



FRIENDS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA FORESTS

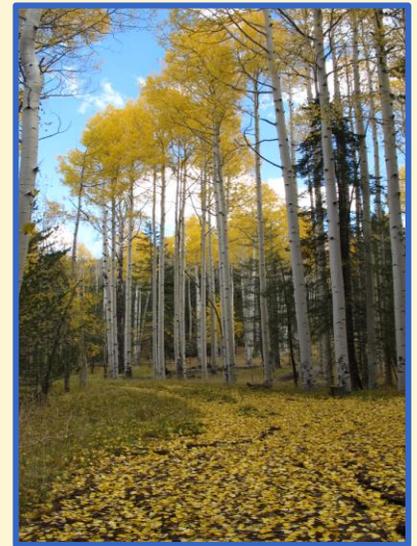
NEWSLETTER

July 2016

Aspen Team Gets an Early Start on Exclosure Repairs

Starting on April 22nd, the Aspen Team has spent at least one day each week, logging more than 1050 hours constructing or repairing fences on the Flagstaff and Mogollon Districts. Besides repairing a dozen aspen exclosures that were damaged over the winter, we have built four new exclosures – two for our project to regenerate aspen along highway US180 north of the Snowbowl Road exit and two on the Mogollon District.

The two Mogollon Rim projects each required two days of work so a group of us chose to spend the night camping at the work sites to avoid four hours of driving (the sites are about 90 miles from Flagstaff). On our first overnighter in May we built a 2+ acre exclosure along FS 321C in McClintock Draw to protect several Bebb willows and a beautiful riparian area that was being damaged by elk and deer. Dinner was prepared by Chef Mackin and all ten of us enjoyed the buffalo burgers and sides.



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The second overnigher in mid-June had seven of us returning to the Mogollon District to construct a new exclosure at Lower Buck Spring to protect an aspen grove located in the drainage of the spring. Once again we enjoyed another fine meal prepared by Chef Mackin.

The Aspen Team is looking forward to spending the remainder of the season building two or three new aspen exclosures, some log-worm fences, and rebuilding several miles of right-of-way and pasture fences to make them pronghorn friendly. Let me know if you are interested in helping any of these efforts.

Dave Downes
Aspen Team Coordinator
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Stewardships Key to Aspen Team Events

FoNAF is currently maintaining 65 exclosures in the Flagstaff Ranger District – 58 for aspen, 5 for Bebb willows, and 2 for riparian areas. Every spring, 18-20 FoNAF members are reminded to visit one or more exclosures to determine how they have fared over the winter and if any repairs are required. They do this in their role as fence **Stewards**. Many exclosures come through just fine, but others don't. (see photo by Ron Bauman)

During May and June, many of the Aspen Team outings involve repairs to one or more damaged exclosures to insure that they are able to prevent browsing or other damage by elk, deer and livestock. This past spring, the teams spent five days repairing 12 exclosures – some repairs were done in an hour or less; others took an entire day.

In late summer or early fall we ask the Stewards to check their exclosures again to be sure they are ready for the winter. This usually results in finding fewer damaged fences that may require the team to spend a day or two making repairs before winter.



For an overview of this program and a Steward's responsibilities, see <http://www.friendsofnazforests.org/page-1504706> .

Dave Downes
Aspen Team Coordinator
dhdwnes@gmail.com

Do You Know.....?

1. What percentage of Arizona's 73 million acres of land is privately held?
2. In a healthy grove of aspen clones, how many other species may be present?
3. Who is the current Coconino National Forest Supervisor?

(find the answers on page 5; no prize if you get them all correct)

Photos from Recent Aspen Team Projects



Photos in this Newsletter compliments of:
Mea Stees, Bill Waters, Bill Kluwin, Ron Bauman, and Bob Dyer

2016 PSAR Program Underway and Needs Volunteers

On Memorial Day Weekend, the Preventive Search & Rescue Program (PSAR) kicked off its 2016 season. Forest Service Rangers and FoNAF volunteers will be stationed at the trailhead for the Humphrey Peak trail to assist hikers and visitors through October. PSAR volunteers engage hikers as they start their trek up the trail, informing them of conditions on the peaks and to educate them about appropriate wilderness preparedness. Also, PSAR will educate visitors about other recreational options in the peaks area and will discuss the “Leave No Trace” concept of wilderness etiquette.



PSAR plays a vital role for the Coconino County Sheriff’s Search & Rescue Program. It has been demonstrated that the number of hiker incidents requiring the involvement of the Sheriff’s Department is reduced by engaging and educating hikers prior to a hike. In addition to educating hikers at a trailhead booth, some volunteers will be stationed along the trail to evaluate and support hikers as they try to summit. PSAR volunteers do not perform medical or rescue services. Their role is to assist the Sheriff’s Department by preventing incidents and by providing informed reporting in the event of a rescue situation

Of approximately 150 hikers per day starting up the peak 50 interacted with the volunteers at the PSAR booth. Due to this heavy volume, the 2016 PSAR program needs more volunteers that can meet the following criteria:

- Comfortable engaging hikers and potentially roving on the trail up to the Saddle.
- Having outdoor experience is helpful but not required. Resource literature and materials are available at the booth along with seasoned hiking volunteers to provide guidance according to your level of expertise.
- Be available Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Snowbowl trailhead.

FoNAF’s PSAR Coordinator can answer your questions, provide more background, and facilitate finding a workable time slot for you. Here’s his contact information:

Bill Waters, PSAR Coordinator for FoNAF
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928-266-0631



Three New Aspen Enclosures on Highway 180 Being Built

The 2016 phase of FoNAF's six-year search for browse-resistant aspen trees started in May for many of our members. Three research sites had already been planted with saplings: in 2013, 2014 and 2015. For 2016, three enclosures will be built along Hwy 180, one of them at the location formerly called "Aspen Curve." The Aspen Team is clearing the sites of fallen trees and building the three enclosure fences. In late July, the Team will transport saplings and water. Already in June, nine team members distributed 1000 gallons of water to the saplings at the 2015 planting site in anticipation of a dry start to the summer.

The Saturday of Memorial Day weekend was designated as a "Public Work Day." Notices were posted in the local papers and on our website that announced the day and invited folks to come out. Dave Downes, Aspen Team Coordinator, declared the day successful with four interested workers showing up to discover what we do and to help out.

Ralph Baierlein will have an article in the next Newsletter describing the project, including the planting techniques he developed, the survival rates for the new saplings, and what conclusions he's drawn from the research so far.



Answers to "Do You Know:"

1. Private ownership only accounts for 18.2 % or roughly 13 million acres, the rest is managed by the Feds, State and Tribal agencies
2. Scientists indicate that over 120 other species would be present in a healthy aspen grove, making aspen a strong indicator for forest health and biodiversity
3. Laura Jo West

Friend of Northern Arizona Forests

Mission Statement:

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests is dedicated to assisting the United States Forest Service in maintaining, protecting, and restoring the natural and cultural resources and the scenic beauty of our forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. We are a solution-oriented volunteer group that works in partnership with the Forest Service to assist the Service in tasks it does not have the staff or the funds to accomplish on its own. In addition, we seek to connect the community and the Forest Service to the benefit of both parties and of the forest itself.

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