



# Upper Hell Canyon Forest and Watershed Health Project

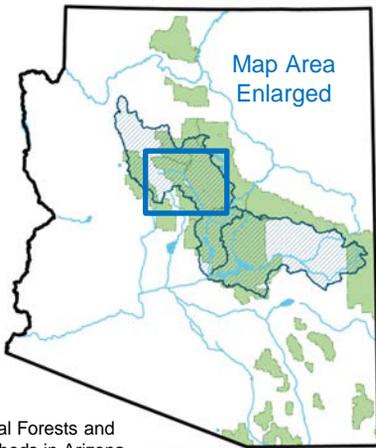
## The Upper Hell Canyon Forest and Watershed Health Project Overview

The **Upper Hell Canyon Forest and Watershed Health Project** is located on the south side of Bill Williams Mountain, a prominent, high-elevation peak above Williams, along the Mogollon Rim on the Kaibab National Forest.

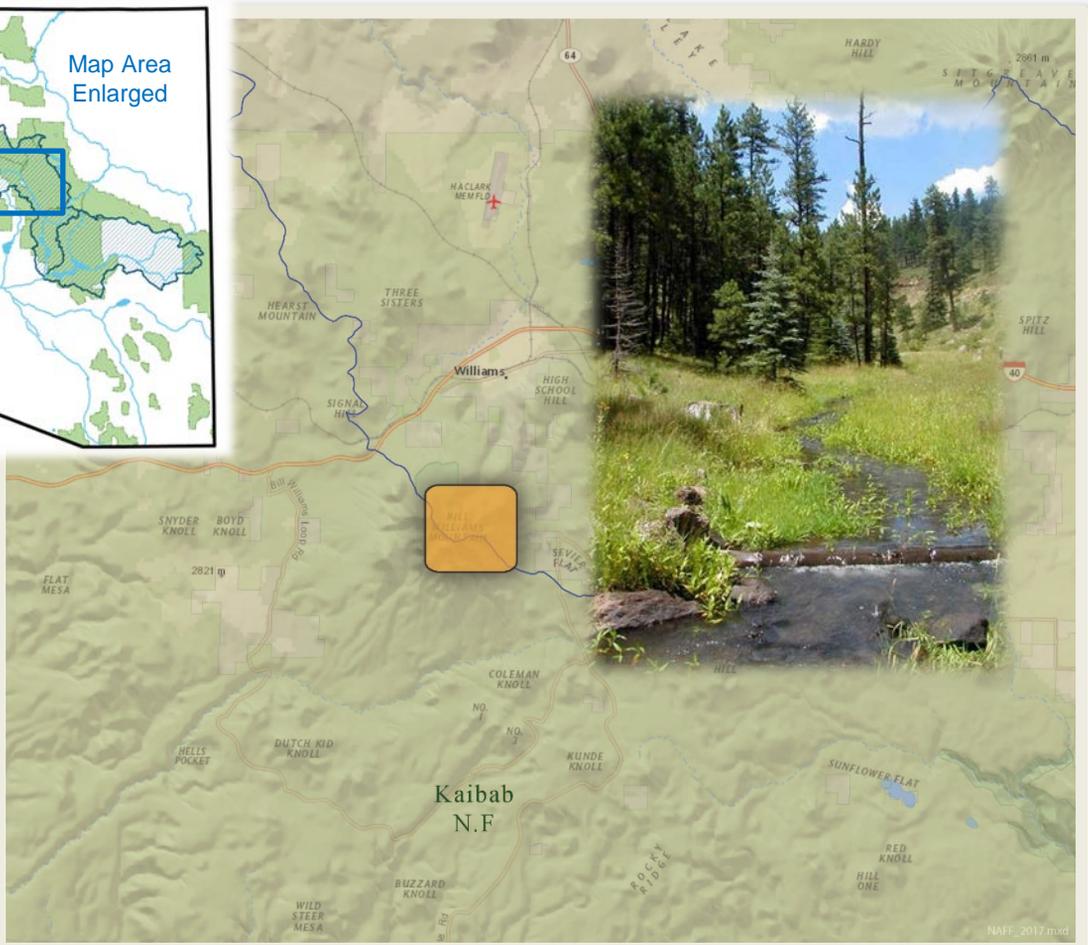
The canyon is located within a heavily forested landscape, which is the primary watershed for the City of Williams, and a major source of water for the Verde River headwaters. The dense forest in this canyon poses significant risk of high-severity wildfire that could adversely affect the City of Williams, its municipal water supply, and the health of the Verde River.

The 2017, Northern Arizona Forest Fund will support high-priority forest thinning activities on approximately 70 acres of forested land within and around Upper Hell Canyon. This project is part of a larger forest health project, known as the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project area.

**Upper Hell Canyon Project Area**



National Forests and Watersheds in Arizona





## Upper Hell Canyon Forest and Watershed Health Project

### Project Approach

Working in environmentally-sensitive areas and in extremely steep terrain, private contractors will use hand-thinning and mechanical treatments to reduce tree density in the ponderosa pine forest. This requires uniquely skilled labor with an ability to work in hard to access forested landscapes, but doing so will allow for complementary, large-scale restoration treatments, like prescribed fire, to be used on the mountain in years to come. In combination, these treatments will reduce tree densities near the top of the Upper Hell Canyon watershed, improving forest and watershed health and reducing the risk of unnaturally severe wildfire. In addition, this project will protect valuable Mexican Spotted Owl nesting and roosting habitat and local seeps and springs that are critical habitat for Arizona Bugbane, a rare and endemic plant.

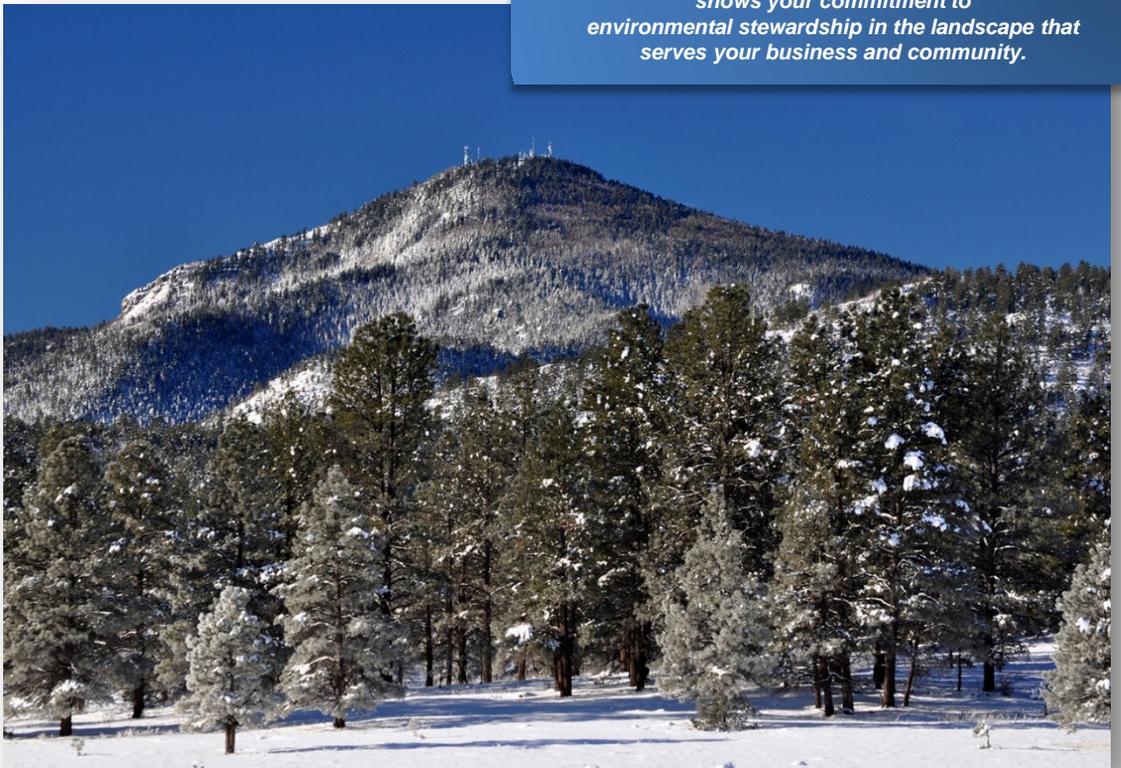
### Cost

The cost to implement and monitor results of this project is estimated at \$260,000. With your investment, we can begin implementing these important treatments and protect an iconic mountain and important watershed that provides Arizonans with recreation opportunities, critical wildlife habitat, and vital water supplies.

### Location

Upper Hell Canyon – Kaibab 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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