



## Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project

Update

May 2020

### City Operations

- Flagstaff/Summit Fire Department Crew 1 has re-engaged thinning efforts on Observatory Mesa, working to complete a 30-acre parcel on the south end of the Open Space area.
- NAU School of Forestry will undertake a fire-history study on Observatory Mesa Open Space this summer.
- Updated several area partners on status/outlook of efforts in the Dry Lake Hills (Phase II) and future plans regarding Mormon Mtn (Phase III).
- Continue planning efforts to initiate thinning operations on the Picture Canyon parcel stating later this summer.
- **Midway Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) – Dry lake Hills (DLH) area**
  - Contract in place with Arizona Conservation Corps to rebuild 2.4 miles of trail. The trail work area is inside an Mexican Spotted Owl Protected (MSO) Activity Center (PAC) that is currently occupied. May need to wait until MSO restrictions end on September 1<sup>st</sup> to get started.
  - Hazard Tree Removal & Slash Management Invitation For Bids (IFB's) in progress.

### County Flood Control District (FCD) /Post-Museum Fire Work

County managed channel stabilization work above the Mt Elden Estates neighborhood is complete.

### AZ Dept of Forestry & Fire Management (DFFM) Operations

State has begun harvesting operations on a 330-acre parcel of the Hoffman Tank section, immediately west of Pine Canyon at end of John Wesley Powell (JWP) Blvd. Work expected to continue through May.

### US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W) monitoring news

Service has confirmed that Mexican Spotted Owls (MSO) are currently occupying 2-of-the-4 nest sites (possibly 3-of-4) in the Dry Lake Hills area. Monitoring will continue throughout the summer. This is good news considering the recent Museum Fire and ongoing forest restoration activities.

### US Forest Service (USFS) Operations

- **Dry Lake Hills - Phase II**
  - **Steep Slope** - Cutting is complete. Skidding, processing and decking continues. Shultz Pass Rd will be closed to public vehicle traffic as needed during week days in May to allow log trucks to safely haul logs from Steep Slope units to the staging area at the Shultz Pass Rd/Elden Springs Rd intersection. Anticipate completion end-of-May.

- **Helicopter** - Remaining slash has been relocated to a central landing area to simplify the removal process.
- **Hand Thinning** – American Conservation Experience (ACE) and AZ Conservation Corps (AZCC) crew operations in the Schultz Creek drainage currently shut down: anticipate resumption of activities sometime in May.
- **Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Work** - Mt Elden Lookout Rd stabilization work has started. Anticipated completion date is early July, before arrival of seasonal monsoon storms.
- **Future Contracts**
  - **Shultz Tank Timber Sale (447 acres)** – Has been sold with an anticipated start date of early June.
  - **Dry Lake Hills Stewardship Contract (613 acres)** – Solicitation notice will be distributed to potential contractors end of May and awarded in early July.
- **Phase III Mormon Mountain**
  - **Dept of Defense *Resource & Environmental Protection Initiative (DOD- REPI) Grant*** - Application was submitted on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a multi-party effort (City, County, National Forest Foundation, USFS, and NAU involving various forest treatment efforts in the Upper Lake Mary (ULM) watershed, to include FWPP Phase III work. We expect to receive word by mid-summer.
  - **Mormon Mountain Timber Sale (642 acres)** - Bid package will be posted in early May and awarded in early June.