January 14, 2019

**Helicopter logging operations begin in the Dry Lake Hills and Mount Elden area**

Helicopter logging operations are now active in the Mount Elden and Dry Lake Hills FWPP project area. Markit! Forestry Management, the contractor responsible for the helicopter logging work, has moved crews and equipment into the project area. Ground crews have been engaged in preparation work, and hand-felling operations within the helicopter cutting units have started.

Logging equipment will be active along the Shultz Pass and Mt. Elden Lookout Road area. The primary helicopter landing and service area will be located off the Mt. Elden Lookout Road, approximately ½ mile beyond the locked forest service gate, on Coconino National Forest land. This road is closed for the winter season.

Residents of the immediate area and visitors should expect to hear noise and see visible activity starting in mid-January and lasting through late spring as the helicopter lifts and transports bundles of felled trees from the project area to established landing sites. These operations will occur during daylight hours, seven days a week, and for three to five months depending on operational conditions.

For your safety, and the safety of those involved in the operation itself, DO NOT ENTER the area. **Stay Out – Stay Safe.**

As this and other work takes place, additional forest closures restricting public access into the Mount Elden and Dry Lake Hills area will be implemented. This will include areas along the Mount Elden Lookout Road, and portions of popular trails like the Rocky Ridge and Oldham trails. Please respect all closures, and do not approach logging machinery, helicopters, or heavy equipment at any time. **Be Smart, Be Safe!**

Please visit the FWPP website for project updates, and join our project email list to receive the most current information. [www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org](http://www.flagstaffwatershedprotection.org)
DO NOT ENTER CLOSED AREAS!

Timber fellers are actively cutting trees and ground based and helicopter logging equipment is active in the area.