



FRIENDS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA FORESTS NEWSLETTER

May 2016

New Look and Delivery for the FoNAF Newsletter

As you now know, the big news from the Friends of Northern Arizona Forests involves the changes to our Newsletter's look and how it will be delivered to you. Until her retirement from the Board of Directors last October, Mary Natali had faithfully coordinated the publishing of the Newsletters for many years along with Vice President Marty Lee, and we graciously thank them for providing that support to the organization.

Before handing the Newsletter responsibilities to another volunteer, it seemed like the right time to investigate a different format and delivery system. The annual cost for printing and mailing it twice a year has reached over \$600. By using word processing and the internet, we can now avoid this expense and use the funds for much needed tools, supplies and other on the ground activities.

Beyond the cost savings, advantages for the new concept are numerous. Being able to send the Newsletter more frequently during our peak activity season is most significant. We can now provide you with timely articles and updates on our projects and our scheduled events. It will also facilitate announcing current events for all the volunteer groups represented in FoNAF.

We're excited about the new look for the Newsletter and hope you agree.

Tom Mackin, President

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Back Country Permits Saw Highest One Day Volume Ever

The Forest Service requires anyone who leaves the boundary of the Arizona Snow Bowl, whether they are skiers or hikers, to have a permit. Permits are issued at the offices of the CNF and by FoNAF volunteers on weekend mornings at the Agassiz Lodge.

Back in the fall, we anticipated a record year of permit activity based on the forecast of a huge El Nino system. While the actual snowpack was not a record, it was still sufficient in the 2015-16 season to generate a very large number of permits to be issued – second only to the 2009-10 season. Some 14 FoNAF volunteers issued 368 permits between December 5th and the end of February. On January 9th, Bill Waters and Bruce Belman wrote 50 permits between 9 and 11:30! Note to scheduler: we need to have more than two volunteers on the busy weekends at the beginning of the ski season.

If you would like to assist with this activity next year, or if you would just like more information, contact Dave at dhdownes@gmail.com.

Dave Downes, Back Country Permit Scheduler

Aspen Team Has a Full Calendar Planned for 2016

Once the Forest Service opens their roads that have been closed for the winter, twenty FoNAF members will be visiting the aspen exclosures for which they are stewards to determine if they have been damaged by the snow pack or winds. They are asked to report any needed repairs to me and I will coordinate visits by the fence team to make them as soon as possible to prevent the exclosure from being visited by any ungulates wanting to snack on young aspen. Our hope is always that the damage is minimal and the number of days needed for repairs is low so we can quickly move on to some major projects, but we had several very windy days in March so we may not be too lucky.

Our list of large projects is long and growing. We plan to build at least three -- and possibly as many as six -- new exclosures on the Flagstaff Ranger District (FRD). Two will be along US180 at what used to be called aspen corner but is now mostly downed trees. The third is further north but also along US180. Using funds from the Kenny Lawrence Fund that were donated to FoNAF and a matching grant from the National Forest Foundation, we will plant almost 1000 aspen saplings in these three exclosures so that future generations of residents and visitors will have large tracts of aspen right along the highway to enjoy. Time and materials availability permitting, we will build some additional aspen fences at locations yet to be determined.



We have been asked to assist in the construction of a new exclosure at Buck Spring on the Mogollon Rim District (MRD) that will provide protection of a small tract of aspen and a new exclosure along FR321C to protect a riparian area populated with Bebb willows. We plan to continue visiting the MRD to survey and document the condition of a large number of exclosures for which no current documentation exists. And finally we have agreed to assist in rebuilding many miles of pasture and right-of-way fences to insure that they are pronghorn friendly, i.e., the bottom strand of wire is smooth (not barbed) and 18” above ground.

Our Aspen Team is always happy to have more hands whether it is just for a single outing or on a regular basis. More information about both opportunities can be found on our web site <http://www.friendsofnazforests.org/page-1504701> or by contacting me directly.

Dave Downes
Aspen Fence Project Coordinator

Aspen Team Work Schedule May and June 2016

May 6	Friday	Make repairs on large exclosure west of US180 and north of FR760; add ht wire
May 13/14	Sat/Sun	Mogollon overnighter to build new Bebb Willow exclosure at FR321C
May 20	Friday	Install a sign at Leroux Springs and repair several Hart Prairie exclosures
May 28	Saturday	Public workday along US180 for new aspen replanting exclosure
June	TBD	Pronghorn Fences -- Babbitt Lake area, raise/replace bottom wire
June	TBD	Brolliar Park, build log worm fence

For specific information about each event, contact the Aspen Team Coordinator, Dave Downes



The Board of Directors welcomes Pam Baldwin

New board member replacing Sheila Walsh from Coconino Horsemen's Alliance

Pam provided the following biography:

I am a born and raised Flagstaff gal. My father was also raised here and worked on the Happy Jack Hot Shot crew for many summers while he taught school here in Flagstaff. I grew up riding my horse all over this country as I still do today. I am an avid hiker, biker, camper and horseback rider. I am deeply emotionally vested into the wellbeing our forests. I have watched through the years the change in the landscape and I have been devastated over the mass of wildfire, both personally and professionally. The volumes of usage has also been trying and alarming.

I believe to be an asset to your organization as I bring with me a lifetime of contacts, friendships and business relationships. I have been active with other organizations such as the Coconino Horsemen's Alliance, Friends of the Coconino Parks and have been instrumental in successfully programs of both groups.

I am very familiar with the Coconino & Kaibab Forests, as well as comprehend what the forest management is up against. I would like to dedicate some of my time in an effort to help protect and preserve our forest. Having a voice for the horse community and being involved with the development of the structure for all of the diverse users of our public lands is time well vested.

Do You Know.....?

1. When was the Coconino National Forest designated?
2. How large is the Coconino National Forest?
3. How many districts compromise the entire Coconino National Forest?

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

Aspen Team Endures Snow for Early Fence Repairs

On April 29th a small group of Aspen Team members made repairs to several enclosure fences that had been damaged from snow and wind. Over the winter months trees fall on the fences due to wind or heavy snow fall causing gaps in the fences or downing complete sections. When the fences are damaged the aspen saplings inside the enclosures are "browsed" by elk and deer (yum).

The earlier the repairs are made in the spring significantly improves the chances for protecting the young saplings. So the team of five members including Dave Downes, Tom Mackin, Bill Kluwin, Jim Hoyne, and Bob Dyer went out to repair six sections of fence on four different enclosures. The weather was initially difficult

with snow and wind (see photo), but turned intermittent during the day allowing for successful repairs to all targeted fences.

Besides the planned new enclosures for 2016 that the Aspen Team will build, there will be ongoing repairs to damaged fences. Unfortunately the damage is often not due to weather but also caused by human intervention. The team is perplexed when a good fence is seemingly ruined by hunters or curious people that apparently have an overwhelming desire to see what's inside an enclosure.



The Aspen Team events calendar has many days during 2016 designated for fence repairs, so please check their events calendar for future outings when the weather will be much more enjoyable than on April 29th.

Answers to “Do You Know:”

1. Originally established in 1898 as the "San Francisco Mountains National Forest Reserve", the area was designated a U.S. National Forest in 1908 when the San Francisco Mountains National Forest Reserve was merged with lands from other surrounding forest reserves to create the Coconino National Forest.
2. 1,852,201 acres
3. 3, Flagstaff Ranger District, Red Rocks Ranger District and Mogollon Rim Ranger District

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.

FoNAF Board of Directors

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Coconino National Forest information:

District Rangers: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/about-forest/offices>
Website address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino/>