

## EADM Efficiencies: Focused Analyses

### *The Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project, Kaibab National Forest*

#### Overview

The Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project, located on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest, is a landscape-level project to help sustain national forests and grasslands by reducing the threat of uncharacteristic high-intensity wildfire and restoring fire resilient conditions to the Kaibab Plateau. The project includes several elements to streamline the National Environmental Policy Act process.

#### Ingredients for Success

The project was designed without timber harvest to avoid controversy and, consistent with Environmental Assessment and Decision Making principles, includes efficiencies, such as focusing analysis on issues, writing directly to the environmental assessment for some resources, and using the new Enterprise Program specialist analysis template.

While the scope of analysis was less than what the client was used to, it focused on design features that minimized impacts to resources unique to the area, such as Fickeisen plains cactus (*Pediocactus peeblesianus fickeiseniae*) and Kaibab Plains cactus (*Pediocactus paradinei*), biotic soils, montane meadow complexes, and biological soil crusts.



#### Lessons Learned

Some efficiency may be gained and redundancy eliminated by combining the biological evaluation with the specialist report for National Environmental Policy Act analysis when issues are identified by the public and approved by the deciding official for detailed analysis.

#### Next Steps

A Geographic Information Systems implementation tool is being developed to spatially tie design features to the project area to assist with project implementation. This project will be monitored as part of the larger-scale forest plan monitoring plan being developed collaboratively with stakeholders to monitor projects across the Kaibab National Forest.

The Enterprise Program is striving to save the Kaibab National Forest roughly 20 percent over initial estimated costs for this project through the use of these efficiencies and intends for the project to act as a model for future landscape-level restoration projects.



#### For More Information

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