

Kaibab National Forest

2011 – 2012 Accomplishment Report

Environmental Collaboration



USDA
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Agriculture



Forest Service
Southwestern
Region

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Sharing a Vision

Tree Specialists Work to Restore Aspen on Kaibab National Forest

ASPEN TREES are known for their beauty and the soft rustling of their leaves in a summer breeze.

Unfortunately, they are also becoming known for their rapid decline in northern Arizona, including on the Kaibab National Forest. That's why the forest's tree specialists are working to protect and restore aspen on the Williams Ranger District.

Through a grant received from the National Forest Foundation with funding from the Salt River Project Trees for Change program, the Kaibab National Forest constructed protective fencing and implemented treatments around a number of severely imperiled aspen clones. Such efforts have proven to be highly successful in promoting aspen regeneration and protecting young seedlings from browsing by elk and deer.

"This fence protection is absolutely critical to protect young suckers from elk browsing," said Alvin Brown, retired Kaibab National Forest silviculturist. "Lower elevation aspen clones are in serious decline throughout the forest, and without these restoration efforts, will continue to rapidly disappear from the forest environment."

Over the last 15 years, there has been a serious decline in aspen across the Kaibab National Forest. This decline has resulted in 60 to 95 percent mortality of low elevation (less than 8,500 feet) aspen.

While the reasons for aspen decline are not fully understood, there are a variety of factors at work including weather and climate events, lack of frequent fire on the landscape, insects and disease. 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 has eliminated almost all of the new aspen sprouts that have attempted to develop in declining aspen stands on the southern portion of Kaibab National Forest. This has seriously impeded the ability of these declining stands to regenerate and perpetuate aspen across the forest.

"That's why these fences are so important," said silviculture technician Woody Rokala. "You can see the difference inside the fence. We are basically creating a nursery for the young aspen to grow."

The construction of aspen fencing is part of a larger effort by Kaibab National Forest to protect and restore aspen sites.

"Aspen forests are widely recognized for their importance as biologically diverse wildlife habitat, as well as their aesthetic and recreational values," said forest silviculturist Mark Herron. "These values are at risk on the Williams

Ranger District because aspen conditions have been declining. We want to preserve this desirable tree species for future generations and for the wildlife species that use them."

Here in the Southwest in the past two decades we've made a big parameter shift from the products that are removed from the woods to focusing on restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems. Recognizing that ecosystems span agency boundaries means that we need to work with our neighbors to leave behind us entire landscapes that will be sustainable and resilient to natural disturbance processes in the decades ahead.

Holly Kleindienst • Fire Management Specialist

Forest, Tribal Partnerships Turn the Outdoors into a Classroom for Local Kids

The Kaibab National Forest is working to make good on a promise to provide environmental education opportunities to tribal youth throughout northern Arizona.

Over the past two years, forest employees have participated in multiple events with five Native American tribes. The forest has signed agreements to provide such opportunities at the tribes' request, but it's also something about which employees are passionate.

"In my opinion, what makes us successful as a forest is that there is a wide network of dedicated individuals on the Kaibab that has an interest in working with tribes," said Mike Lyndon, Kaibab National Forest tribal liaison.

In 1997, the Kaibab was the first National Forest in the Southwest to designate a tribal liaison. In 1999, the forest signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with an area tribe to address consultation issues and to build a strong, mutually-beneficial relationship. These efforts gained national recognition from then-Vice President Al Gore, who designated the Kaibab a National Reinvention Laboratory for its work to foster improved relationships with tribal neighbors.

Since then, the Kaibab has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, and the Kaibab Band of Paiutes. Another part of building good relationships involves providing environmental education opportunities to youth, an activity for which the forest is well-suited.

"The outdoor environment is the ideal classroom," said Britt Betenson, North Kaibab assistant archaeologist. "Perhaps through on-forest environmental education we can help tribal children establish their own relationship with

the land, which may help the tribe maintain a connection with the forest."

Forest employees hiked in eight miles to Supai Village to camp out for several nights and teach conservation classes to children attending summer school there. They provided lectures and hands-on activities dealing with archaeology, biology, geology, silviculture, and fire prevention, among other things.

The Kaibab also hosts the Diné College Native American Environmental Youth Camp at Grandview on the Tusayan Ranger District. Youth from the Navajo Indian Reservation camp out and learn about a variety of natural resource issues. On the Kaibab Plateau, employees hold a camp at Jacob Lake for children affiliated with the Kaibab Band of Paiutes.



Kaibab Helps Bring Conservation Education To Local Schools and Communities

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST is collaborating with the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) and the Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA) to bring the Yellow Belly Ponderosa performance outreach program to elementary schools and communities across northern Arizona.

Yellow Belly Ponderosa is a theatrical production written, developed, produced and performed by FALA students with themes such as forest health and restoration, stewardship of natural resources, the value of science, wildfire mitigation and flash flood safety. The Kaibab applied for and received about \$18,000 in More Kids in the Woods (MKIW) funding to support expansion of the Yellow Belly Ponderosa program.

This entertaining and educational traveling performance was delivered to all Flagstaff Unified School District elementary schools in spring 2011. Due to the MKIW funding, the program will be able to expand to schools in rural and tribal communities. The programs are scheduled for spring 2013.

Revising the Kaibab National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan

The Kaibab National Forest will soon release its revised land and resources management plan, which will be a major accomplishment resulting from several years of planning and collaborative work. Forest planners expect the document to be finalized in spring 2013.

The revised land management plan will guide the Kaibab National Forest in fulfilling its stewardship responsibilities to best meet the needs of the American people, now and for future generations. It provides direction in the form of desired conditions, objectives,

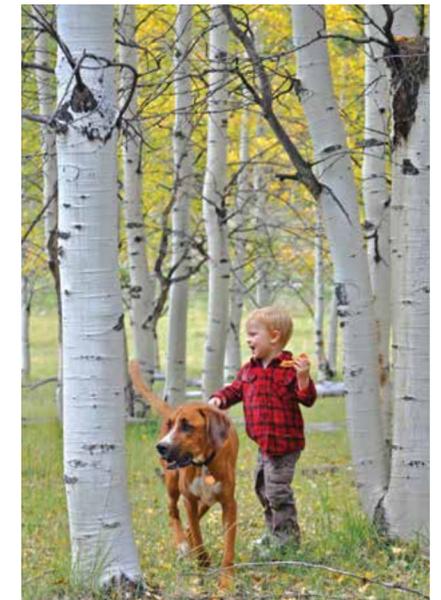
standards, guidelines, and suitability; incorporates the best available science; and provides a framework for adaptive management.

In April 2012, the forest released its draft forest plan and accompanying draft environmental impact statement for public comment. Based on comments received, the forest planning team has reviewed and made adjustments to the draft documents. Once finalized, the plan will replace the current Kaibab Forest Plan, signed in 1988.

The plan lays the foundation for restoring

the structure, function, and composition of ecosystems on the Kaibab National Forest by:

- Restoring the stand structure, density and fire regime to frequent fire adapted forests.
- Promoting aspen regeneration and establishment which is in decline across the Southwest.
- Restoring the historic extent of grasslands and improving grassland habitats.
- Protecting and restoring natural waters, which are centers of diversity in arid landscapes.



Kaibab National Forest Puts \$98K Reforestation Grant To Good Use

UTILITY CUSTOMERS throughout Arizona have made some essential reforestation projects possible on the Kaibab National Forest.

Thanks to generous customer donations to the Salt River Project Trees for Change program, the Kaibab received about \$98,000 from the National Forest Foundation for projects on each of its three districts.

The funds were used for post-fire planting and seeding projects and an aspen protection project.

"The dollars help the Kaibab National Forest to extend restoration efforts far beyond what we get in appropriated funding and speeds the recovery of these damaged forest areas by years," said Alvin Brown, retired Kaibab National Forest silviculturist.

Close to \$60,000 went to the North Kaibab Ranger District to help fund replanting efforts in the 2006 Warm Fire area. About \$9,000 went to the Tusayan Ranger District to plant ponderosa pine seedlings in scattered patches across the area burned by the X Fire. The project area was almost completely denuded of vegetation during the 2008 fire. Scattered patches of new seedlings are helping to hasten regeneration of the area.

Nearly \$30,000 was used to pay for fencing to protect aspen stands on the Williams Ranger District from browsing by elk, deer and cattle. Aspen in that area have seen increased mortality rates in recent years due to a variety of factors.

The National Forest Foundation is the official, nonprofit partner of the Forest Service. The foundation received these funds from Salt River Project. Through Trees for Change, the Phoenix-based utility provides matching contributions for customer monetary donations.



Kaibab National Forest Teams with Grand Canyon National Park To Promote Outdoor Activities

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST teamed with Grand Canyon National Park to develop a new trailhead and parking lot intended to promote healthy outdoor activity and increase visitor access to the south rim of the park by means such as walking, bicycling and horseback riding.

The trailhead and parking lot, which are on land managed by the Kaibab National Forest, are located just outside of Grand Canyon National Park at the north end of the gateway community of Tusayan. The parking lot's 100 new spaces will serve both as parking for the Tusayan Greenway Trail and as additional parking for those choosing to park and ride the National Park Service's seasonal Tusayan shuttle. The lot also serves as a trailhead for the Arizona Trail, which stretches more than 800 miles from Mexico to the Utah border through Arizona's canyons, deserts and forests.

"We were pleased to be partners in a project that involves the Arizona Trail Association, the community of Tusayan, the Grand Canyon National Park, and the Kaibab National Forest," said Kaibab National Forest Supervisor Mike Williams. "We look forward to continuing our partnership in offering this improved recreational opportunity. The trail and parking area are going to benefit many different kinds of visitors to the Tusayan area."

Kaibab Employees Assist in Reforestation Effort

THE 2008 X FIRE on the Tusayan Ranger District burned quickly and intensely in some areas, destroying all trees in its path. In order to help reestablish vegetation needed for a healthy forest, Kaibab employees assisted in planting ponderosa pine seedlings as part of the X Fire Reforestation Project.

A total of 93 acres and 9,200 seedlings were planted within the fire's perimeter, about 2 miles southeast of Tusayan. Protective shelters were placed over each seedling to minimize short-term impacts from elk browsing, which gives the trees an opportunity to become established.

"Natural regeneration had not occurred in many areas of the X Fire," said Mark Nabel, Tusayan Ranger District forester. "It was important that we helped reestablish those damaged areas."



Too Grand for Words

THE NORTH KAIBAB RANGER DISTRICT played a role in the first ever Grand to Grand Ultra Marathon, which took place during the week of Sept. 23 in 2012. More than 60 runners from 13 countries participated in the 167-mile, self-supported, foot race that ranged from the Grand Canyon to the Grand Staircase of southern Utah. On day two, runners traversed about 20 miles of the Kaibab Plateau, crossing from House Rock Valley over the Navajo Trail to the Arizona Strip on their way to the Vermilion Cliffs of southern Utah. Race organizers hope to make the Grand to Grand Ultra an annual event.

Shared stewardship is an approach to managing land and resources that takes into account a variety of knowledge, science and experience so as to support sound conservation and the needs of the diverse array of people connected to a given area.

Marcos Roybal • Assistant Forest Planner

Stimulus Money Upgrades Historic Cabins

FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 helped provide needed improvements to historic cabins on the Kaibab Plateau. Two of the sites are scheduled for listing on Arizona's "Rooms with a View" cabin rental program.

During 2011 and 2012, contractors renovated cabins at Jumpup, Dry Park, and Big Springs, using a \$170,000 grant from the federal government. The work included replacing windows, doors, and wood stoves, repairing roofs and foundations, renovating interior and exterior siding, and protecting the structures from rodents, insects, and the elements.

Jumpup Cabin is scheduled to enter the cabin rental program in 2013. The cabin was built in 1906 and sits at the head of Ranger Trail #41, which explores Kanab Creek Wilderness.

Cabins at Big Springs are expected to enter the rental program in the near future. Contractors restored seven cabins and the historic office that sit below one of the most prolific springs on the Kaibab Plateau. The structures were built in 1934 using National Industrial Recovery Act money, but the site had previously been used by the Forest Service and, before that, homesteaders as far back as the mid-1800s.

Restoration work also took place at Dry Park Cabin, which houses seasonal employees that staff the Dry Park Lookout Tower. The cabin was built in 1936 and remains in use.





Kaibab National Forest Hosts Fifth Annual Intertribal Meeting

The Kaibab National Forest joined with area tribes in May 2012 for the fifth annual Intertribal Meeting. The gathering, which was held on the Kaibab Plateau, brought together forest managers with representatives from six federally-recognized tribes – Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Kaibab Band of Paiute, Moapa Band of Paiute, and Navajo.

The Kaibab National Forest works closely with the tribes on a wide range of land management issues. This work focuses on building and maintaining strong working relationships to foster a collaborative approach to resource management.

Tribal Relations

The Kaibab National Forest has a long-standing commitment to conducting meaningful government to government consultation with its tribal neighbors by building strong partnerships that stress collaborative planning and a shared stewardship approach to the management of public lands.

Recent highlights of the Tribal Relations program include the following:

- An agreement was executed to fund the Hualapai Tribe to conduct cultural plant surveys of Bill Williams Traditional Cultural Property in support of the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project. The project was selected for funding by the Coconino County Resource Advisory Committee. (A traditional cultural property is defined generally as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community.)
- Navajo crews were funded to conduct thinning on the Scott Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project on the Tusayan Ranger District. This project was also selected for funding by the Coconino County Resource Advisory Committee and resulted in an agreement with the Alamo School Board.
- The new "Policy for Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes" became effective in April 2012. The Kaibab partnered with the Coconino National Forest and tribes to develop a consistent policy for the collection of forest products by Native Americans on both forests. Tribes support the policy, which provides consistent and clear direction on accommodating traditional use of the forests while protecting natural and cultural resources.
- More than 300 fuelwood permits are now issued out of the Forest Service office in Cameron each year. This has provided an important source

of home heating for area residents.

- The Kaibab received a More Kids in the Woods grant to bring Yellow Belly Ponderosa to schools in tribal communities. Yellow Belly Ponderosa is an entertaining and educational traveling performance by Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy students that teaches kids about forest health and restoration, wildfire mitigation, and stewardship of natural resources. The Kaibab is also working with tribes on incorporating Native American themes into the performances.
- The Kaibab worked closely with tribes to revise its land management plan. During this process, the forest and tribes have drawn from the last two decades of consultation to address a wide range of land management issues including management of caves, seeps and springs, wildlife and cultural resources.

The Kaibab National Forest recognizes that area tribes have cultural ties and knowledge about the lands now managed by the Forest Service and that they have important roles in the stewardship of the land. Tribes with aboriginal territories and traditional ties to the land now administered by the Kaibab National Forest include the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, the Navajo Nation, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe and the Pueblo of Zuni.



What is Travel Management?

The Travel Management Rule is a federal regulation that all national forests and grasslands are required to implement. The Travel Management Rule limits motor vehicle use to designated roads, trails and areas. The intent of the rule is to protect natural resources while also providing for motorized recreational opportunities.

The Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest implemented the Travel Management Rule in June 2011, with the Tusayan Ranger District implementing soon thereafter in September 2011. The North Kaibab Ranger District is expected to implement in 2013.

Kaibab National Forest managers believe that motorized recreation is an appropriate use of the forest and that opportunities for such activities need to be made available to forest visitors. However, forest managers also have a responsibility to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources under their care and management. Travel Management is intended to balance the public's enjoyment of motorized travel with the best possible care of the land and its precious resources.

District Biologists Survey Select Species on Kaibab Plateau

Wildlife biologists on the North Kaibab Ranger District made a gallant effort in 2012 to continue the Northern goshawk surveys that have typically been performed by a seasonal crew led by Dr. Richard Reynolds of the Rocky Mountain Research Station. This was the first summer in 22 years that Reynolds and his crew did not perform surveys on the Kaibab Plateau.

North Kaibab employees surveyed 64 of 133 Northern goshawk territories across the district. They confirmed the presence of a goshawk at 34 of those territories.

North Kaibab wildlife biologists also completed surveys of the Kaibab Plains cactus (*Pediocactus paradinei*) and the Kaibab Paintbrush (*Castilleja kaibabensis*), both of which are considered sensitive species. Additionally, wildlife managers partnered with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others to trap and collar 25 Kaibab mule deer to better understand the population's health and behavior.



Historic Photo Project Earns Recognition

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST and the Williams Public Library received a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Arizona State Library for a historic photo project on which the two organizations have been collaborating.

Since September 2009, Kaibab National Forest heritage program manager Margaret Hangan and Williams Public Library director Andrea Dunn have been working together

to gather historic photos of Williams and the surrounding area. The photo database contains scanned photos and documents from both the Kaibab National Forest and the Williams Public Library historic collections along with donated items from the personal collections of local families.

"In this day and times, Williams is somewhat unique in that there are many families that stay here for multiple generations," Hangan said. "Many of these families have photos and documents in their personal collections documenting important

aspects of Williams' history that are not generally available to researchers. There is a wealth of information out there that we would like to tap."

The grant allowed the library to purchase a new computer and scanner that are dedicated to the management of the historic database. Also as part of the grant, the Williams Public Library is working with the Arizona State Library to make a portion of the photo collection available through the Arizona Memory Project website at <http://azmemory.lib.az.us>.

North Kaibab To Develop Management Plan For Famous Byway

The North Kaibab Ranger District is developing a new corridor management plan for the Kaibab Plateau – North Rim Parkway, otherwise known as Arizona Highway 67.

The parkway is a National Scenic Byway that extends 45 miles south from Jacob Lake to the entry station at the north rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The purpose of this project is to develop a corridor management plan that serves as a guiding document to protect and promote the cultural, historic, recreational, archaeological, natural and scenic qualities of the parkway.

The new corridor management plan will have specific goals for improving and implementing new procedures and projects to enhance visitors' perceptions of the byway's intrinsic qualities. Promoting these qualities will benefit local businesses, communities and partners by bringing more travelers and visitors to the byway.

Assistance from local communities will be essential in creating a new corridor management plan for the parkway.



Range, Watershed and Soils

In Range, we work closely with ranchers, who graze their cattle and/or sheep on the forest, in maintaining good range condition by sharing our thoughts and wisdom, as well as embracing their knowledge and experience from being a part of this land for generations. Good range condition is crucial, not just for raising livestock, but for providing food and shelter for wildlife, conserving healthy watersheds, providing aesthetically pleasing recreational opportunities, and much more.

Kerri Lange • Rangeland Management Specialist



Livestock Grazing Management

The Kaibab manages the range resource to balance livestock numbers with forage capacity. Monitoring and adaptive management are used to maintain and improve the rangeland resources. Grazing use levels on the forest are intended to provide for plant integrity, density, diversity and regeneration over time. To make adjustments for changing conditions, the annual operating instructions are reviewed. Numbers may go up and down annually but do not exceed the number set in the grazing permit. The annual operating instructions are the means by which adjustments of livestock numbers, change of season of use, and pasture rest periods are made in response to monitoring information.

During fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the forest administered 31 grazing allotments. Forage production was good with consistent moisture in most areas. National Environmental Policy Act analysis was completed on the Irishman Dam Grazing Allotment. Improved grazing practices will result in better soil and watershed conditions on 14,916 acres.

Noxious Weed Treatments

During 2011 and 2012, the forest completed more than 6,100 acres of noxious weed control through herbicide, hand pulling and biological treatments. Species treated included Dalmatian toadflax, bull thistle, Russian thistle, scotch thistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed and cheatgrass. These treatments improve native plant community composition and density, with increased ground cover and watershed protection benefits.



Grassland Maintenance

The Kaibab conducted grassland improvement and maintenance projects on almost 4,500 acres during 2011 and 2012. The projects focused primarily on removing pinyon pine and juniper trees that had encroached into historic grassland ecosystems. Monitoring efforts indicate that substantial improvement in vegetative and litter ground cover has occurred following these treatments. The improved ground cover decreases soil erosion and potential sedimentation of ephemeral stream courses on the forest.

Mining Reclamation

The forest completed 83 acres of sandstone quarry reclamation. Restoration work included filling in quarry holes with

stone blocks, reshaping quarry areas to create gentle slopes, adding material to restore natural contours, covering areas with the available topsoil from the site, and seeding where necessary. With these efforts, erosion is reduced from the sites.

Wetland Protection

Livestock enclosure fencing was completed at six wetlands on the forest – Dry Lake, Duck Lake, Sunflower Flat, Davenport Lake, JD Dam Lake and Perkins Tank. Fencing to exclude livestock from wetlands protects surface water quality by preventing livestock from congregating and then trampling and consuming vegetative cover. Fencing also prevents unauthorized motor vehicle entry into these critical areas.

Forests Under Fire Explores the Future of our Imperiled Western Forests

Ecologists say our treasured ponderosa pine and dry mixed conifer forests of the American West are under attack from seemingly every direction. Armies of bark beetles, devastating disease outbreaks and unstoppable infernos threaten the beauty, function and life of these important wildlands and the people who depend upon them.

How these forests became degraded, how the damage has escalated in the last century and how time is running out to restore health and sustainability to these landscapes is explored in a 30-minute documentary, *Forests Under Fire: The Race to Restore the American West*.

Land managers, scientists, elected officials, environmentalists and businesses have joined in a race against time to examine and treat some 2.4 million forested acres across the Mogollon Rim. This effort, the Four Forest Restoration Initiative or 4FRI, is the largest forest restoration project ever attempted.

"Our first analysis area is nearly a million acres. It's a daunting task trying to pull together all the data to have site-specific information as to what we need to do out on the ground to restore these systems," said Henry Provencio, Forest Service 4FRI team leader. "The 4FRI collaborative stakeholders' group has really helped us with that process."

To view the documentary and learn more about 4FRI, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WcT5cdu5Q.

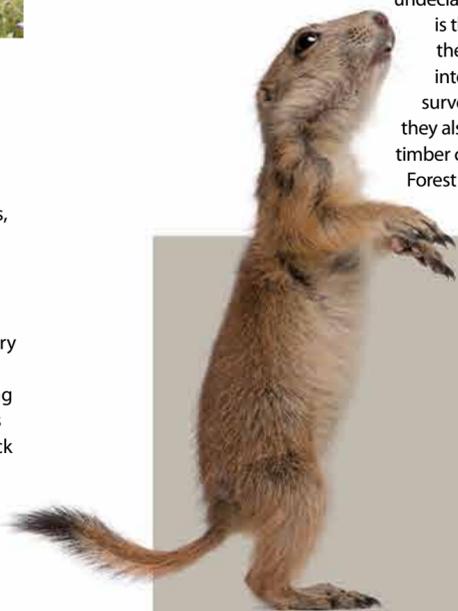
Kaibab National Forest: Linking College Students To Forest Service Culture

Since 1996, the Kaibab National Forest heritage program has hosted student volunteers from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. Supervised and mentored by South Kaibab zone archaeologists Neil Weintraub (Grinnell '86) and Erin Woodard, these 13 volunteers have contributed over 5,000 hours to the Kaibab National Forest.

Prior to 2007, most of these were anthropology students seeking archaeology experience. Thus, students simply shadowed the archaeology crew. In 2007, the college formalized an internship program called GRINNELLINK. The GRINNELLINK program now offers a variety of 8 to 10 consecutive week internship opportunities across the country, pairing Grinnell College alumni with student interns.

Students apply to a specific GRINNELLINK internship they find interesting, create their own budgets with regard to meals, travel and accommodations, and submit their application materials including resumes and statements of interest in the internship. The Kaibab National Forest heritage program provides housing for students at the historic Clover Ranger Station on the grounds where they will work.

Through GRINNELLINK, Kaibab National Forest has hosted eight students. As the GRINNELLINK summer internship program has become more popular, Kaibab has been lucky to host two interns each of the last three summers. Interestingly, none of the students through GRINNELLINK have been anthropology majors but rather environmental studies, Spanish and/or undeclared majors. The commonality between most students is that they look forward to an internship that promises they will spend the majority of their time outdoors. While interns work on heritage projects such as archaeological survey, site recording and educational outreach programs, they also participate alongside wildlife, recreation/trail, and timber crews. In this manner, students get a holistic lesson in Forest Service culture.



Reintroducing Prairie Dogs, Helping the Community

Gunnison's prairie dogs are proficient diggers. They create and inhabit vast networks of underground burrows that provide a home for a variety of species such as burrowing owls, lizards, snakes and small mammals. Their digging activity helps water filter into our aquifers, adds nutrients to the soil, and increases biodiversity. Golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, and other grassland predators of conservation concern survive by eating prairie dogs and other small mammals. Only a fraction of the historic population of Gunnison's prairie dogs remains in North America. This species is therefore of conservation concern to the Kaibab National Forest and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Prairie dogs are also of concern to the Williams Elementary-Middle School, as students have been tripping and twisting ankles over prairie dog holes for decades. In 2012, biologists continued efforts from the previous year and relocated more than 250 Gunnison's prairie dogs from the grounds of the Williams Elementary-Middle School to historic prairie dog colonies on the Williams and Tusayan districts. The Kaibab National Forest, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and several volunteers worked together on the relocation.



Helping Our First Breeding Bald Eagles

In the summer of 2012, the Kaibab National Forest hosted its first pair of breeding bald eagles in recorded history.

One of the parents was born on the Prescott National Forest, but the origin of the other parent is unknown. The parents produced one nestling.

When the eaglet prematurely left the nest, biologists placed unique-identification bands on the young bird's "legs," recorded its health and female gender, and returned the bird to a safe location. The young bird fledged a few days later and was soon spotted several miles from its birthplace.

In the future, wildlife staff will work with the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee to annually monitor this nest site and potentially new nest sites.

The bald eagles of the Kaibab National Forest are critical to the recovery of the breeding population of bald eagles in the Southwest. There were only 50 active breeding areas for bald eagles in the entire state of Arizona in 2012, and only 52 fledglings were produced. Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, are a sensitive species on the forest, and are central to the culture of local tribes.



Kaibab Employees Honored By Society of American Foresters

The Southwestern Section of the Society of American Foresters honored three Kaibab employees with 2012 excellence awards.

Richard Gonzalez, silviculturist for the Williams and Tusayan districts, was named Field Forester of the year. Ariel Leonard, forest planner for the Kaibab, was named Outstanding Forester of the year. And, Stu Lovejoy, stewardship staff officer for the Kaibab, received the Forest Manager of the year award.

The Society of American Foresters is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.

Archaeologists Praise Kaibab Fire Manager

The Society for American Archaeology singled out Joe Reinarz, Williams Ranger District Fire Management Officer, for praise and thanks stemming from his efforts as Incident Commander of the Type 1 Southwest Area Incident Management Team.

Specifically, the society said Reinarz had earned their thanks for the "careful deployment of archaeologists during fire suppression activities, and for explaining to the public why it is important to protect cultural resources during fire fighting."

In a letter to the National Interagency Fire Center Governing Board, the society added that the "truth that these Teams deal with life and death decisions and heartbreaking losses of homes and property makes all more impressive their conscientious consideration of multiple resources – including cultural and heritage resources."

The Society for American Archaeology is an international organization that is dedicated to research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas.



Hopi Tribe and Kaibab National Forest Receive National Award for Collaborative Project

In May 2012, the U.S. Forest Service honored the Hopi Tribe and the Kaibab National Forest with a national award for their work on the Snake Gulch Project within Kanab Creek Wilderness.

In the summer of 2008, Kaibab employees led a joint field trip into Snake Gulch with Hopi tribal elders to view prehistoric rock art and discuss their meanings. Snake Gulch is an area on the west side of the Kaibab Plateau that contains many petroglyphs and pictographs thought to be more than 1,000 years old.

The group produced a documentary video that explained the trip and elaborated on the Hopi relationship to the land.

The Forest Service Washington Office awarded the Kaibab and members of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office the National 2011 "Windows on the Past" award for the collaborative effort and the accompanying video.



Heritage Resources

The Kaibab is rich in historically and culturally significant resources. To date, about 30 percent of the forest has been surveyed for cultural resources and over 9,600 historic properties have been identified and documented.

These historic properties are related to a long history of human occupation and use of the forest dating back at least 12,000 years. Such sites include preceramic lithic scatters associated with Archaic hunter-gatherers, pithouse and masonry structures associated with early farmers, historic sites related to Native American and early Anglo-European use of the area, numerous petroglyph and pictograph sites, and traditional cultural properties.

Forty-four historic properties on the Kaibab have been listed to the National Register of Historic Places for their historic significance and more than 2,400 additional sites have been determined to be eligible for inclusion to the National Register.

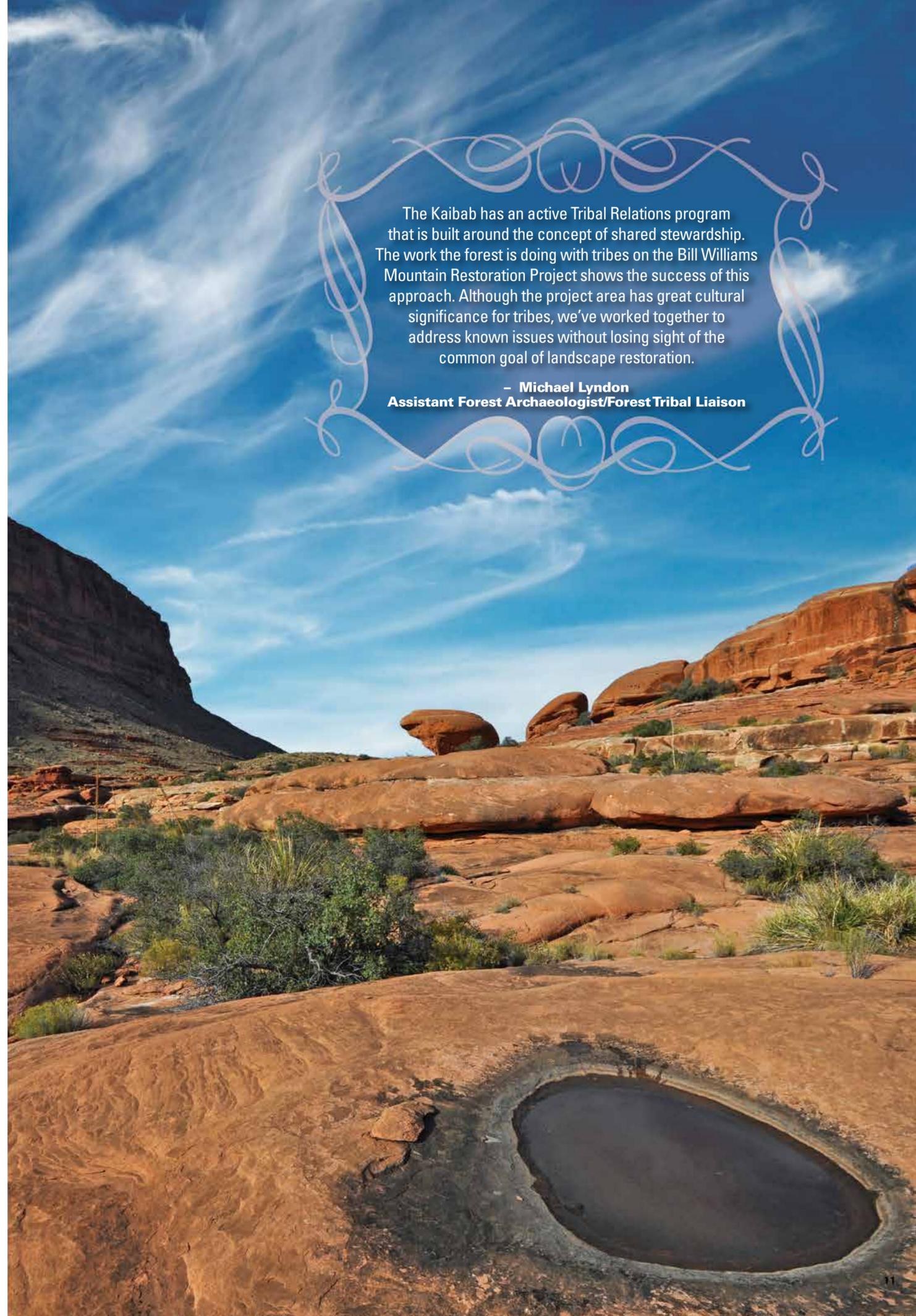
The Kaibab will continue to work to identify, evaluate and protect cultural resources. Collaborative partnerships and volunteer efforts are critical to the Heritage Resources program's continued success.



In May 2012, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer (cowboy hat, blue jacket) visited the Tusayan Ranger District.

The Kaibab has an active Tribal Relations program that is built around the concept of shared stewardship. The work the forest is doing with tribes on the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project shows the success of this approach. Although the project area has great cultural significance for tribes, we've worked together to address known issues without losing sight of the common goal of landscape restoration.

– Michael Lyndon
Assistant Forest Archaeologist/Forest Tribal Liaison



Four Forest Restoration Initiative

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is a collaborative effort between the Forest Service and more than 40 organizations to restore ecological resilience and function to 2.4 million acres of ponderosa pine forests in northern Arizona. 4FRI is the largest forest restoration project in the country.



Over the last two years, major accomplishments have included the following:

- Specialist reports and most chapters of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) have been completed and provided to the public. The full DEIS, which evaluates landscape restoration across one million acres of the Coconino and Kaibab forests, is expected to be released in early 2013.
- 4FRI was selected by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to serve as a national model for collaborative National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning at the landscape scale. This exciting opportunity brings deserved recognition to 4FRI and its collaborative stakeholder group while also potentially leading to the adoption of new or revised NEPA procedures.
- The Forest Service announced its selection of Pioneer Forest Products as the contractor to perform treatments on the Coconino, Kaibab, Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto forests as part of the 4FRI effort. The contract will result in 300,000 acres of restoration-based thinning over 10 years, improving forest health, reducing the risk from wildfire to communities, creating jobs, and improving local economies.
- The Forest Service identified well over 50,000 acres in out-year or "shelf stock" projects that can be used to feed the 4FRI contract with Pioneer Forest Products.
- A historic Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Forest Service and stakeholders to restore northern Arizona's forests.

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



Forest Roads

Engineers with the Kaibab worked to maintain or improve about 870 miles of road throughout the forest over the last two years – 530 miles in 2012, and 340 miles in 2011.

Maintenance activities included blading to improve road drainage, placing gravel fill to prevent erosion of native soil fill, installing erosion control structures, replacing existing culverts, removing sediment from lead-out ditches, and removing sediment from cattle guards. These road treatments reduce the potential for erosion and sediment delivery to connected stream courses.

Timber production activities are tools that economically contribute to restoring and maintaining ecosystem diversity and supporting a viable wood products processing industry over the long term. Development of a competitive market for the wood removed during timber production treatments is essential. Without establishment of a viable industry, it is unlikely that forest restoration will occur on a scale that will produce the needed widespread improvements in ecological health and wildfire risk reduction.

Timber Program

Acres of forest treated using timber sales
 FY11 2,512 acres | FY12 2,488 acres

Volume of timber harvested
 FY11 23,592 ccf | FY12 19,863 ccf

Volume of timber sold
 FY11 18,290 ccf | FY12 8,000 ccf

The measurement ccf refers to 100 cubic feet.



Shared stewardship means that we engage and trust our permittees, partners, contractors, tribes, and public to help us responsibly manage Forest Service lands. – Neil Weintraub, Archaeologist

Mountain Bikers Help Kaibab Plan Extension of Renowned Trail

Around 25 cycling enthusiasts met at one of the Kaibab Plateau's scenic overlooks of the Grand Canyon in fall 2012 to learn about the art of building sustainable mountain bike trails and to help plot out a future extension to the renowned Rainbow Rim Trail.

The Rainbow Rim Trail, fully within the North Kaibab Ranger District, winds for 18 miles along the north rim of the Grand Canyon, hitting various scenic overlooks and offering breathtaking vistas. The trail has become a popular destination for mountain bicyclists.

The North Kaibab Ranger District is working to complete a plan to extend the trail by another 7 miles. As part of the project, North Kaibab Recreation Specialist Missy Spandl invited the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to host a trail design workshop and help plot the connecting routes.

Volunteers from as far as Los Angeles and Pagosa Springs, Colo., showed up to learn from IMBA trail builders and for a chance to camp and ride along the trail.

IMBA trainers briefed the group on the elements of sustainable mountain bicycling trails. The non-profit's design standards incorporate everything from slope, aspect, and drainage, to scenic quality, difficulty levels, sensitive resource avoidance, and rider safety.

Over the course of two days, the group dropped brightly-colored pin flags along the proposed extension path, and used hand tools to shape the route along an old logging road.

"It's great when you can successfully get 25 people who have never met each other together for a weekend of learning and walk away with new ideas, a broader sense of what it means to be both a trail user and trail steward, as well as many new friends," Spandl said.

Forest Pipeline Replaced Under Challenging Conditions

Despite extremely challenging terrain and weather conditions, the Kaibab National Forest worked with a contractor to replace about five miles of a failing pipeline that provides water to ranches, cattle and wildlife in Houserock Valley.

The Tater Canyon pipeline is a 22-mile pipeline system that originates at springs within Saddle Mountain Wilderness on the North Kaibab Ranger District and delivers water to lower-elevation users on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands to the east. It is the only pipeline serving the central areas of Houserock Valley.

Recipients of the water include the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Houserock Valley Wildlife Area, one Forest Service grazing allotment, and two BLM grazing allotments, as well as resident antelope herds.

First built in the 1950s, the original pipeline had begun to deteriorate, requiring frequent maintenance. The work consisted of "trenching" a path down a very steep descent through Tater Canyon in order to lay upgraded pipe. The pipeline is established on an easement through the wilderness. After the project, the path was collapsed and naturalized.

"After all the difficult work in the steep conditions of Tater Canyon, it was great to have water flowing again to the ranches and wildlife that need it in Houserock Valley," said Dustin Burger, North Kaibab Ranger District range management specialist.

The project was funded by grants from the Arizona Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Popular Campground Receives Renovation

The popular Kaibab Lake Campground on the Williams Ranger District underwent major renovation during 2011 and has since reopened to visitor praise and appreciation.

"The reconstruction project added new amenities and enhanced existing ones," said Deirdre McLaughlin, former recreation specialist with the Williams and Tusayan districts. "We believe the renovation will lead to improved visitor experiences for many years to come."

The campground is located about 4 miles northeast of Williams off of State Route 64. Improvements to the campground included new pavement, new parking spurs, new campsite amenities such as fire rings and picnic tables, more day-use parking for improved fishing access, improved ramadas, additional small-group capacity, a re-designed overnight group camping area, and a new camping loop with an additional 11 campsites. The entrance road to the campground was also improved.



Tusayan Ranger District Teams With Partners To Protect Town

The Tusayan Ranger District is partnering with the Town of Tusayan and the South Grand Canyon Sanitary District to reduce flooding entering the town, the downstream water treatment plant, and the Coconino Wash on National Forest land.

The Kaibab is proposing to construct water retention basins on National Forest in order to help alleviate the flooding.

Tusayan is located at the confluence of three drainages that enter the town on the east side of State Route 64, and has experienced several flooding events during the past 10 years. This flooding negatively affects the town and downstream water resources on the Kaibab National Forest.

"This is a great project for the protection of Tusayan, and the Forest Service is excited to be a part of making Tusayan a safer place to live and visit," said Tusayan District Ranger Nick Larson.

Recreation

The Kaibab offers visitors a wide variety of opportunities for recreation activities in settings that range from primitive to highly developed. The forest provides quiet, mountain, forested, and high desert places to escape from urban environments and enjoy cooler temperatures.

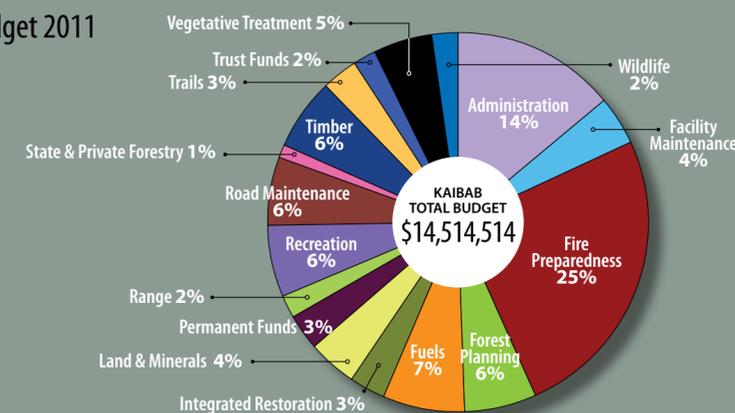
Picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, driving for pleasure, all-terrain vehicle riding, snowmobiling, and backpacking are popular activities that occur in both front and back country areas of the forest.

The front country is composed of outdoor areas that are easily accessible by vehicle and mostly visited by day users. Developed campgrounds are in the front country. Back country areas emphasize isolation, remoteness, lack of development, and more difficult access. Four designated wilderness areas on the Kaibab provide outstanding back country opportunities.

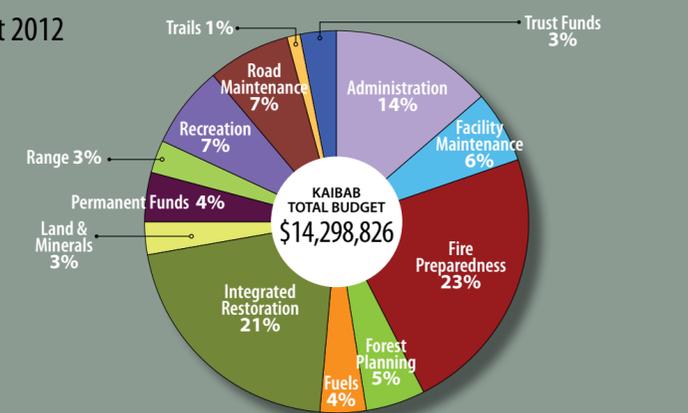
Virtually every acre of the Kaibab provides opportunities for recreation!



Budget 2011



Budget 2012



Wildland Fire

Most of the Kaibab National Forest's vegetation is adapted to recurring wildfires started by lightning from spring and summer thunderstorms. Frequent, low-intensity fire plays a vital role in maintaining ecosystem health of much of the pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and frequent fire mixed conifer vegetation types. These three vegetation types cover more than 80 percent of the forest. Grasslands are also adapted to frequent fire. Other vegetation types, such as pinyon-juniper-sagebrush, mesic mixed conifer, and spruce-fir, are also fire dependent, but have a historic fire regime of less frequent, mixed-severity fires.

The condition and structure of most of northern Arizona's forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands have changed dramatically over time. Today, the Kaibab contains uncharacteristically dense forests with many more young trees than were present historically. Ponderosa pine, spruce, fir, juniper, and pinyon seedlings have invaded forest openings, grasslands, and savannahs. The forest and woodlands are deficient in grasses, forbs, and shrubs due to tree competition, and are at high risk for insect and disease outbreaks. With the denser interlocking canopy cover and accumulated live and dead woody material, the probability and occurrence of large, uncharacteristic, stand-replacing fires continues to increase. These fires burn with more intensity, have higher tree mortality, degrade watersheds, sterilize soils, and threaten homes and communities.

	2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Kaibab Total:	27,513 ACRES	9,522 ACRES
North Kaibab Total:	711 ACRES	2,692 ACRES
Tusayan Total:	14,056 ACRES	1,475 ACRES
Williams Total:	12,746 ACRES	5,355 ACRES
Wildland Urban Interface:	8,012 ACRES	4,048 ACRES
Non Wildland Urban Interface:	19,501 ACRES	5,474 ACRES

Accomplishment by Treatment Type

Broadcast Burning:	1,007 ACRES	6,958 ACRES
Pile Burning:	1,386 ACRES	1,278 ACRES
Thinning:	1,437 ACRES	878 ACRES
Wildfires:	19,903 ACRES	248 ACRES
Grassland Maintenance:	2,790 ACRES	0 ACRES
Mastication:	0 ACRES	134 ACRES
Piling:	990 ACRES	26 ACRES

Kaibab fire managers reduced hazardous fuels on 37,035 acres in 2011 and 2012. Crews utilized various methods to accomplish this work including prescribed fire, thinning, piling and managing lightning-caused fires for resource objectives. More than 12,000 of the acres treated were in the Wildland Urban Interface where populated urban areas meet the forest. While hazardous fuels reduction work has its challenges such as managing smoke production and minimizing impacts to recreation and visitation, the Kaibab is committed to continuing these important efforts to protect communities, improve forest health, and reduce the risk for high severity wildfire.

Train Together, Respond Together

Members of the Wildland Fire Advisory Council (WFAC) gather each year at the Williams Ranger District for an emergency response training drill. During the 2012 drill, about 60 WFAC members representing local, state and federal agencies responsible for emergency response in northern Arizona practiced wildland firefighting techniques and tested equipment to improve coordination and cooperation between assisting agencies.

Personnel rotated through a variety of stations working on wildland fire hoselays, water pumping and tactical decision-making. The training helps firefighters from various agencies be better prepared to respond together when emergencies occur.

"It is important that we train together and strengthen relationships with our partners so that we are able to work efficiently when emergencies require a multi-agency response," said Dave Bales, assistant fire management officer for the Williams Ranger District.



Using Fire to Achieve Resource Objectives

Kaibab National Forest fire managers constantly evaluate weather and fuel conditions and look for opportunities to use wildland fire to achieve multiple resource objectives.

If conditions are appropriate, managers may use lightning-caused fire and prescribed fire, including broadcast burning and pile burning, to improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuels, protect cultural resources, and enhance wildlife habitat.

One of the important goals of the fire management program is to return fire to its proper role in a fire-adapted ecosystem. Many areas of the forest have had fire excluded for a long time. This has lowered the forest's ability to defend against insects, disease and high-intensity fire. If fire can be reintroduced and managed safely across the landscape, the forest will be better able to defend against future threats.

Kaibab National Forest To Protect Structures On Kaibab Plateau

The Kaibab National Forest issued a decision to move forward with the Plateau Facility Fire Protection Project, a plan to treat the forested areas immediately surrounding structures on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

The project calls for prescribed burning and mechanical thinning treatments on about 5,000 acres surrounding 33 structures at 24 different sites across the Kaibab Plateau. The goal is to minimize the risk of uncontrolled fire at developed sites by reducing stand density, fuel loading and ladder fuels in the adjacent forest.

The project developed from recommendations that came out of a 2007 hazardous fuels reduction collaborative meeting that involved forest staff, public stakeholders and interest groups. The decision is the culmination of about three years of analysis and planning.

Williams Ranger District Makes Progress In Effort To Protect Bill Williams Mountain

The Williams Ranger District moved forward in planning a large-scale project to improve the health and sustainability of forested conditions on and surrounding Bill Williams Mountain.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in July 2012 that detailed the Kaibab's proposal to treat more than 15,000 acres with mechanical treatments and prescribed burning in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health and watershed conditions.

Bill Williams Mountain is the primary watershed for the City of Williams. A major wildfire and subsequent flooding would be devastating to the city and surrounding

communities, as well as downstream to the Havasupai Tribe from Cataract Canyon. There is also a multi-million dollar communication site at the top of the mountain that is extremely important to emergency communications across northern Arizona.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected in summer 2013.

"It is not a question of 'if' but 'when' a large fire will occur on the mountain," said Williams District Ranger Martie Schramm. "It is time to take significant steps to reduce hazardous fuels and reduce the risk of a high-intensity, stand-replacing fire near the City of Williams and within its municipal watershed."



Message from the Forest Supervisor

Throughout this *Accomplishment Report*, a particular theme stands out in my mind. That theme is Shared Stewardship. To me, Shared Stewardship simply means that we could not do our jobs as land managers were it not for the expertise, vision, time, and myriad contributions provided by you – our stakeholders and partners.

Shared Stewardship is not really new for the Kaibab. For example, more than 15 years ago, Kaibab National Forest Archaeologist John Hanson and Tribal Liaison Larry Lesko wrote a groundbreaking paper called "Walking the Land Together." The purpose of the paper was simply to emphasize the importance of getting out into the forest with our tribal partners to share ideas about managing the land and to look for opportunities to participate in managing the forest together.

The same year that paper was written, the Kaibab became the first National Forest in the Southwest to designate a tribal liaison. Then, in 1999, the forest signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with an area tribe to address consultation issues and to build a strong, mutually-beneficial relationship. These efforts gained national recognition from then-Vice President Al Gore, who designated the Kaibab a National Reinvention Laboratory for its work to foster improved relationships with tribal neighbors.

While the concept of Shared Stewardship isn't new to the Kaibab, it has certainly grown and evolved over time. Current Kaibab National Forest employee Mike Lyndon often refers to it as Collaborative Stewardship, which I believe captures the direction we have been heading with

many of our recent efforts. Excellent examples of Collaborative Stewardship include Forest Plan Revision, the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project, and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative.

In spring 2013, we expect to release the new Kaibab National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan. The plan, which will guide the management of the forest for the next two decades, was developed collaboratively over the last several years. Recognizing that our partners and publics had valuable ideas, knowledge, opinions and needs that could inform and improve the plan, our employees developed an extensive outreach program designed to encourage meaningful participation, dialogue and collaboration throughout the Forest Plan Revision process.

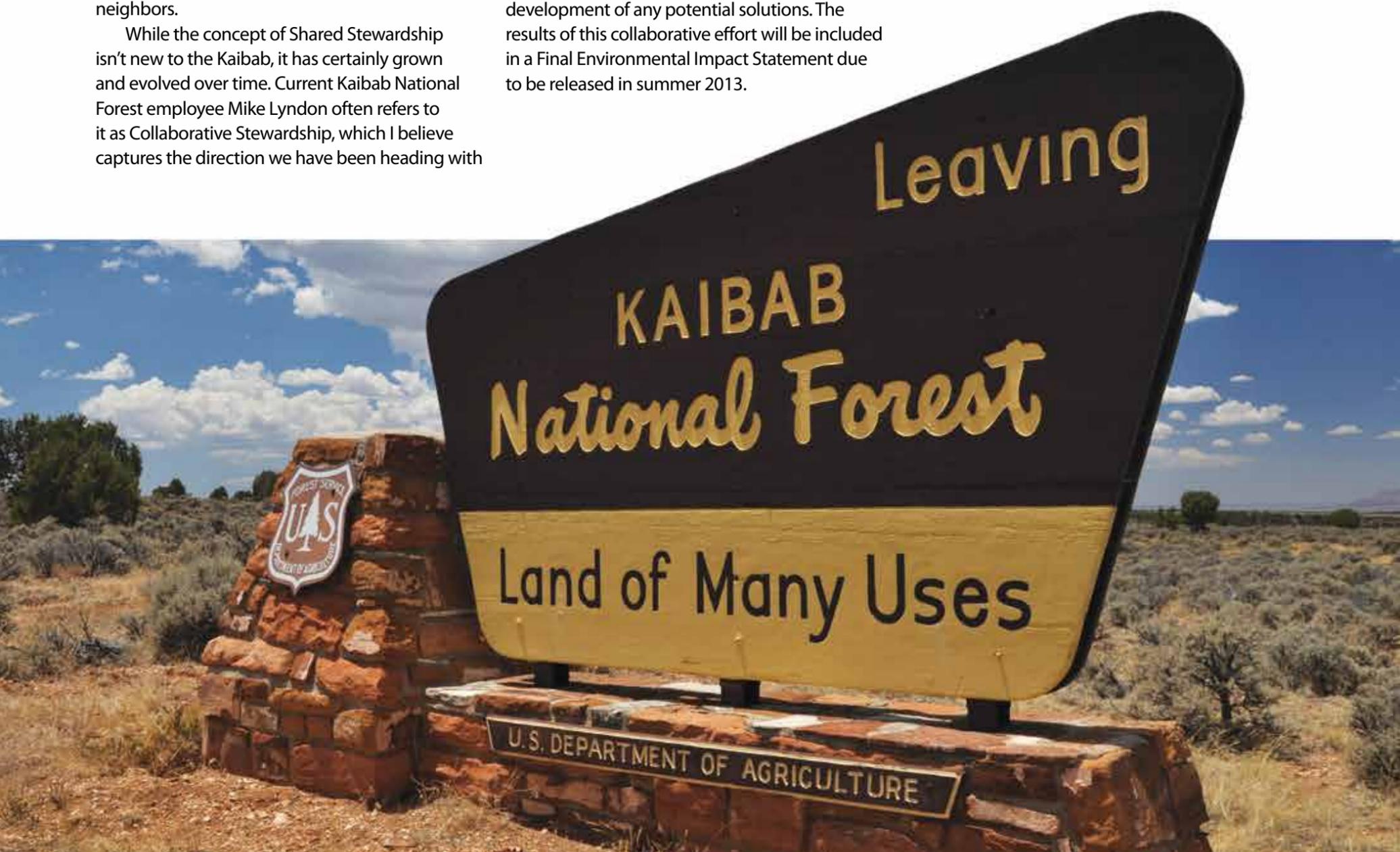
The Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project provides another example of using innovative, collaborative approaches to land management challenges. Williams District Ranger Martie Schramm and her team have made it a priority to involve partners early and often in planning the treatment of more than 15,000 acres on Bill Williams Mountain. Rather than presenting possible treatments and asking for input on them, District Ranger Schramm solicited ideas and opinions from stakeholders prior to the development of any potential solutions. The results of this collaborative effort will be included in a Final Environmental Impact Statement due to be released in summer 2013.

There is no way to talk about Shared Stewardship in the context of managing National Forests without referring to the nation's largest landscape scale restoration project ever attempted – the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI). Collaboration is at the heart of 4FRI and is the only way that a project of such size and scope will succeed. 4FRI stakeholders have set the bar when it comes to commitment and contributions. The strengths that they have brought to the table will shape the future of forest restoration across the West.

Forest Plan Revision, the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project, and 4FRI are just three recent examples of the focus the Kaibab National Forest has placed on Shared Stewardship. In the years to come, I only see that focus intensifying. It is only through working together that we will be able to achieve the end results that we all desire.



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