

What's Happening  
in Your Woods?



## Forest Restoration and You



**Our forest is changing!** Forest restoration projects occurring across northern Arizona will return the forest to a healthier, more natural state and reduce the risk of severe fire. These projects are supported by multiple partners working together to restore forest health, protect communities and watersheds, and improve wildlife habitat.

Our forests are public resources, managed for YOU. Learn more and get involved by using this guide as a starting point.

*Treated areas can look disturbed at first, but quickly recover. Three-year photo sequence shows response after thinning and controlled burning treatments.*



Four Forest Restoration Initiative  
Stakeholder Group  
[4fri.org](http://4fri.org)

USDA Forest Service  
[fs.usda.gov/4fri](http://fs.usda.gov/4fri)

AZ Department of Forestry  
and Fire Management  
[dffm.az.gov](http://dffm.az.gov)







Photo: Tom Bean

## Goals of Forest Treatments

- Restore pine forests across northern Arizona using mechanical harvesting and fire to thin dense stands of smaller trees and leave larger, mature trees.
- Improve streams, springs, and wildlife habitat.
- Reduce wildfire threats and impacts to communities, watersheds, and recreation areas.
- As more forest is restored, allow wildfires to be part of a suite of forest management efforts.
- Engage private industry to conduct treatments and provide jobs to rural communities.
- Monitor treatments to ensure we meet our shared vision of a healthy forest for future generations.



Photo: The Nature Conservancy

## Forest Restoration Includes

### MECHANICAL THINNING

- Heavy equipment is used to thin forests. Treatments are designed to replicate historic conditions that were resilient to wildfire, drought, and disease outbreaks.
- Harvested trees are stacked and later transported to processing facilities.
- Biomass (residual branches and bark) is either transported off site, scattered to protect soil, or left in piles for later burning.
- Some roads are constructed for temporary access to harvest areas, and later decommissioned and rehabilitated to a natural state.



Photo: Ecological Restoration Institute

### FIRE AND SMOKE

- Fire and smoke are natural parts of the Southwest's forests. Public and community safety is the foremost concern for fire managers.
- Wildfires often have a range of outcomes, from risking high-value areas and resources to beneficially reducing fuel and tree densities. Wildfires are managed on a case-by-case basis.
- Controlled burns can reduce the risk of future severe wildfires by removing excess fuel and also improve forest health by breaking down nutrients.
- Fire managers try to minimize smoke impacts to people while managing all fires. Heavy smoke from some fires can occur.



Photo: Ecological Restoration Institute

Photo: Bruce D. Taubert

### AND MUCH MORE...

Many organizations, local governments, and volunteers work together to complete other forest restoration projects, which contribute significantly to forest health:

- Make fences more wildlife-friendly
- Plant trees in burned areas
- Improve wildlife habitat features
- Remove non-native weeds
- Rehabilitate stream channels and springs
- Survey and monitor wildlife and resources of interest

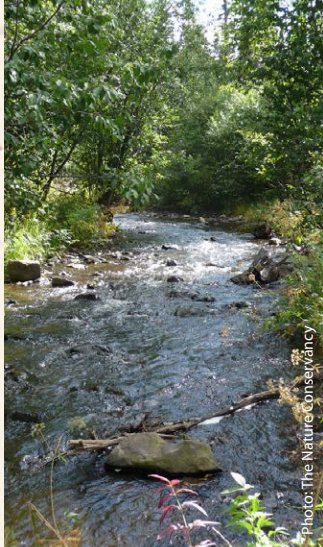


Photo: The Nature Conservancy



Photo: Joe Miller

## Be Safe Be Prepared Be Involved

- Use caution driving near logging trucks and harvesting equipment.
- Harvesting equipment operators have limited visibility. Do not enter areas where harvesting equipment is operating.
- Follow smoke management efforts and reports: [smoke.azdeq.gov](http://smoke.azdeq.gov)
- Follow wildfire activity status reports by selecting Arizona at: [inciweb.nwcg.gov](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov)
- Make your property "Firewise" to reduce risks of fire starting within communities: [firewise.org](http://firewise.org)
- Learn more about fire-adapted communities at [fireadaptednetwork.org](http://fireadaptednetwork.org)



Photo: Ecological Restoration Institute

**Volunteer** on restoration projects by visiting [4fri.org/getinvolved](http://4fri.org/getinvolved)