

Community Forest Vision

Prescott/Prescott Valley/Chino Valley

Overall, Forest Health and Fire: The Prescott/Prescott Valley/Chino Valley community values the Prescott National Forest (PNF) for the many recreational, economic and ecological services that it provides. The natural beauty and rural character of the surrounding public lands are a vital part of this community. Our vision of those lands 50 years from now is that they remain in the public domain, a resource shared across generations. We envision a forest where...

- Diverse, primarily native vegetation will protect soil from erosion, both in upland and riparian areas. Healthy wildlife populations will play an integral role in these ecosystems.
- The risk of forest fires will be reduced in the urban-wildland interface where the Forest and community partners will actively work to reduce hazardous fuel loads. Ecologically, socially and economically sustainable uses of forest products will support these projects.
- Active forest management, with an emphasis on restoration of natural ecological processes, developed through agency-community collaborative efforts, will help maintain forest health and reduce the risk of stand-replacing wildfires forest wide.
- All of this, in turn, will promote healthy watersheds where storage of water in the soil, stream courses and local aquifers is maximized.
- The healthy forest will contribute to global sustainability and will be a natural, trash-free place with quiet settings.
- The PNF will have sufficient financial resources to meet its management obligations, including adequate law enforcement.

Recreation: Through ongoing dialogue among land managers and communities, a thoughtful balance will be achieved between the need for access and the protection of forest resources and aesthetics. In our vision, a comprehensive recreational travel plan region-wide will protect forest health and promote robust economies in our cities and towns. The Prescott National Forest (PNF) will maintain a comprehensive system of meaningful and sustainable trails, trailheads and designated campsites. Low maintenance facilities built collaboratively among citizens and agencies will be valued by all. The PNF, with user participation, will minimize user conflict through enhanced separation between non-motorized and multi-use trails. The trails will be enjoyed by hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, motorized vehicle operators and hunters, with a reasonable amount of access to all user groups. Cross-country* motor vehicle travel will continue to be prohibited

Economic: All economic activities on the forest will be managed to minimize forest damage while promoting healthy ecosystems and public safety. Grazing allotments will be adaptively managed to promote healthy and productive grasslands and watersheds, while supporting ranch families who are good stewards of the land and represent an important part of our local history and culture. The PNF will continue to support a range of activities that directly contribute to local economies.

Community Involvement/Partnerships: Citizens will recognize an ethical obligation to protect the forest for the future; this land ethic will be shared with all newcomers to the area. Vibrant partnerships with emerging or established community groups will enhance the Forest Service's ability to provide services, enabling a large group of citizen volunteers to respond to the needs of the forest, including trail maintenance, user education and fire prevention. This informed, engaged citizenry – through a multi-interest non-profit and/or stewardship group - will actively participate in an ongoing collaborative process of forest planning that ensures the Prescott National Forest will be enjoyed by more generations to come.

*Unauthorized motor vehicle travel off of designated roads, trails and areas.