Oak Creek Canyon; and the construction of several interpretive exhibits, just to name a few.

Programs to be accomplished this coming year include constructing new exhibits for our visitor center as part of the National Scenic Byway Grant Program; continuing to provide visitor services at our cultural heritage sites; implementing our Fossil Creek Arizona Water Protection Fund grant; and emphasizing the volunteer Wilderness Information program and patrol.

Thank you to friends, volunteers, and stakeholders for your significant contributions. I look forward to working with each of you as we complete more projects that lend to the health and sustainability of our beautiful District.

*Heather Provencio*  
**Red Rock District Ranger**

### New Admin Office & Visitor Center

The vision of a new high profile Red Rock Ranger Station with improved visitor information services has become a reality. In April of 2008 we welcomed more than 300 visitors and distinguished guests to an open house and "sneak preview" of the new administrative site and information center located 1 mile south of the Village of Oak Creek along State Route 179, near Woods Canyon Trailhead. Since the grand opening, over 80,000 guests have walked through the visitor center doors to gather vital information about what to do and see in Sedona's Red Rock Country. Most impressive is the administrative site location with its scenic vista situated beneath the red sandstone towers along Munds Mountain Wilderness.

The first ranger station in Sedona was built in the early 1900s in a remote setting later known as the "Heart of Sedona." Even though centrally located, the ranger station was not easy to find for the visiting public. With Sedona's popularity and growing 3.5 million annual visitors, increasing impacts to the National Forest were being experienced. In the mid 1990s, Forest Service managers began exploring options to relocate the station to increase visibility and to reach the greatest number of visitors to provide early and effective environmental education. We believe most forest visitors want to help protect the areas natural beauty if only they are aware of "Leave No Trace" practices.

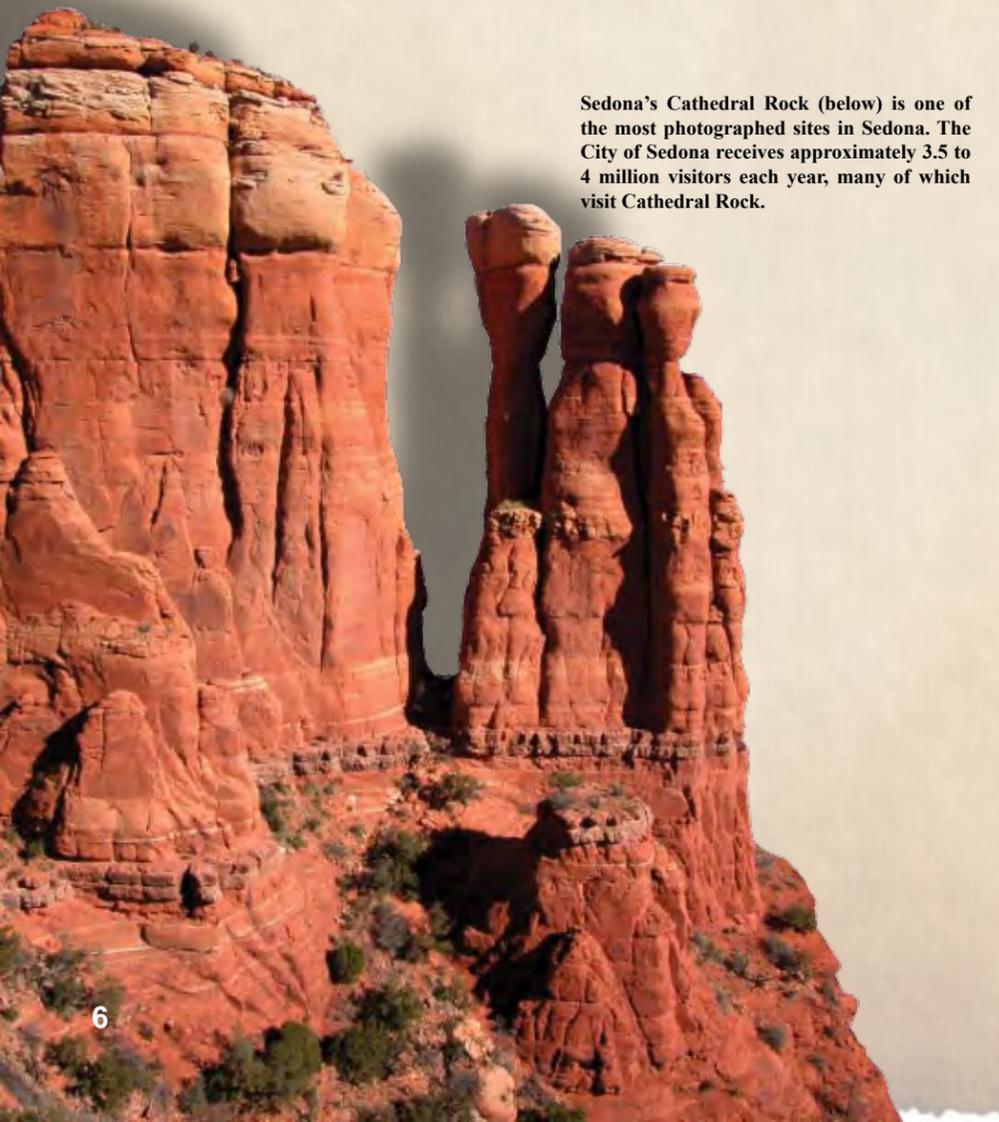
Two pieces of legislation helped paved the way for the relocation and vision: first, the Arizona National Forest Improvement Act (PL106-458) of 2000 and later, the National Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-54). Combined, these authorities allowed the Coconino NF to sell the original Brewer Road parcel for \$8.4 million and apply it towards the \$9.8 million cost to excavate and construct a new facility.

If initial success can be measured in the number of visitors reached with increased information services, this new facility is truly a success. Daily visitation is estimated at two and a half times the number of visitors contacted in the fall of 2007. A variety of educational displays and services are currently being offered at the information center covering local geology, native cultures, "Leave no trace" skills, ecosystem biodiversity and wildlife sign identification. Frontline information services of both volunteers and Forest Service personnel work to greet and assist visitors to help make their Red Rock Country visit most memorable.



The new Red Rock Ranger Station. Not included in this photo is the new visitor center located just left of the station.

Sedona's Cathedral Rock (below) is one of the most photographed sites in Sedona. The City of Sedona receives approximately 3.5 to 4 million visitors each year, many of which visit Cathedral Rock.





## ***Broadening the Understanding of Narrow-Headed Garter Snakes***

Found in Oak Creek, the Narrow-Headed Garter Snake is distinguished by its long, triangular-shaped head and dark checks on a gray/tan body. It spends most of its time foraging for fish, frogs, and tadpoles in the water or basking in the sun near the creek's edge.

But their numbers are rapidly declining. People are killing the NHGS either deliberately because they fear these snakes are poisonous, or unintentionally by handling them or driving across low-water crossings where young snakes bask in the shallows. In addition, the prey-base for the NHGS is decreasing because of non-native fish and increased sedimentation in Oak Creek.

Since the late 90s, herpetologists from the US Geological Survey, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Mesa Community College, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Forest Service have been monitoring the abundance and distribution of the Narrow-Headed Garter Snake in Oak Creek Canyon.

Many of the snakes now have pit tags, and each summer from July through September, the scientists capture the snakes, scan their tags if they have them, or insert tags if not. A pit tag gives each snake a unique number which allows the scientists to develop a history of the snake each time it is captured. From the data collected each time a snake is captured, scientists can tell where the snake was originally tagged, how many other times it was detected, and how far it has moved. The findings have helped scientists understand more about the habits of the Narrow-Headed Garter Snake, which will help with the future protection of this rare but amazing species.



Narrow-Headed Garter Snake

## ***Upcoming West Fork Fish Restoration Project***

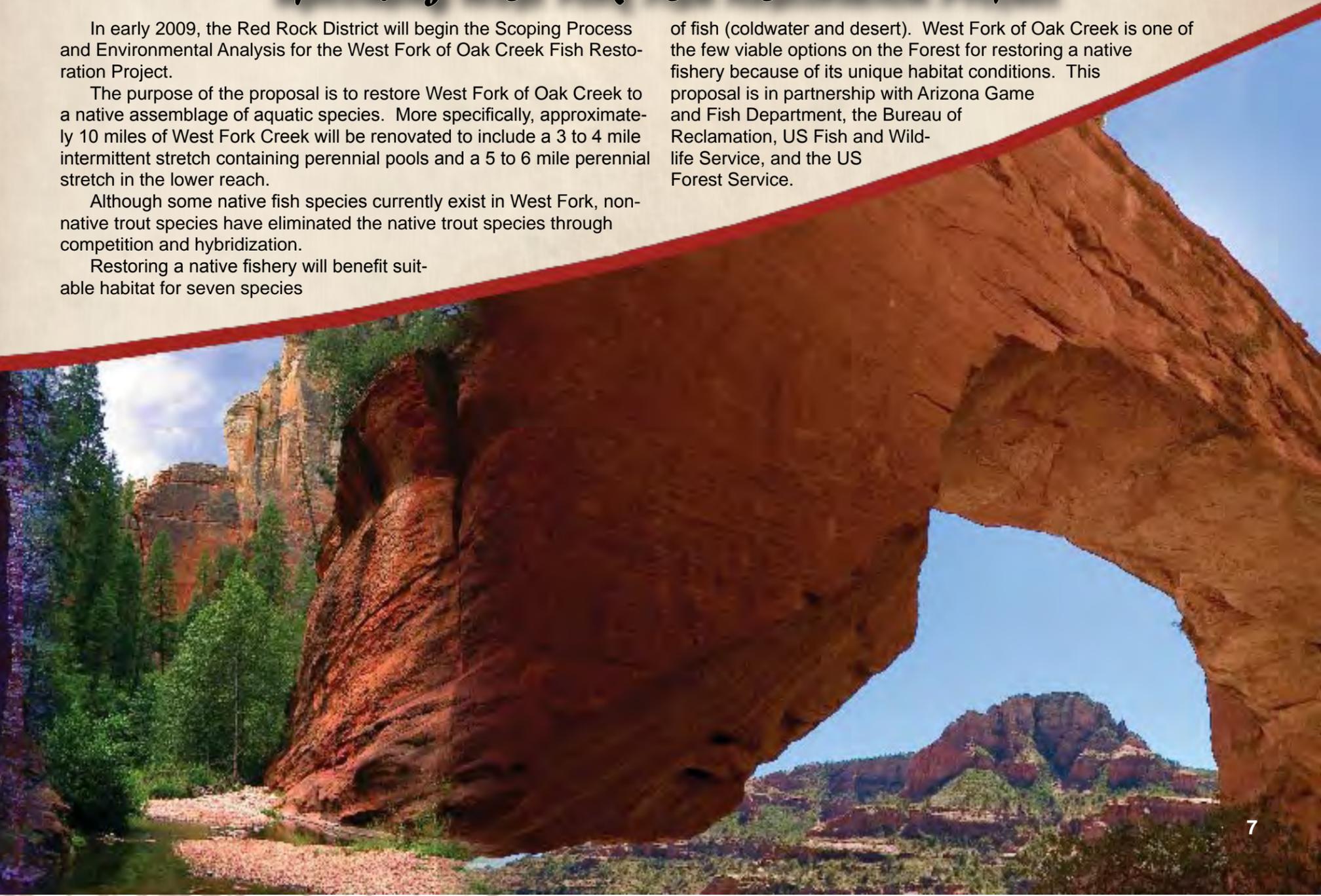
In early 2009, the Red Rock District will begin the Scoping Process and Environmental Analysis for the West Fork of Oak Creek Fish Restoration Project.

The purpose of the proposal is to restore West Fork of Oak Creek to a native assemblage of aquatic species. More specifically, approximately 10 miles of West Fork Creek will be renovated to include a 3 to 4 mile intermittent stretch containing perennial pools and a 5 to 6 mile perennial stretch in the lower reach.

Although some native fish species currently exist in West Fork, non-native trout species have eliminated the native trout species through competition and hybridization.

Restoring a native fishery will benefit suitable habitat for seven species

of fish (coldwater and desert). West Fork of Oak Creek is one of the few viable options on the Forest for restoring a native fishery because of its unique habitat conditions. This proposal is in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Forest Service.



# Mogollon Rim

## Ranger District



As I reflect on the many accomplishments on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District in 2008, I'm also reminded of the many worthwhile projects still needing to be done.

With costs steadily rising and budgets static as the nation works through these tough economic times, an old adage comes to mind: "Through every adversity comes a seed of an equal or greater benefit."

Our "seed" is in our employees, local community, and partners. That seed must be planted and nurtured in order to produce the harvest.

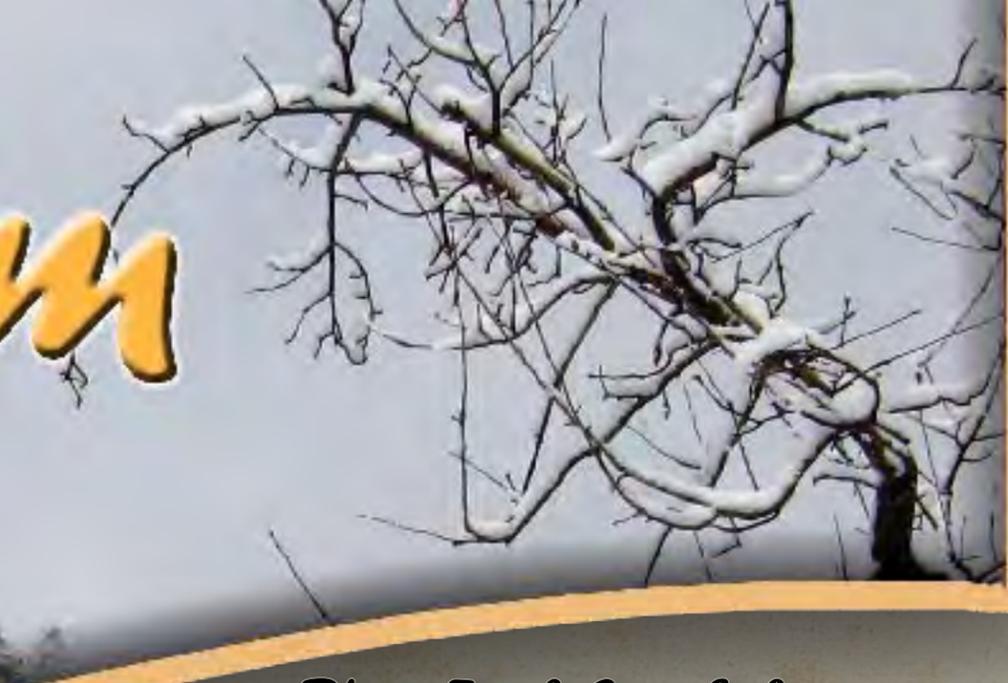
In 2008 the Mogollon Rim Ranger District harvested a significant "crop" of accomplishments. Here are a few community and partner contributions:

- Volunteers contributed time equaling nearly 5 full time employees to our recreation, wildlife, watershed, business, and facilities programs.
- The Blue Ridge community organized several meetings to inform and engage locals in the Travel Management Rule planning project.
- Fire personnel, working cooperatively with the Blue Ridge and Pine-Strawberry Fire Departments and Gila County, successfully managed over 60 wildfires.
- ADOT, APS, TDS, Coconino County, and Salt River Project improved their facilities that serve the public.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Parks, National Resource Conservation Service, Arizona Elk Society, and livestock permittees funded and supported projects totaling over \$300,000.
- Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Salt River Project, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Town of Payson joined the Forest Service for a "National Get Outdoors Day" event at C.C. Cragin (Blue Ridge) Reservoir.
- The local community discussed ongoing Forest Service projects with district employees at a district Open House held at the Starlight Pines Community Center.
- Campers from nearby Camp Colley maintained trails, picked up litter, and removed crayfish from East Clear Creek.

Finding creative ways to accomplish our work has never been more necessary. Along with our dedicated, hard working, community-minded district employees we will again engage interested citizens in 2009 to help accomplish the important work we do on the Coconino National Forest.

*Mindee Roth*  
Mogollon Rim District Ranger





## ***Dines Tank Crayfish Removal Project***

During the summer 2008, the Mogollon Rim District Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (GCWC) conducted an intensive effort to remove non-native crayfish from Dines Tank in Leonard Canyon on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District. Dines Tank contains Little Colorado spinedace (*Lepidomeda vittata*), a threatened native fish in the Little Colorado River watershed.

Crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*) prey on the spinedace and are contributing toward their decline. Crayfish are also detrimental to many native fish and amphibian species, as well as other species including reptiles, insects, plants, and sport fish.

Over four weeks, 35 volunteers and nine staff worked and camped at Dines Tank, removed more than 23,000 crayfish! GCWC also weighed, measured and determined the sex and maturity of the crayfish removed as part of their research on the non-native species.

The GCWC is a leader in other restoration projects on the Mogollon Rim including closing user-created roads on the district and removing other crayfish populations in East Clear Creek. The GCWC has been an active restoration partner with the Mogollon Rim District since 2006.



## ***National Get Outdoors Day at C.C. Cragin Reservoir***



On June 14, dozens of families visited the Coconino for a free fishing event at C.C. Cragin Reservoir on Mogollon Rim Ranger District, sponsored by the Arizona Game & Fish Department, the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Salt River Project, the Town of Payson, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Partners designed the event to increase public awareness of each agency's role and to demonstrate the common interest we all have in watershed management which creates recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and drinking water.

Exhibit staff provided information about boating, fishing, reservoir operation, water conservation, watersheds, riparian areas, and quagga mussels. Several activities were also available for children including making wildlife masks and fishing for plastic fish from a wading pool. As the youngsters caught a "fish," they answered a water conservation question and were rewarded with Smokey Bear prizes.

Information about the history of C.C. Cragin Reservoir, formerly known as the Blue Ridge Reservoir, was also available. Salt River Project (SRP) and Phelps Dodge Corp. signed an historic water agreement in February 2005 as part of the Gila River Indian Water Rights Settlement that settled water-rights issues and allowed for the transfer of Blue Ridge Reservoir from Phelps Dodge to SRP.

The agreement was part of a long history of water agreements between Phelps Dodge and SRP that helped manage Arizona's water supplies. The reservoir will play a strategic role in meeting the Town of Payson's current and future water needs.



# By the Numbers

## 2008 Coconino Forest Budget

	Dollar Amount	Percent
Fire Preparedness .....	\$4,647,624	21%
Administration .....	\$4,171,640	19%
Fuels Management .....	\$2,482,631	11%
Recreation .....	\$2,383,641	11%
Timber Management .....	\$1,430,740	07%
Road Maintenance .....	\$1,642,671	07%
Other .....	\$1,540,780	07%
Forest Planning .....	\$796,404	04%
Facility Maintenance .....	\$685,895	03%
Vegetative Treatment .....	\$557,529	03%
Lands and Minerals .....	\$386,000	02%
Wildlife Management .....	\$491,050	02%
Range Management .....	\$460,637	02%
Trails .....	\$230,787	01%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$21,908,029</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Law Enforcement

Damage to Government Property .....	\$14,265
Cannabis Plots Eradicated .....	2
Public and Other Assists .....	266
Public Contacts .....	12,000
Incident Reports .....	1,425
Violations Issued .....	891
Warnings Issued .....	415
Arrests: .....	41

## Stewardship

Volume of Timber Sold (Includes Fuelwood Permits) .....	32,277ccf
Acres of Wildlife Habitat Restored/Enhanced .....	16,840
Acres of Soil and Water Improvement .....	13,851
Acres of Invasive Weed Treatment .....	1,673
Miles of Stream Habitat Restored .....	10.5
Acres of Timber Sold .....	3,801

## Recreation & Lands

Approximate Visitors Per Year ..... 3,300,000

### Number of Single-Unit Campsites Maintained

Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts .....	282
Mogollon Rim Ranger District .....	196
Red Rock Ranger District .....	197
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>675</b>

### Number of Group Campsites Maintained

Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts .....	5
Mogollon Rim Ranger District .....	2
Red Rock Ranger District .....	4
Rental Cabins .....	3
Picnic Areas .....	17
Total Miles of System Trails .....	685
Total Miles of System Roads .....	6,225

### NPS/USFS Interpretive Partnership Prgm

Ranger Days/Programs	Audience
Ranger Programs at Arizona Snowbowl .....	85 Days 9,508
Ranger Programs at Natl' Monuments .....	52 Days 3,843
USFS Campground Programs .....	91 Prgms 2,666
Special Programs .....	45 Prgms 1,919
Programs for Children .....	17 Prgms 556

Total People Reached ..... 18,492

### Volunteer Contribution

Hours	\$Value
Peaks & Mormon Lake Ranger Districts .....	14,994 292,546
Mogollon Rim Ranger District .....	8,910 173,837
Red Rock Ranger District .....	44,000 860,000

Total ..... 67,904 \$1,326,383

**Litter** (Note: The Coconino NF does not employ trash collectors to clean-up after neglectful forest users. However, employees often set aside their core duties to remove litter from forest lands, reflected below).

Total Pounds of Trash Removed .....	54,860
Truckloads of Large Items Removed .....	952
Vehicles Removed from the Forest .....	12

\* WUI = Wildland Urban Interface

## Fire Management

### Human- vs. Lightning-Caused Wildfires

	# Wildfires	# Acres Burned
Human Caused .....	89	257
Lightning Caused .....	157	2,372
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>2,829</b>

### Wildland Fire Use Fires (WFU)

	# Acres Treated
Yeager .....	470
Lost Eden .....	1,500
Black .....	235
Poor Farm .....	140
Deep .....	2
<b>Total Acres Treated .....</b>	<b>2,347</b>

### Initial-entry Broadcast Burn \*WUI Accomplishments

Project	Accomplish (acres)
A-1 West .....	300
APS Powerline .....	300
East Clear Creek .....	2,350
Ft. Valley .....	180
Iron Mine/Maxwell (IMAX) .....	450
Kachina .....	200
Lake Mary .....	150
Ritter .....	100
Victorine .....	2,500
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>6,530</b>

### Slash-Pile Burning WUI Accomplishments

Project	Accomplish (acres)
A-1 West .....	575
Ft. Valley .....	565
Kachina .....	1,035
Oak Creek .....	10
Woody Ridge .....	1,100
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,285</b>

### Non-WUI Initial-Entry Broadcast Burn and WUI and NON-WUI Maintenance Burn

Project	Accomplish (acres)
A-1 West .....	636
Apache Maid/Stoneman .....	1,100
Blue Ridge .....	1,200
Ft. Valley .....	200
Mint .....	1,895
Pete .....	1,340
Rocky .....	530
Skunk .....	100
Valley .....	3,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10,001</b>

### Thinning Treatments WUI and NON-WUI Accomplishments

Project	Accomplish (acres)
Coconino County .....	610
Flag Private .....	200
Forest Highlands .....	1,100
Ft. Tuthill .....	100
Kachina Village Rest. ....	61
Mormon Lake Basin .....	568
Oak Creek .....	70
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,709</b>

### Planned FY 2009 Treatment Projects

Project	WUI or Non-WUI	Type Burn (Broadcast, Pile, Thin)	Target
A-1 West .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	274
A-1 West .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	700
A-1 West .....	WUI	Pile Burn	456
Apache Maid/Stoneman ...	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	1,170
Bald Mesa .....	WUI	Pile Burn	200
Blue Ridge .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	425
Blue Ridge .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	1,430
East Clear Creek .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	2,620
East Side .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	439
East Side .....	WUI	Pile Burn	250
Elden Elec. Site .....	WUI	Pile Burn	16
Elden Project .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	100
Ft. Valley .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	200
Ft. Valley .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	415
Ft. Valley .....	WUI	Pile Burn	444
Good Enough/Tule .....	Non-WUI	Broadcast -Init.	2,025
Iron Mine/Maxwell (IMAX) .	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	2,600
Kachina .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	400
Lake Mary .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	500
Lake Mary .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	415
Mars Hill .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	75
Mars Hill .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	100
Mint .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	1150
Mormon Lake Basin .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	200
Mormon Mountain .....	WUI	Thinning	30
Mountaineer .....	WUI	Pile Burn	50
Oak Creek .....	WUI	Pile Burn	10
Oak Creek .....	WUI	Thinning	70
Ritter .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	100
Ritter .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	200
Rocky .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	605
Rocky .....	WUI	Broadcast -Maint.	1,000
Skunk .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	100
Woody Ridge .....	WUI	Broadcast -Init.	250
Woody Ridge .....	WUI	Pile Burn	1,006
<b>Total .....</b>			<b>20,025</b>



**A big**

**Thank You!**



**...to our partners and volunteers who helped the  
Coconino National Forest care for the land and serve people...**

All American Road Committee  
 Arizona Antelope Foundation  
 Arizona Archaeological Society  
 Arizona Dept. of Agriculture  
 Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality  
 Arizona Dept. of Public Safety  
 Arizona Dept. of Transportation  
 Arizona Elk Society  
 Arizona Game & Fish Commission  
 Arizona Game & Fish Dept.  
 Arizona Native Plant Society  
 Arizona Natural History Association  
 Arizona Partners for Amphibian & Reptile Conservation  
 Arizona Partners in Flight  
 Arizona Public Service  
 Arizona Site Stewards  
 Arizona Snowbowl  
 Arizona State Forestry Division  
 Arizona State Land Dept.  
 Arizona State Parks  
 Arizona State University  
 Arizona Strip Weed Management Area  
 Arizona Trail Runners  
 Arizona Trails Association  
 Arizona Water Protection Fund  
 Arizona Wilderness Coalition  
 Arizona Wildfire Academy  
 Arizona Wildlife Conservation Council  
 Arizona Wildlife Federation  
 Aspen Fence Volunteers  
 Backcountry Horsemen of Arizona  
 Big Park Regional Council  
 Blue Ridge Fire Dept.  
 Boy Scouts of America  
 Boynton Canyon Preservation Foundation  
 Bureau of Indian Affairs  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Bureau of Reclamation  
 Cactus Kickers  
 Camp Navajo  
 Camp Verde Cavalry  
 Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce  
 Camp Verde Historical Museum  
 Camp Verde Trails Coalition  
 Camp Verde Unified School Dist.  
 Chandler Rod & Gun Club  
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
 Cinder Hills Rough Riders  
 City of Cottonwood  
 City of Flagstaff  
 City of Phoenix – Camp Colley  
 City of Sedona  
 Clarkdale Heritage Center Museum  
 Clemenceau Museum  
 Coconino Community College  
 Coconino County  
 Coconino Natural Resource Conservation Dist.  
 Coconino Rural Environment Corps  
 Coconino Sportsmen  
 Coconino Trail Riders  
 Cocopai Trails

Colorado Plateau Water Advisory Council  
 Community Conversation on Sustainability  
 Copper Canyon Academy  
 Cultural Heritage Site Hosts  
 Dead Horse Ranch Trails Coalition  
 Desert Botanical Garden  
 Diablo Trust  
 Dos Geckos  
 Ecological Restoration Institute  
 El Paso Natural Gas  
 Elks Lodge #536  
 Enchantment Resort  
 Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc.  
 Flagstaff Alpine Ski & Snowboard Team  
 Flagstaff Biking Organization  
 Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce  
 Flagstaff Hiking Group  
 Flagstaff Leadership Program  
 Flagstaff Nordic Center  
 Flagstaff Ranch Fire Dept.  
 Flagstaff Route 66 Rotary Club  
 Flagstaff Unified School Dist.  
 Forest Balance  
 Fort Verde State Historic Park  
 Friends of Camp Colton  
 Friends of the Forest  
 Future Farmers of America  
 Gila County  
 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.  
 Grand Canyon Trust  
 Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
 Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership  
 Happy Jack Lodge  
 Hopi Tribe  
 Institute of Eco Tourism  
 International Order of Foresters  
 Jerome Historical Society Mine Museum  
 Jerome State Historic Park  
 Keep Sedona Beautiful  
 Life & Fire Safety Team  
 Long Valley Store  
 Lowell Observatory  
 Montana Bird Group  
 Mormon Lake Lodge  
 Munds Park Trail Stewards  
 Museum of Northern Arizona  
 National Park Service  
 National Weather Service  
 Native Americans for Community Action  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Northern Arizona Audubon Society  
 Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition  
 Northern Arizona Flycasters  
 Northern Arizona Native Seed Alliance  
 Northern Arizona Trail Runner's Assoc.  
 Northern Arizona University  
 Northern Arizona Weed Council  
 Oak Creek Canyon Task Force  
 Pine & Strawberry Fire Dist.  
 Pink Jeep Tours, Inc.  
 Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council - Associated Fire Departments & Members

Prescott College  
 Recreation Resource Management  
 Red Rock High School  
 Red Rock Scenic Byway Committee  
 Rim Country Rescue  
 Roadrunner Prospector's Club  
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
 Rocky Mountain Research Station  
 Salt River Project  
 San Francisco Peaks Weed Management Area  
 Scottsdale Rotary Club  
 Sedona Chamber of Commerce  
 Sedona Heritage Museum  
 Sedona Historical Society  
 Sedona Magazine  
 Sedona Oak Creek School Dist.  
 Sedona Publishing Company  
 Sedona Westerners  
 Sedona-Bell Rock Kiwanis  
 Sierra Club  
 Skyliners Hiking Club  
 Slide Rock State Park  
 Southwest Engine Academy  
 Southwest Fire Equipment Committee  
 Southwestern Academy  
 Southwestern Archaeology, Inc.  
 Starlighters  
 Starlight Pines HOA  
 Stewards of Public Lands  
 The Arboretum at Flagstaff  
 The Hummingbird Society  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The University of Arizona  
 Town of Camp Verde  
 Town of Payson  
 Trail Resource Access Coalition of Sedona  
 Trust for Public Lands  
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 Unisource Energy Services  
 Verde Greenway  
 Verde Valley 4 Wheelers  
 Verde Valley Archaeological Society  
 Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Verde Valley Horsemen's Council  
 Verde Valley Weed Management Area  
 Volunteers for Outdoor America  
 Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona  
 W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.  
 Walnut Canyon Technical Advisory Board  
 West Yavapai Weed Management Area  
 Wildlife Conservation Council  
 Williams & Flagstaff Habitat Partnership Committee  
 Willow Bend Environmental Education Center  
 Yavapai Apache Nation  
 Yavapai Cooperative Extension  
 Yavapai County  
 Yavapai Prescott Tribe  
 YMCA

**... and all others who we had the honor of working with in 2008!**



Southwestern  
Region

MB-R3-04-#

# **CONTACT US**

[www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/)

*Photos provided by Coconino National Forest employees, as well as Brian Deck, Ian Horvath, and Tom Brennan for providing photography used throughout this publication.*

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