

Dear Friends of the North Kaibab,

The North Kaibab Ranger District is seeking comments on a proposal to plant trees (ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir seedlings) on 1,607 acres within the Warm Fire area, which burned in June 2006. These acres were logged in the 1980's and had established young trees. The Warm fire burned not only the young trees but also the adjacent seed bearing trees, so natural regeneration is unlikely. With little vegetation surrounding these acres to provide natural seeding, the district is proposing to hand plant seedlings during spring of 2008. This project is not associated with the Warm Fire Salvage project, which is occurring in the adjacent area.

Enclosed with this letter is a description of the proposal and a map showing treatment locations. If you would like to comment on the project, please submit your comments by April 30, 2007 so that we can consider your comments in the determination of significant issues and any need to develop alternatives to the proposed action. Comments are most helpful if they specifically describe the issue of concern.

If you have concerns about the proposal or would like to continue to be involved in the project please send your comments to:

Warm Fire Reforestation Project Leader  
North Kaibab Ranger District  
PO Box 248  
Fredonia, AZ 86022

Or email to [comments-southwestern-kaibab-north-kaibab@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-kaibab-north-kaibab@fs.fed.us) in one of the following formats: word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html).

For further information regarding this project, please contact Steve Boyer at (928) 643-8140.

Sincerely,

Timothy Short  
District Ranger

Enclosures



## **Warm Fire Reforestation 2008 Scoping Request for Comments**

### **Background Information**

The proposed treatment area was harvested in the 1980's and naturally regenerated with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir seedlings. The forest stand structure was being managed to provide suitable goshawk and Mexican spotted owl habitat. In June of 2006 the Warm Fire burned more than 58,000 acres on the North Kaibab Ranger District. The fire started by lightning on June 8, 2006 and allowed to burn, as a natural process (i.e., wildland fire use) for two and half weeks. Fire suppression activities were initiated on June 25, 2006, due to changing weather conditions. The project is located within the area that received fire suppression efforts and not associated with the wildland fire use area.

### **Purpose and Need**

Most of the adjacent seed sources were killed in the Warm Fire. The need for planting trees is to achieve the desire future condition to maintain this area in a forested condition as per the Kaibab National Forest Land Management Plan.

### **Proposed Action**

Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir seeds have been collected on the district for the past 10 year. The native seed would be used to grow seedlings in a tree nursery and the planted in the project area. Higher elevations of the project area will be planted with a mixture of ponderosa pines and Douglas-fir, while the lower elevations will be planted with Ponderosa pine.

Seedlings would be hand planted in spring of 2008. Approximately 300 trees per acre would be planted with irregular spacing (no closer than 3 feet from other planted trees) to create clumpy canopy structure. Sod may be scraped down to bare mineral soil for each tree (24 inches wide) prior to planting to reduce vegetative competition.

The project is centrally located on the Kaibab Plateau. The legal description includes the following: T36N, R2E, Section 4; T37N, R2E, Sections 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36; and T 37N, R3E, Sections 19,30. For more information see the attached map.

# Warm Fire Reforestation 2008

