



# The Centennial Forest Update

Fall 2004

## *A Semiannual Update of Activities on NAU's Outdoor Research and Education Lab*

### **From the Director**

As early snow and real fall weather are upon us in Flagstaff it is good to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments at The Centennial Forest. The first 9 months of 2004 have been amazing! We have had substantial success with external grants exceeding \$300,000 for forest health restoration and the Junior Forester Academy. We also congratulate Tom Kolb on his research team for a \$700,000 grant proposal to examine how restoration treatments affect carbon flux in the atmosphere. Tom's experiments will be on the CF and serve as a showcase of what the CF means to the Southwest.

The upgrade of staff positions was completed and we now have a CF Forest Manager – JJ Smith and a Centennial Forest Educational Coordinator – Cheryl Miller. Both new positions have expanded work assignments, but also come with well deserved increases in pay. Finally, we have made the transition to self sufficiency. As of July 1, 2004 The Centennial Forest became completely self supporting. We receive no direct monetary support from NAU. The School of Forestry has supported us with 4 years of start up funding and continues to provide office space and allows us to compete for some internal funds. Thanks to the School of Forestry faculty, students and staff for all their support!

Looking forward we see lots of challenges and insurmountable opportunity. We will continue to work toward some institutional support to cover the current salaries of staff to fulfill the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement between NAU and Arizona State Land Department. Our first

commitment is to staff. We hope to finalize several issues on the CF Field Campus and may be starting construction in fall of 2005 on several facilities supporting the broad CF vision. Rounding off our plans is a development campaign to raise money for hogans and the expectation for a bigger and better Junior Forester Academy in 2005. Cheers and thanks for all your support! – Michael R. Wagner, Director NAU Centennial Forest.

### **JFA a Success!**

Last summer, 2004, began the first annual Junior Forester Academy (JFA). The week long day camp took place on the CF from June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> week-long session was attended by kids from the Fredonia Youth Conservation Corps. The camp director, Cheryl Miller, organized a staff of camp counselors and maintenance crews, and hired a curriculum coordinator, graduate student Tina Salata, to run the CF's first youth environmental camp.



Cheryl Miller and day camper core a ponderosa pine.

Current plans for the 2005 JFA include a Senior Forester Academy for last year's JFA graduates and overnight facilities that will be able to accommodate JFA campers for a week long continuous stay on The CF. If you would like more information or are interested in signing your kids up for Summer 2005 please contact Cheryl Miller at Cheryl.Miller@nau.edu or 928-523-6727.



Doc Smith of the Ecological Restoration Institute shows fire history through fire scars found on the wood.

### **Forest Management Update**

Braeside, Stand 8, a 200 acre thinning project adjacent to the Fisher restoration treatment will begin next summer. This project will connect the 200 acre Fisher Restoration treatments to the 500 acre Montoya treatment north of The Arboretum at Flagstaff. By connecting these thinned areas we will create a wide area of land with low crown fire potential, helping to protect the city of Flagstaff as

well as the natural resources of the unit from unnatural crown fire.

Last spring saw the commencement of the Rock thinning project. The primary objective of the project was to study the effects of a multi-aged group selection on ecosystem parameters while reducing the risk of active crown fire, enhancing long term productivity and improving ecosystem health. High Desert Investment Company of Flagstaff, AZ is conducting the thinning work. For more information about these projects please contact Jj.Smith@nau.edu

### **Current Research**

Monica Gaylord, an NAU Ph.D. student, has already marked ponderosa pine for thinning this coming spring/summer on the CF to replicate the Fort Valley Taylor Woods experiment found north of Flagstaff, Arizona. About 100 acres were monitored for bark beetle density. Tyler Ward, a CF Forestry Technician and senior NAU Forestry student headed up the marking operation.

Rocky Mountain Research Station entomologist Karen Clancy, Region 3 Forest Health Protection entomologists John Anhold & Joel McMillin and University of Arizona forest health specialist Tom DeGomez are winding down their research on pesticide treatments that could protect high value trees while also being safe for our environment. The research has taken place in various areas of the CF. For more information about these projects please contact Jj.Smith@nau.edu



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