



February 2012

The Year Ahead: 2012 Expectations

As we close out 2011 and the 4FRI accomplishments associated with it, it's time to consider what we will want our 2012 highlights reel to look like. Here are some of the things we know we want to accomplish together:

- A contract award. It will be the largest stewardship contract ever for the Forest Service, treating 300,000 acres over 10 years to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk to communities, create jobs, and improve local economies.
- A Draft and a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS covers approximately 1 million acres, which is an unprecedented scale and scope for forest restoration projects. The Draft is expected in spring to early summer. The Final is expected in the fall.
- Actual work on the ground. For 2012, we expect approximately 10,000 acres of treatment. Treatments will occur on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests.

The challenge facing us now is to determine what else we can accomplish individually and collectively during 2012 to move 4FRI forward and achieve the kinds of successes worthy of a highlight reel.

Spreading the Word about 4FRI

The Forest Service and 4FRI Stakeholder Group have been conducting extensive outreach efforts to spread the word about 4FRI.

Some recent presentations have included the following:

- Coconino County/Flagstaff City Council
- Williams City Council
- Statewide meeting of forest restoration collaboratives
- Payson, Star Valley, and Gila County representatives

Upcoming outreach events include the following:

- Presentation at SmallWood Conference, Little America, Flagstaff (May 1-3)
- Forest Restoration Panel Discussion, NAU Cline Library, Flagstaff (June 5)

Additional outreach efforts are being scheduled. If you have suggestions for outreach activities or would like to participate in any planned outreach efforts, please contact Forest Service communications contact Jackie Banks at (928) 635-8314, jcbanks@fs.fed.us, or Stakeholder Group communications contact Marcus Selig at (928) 774-7488, mselig@grandcanyontrust.org.

4FRI Selected as Treasured Landscape

4FRI was recently notified of its selection as a "Treasured Landscape" by the National Forest Foundation (NFF). This designation will bring approximately \$3M to 4FRI efforts to accomplish integrated restoration activities within a priority area of the 4FRI landscape, while also providing opportunities for community engagement through volunteer days and other activities.

4FRI will join 13 other landscapes across the country as part of NFF's Treasured Landscape, Unforgettable Experiences restoration campaign. The NFF is a Congressionally chartered organization tasked with engaging Americans in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the National Forest System. (Learn more at www.nationalforests.org)

"This generous designation will provide 4FRI with an incredible opportunity to accomplish its vision of comprehensive restoration within a valuable portion of the landscape" noted Marcus Selig, Co-chair of the 4FRI Steering Committee. "We truly appreciate NFF's support and look forward to working with them to implement this effort."

4FRI Stakeholders are currently working to identify the landscape within the 4FRI area that could most benefit from this generous partnership.

4FRI Selected for NEPA Pilot Project

4FRI has been selected as a pilot project for the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Pilot Program (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/NEPA/NEPA-pilot-project>). The selection will allow 4FRI to serve as a national model for collaborative NEPA planning at the landscape scale. The Program examines projects that demonstrate a more efficient approach to NEPA, with the goal of identifying tools and practices that can modernize and reinvigorate NEPA implementation through innovation, public engagement and transparency.

Specifically, this CEQ NEPA Pilot Program - "Approaches to Restoration Management" - will evaluate the effectiveness of planning and managing restoration activities by comparing and contrasting NEPA principles and techniques employed by one large-scale Forest Service project - 4FRI - and one small-scale Forest Service project - 5-Mile Bell in

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: www.4FRI.org or <http://www.fs.usda.gov/4fri>

4FRI NEWS: The Four Forest Restoration Initiative's Quarterly Newsletter



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Oregon. The pilot will evaluate and compare the robust collaborative approach in 5-Mile Bell and the adaptive management strategy and implementation plan in 4FRI. The Forest Service will then develop best management practices and lessons learned for future NEPA reviews. CEQ and the Forest Service will also review these findings to determine applicability to other types of NEPA reviews and whether there is a need for additional policy guidance or direction for developing effective and timely NEPA reviews.

Kaibab & Coconino Forests Seek Funding for Yellow Belly Ponderosa

The Kaibab and Coconino National Forests teamed with Anne Mottek Lucas of the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership to seek national-level Forest Service funding for Yellow Belly Ponderosa, a theatrical production by kids and for kids that teaches all of the concepts embodied by 4FRI. If successful, the forests will receive about \$18,000 in More Kids in the Woods (MKIW) funding to support expansion of the innovative program that connects northern Arizona youth with the forested ecosystems that surround them.

The performance itself is written, developed, produced, and performed by students of the Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy. During its first year, performances were staged at elementary schools in Flagstaff. With support of MKIW funding, the program will be able to expand to elementary schools and communities across northern Arizona with an emphasis on traditionally-underserved audiences and tribal youth.

“We believe this is a deserving program that will compete well at the national level,” said Jackie Banks, Kaibab National Forest public affairs officer. “Yellow Belly Ponderosa ties in perfectly with the goals of 4FRI and, if funded, will aid in our efforts to expand the outreach of 4FRI.”

Announcement of funding recipients is expected in March. To view the Yellow Belly Ponderosa project, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOXBynagsTY>.

Forest Service 4FRI Team Update

The Forest Service 4FRI Interdisciplinary Team is working with the four Forest Supervisors to finalize issues and alternatives related to the first project area Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). A scoping report,

including those issues and alternatives, is expected to be released in March and will be posted to the 4FRI Forest Service (www.fs.usda.gov/4fri) and 4FRI Stakeholder Group (www.4fri.org) websites.

The team has also been working on formulating assumptions and a framework for the direct/indirect effects analysis, the cumulative effects analysis, and an approach to addressing climate change.

The DEIS is expected to be completed and released in spring to early summer 2012. At that point, another series of public workshops will be scheduled in order to provide information and accept comments.

The team continues to host office hours and encourages people interested in the process to visit. For more information on 4FRI Interdisciplinary Team office hours, please visit www.fs.usda.gov/detail/4fri/home/?cid=STELPRDB5302948.

Upcoming Meetings

The public is welcome and encouraged to participate in the 4FRI Stakeholder Group. If you are interested, consider attending one of our monthly **4FRI Stakeholder Meetings**. Upcoming 4FRI Stakeholder Meetings include:

- **Feb. 22 – 9am-2pm:** Arizona Game & Fish Department, 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ
- **Mar. 28 – 9am-2pm:** Coconino NF Supervisor's Office, 1824 S. Thompson Rd., Flagstaff, AZ
- **April 25 – 9am-2pm:** Arizona Game & Fish Department, 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ

For information on meetings for stakeholder working groups, visit [4FRI.org](http://4fri.org) or contact the working group chairs:

- **Steering Committee:** Marcus Selig (mselect@grandcanyontrust.org), Diane Vosick (diane.vosick@nau.edu)
- **Communications:** Marcus Selig
- **Science & Monitoring:** Dave Huffman (david.huffman@nau.edu), Ed Smith (esmith@tnc.org), Matt Williamson (mwilliamson@grandcanyontrust.org)
- **Landscape Strategy:** Taylor McKinnon (tmckinnon@biologicaldiversity.org), Amy Waltz (amy.waltz@nau.edu)
- **Economics & Utilization:** Marcus Selig and Diane Vosick
- **Fiscal:** Marcus Selig

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