



The Centennial Forest Update

Spring 2004

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

From the Director

It appears that "the monsoons" are truly here and that we will survive another year without a major fire on the Centennial Forest; we get another year for constructing fuel breaks through these strategically located lands southwest of Flagstaff. Combining several grants made to Northern Arizona University and the State Land Department and some shared resources, we have been marking and treating **hundreds** of acres this summer -- the most current being in the Fisher Tank area of the Historic School Forest. This new harvest unit is a dramatic contrast to business as usual; it is a comprehensive treatment that provides significant improvement in fire behavior for at least 30 years, creates structural diversity for wildlife and aesthetics, and provides a sustainable arrangement of tree ages for future generations to enjoy. Besides these fundamental ecosystem services, we now have a demonstration area for years of education, outreach, and its related research projects. This, in a nutshell, is the mission of the Centennial Forest, and we will continue to provide such a range of land management treatments for the benefit of the State.-- John Bailey, Acting Director (while Dr. Mike Wagner is away)

Jr. Forester Academy

The summer of 2004 on the Centennial Forest promises to be a rewarding experience for local Flagstaff middle school students. The Centennial Forest will host their first Jr. Forester Academy summer day camp with the goal of connecting kids to the forest and the natural world that surrounds them so that they can learn and teach others about, good stewardship, land ethics, and forest

health. The themes of the camp will include forest health, land management, restoration, wildfire risk and prevention, sustainable wood harvesting, wildlife, scientific research, land stewardship, Native American history, ecological sustainability, and community service. Campers will learn important lessons through an integrated, hands-on curriculum that allows kids to explore, discover and learn about the environment while also reinforcing their math, reading, writing, and language skills. Not only will kids learn about forestry, they will also learn about future career opportunities managing and caring for our nation's natural resources while personally participating in community service activities to improve the health of northern Arizona's forests.

Northern Arizona University students and staff will participate in the Academy to teach, mentor and help Jr. Foresters. Craig Bowman, NAU Forestry Club president, is working with Home Depot of Flagstaff in getting a donation of lumber to build six picnic tables for the camp. NAU students would build the picnic tables and sell them to the Centennial Forest to raise funds for the Forestry Club. NAU College of Business Administration students are creating a business plan for the Environmental Camp and Jr. Forester Academy thru the APS Professional Leadership Center program. In February, NAU Construction Management students in CM 123 (Basic Construction and Methods) built tent platforms for the summer camp. The Centennial Forest provided the lumber for the platforms which were built on the Coconino Community College (CCC) campus as part of a unique partnership between the CCC Construction Technology Program and the NAU Construction Management Program.

Project partners will include the US Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station, the

Arizona Game and Fish Department, the University of Arizona Extension Office, the Arboretum at Flagstaff, Coconino County, the US Forest Service and the Arizona State Land Department.

If you would like more information or are interested in signing your child up for Summer 2004 please contact Cheryl Miller at Cheryl.Miller@nau.edu or 523-6727.

Fisher-Rock Restoration Project Update

Last summer and fall, 200 acres were thinned in the Fisher restoration area. Ponderosa pines in every size class were retained to represent a “more” pre-settlement condition. All Gambel



A tractor skids logs to a landing during the Fisher restoration treatment this past summer. The slash pile on the left will be burned by the Arizona State Land Department next winter.

oaks were left uncut to provide for wildlife habitat needs. Slash piles left in the area will be burned by the Arizona State Land Department next winter, and roads in the area have been improved to mitigate resource degradation.

High Desert Investment Company of Flagstaff has contracted with Centennial Forest to help restore another 200 acres of land in the Rock restoration area, beginning this spring. Both the Rock and Fisher treatments are part of the School of Forestry’s Stand Treatment Impacts on Forest Health study and the Ecological Restoration Institute’s Mogollon Rim study. For more

information on the Fisher-Rock Project contact Cheryl.Miller@nau.edu.

Progress on the Field Campus Planning

The Smith Group was hired late last year by the Centennial Forest and the Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research to develop a field campus master plan. Two concepts were designed that include a building layout, trail design and road design that will help create what we believe will be a world class field facility. For more information on the Master Plan contact Jj.Smith@nau.edu



Staff from Centennial Forest, Merriam-Powell and the Arboretum at Flagstaff working hard with the Master Planning team to design the Centennial Forest Field Campus. Starting from far left and continuing clockwise around the table is CF Research Specialist JJ Smith, Arboretum at Flagstaff Director Nancy Morin, NAU Capitol Assets Project Manager Terry Brezina, CF Forester Cheryl Miller, then-CF Acting Director Dr. John Bailey, Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research (MPCER) Associate Director Neil Cobb, MPCER Project Director, Amy Whipple and architects from the Smith Group.

Forest Certification

This spring Dr. Michael Wagner’s **Developing World Forests** class will be conducting a class project to evaluate the feasibility of attaining forest management certification from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The Centennial Forest Technical Committee will pursue any favorable findings from the class, which may ultimately lead to the first certified university forest in the western United States. For more

information on the Centennial Forest certification
contact JJ.Smith@nau.edu.

Centennial Forest Commercial Lease Update

