



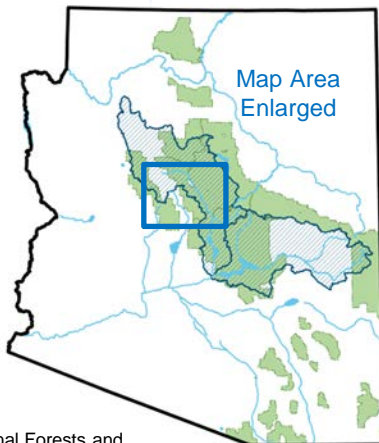
Aspen Creek Watershed Health and Aspen Restoration Project

The Aspen Creek Watershed Health and Aspen Restoration Project Overview

The Aspen Creek Watershed Health and Aspen Restoration Project is located just southwest of the City of Prescott, in the headwaters of Aspen Creek, a tributary of Granite Creek and the Upper Verde River. Conifer tree encroachment due to fire suppression has increased the risk of high-severity wildfires in this area, and has impacted the rare high-elevation aspen community.

Aspen stands are a rare and critical habitat type on the Prescott National Forest that add unique diversity to a pine and chaparral dominated ecosystem. Maintaining and protecting these aspen and ponderosa pine forests also improves wildlife habitat especially important for migratory birds, mule deer and wild turkey.

In 2017, the Northern Arizona Forest Fund will support hand-thinning activities across approximately 150 acres of aspen and surrounding pine forests, reducing the threat of unnaturally severe wildfire in surrounding forests, while restoring a unique aspen ecosystem.



National Forests and Watersheds in Arizona

Aspen Creek Project Area





Aspen Creek Watershed Health and Aspen Restoration Project

Project Approach

Local non-profits or private contractors will conduct hand thinning across the project area. Removing encroaching conifers with hand thinning techniques allows for selective cutting without impacting remaining aspen trees. This will improve the health of the aspen stands and surrounding ponderosa pine forests by reducing fire risk in the project area. Reducing the risk of high-severity fire also protects the watershed, local residents' homes, and critical infrastructure. These activities will encourage aspen regeneration and maintain over 40 acres of healthy, multi-generational aspen forests, important for the unique ecological characteristics and continued recreational enjoyment. Additional thinning activities across approximately 110 acres of surrounding ponderosa pine forests will help reduce high-severity fire in the surrounding forest.

Cost

The cost to implement and monitor this project is estimated at \$100,000. With your investment, we can begin implementing these important treatments that reduce the threat of wildfire, improve wildlife habitat, and protect an important watershed that provides Arizonans with recreation opportunities and vital waters supplies.

Location

Aspen Creek – Prescott National Forest – Verde River Watershed



Investment in watershed restoration through the Northern Arizona Forest Fund protects vital water supplies and shows your commitment to environmental stewardship in the landscape that serves your business and community.

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