



The Centennial Forest Update

Spring 2005

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

From the Director

The Centennial Forest is about to celebrate its 5 year anniversary. Governor Jane D. Hull created by proclamation the 47,000 acre Forest at a public ceremony on April 11, 2000, at the Southwest Forest Science Complex on the NAU campus. As part of the ceremony a pinyon pine was planted outside the School of Forestry. The pinyon pine and the Centennial Forest are both growing fine albeit slowly. A newly planted tree takes time to establish a strong root system. We too, the CF staff, are building a strong foundation so that we can sustain a healthy rate of growth.

Among our accomplishments in the first 5 years is a management plan, over 1000 acres of fuel risk reduction treatments, thousands of student hours on the forest, and hundreds of research hours conducting a range of basic and applied research. Over a million dollars has been generated for various research and fuel reduction projects. Shortly we expect to receive the long awaited Arizona State Land Dept. approval to begin construction on our field campus. The field facilities are vital to support research, demonstration, and educational activities. We need facilities to shelter the fast growing Junior Forester Academy (JFA). JFA will undergo a growth spurt this summer providing a high quality overnight camping experience for 120 students. Not bad for the first 5 years! – Michael R. Wagner – Director, NAU Centennial Forest

Upcoming CFAC meeting

Members of the Centennial Forest Advisory Committee please join us for the next meeting coming up April 11th. The meeting will be held at

Northern Arizona University's DuBois Center in the Meadows conference room at 3:00pm. Following the meeting, you are cordially invited to a small reception next door in the School of Forestry lobby to celebrate the 5-year anniversary of the Centennial Forest. Everyone from the NAU and Flagstaff community are encouraged to attend the reception. Cake and refreshments will be provided. For further information or a parking pass for the NAU campus, please contact Brian Widener at bkw_nau@yahoo.com.



Dbh is taken of a tree near camp at the Junior Forester Academy.

The 2005 Junior/Senior Forester Academy

Applications are already coming in for the 2005 Junior Forester Academy. This summer we are expanding to 4 one-week overnight camping sessions. Some of last year's campers will be returning in July for the inaugural Senior Forester Academy. Already, the Centennial Forest is finding valuable partners in making this year a success. In January, students from the Creative Communications department on the North campus of NAU started designing the new emblem for the camp. The thoughtful creativity and hours spent by the graphic design students

will benefit the Junior Forest Academy for years to come and enrich the portfolios of the students as they graduate this semester. A special thanks of gratitude is being given to the Construction Management department at the Fourth Street campus of Coconino Community College for building last year's tent platforms and building three additional platforms this year.

The forestry club will be building the picnic tables again, this year, and the Junior Forester Academy looks forward to both students, teachers and resource managers from the community coming together to help teach and run this year's camp. J Dianne Brederson, the curriculum developer for this year's camp, comes to us with a vast amount of experience in environmental education. She is currently an instructor and Ph.D. candidate for the NAU College of Education. If you would like more information or are interested in signing your kids up for Summer 2005 please contact Cheryl Miller at 928-523-6727 or Cheryl.Miller@nau.edu

Forest Research/Management Update

Thinning activities are coming up again for this field season. In December, the Arizona State Land Department burned slash piles at the Fisher restoration treatment project. 100 acres nearby will be pre-commercial thinned by a local contractor. Another 100 acre thinning project will be advertised in April of this year. Thinning will resume at the Rock restoration project once weather conditions improve.

Two new research projects are set to begin soon on the Centennial Forest that will address global climate change. Dr. Tom Kolb will be building instrument towers (flux towers) in the south region of the Forest that will measure CO₂ and H₂O concentrations in thinned and unthinned stands. Results of this study will provide insight into how forest management affects greenhouse gas sequestration in ponderosa pine ecosystems



An IsoTruss tower, like this one waiting to go up, will be used by Dr. Tom Kolb for a flux tower. The towers are light, flexible and strong.

Dr. Bruce Hungate, NAU Dept. of Biology will be conducting an experiment that simulates future climate increases and decreases in precipitation on patches of CF grassland. Shelters will be built to divert precipitation toward or away from the patches. This experiment will provide information on how changing rainfall amounts will affect grassland species composition and production of greenhouse gases from soil microbial activity. For information, please contact JJ.Smith@nau.edu



Centennial Forest
Northern Arizona University
PO Box 15018
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5018

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