

Kaibab National Forest

2004 Accomplishments

USDA
USDA
United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service
Southwestern
Region





On skis, a timber reconnaissance party hauls supplies on dog sleds to a camp at Jacob Lake in 1909. Photo USDA Forest Service.

Forest Supervisor's Message

On July 1, 1905, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Forestry became known as the Forest Service. This year the Forest Service celebrates its 100-year anniversary. The anniversary gives us the opportunity to focus both on our rich history in land stewardship and on our next century of public service. Throughout the year we will join in the national celebration with festivities we've planned for our local communities and invite you to join us. Through these activities we will honor our past; share our vision for the future; and celebrate 100 years of protecting and conserving the nation's forests. You can expect to hear more about our 100-year anniversary and the festivities we have planned as the year progresses.



implement fuels reduction projects on federal lands and how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan is the most effective way for a community to take advantage of this opportunity. Last year we provided assistance to the communities of Williams and Tusayan as they began preparations of their own Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Both plans should be completed in 2005.

We experienced another successful year in our Volunteer programs and working with our many partners. Through their support we are able to leverage our project funding and increase our natural resource accomplishments.

The Forest Service has a long-standing history of being a "Can Do" organization that I attribute to the unfailing commitment of its employees to the Forest Service mission of Caring for the Land and Serving People. As I look back to last year I want to acknowledge the extra effort and the good work our employees accomplished. Our successful management of public lands is not only through hard work; it's made possible through the support and advice provided by many of you, our customers. I encourage you to spend a few minutes to look through this annual report.

The focus of our work and accomplishments is framed by four great threats to our natural resources: fire and the buildup of fuels, unmanaged recreation—especially unmanaged off-highway vehicle use, unwanted and invasive species and loss of open space. Our achievements in these areas include:

- Increased number of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels.
Through a combination of forest thinning and prescribed fire projects and managing fire under our Wildland Fire Use Strategy, approximately 31,000 acres across the forest were treated in fiscal year 2004.
- Near completion of the Noxious and Invasive Weeds Environmental Impact Statement that was developed with the Prescott and Coconino National Forests to reduce and control noxious and invasive weed populations.
- Continued work with Arizona Forests on developing a management strategy to reduce resource impacts resulting from off-highway vehicles.

I am especially pleased about the determination of our fire and timber managers to exceed the target of acres treated planned for 2004. Not only did we exceed our target, we greatly surpassed our 2003 accomplishments and we kept the average cost to about \$105 per acre. Today, roughly 79,000 acres have been treated since we started to tackle this problem in a significant way seven years ago. The bar has been raised; our goal in 2005 is to surpass the number of acres treated in 2004 with the priority still focused on forest lands in the wildland urban interface – where forests and communities meet.

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act provides communities at risk from wildland fire the opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies

Organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arizona Deer Association and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) are a few of our long-time partners; without their support many wildlife habitat and range management projects would never happen. The Agra-Axe Partnership is a fine example where we have teamed with the AGFD, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and grazing permittee Glen Reed to pool resources and combine efforts for a common purpose. The goal of this partnership is to restore forest grasslands by removing encroaching juniper and pinyon pine trees. Since 1995 about 18,400 acres of grassland restoration have been completed.

My optimism has grown about the reestablishment of a forest industry that can provide a market for the wood products resulting from our fuels reduction projects. Southwest Forest Products is in the process of constructing a pallet mill in Ash Fork and has successfully bid on a timber sale on the Williams District. This is a small but critical step to establishing a viable forest products industry in Northern Arizona.

This year we begin the first steps of an ambitious effort, revising the Forest Land Management Plan. The Forest Plan was first published and implemented in 1987 and provides the direction for managing the Kaibab National Forest. The time has come to revise and improve the plan, which will begin in earnest in 2006. Public involvement will be a major part of the effort; we look forward to working with communities and individuals interested in participating.

Finally, it's important to recognize and thank all of you who continue to provide support and assistance to managing these great public lands. I encourage you to share your comments and suggestions about our land management activities with our local District Rangers and with me. Our phone numbers and e-mail contact information are listed in this report - let us know how we're doing.

Mike R. Williams
Forest Supervisor



A group of wild turkeys drinks from Dog Lake shortly after volunteers completed a cattle enclosure fence around the important wildlife water source.

Volunteers

For many people, the opening weekend of archery hunting season might seem like a strange time to be helping the wildlife population on the Kaibab Plateau, but it makes perfect sense to the members of the Buckskin Chapter of the Arizona Deer Association. After all, hunters care as much about the habitat and health of wildlife as anyone else.

About 15 Buckskin Chapter volunteers, including several that drifted in during breaks in their own hunting trips, completed an aspen pole fence around Dog Lake on September 11, 2004 continuing the group's efforts to improve wildlife habitat on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Located near the East Rim Viewpoint and Arizona Trail trailhead on Forest Road 611, Dog Lake is a water source for a variety of wildlife species, including the mule deer that are one of the Arizona Deer Association's focus species.

However, the lake also lies squarely within the Kane Ranch grazing allotment, and attracts livestock that can damage the vegetation surrounding the lake and deter wildlife from accessing the water. In 2001, the management plan for the Kane Ranch grazing allotment identified 17 lakes, including Dog Lake, to be fenced to keep livestock out but still allow wildlife access to the sensitive water sources. Since then, members of the Arizona Deer Association have been holding volunteer workdays on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Shortly after completing the Dog Lake project, the Buckskin Chapter members received confirmation that the new fence would work as designed.



Volunteers were relaxing near the lake when a group of turkeys wandered into the project area, ducked under the newly-constructed fence, and helped themselves to a drink. Regardless of their individual role in the project, everyone involved in building the Dog Lake fence came away proud of their contribution towards improving wildlife habitat on the Kaibab Plateau.

Williams Ranger District

Williams volunteer lookouts and the Back Country Horseman of America played a key role in keeping the southern portion of the Kaibab National Forest safe from wildland fires in 2004. The lookouts volunteered a total of 440 hours staffing Kendrick Mountain and Red Butte lookouts. Backcountry Horseman of America volunteered 960 hours of their time by taking supplies to the lookouts. Fire Prevention Specialist Craig Christman, coordinator for the volunteer lookouts, has the highest regard for the two groups, "I want to acknowledge all the great work that these volunteers do for us. Their attitude is always positive and I hope that they will continue to help us out in the future."

Volunteers from the Buckskin Chapter of the Arizona Deer Association built a cattle enclosure fence around Dog Lake this summer, ensuring that wildlife seeking water are not disturbed by livestock.

Recreation Projects

Campers, hikers, fishing enthusiasts and picnickers are rediscovering Dogtown Lake Recreation Site. The campground was closed during 2003 and early 2004 for reconstruction. With new restroom facilities, tables, grills and other amenities, users of all abilities and ages are once again enjoying the site. Among the new highlights are the expanded group area with a fireplace and larger ramada area, and a separate group fire ring with rustic log benches. The new picnic loop features individual picnic sites where lunch can be enjoyed with a special view of the lake. The campground was dedicated May 21, 2004 with a full house attending the ribbon cutting. Participants toured the renovated facilities and enjoyed the barbeque hosted by the Williams Chamber Ambassadors.



If you didn't make it out to use the site this year, we encourage you to come and try out the new digs this summer.

Design work for the renovation of DeMotte campground on the North Kaibab District was completed in 2004. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2005, which will close the campground for the season.

The new ramada and fireplace at Dogtown Lake provides the perfect outdoor setting for special occasions.

Conservation Education

Two Kaibab National Forest employees developed a conservation education curriculum for grades kindergarten through high school that focuses on fire ecology. Sharon Waltrip, interpretation specialist, and Jackie Denk, fire information officer, saw a need for the ecology based courses, which they hope will help to enhance Forest Service presence in the community; build a foundation of understanding about scientific principles related to fire's role in the ecosystem and forest land management; and, enhance classroom instruction while sup-

porting state education standards. Waltrip, Denk and other forest employees presented some of the lessons to Williams' school children during Earth Week 2004.

The curriculum will soon be available across the Forest Service's Southwestern Region, which covers Arizona, New Mexico. Plans are in the works to create a web-based version of the curriculum, which will be correlated to both Arizona and New Mexico state educational standards.



Early loggers practicing their trade near Williams, AZ, around 1884 to 1890. Photo courtesy of Boyce Collection, Museum of Northern Arizona.

Heritage Resources

The Kaibab National Forest Heritage Resources team completed archaeological surveys of more than 10,000 acres in 2004, while continuing its tradition of consultation and cooperation with local and regional partners to discover and protect heritage sites. Special emphasis was placed on consultation with American Indian tribes; team members met regularly with representatives of the Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo and Kaibab Paiute tribe to discuss the potential impact of Forest projects on tribal heritage resources.

North Kaibab Ranger District

The District's Heritage Resources team planned two collaborative projects in 2004. In May, the District conducted a field trip to prehistoric sites on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands for 30 members of the Arizona Strip Site Steward Program. The Site Steward Program is an organization of volunteers whose members are selected, trained and certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission. Stewards monitor prehistoric and historic archaeological and paleontological sites and report any destruction or vandalism. They are also active in public education and outreach activities.

As the fiscal year closed in September, the District geared up to host a "Passport In Time" project in Houserock Valley, a remote area along the northeastern rim of the Grand Canyon that was once home to the ancient pueblo people known as the Anasazi. Volunteers joined district archaeologists in locating, documenting and mapping Anasazi farmsteads in an effort to better understand the migration and trade patterns of the people who once occupied this now-isolated landscape.



Frances Mayse stands in front of the remaining walls of a long-forgotten structure located in the far north east corner of the Tusayan Ranger District. The site was recorded by two volunteers last year.

Passport In Time volunteers Rio Kiyon and Teresa Thomas map the remnants of the historic Anita copper-mining camp, located on the Tusayan Ranger District which was active for a short period between 1900 and 1905.



Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts

South Zone archaeologists led the Forest leadership team to rock art sites in the Tusayan area in March, to discuss the current and potential future impact of jeep tours on those sites.

The South Zone Heritage Program hosted its 14th annual Passport In Time project in May 2004. Fourteen volunteers contributed 792 hours of work, recording 18 new sites, 15 of which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Volunteers also monitored 21

recorded sites, and mapped several miles of the Saginaw and Manistee logging railroad line and the Anita mining spur line.

In June 2004, South Zone archaeologists joined other forest officials to discuss forest health issues with aides from Senator John Kyl's Arizona and Washington D.C. offices and several members of Northern Arizona University, Ecological Restoration Institute. Archaeologists led the group to a small Cohonina Pueblo to illustrate how forest archaeologists used Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation and National Fire Plan funds to record, evaluate, stabilize and monitor sites following the 2000 Pumpkin Fire.

South Zone archaeologists organized an informational field trip to the Upper Ten-X rock art site for Americorps volunteers in July 2004. The volunteers, most of whom had little background in archaeology, were provided an

overview of forest archaeological resources and methods for managing them.

Partnerships

“Though our time with Kaibab National Forest was short, it was sweet. I had a wonderful time working with the Forest Service. They were welcoming and appreciative of our work. I had so much fun getting to know the employees and fire crews. We had the chance to hike the Grand Canyon, it was amazing. I think that this was the perfect project to end my 10 months of service.”

At the request of the Forest Service a team of young adults from the Americorps*National Civilian Community Corps arrived from California in mid June to help with several wildlife and range projects.

The Tusayan Ranger District needed assistance with assembling and constructing several pole fences, which were used to protect a unique riparian zone and fragile meadows from off-highway travelers.

After receiving a demonstration on how to construct an A-frame fence the group of 7 women and 3 men, known as the Blue Two Team, had little difficulty completing a fence that measured over 600 feet in length. The team transported excess trees to provide fuelwood to the Cameron Chapter on the Navajo Nation. This was given to the elderly residents of the chapter who traditionally heat their homes with firewood but often have a hard time obtaining it.



Blue Two Team proudly displays the just-completed fence on the Tusayan Ranger District.

The AmeriCorps*NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program that combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service. Its mission is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based national and community service. Each year more than 1,200 young adults, ages 18-24, serve as AmeriCorps*NCCC Corps members. They are based at five campuses across the country and take on projects throughout their respective regions. Corps members serve their country by helping communities with compelling needs. Teams help in the areas of homeland security, education and youth development, the environment, housing and disaster relief.



Forest managers show members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Arizona Game and Fish Department improvements to a water tank, an important water source for wildlife and livestock, at Government Knoll on the Williams Ranger District. Improvements such as these are made possible through the support of this generous partnership.

The Williams Ranger District hosted a field trip for members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and staff of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). The purpose of the trip was to give RMEF members the opportunity to look at wildlife projects on the Williams and Tusayan districts that were made possible through their support.

The group was taken to a water collection "apron" and to several grassland maintenance projects to show the efforts being made by the Forest Service and AGFD to improve wildlife habitat. They also had a chance to see the agra-axe project, which removes invading junipers to improve wildlife habitat and increases the availability of water for native grasses and other plants.

Tom Toman, Director of Conservation for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, expressed his appreciation at seeing these projects, and overall, was pleased with the projects that have been accomplished.

Fredonia YCC

Six young men, members of the Fredonia Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), spent several months last year on the Kaibab Plateau working hard and tirelessly on a number of Forest Service projects.

Last summer, the crew built a fence and cleaned the grounds around historic Jacob Lake Cabin, and fenced Timp Springs and Rock Canyon Tank to prevent livestock from encroaching on the sensitive wildlife water sources. The YCC members also conducted surveys of district wildlife such as bats and salamanders, and cleared approximately two miles of the Jacob Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 35), turning an overgrown and barely visible path into what has been described as an interstate highway.

The five teammates, Zachary Christensen, Daniel Cash Jessop, Trevin Johnson, Albert Wendling, Karlis Wauneka and their supervisor Josh Hodorff also contributed to beautification projects in Fredonia, landscaping and installing a sprinkler system on the Fredonia High School grounds and pulling weeds from the welcome center and rest area.

Although they worked hard, it wasn't all work for the YCC members. Orientation week offered

a series of team-building exercises, like learning to build a fire without matches or other conveniences. Using nothing but a hand drill, the team generated enough pressure, speed, oxygen and teamwork to start a small fire.

The group also traveled to Flagstaff for a week at the Junior Foresters Academy, camping with and learning from professionals in the forestry field. Assignments like designing a management plan for a plot of forest land exercised their minds, while the "Logger Olympics" did the same for their bodies.

After receiving certificates of thanks and appreciation from the Forest Service, town of Fredonia and Fredonia High School, the group rewarded themselves with a half-day rafting trip on the Colorado River.

The YCC program has been providing work assistance to forest managers for a number of years. The purpose of the program is not only to provide employment to local young people, but also to instill a respect for public lands into the hearts and minds of today's youth and to accomplish important work on the Forest.



Fredonia Youth Conservation Corps volunteers repaired two cattle exclosure fences on the North Kaibab Ranger District this summer, achieving goals set by the district's rangeland management and wildlife biology teams.



Fredonia Youth Conservation Corps volunteers and North Kaibab Ranger District wildlife biologists conducted surveys this summer to determine the number and health of salamanders in Kaibab Plateau water holes.

Smoke Management

Smoke management continues to play a major role in decisions made by fire managers about prescribed burning and managing naturally-ignited fires. Fire managers often walk a narrow line between burning enough to meet natural resource objectives, such as reducing the risk of high-intensity wildland fire, and not burning so much that neighboring communities become uncomfortable with the amount of smoke in their area. This often leads to a delicate balancing act.

On the Kaibab National Forest, fire managers implement various strategies to reduce smoke impacts to communities. They attempt to conduct prescribed burns when prevailing winds will take smoke away from communities. Interagency coordination, essential to successful fire management, is ongoing between neighboring agencies. For example, on the Tusayan Ranger District, fire managers are constantly evaluating impacts to Grand Canyon National Park, Tusayan and Grand Canyon Airport. If smoke resulting from a burn begins to negatively affect these places, burning operations will most likely be shut down. Another strategy is to begin burning early in the day and complete ignition by early afternoon. The goal is to provide ample opportunity for smoke to dissipate prior to cool evening air moving in and forcing the smoke to settle into valleys.

Fire managers also coordinate with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Smoke Management Division, about where and when they would like to conduct burns. They are also concerned about smoke impacts resulting from fires managed under the Fire Use Strategy and coordinate the management of these fires. When smoke from the lightning-caused Transfer Fire on the Tusayan Ranger District started to impact Tusayan and Grand Canyon Airport unacceptably, fire managers worked to limit the fire's growth each day so that less smoke would be produced. It is the role of ADEQ to evaluate all the requests to burn coming in from various agencies and determine whether and how many burns will be allowed to take place.

As emphasis continues to be placed on fuels management treatments (such as thinning and burning) in the wildland-urban interface, smoke management will become a topic of increasing concern for both forest managers and local community members. The Kaibab National Forest remains committed to working with its neighbors on sensitive issues like smoke.

The smoke from the Kendrick burn, which was ignited Sept. 1, 2004, was visible from several communities including Flagstaff and Williams.

Wildland Fire Use

Fire managers on the Kaibab National Forest were extremely pleased after completing a very successful year in 2004 managing fires under the Forest's Wildland Fire Use Strategy. Rather than suppressing all fires, this option allows some lightning caused fires to burn under specific conditions and within a predetermined area for resource benefits. The Forest Service managed 6 lightning-caused fires 50 acres or larger in 2004, and the acres treated totalled close to 5,500 acres.

"Fire use" is one of two practices used in fire management: the deliberate application of fire to the forest by resource managers (prescribed fire) and the management of some lightning-caused fires to meet resource benefits (wildland fire use). Specific resource objectives include the following:

- Reduce the risks and consequences associated with wildland fire with in forest and lands adjacent to it.
- Reduce the buildup of dead forest debris and curb insect and disease infestations.
- Recycle nutrients back into the soil to increase the growth and reproduction of perennial grasses, forbs and browse plants for the benefit of wildlife and livestock.
- Maintain grassland ecosystems by controlling the encroachment of trees.
- Protect threatened and endangered animal and plant habitat from the negative effects of high-intensity fires.
- In the mixed conifer forests on the North Kaibab District, reduce the high accumulations of down woody material.
- Create desired conditions such as more open stands, reduced fuels and decreased fuel ladders.
- Allow fires to actively function across the landscape as an essential natural process.

Firefighters on the Tusayan Ranger District managed the largest naturally-ignited fire ever on the Kaibab National Forest – the Camp 36 Fire, which was discovered Aug. 8, 2004. It burned across 3,052 acres over a period of five weeks, reducing the accumulation of woody material on the forest floor.

Some of the other larger fires managed under the wildland fire use strategy include the following:

- Transfer Fire, Tusayan Ranger District, treated 1,058 acres.
- Wild Steer Fire, Williams Ranger District, treated 1,220 acres.

Fire managers on the Kaibab National Forest will continue looking for opportunities to manage these naturally ignited and cost effective fires in order to help re-establish fire's natural role in the forest ecosystem of the Southwest.





Fuels Management

During the past year forest managers spent considerable time and energy working to reduce hazardous fuels through forest thinning and prescribed burning projects. The accumulation of this hard work resulted in close to 25,230 acres being treated (excluding acres treated through Wildland Fire Use), an increase of more than 7,000 acres from what was accomplished in 2003.

The increase in the number of acres treated through thinning and prescribed burning is the result of strengthened commitment by the Forest Service to restore the fire-adapted ecosystems of Southwest forests. The many benefits from forest restoration include, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing the risk of high-intensity wildland fires, managing rates of insect infestation and disease, and generally improving overall forest health.

Prescribed burning

Kaibab fire managers accomplished 8,890 acres of prescribed burning on the Forest's three districts in 2004. That included both underburning, in which fire is used to remove the build-up of fuels on the forest floor, and pile burning, in which fire is used to burn stacks of trees and limbs that resulted from thinning projects.

On the Williams and Tusayan districts, which are both south of Grand Canyon National Park, 5,530 acres of underburning were completed. Of those 5,530 acres, 2,367 were in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), the areas where forest and communities meet. The WUI is a focus area for forest managers because of the threat that wildland fire poses to life and property in this zone. Also on the Williams and Tusayan districts, 1,408 acres of pile burning were completed, of which, 1,174 acres were in the WUI.

On the North Kaibab Ranger District, which is contiguous with the north rim of Grand Canyon National Park, 808 acres of underburning and 1,144 acres of pile burning were completed. 244 of those acres are in the WUI.

Thinning

The Kaibab National Forest completed more acres of thinning in 2004 than in recent years, accounting for a total of 16,338 acres treated.

On the North Kaibab Ranger District, 8,121 acres were thinned. On the Williams Ranger District, approximately 7,150 acres had been thinned, which included roughly 800 acres contracted to be treated in the fall and winter of

2004. On the Tusayan Ranger District, 1,066 acres had been thinned, including 992 contracted to be treated by the end of 2004.

While thinning and burning are important work throughout the forest, many fuels management projects are directed toward the interface in order to reduce the wildland fire risk near communities. On the Williams and Tusayan districts, 3,069 acres of the total 8,216 acres thinned were in the wildland-urban interface. The North Kaibab Ranger District is much more remote and does not have the same interface issues as its sister districts to the south.



Engine 13 of the Kaibab National Forest patrols the boundary of the Kendrick burn. As part of the "holding" crew, the members of Engine 13 are responsible for finding and suppressing any spot fires that result from the burn



A ranger posts a sign cautioning visitors about forest fires on the Tusayan National Forest sometime around 1914 to 1918. Photo USDA Forest Service.

Suppression

While the 2004 fire season on the Kaibab National Forest was less intense than it could have been given drought and unhealthy forest conditions, there were still plenty of fires – both lightning and person-caused – to keep fire fighters busy. The total number of wildland fires in 2004 was higher than in any of the last three years. During 2004, 267 wildland fires were suppressed on the Forest’s three districts, as compared to 193 in 2003, 147 in 2002, and 246 in 2001.

The good news is that the number of person-caused fires remained relatively low. Fire managers attribute this to the statewide campaign to prevent human-caused fires and the media coverage of fires and existing drought conditions.

The number of person-caused fires in 2004 was slightly higher than the previous year. In both 2003 and 2004, there were substantially fewer person-caused fires than in 2002 and 2001. However, the person-caused fires of 2004 did amount to more acres burned – about 336 - than in 2003 when only 14 acres burned due to person-caused fires and 2002 when 123 acres burned.

The major contributor to this rise in person-caused acres burned was the LeFevre Fire on the North Kaibab Ranger District. The LeFevre Fire, which was discovered Sept. 17, burned 318 acres and temporarily forced the closure of U.S. Highway 89A between Jacob Lake and the 89/89A junction at Bitter Springs.

While the LeFevre Fire began relatively late in the fire season, the majority

of person-caused ignitions tend to occur early in the fire season – from March through June. Once the monsoons begin – typically in early July – the vast majority of fires requiring suppression are lightning-caused.

Fire managers hope that the trend of fewer person-caused fires continues in 2005, as forest visitors continue to be careful with campfires and suppression resources are available to fight the inevitable lightning-caused blazes.



Left: After working to contain a small fire, this firefighter uses his hands to seek out and extinguish any remaining hot spots within the fire’s perimeter. This work is an important part of what firefighters call “mop up.”

Right: As the sun sets behind them, these firefighters (DeQuan Drane and Ryan Gallagher) work to extinguish a remaining hot spot within a fire perimeter.



	2001	2002	2003*	2004
Total # Wildland Fires	246	147	193	267
Total Acres Burned	1664	5857	95	856*
Person-Caused Fires	45	35	24	26
Person-Caused Acres	1228	123	14	336*

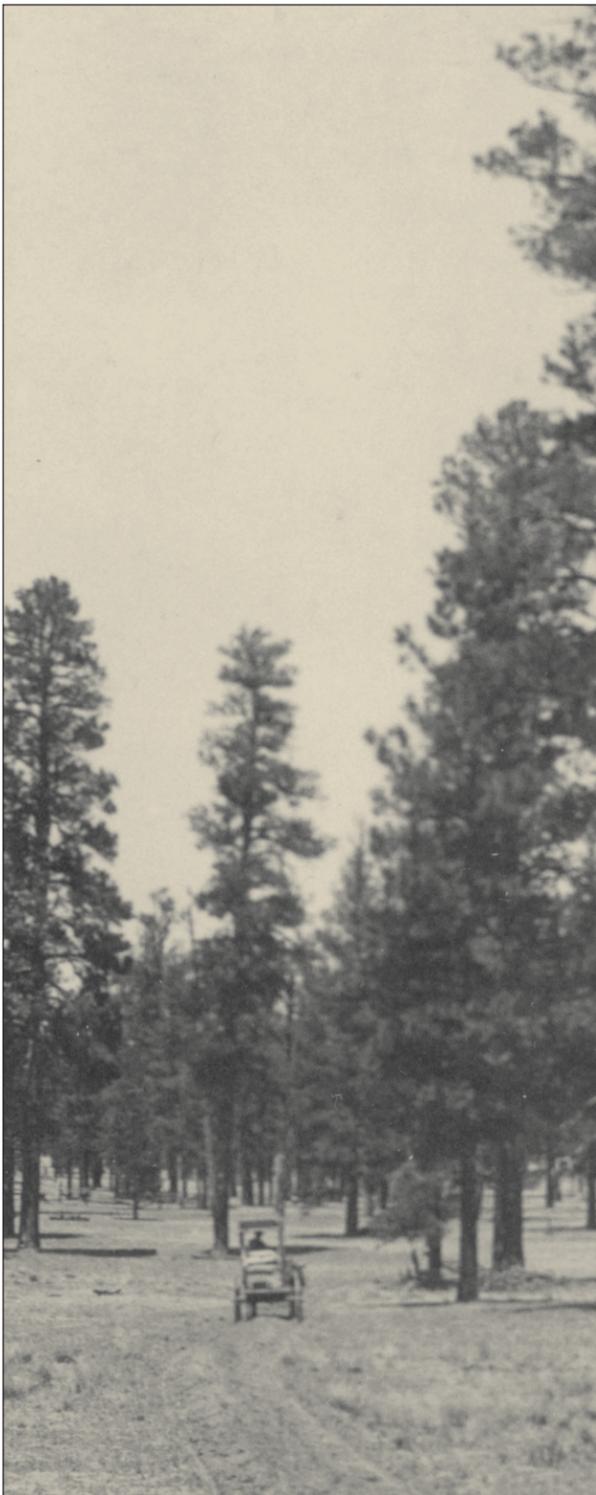
* approximate

New Interagency Dispatch Center Opened

The idea of one dispatch office shared between two neighboring federal agencies came to realization in March 2004. The Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park opened a new Interagency Dispatch Center located at the Kaibab Forest Headquarters Office in Williams. The Dispatch Center is responsible for orchestrating fire and aviation operations on the Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park.

One of the main objectives for the jointly-staffed dispatch office is to improve communication between the two organizations and allow them to respond more effectively with fire suppression resources to areas in need. Sharing fire resources with Grand Canyon has been a long standing practice; this is just an extension of the cooperative relationship between the two agencies.

The new Interagency Dispatch Center is staffed by both Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest employees. All of Grand Canyon National Park resources, such as aircraft, remain stationed at the Park, but are dispatched from the Dispatch Center in Williams. In addition, the Center is responsible for inter-agency fire training, fitness training and qualification management.



A forest visitor travels on an unimproved dirt road through the Tusayan National around 1914 -1916. Photo USDA Forest Service.

Engineering & Roads Management

Facilities

In addition to the campground improvements noted in the Recreation section, the Forest engineering team also oversaw substantial improvements to the water and waste-water facilities at the Big Springs work camp, paving of the North Kaibab District Office parking lot, water tank replacement at Red Butte Lookout, sewer line construction and basement damp-proofing at the Tusayan Ranger Station, and numerous smaller maintenance projects and condition surveys.

Roads

Forest road managers completed 100 percent of the road condition surveys, as well as collecting data to complete road inventory on the Forest in preparation for roads analysis efforts and the Forest Management Plan Revision. The physical inventory of all the roads on the North Kaibab District was completed. This work consisted of visiting approximately 4,100 roads to verify the location and status of each road.

Approximately 1,100 miles of general maintenance to forest roadways was accomplished in 2004. Additionally, about 45 miles of significant road improvements were completed, which included asphalt overlay on 20 miles of roadway on the North Kaibab District and on roadways at the Whitehorse campground and Camp Clover administrative site. Also, significant work was completed to continue to bring roadway signing up to current standards.

Hazardous Materials

The Hazmat Coordinator reviewed plans for the disposal and demolition of buildings on forest lands, including the dismantling and demolition of buildings at the Ten X Ranch headquarters (the old Grand Canyon Airport). Other work accomplished by the coordinator included, issuing contracts for hazardous material identification, removal and disposal, lead paint abatement at several administrative sites, and responding to three calls of illegal waste dumping on forest lands.

The Hazmat Coordinator also serves on the Stakeholders' Advisory Group for the Department of Defense's Camp Navajo open burn/open detonation planning, and as a member of the Coconino County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Fleet

The Forest fleet managers organized and conducted the annual surplus vehicle auction, and provided expertise to Forest and other agencies' law enforcement officers during accident investigations. They also prepared, ordered, received and delivered vehicle replacements, and provided support and oversight to the employee driver licensing program.

Budget

Fiscal Year 2003



- Facility Maintenance 13%
- Road Maintenance 17%
- Recreation 6%
- Fuels 17%
- Forest Planning 4%
- Fire Preparedness 23%
- Vegetative Treatment 4%
- Lands & Minerals 3%
- Range 1%
- Timber 10%
- Wildlife 2%

Fiscal Year 2003: 10/01/03 – 09/30/04

Forest Budget \$11,696,000
National Forest Acres 1.6 million

Employees
 Permanent 130
 Seasonal 100

Land Use
 (Special Use Permits)
 Communications 32
 Power lines 11
 Oil & gas lines 8

***Minerals Value**
 23 Sandstone Contracts \$446,169

*Sandstone quarries on the Kaibab account for approximately 45% of the national production; the stone is used as building material in the construction industry.

Recreation Fee Demo Sites
 (Fees collected)
 Ten-X Campground \$36,389
 Spring Valley Cabin \$3,456

Recreation Use
 Visits 123,000

Fire Management
 Total acres of fuels reduction 30,721
 Acres in wildland urban interface 6,854
 Prescribed fire acres 8,890
 Cost per acre \$89
 Mechanical treatment acres 16,338
 Cost per acre (thinning, piling) \$119
 Wildland fire use acres 5,491
 Cost per acre \$25

Payment to Counties (in lieu of taxes) - Calendar Year 2004
 Coconino \$1,843,920
 Yavapai \$11,384
 Mohave \$830



There are lots of animals in the Southwestern ponderosa pine forest including Mexican spotted owls and coyotes. The coyote pups photo was taken at Whitehorse Lake Campground during summer 2004 by Forest Service volunteers Walter and Phyllis Crick.

Wildlife

North Kaibab Ranger District

The North Zone wildlife team partnered with a variety of agencies and organizations to protect and enhance wildlife habitat on the Kaibab Plateau in 2004. Biologists supervised two Arizona Deer Association volunteer workdays that completed a livestock exclusion fence around Dog Lake, participated in the revision of Mexican spotted owl Recovery Plan, and provided Arizona Game & Fish with input and recommendations for their hunting regulations. Biologists also oversaw the improvement of 243 acres mule deer winter range habitat in House Rock Valley.

On the educational front, biologists helped develop an information brochure for the Fredonia Habitat Partnership Committee, and provided public education to such groups as the Fredonia Youth Conservation Corps, Arizona Deer Association Junior Hunters, and endurance rider organizations. They also hosted several field trips to educate congressional and other delegations about the "Goshawk Guidelines" and forest management practices.

District biologists also completed 13 biological evaluation reports in support of district projects and special use permits, monitored vegetation conditions in three 2003 fire areas, and conducted inventories and monitoring of species ranging from Kaibab squirrels to peregrine falcons.



Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts

In 2004, South Zone wildlife biologists continued their efforts to enhance habitat for a variety of wildlife species. They partnered with the Northern Arizona Flycasters to repair spillways at two primary fisheries, and worked to improve pronghorn antelope travel corridors by modifying livestock fences and removing encroaching juniper and pinyon pine trees. Biologists also repaired livestock exclusion fences around wildlife waters and aspen stands, improved cliffrose browse and grasslands for deer and elk, completed substantial surveys of Mexican spotted owls and northern goshawks, and delineated a 100-acre nest buffer area for Mexican spotted owls in the Bill Williams Project area. And, of course, they supervised and participated in the annual bald eagle winter survey.

During the summer months, countless ladybugs can often be found on the hills and mountains of the Kaibab National Forest. They gather on trees, rocks, plants and grasses. The warmer months are prime ladybug breeding season. The reason you don't notice ladybugs during the rest of the year is because they go into hibernation. Ladybugs are extremely beneficial to forest and grassland ecosystems.



Newly constructed fence built around Dog Lake by volunteers with the Arizona Deer Association.

Range Management

Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts

Due to lingering effects of drought, most grazing allotments were stocked at reduced levels and five of the 31 allotments on the South Zone were not grazed in 2004.

However, South Zone range managers still had a busy year developing environmental assessments for five allotments totaling approximately 275,000 acres, and monitoring forage utilization, range conditions and trends on all stocked allotments.

Range managers also supervised the removal of pinyon pine, juniper and sagebrush from approximately 2150 acres of invaded grassland, reconstructed three miles of boundary fences, and repaired two water tanks.

In addition to more traditional range management activities, South Zone managers partnered with one of their permittees and a local resident to reduce the risk of wildland fire on the Williams District this year. At Garland Prairie resident Shirley Strong's request, a grazing permittee changed his pasture rotation schedule and put 230 cattle out to graze near Strong's home early in the season, allowing the cattle to consume the dry, matted grass that created a fire hazard in the area. The movement of the cows also churned up compacted grasses and soils, allowing new grasses to sprout.

North Kaibab Ranger District

Continuing drought conditions and rising livestock costs limited most permittees to grazing 25 to 75 percent of their permitted numbers on the District this year. In addition, Kane Ranch Land Stewardship & Cattle Company, the District's largest permittee, continued to exercise its non-use option while working to sell its property and other assets.

Still, there was plenty of range management activity on the Kaibab Plateau. District range management specialists conducted hundreds of production studies and facilities inspections, repaired three water tanks and four miles of fence, mapped and treated over 80 acres of noxious weeds, and monitored grazing allotments to ensure Forest plan standards and guidelines were met.

In addition, range managers coordinated with District wildlife biologists and volunteers to construct, repair or replace livestock exclusion fences around three sensitive wildlife water sources.

Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership

During fiscal year 2004, the Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership (RCFMP) treated 85 acres of private property in the local area with tree-thinning. That is 25 acres more than the partnership accomplished the year before.

The RCFMP is a group of local agencies – including the Kaibab National Forest – who have teamed together to try to reduce the risk of wildland fire on private property. Because treatments to reduce fuels – such as tree-thinning – are often cost-prohibitive for private landowners, the partnership uses grants it has received to help offset some of those costs.

The RCFMP will continue working to increase the number of acres of private property it treats each year. In fall 2004, crews were thinning in Parks, Sherwood Forest Estates and subdivisions near Williams. The crews who did the work were the Coconino Rural Environmental Corps, which is part of the Coconino County Community Services Department and the AmeriCorps program, and the Winslow Fire Stompers, which is made up of low-risk inmates trained in fire suppression and thinning work.

Besides the thinning crews, a number of volunteers also contributed to the partnership. The Parks, Sherwood Forest Estates and Williams volunteer fire departments staffed cinder pits on the forest, which enabled private citizens to dispose of natural, woody debris from their property. All told in 2004, private landowners contributed 2,230 hours of time to making their property and their communities more defensible against wildland fire.

The partners in the RCFMP are Arizona State Land Department; Kaibab National Forest; University of Arizona – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Northern Arizona University's Ecological Restoration Institute; Coconino County; Arizona Department of Corrections; Coconino Rural Environmental Corps; City of Williams; and Parks-Bellefont, Sherwood Forest Estates and Williams volunteer fire departments.

before



after



These photos show a demonstration plot in Williams both pre- and post-treatment with thinning by the Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership. Notice the doghair thicket (very small-diameter trees) in the before photo. In the after photo, these small-diameter trees have been removed. This thinning treatment has reduced the potential for crown fire and insect infestation; increased the vigor of remaining trees; and restored the diversity and richness of the understory. Visitors to the demonstration plot will see that grasses are already beginning to fill in the openings created by the thinning, which will bring wildlife back to the area. The demonstration plot is located off Forest Road 124 past the Elephant Rocks Golf Course in Williams. An interpretive sign explaining the thinning treatments and their purpose has been posted there.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans

The Kaibab National Forest is supporting its neighboring communities, Williams and Tusayan as they begin the process of establishing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: a local wildfire protection plan that addresses topics such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection and more.

Other collaborators in the process include Grand Canyon National Park, local fire departments, city governments, Coconino County, State of Arizona, Arizona Department of Transportation and local community members.

The North Kaibab Ranger District is participating in the establishment of an evacuation plan for the Kaibab Plateau. However, because there are no communities adjacent or, even close to the North Kaibab Ranger District, it's unlikely that a CWPP will be developed for the Plateau. The evacuation plan is expected to be completed in spring 2005.

The impetus for local CWPPs was the enactment of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in 2003. That legislation includes incentives for land management agencies to give consideration to the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuels reduction projects.

In order for communities to take advantage of all the opportunities offered through the Healthy Forests Restoration Act – including access to federal funding – they must establish a CWPP. The plan is a way for communities to tell land managers what their priorities are in terms of fuels reduction projects.



Hull Tank lookout tree located on the Tusayan Ranger District is an enduring symbol of the early attempts by the Forest Service to detect and locate forest fires. The photograph was taken in 1916 the year the lookout was constructed on what was then known as the Tusayan National Forest. Hull Tank lookout tree is listed on the National Register for Historic Places and still stands today. Photo USDA Forest Service.

Railroad survey team camped at Russel's Tank on the western edge of today's Williams District, on the Beale Wagon Road, December 1867. Photo courtesy of the Boston Public Library.



Contact

For more information, or to comment on our land management activities please contact the nearest Kaibab National Forest Office. If you would like to comment on this report, address your comments to Kaibab Accomplishments and send them through the postal service, or send them electronically to the following email address:

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