

# NEWS RELEASE

## Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project

[www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org](http://www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org)



City of Flagstaff  
Matt Millar  
928-213-2512  
[mmillar@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:mmillar@flagstaffaz.gov)



Coconino National Forest  
George Jozens  
928-527-3412  
[gjozens@fs.fed.us](mailto:gjozens@fs.fed.us)

---

### Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project awards new contracts for Dry Lake Hills thinning

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., Oct. 19, 2018, For Immediate Release** – The Coconino National Forest and City of Flagstaff are pleased to announce the awarding of two contracts this week, which include helicopter timber thinning and steep-slope mechanized timber thinning in the Dry Lake Hills area immediately north of Flagstaff.

The helicopter thinning contract has been awarded to *Markit! Forestry Management* from Colorado Springs, Colorado for treatment of approximately 500 acres. This contract targets timber-thinning in areas not accessible to ground-based equipment.

The steep-slope mechanized contract has been awarded to *Smith Forestry Services Inc.* from Albany, Oregon, for treatment of approximately 400 acres. This contract entails mechanized thinning treatments in steep and rocky terrain where ground based equipment can be utilized.

“We are extremely pleased to announce these two awards,” said Paul Summerfelt, city project manager.

The city provided approximately \$3.6 million dollars and the Forest Service provided an additional \$1.8 million. The city’s contribution is part of the \$10 million watershed protection bond approved by city voters in 2012.

“We are glad this important work continues to progress,” said Debra Mollet, Flagstaff Ranger District project manager. “We look forward to what this means for the community and the forest.”

The Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project, now in its sixth year, has made significant progress toward restoring forest ecosystems around Flagstaff, and reducing fire danger to homes and municipal water supply. To date, the project has thinned more than 4,000 acres of city, state and federal lands, been supported by more than 14,000 hours of volunteer labor, provided more than 3,000 cords of firewood to area residents, supplied wood to local forest operators, and employed 75 seasonal crew members from the local area.

“The work is critical to our community,” said Summerfelt. “We are grateful for our partnership with the Coconino National Forest and the support shown by all.”

Work on both the helicopter and steep slope contracts is expected to begin this winter, and will take upwards of two seasons to complete. Following this work, attention will turn towards completing similar work on Mormon Mountain south of town, the headwaters of Lake Mary, a critical drinking water source for city and county residents.

To receive updated information on FWPP as it continues to progress, please visit our project website, join our email list, and view our interactive project map at [www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org](http://www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org)