



FLAGSTAFF WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT



City of Flagstaff
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Coconino National Forest
Flagstaff Ranger District
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The bids are in; timber harvest planned for spring in FWPP

Flagstaff, Ariz., Aug. 25, 2016 – For Immediate Release: The US Forest Service and City of Flagstaff are pleased to provide an update on the progression of the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project; a contractor has provided a bid to conduct tree thinning operations on 642 acres of National Forest along Schultz Creek and the base of Mt. Elden. Work is expected to begin this spring, and will include tree cutting and their removal from the area.

Previous work in the area included hand thinning and prescribed burning.

"We are excited to be at this point in the process," said Mike Elson, Flagstaff Ranger District ranger. "Since the bond measure passed we have been very busy completing all the necessary surveys, environmental documentation, permitting, working with partners and neighbors, and completing the layout and marking of the sale area. It's great to see this work poised to move forward in big way now."

This work is supported by a \$10 million city bond approved by voters in 2012.

"This timber sale is a great step in improving our combined efforts," said Paul Summerfelt, Flagstaff Fire Department Wildland Fire Management Officer and FWPP project manager. "Forest harvesting and other treatment activities are necessary to reduce the risk of severe fire resulting in severe post-fire flooding into the City of Flagstaff."

Once work begins, the contractor will have approximately one year to finish.

Timber harvesting will involve area and trail closures. Visitors and residents should use caution while in the area. Be aware of working crews, logging trucks and heavy equipment.

For additional information, contact the Flagstaff Ranger District at 928-526-0866 or visit www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org

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