



**National Forest  
Foundation**



# Wood For Life

## What is Wood For Life?

In short—Wood For Life uses wood from forest restoration efforts to fuel Indigenous communities that rely on firewood to heat their homes. We are salvaging small-diameter timber removed in fire prevention efforts from the national forests and donating it to Indigenous communities to assist in heating homes that once relied on coal-powered heat.

## What is the process for cutting and distributing the wood?

The National Forest Foundation and the United States Forest Service work together to process downed trees from restoration projects and deliver the wood to Indigenous partners. Once the wood arrives on tribal lands, youth crews and tribal fire crews from the community work to distribute the wood directly to the elders or families most in need on remote parts of the reservation.

## Where are the current Wood For Life programs?

The Wood For Life Program started in 2020 and today includes programs in Northern Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Idaho in partnership with five Indigenous tribes; Navajo, Ute, Hopi, Shoshone-Paiute, and Shoshone Bannock. The NFF and U.S. Forest Service are exploring the possibilities to expand.

## How do I get involved?

Please reach out to the National Forest Foundation in your area or visit the website for more information:

- Maddie Smith, Wood for Life Coordinator (Southwest Region), at [msmith@nationalforests.org](mailto:msmith@nationalforests.org)
- Marlee Ostheimer, Northern Rockies Program Manager (Montana), at [mostheimer@nationalforests.org](mailto:mostheimer@nationalforests.org)
- Nick Olson, Southwest Colorado Project Coordinator (Rocky Mountain Region), at [nolson@nationalforests.org](mailto:nolson@nationalforests.org)
- Josh Rodriguez, Intermountain Program Manager (Idaho), at [jrodriguez@nationalforests.org](mailto:jrodriguez@nationalforests.org)
- Katlyn Lonergan, Eastern Sierra & Great Basin Program Coordinator, at [klonergan@nationalforests.org](mailto:klonergan@nationalforests.org)

## Why should I donate to Wood For Life?

Many communities affected by COVID-19 could benefit from forest restoration and fuel mitigation efforts removing wood that would otherwise go to waste. The Wood For Life program benefits local communities and the environment. Your donation contributes to the processing and delivery of the wood and ensures communities stay warm and forests stay healthy and safe for everyone to enjoy.

## How much does the wood cost the recipients?

The wood is provided at no cost to recipients.

## How will my donation be used?

Private investments in Wood For Life are highly leveraged and provide crucial matching funds required to secure federal funding opportunities. On average, NFF leverages every private dollar that is contributed by 5X for projects such as this one.

