

City News from Arizona's Forests



NORTHERN
ARIZONA
FOREST
FUND

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

Wendell Berry

Taking care of the lands and places that surround you,
Whether you live in a desert city or a mountain town,
We are all connected – by water, by air, and by a human
need to live our best life in the place we call home.
But what really is upstream?
Who is taking notice?

In 2018 the National Forest Foundation took on a new set of restoration projects: all part of the Northern Arizona Forest Fund's program to improve the health, function and resiliency of the Salt and Verde Watersheds. These are, after all, the places where our water comes from. And we couldn't do this significant work without our partners standing up and taking notice.

**We invite you to
celebrate with us;
breathe the air,
drink the water,
linger in the shade
of the forests.**



Northern Arizona Forest Fund 2018 Upstream Accomplishments and More to Come Before Years End

COMPLETED

Long Valley Meadow Water Replenishment Project

Long Valley Meadow is a high elevation meadow that provides water filtration, groundwater storage and soil stabilization in the Verde Watershed, along with valuable wildlife habitat along the Mogollon Rim of the Coconino National Forest.

Degraded forest conditions increased erosion along the stream banks and ultimately disconnected the meadow habitat from the water source. This year, the Arizona Elk Society and more than a hundred volunteers worked to restructure the meadow to spread water across the landscape in what is known as 'plug and pond' technique.

The pond-and-plug treatment both reconnects a stream channel with a functioning floodplain and restores a degraded meadow's water table up to its historic level. By restoring the meadow water table, the meadow soils and vegetation are re-watered. Restoring floodplain connectivity expands flood flows so that the meadow can naturally settle coarse or fine sediment from steeper streams. This is a critical function where human developments change the upper watershed hydrology and increase sediment loads.

In total, we improved over 40 acres of meadow habitat, and reduced fire risk in an additional 40 acres of surrounding forest. The project is expected to replenish an approximate 20 million gallons of water back into the natural hydrologic system.



COMPLETED

The Sierra Ancha Trails Erosion Control and Drainage Improvement Project

The Sierra Ancha Trails Erosion Control and Drainage Improvement Project, located on the Tonto National Forest, is designed to rehabilitate over 46 miles of trail damaged by the 30,000 acre Juniper Fire in Spring of 2016. Work completed will reduce the amount of sediment moving downstream into several creeks that flow directly into the Salt River and Roosevelt Lake.

In this first year of the two year project, the Arizona Conservation Corps and Arizona Conservation Experience youth conservation crews will have worked for 16 weeks and 8 weeks respectively to complete more than 24 miles of trail work.

Properly designed trails provide long-term sustainable infrastructure for users while also mitigating erosion. However, fires – such as the Juniper Fire – can destroy critical trail design features that make this balance possible. The trail rehabilitation being completed on the Sierra Ancha trail system focuses on trail realignment and drainage as well as removal of obstructions.

Crews address trail grade, alignment, slope and drainage – all to minimize the concentration, flow and velocity of water and debris being carried downstream, and decreasing the erosive force and sediment carrying capacity.

When complete, this 46-mile trail improvement project is expected to reduce sediment into the Salt River and Roosevelt Lake by many tons.



IN PROGRESS

Twin Springs Fuels Reduction Project

The Twin Springs Fuels Reduction Project, located on Bill Williams Mountain on the Kaibab National Forest, will improve forest health and reduce the risk of uncharacteristic fire on approximately 150 acres of overgrown ponderosa pine and juniper forests.

This project is a continuation of forest restoration work within a larger area to protect watershed function and reduce high-severity fire risk throughout the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project area that covers more than 15,000 acres. The project benefits local ecosystems, the Verde River, downstream water users, and the Town of Williams from post-fire flooding damage.

We are currently in the contracting phase, and expect to have crews on the ground by September.



The Black River Wetland Restoration and Revegetation Project

The Black River Wetland Restoration and Revegetation Project will plant up to 4,000 native willow, alder and cottonwood trees. This work is a continuation of a larger effort to protect the Black River throughout the watershed, and this year we have already begun to install fencing and additional exclosures areas to protect the wetland and stream habitats, and to ensure replenishment of water back into the natural system.

Planting efforts will start in September and expected to be complete by October.

IN PROGRESS

The Aspen Creek Watershed Restoration Project

The Aspen Creek Watershed Restoration Project, located near the Town of Prescott on the Prescott National Forest, in its second year will reduce fuel loads and restore two aspen stands on over 150 acres. Reducing the risk of fire in these overgrown forests protects the watershed, and the residents and community within the Wildland Urban Interface landscape.

We are currently in the contracting phase, and expect to have crews on the ground by September.

Rosilda Spring Restoration Project

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative and NAFF stakeholders identified the Rosilda Spring Restoration Project as a priority restoration project. The NFF has carefully planned this project to improve hydrologic function, to replenish water to the spring and meadow system, and to improve wildlife habitat for so many species.

Thanks to our partners at the Grand Canyon Trust and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, work is expected to be complete by October – read more to learn about a volunteer effort [here!](#)



The completion of these projects in 2018 is a win for our watersheds, our partners, and the millions of water users in the Salt River Valley.

Take a Stand!

Friends of the Forest Volunteer Trip: Rosilda Springs Restoration

In Arizona's National Forests, springs are like Nature's downtown. They attract every living thing, because all living things need water! A huge variety of plants grow near springs, and those plants attract pollinators and other insects; insects attract birds and bats; elk, deer, coyotes, lizards, raccoons, ringtails, bobcats and bears all come for a drink; and the frogs keep the place hopping.

But we need to give back to these popular places. The Rosilda Springs Restoration Project is our own 'downtown renovation project' and we need your help!

The National Forest Foundation, Grand Canyon Trust, Arizona Game and Fish and Friends of Northern Arizona Forest are teaming up to restore Rosilda Springs. This restoration will involve planting native trees like willows and cottonwoods, and building a fence around the spring to protect this small but mighty wetland.

We are looking for volunteers to come help renovate one of wildlife's favorite watering holes.

We hope you will join us!

WHERE

- Meet at the Coconino Supervisor's Office in Flagstaff
- 1824 S. Thompson St, Flagstaff, AZ
- We will carpool from here.

WHAT TO BRING

- Full brimmed hat
- Sunscreen
- Refillable water bottle
- Kids ages 8 and up are welcome



***Saturday, October 6
8:00 am - 1:00 pm***

WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED

- Work gloves, tools and necessary materials
- Additional water to refill water bottles
- Safety review and work demonstration will precede the project work
- A deli-style lunch

Register at
nff.wildapricot.org/event-3048357



"The river moves from land to water to land, in and out of organisms, reminding us what native peoples have never forgotten: that you cannot separate the land from the water, or the people from the land."

Lynn Culbreath Noel

Please call us to learn more about our successes, our progress, and if you have questions about how to get involved.



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