



What's Going on Out There?

What is the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project?

A partnership to plan, conduct, and monitor forest treatments to reduce severe wildfire threats and post-fire flooding in the Rio de Flag and Lake Mary watersheds.

Who?

City of Flagstaff, Coconino National Forest, Arizona State Forestry, and Coconino County.

Why here, why now?

In the Dry Lake Hills Area, we are working to reduce potential for downstream impacts related to severe wildfire events, as was seen after the Schultz Fire (2010). The risk of wildfire and flooding cannot be completely eliminated, but the objective guiding this effort is to reduce those risks as effectively as possible.



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Phase I– Dry Lake Hills

Implementation is underway.

Implementation involves:

- Marking trees with paint
- Cutting trees
- Hauling of cut trees
- Prescribed fires
- Rehabilitation of roads, trails, or other areas
- And monitoring, monitoring, monitoring. From start to finish, we continually check to make sure we are meeting objectives and reducing impacts through our best management practices.

How will this affect me?

- Closures–the most notable impact to residents and visitors will be the potential for closures as forest treatments are implemented. It may be necessary to close a portion of a trail, road, or area to ensure public safety during cutting activities.
- Roads– with the increased traffic and large trucks, roads may be more congested. Be alert, slow down, and pull-over when needed.



What's all that paint mean anyways?



Once timber crews have laid out an area to receive treatment (thinning via tree cutting), they use special paint to mark the trees. The paint used comes in two colors: Orange and Blue. In FWPP, we will use a *Leave Tree Mark* and a *Cut Tree Mark*.



Orange paint is used to identify trees that will not be cut and serves two functions. First, orange paint is used to identify treatment areas or units. Orange paint is sprayed on the trunk of a tree along the exterior border of a unit. This tells crews and equipment operators that they have reached the edge or boundary of the unit.

Second, **Orange** paint is also used in a *leave tree mark*. A leave tree mark is when all of the trees that are marked will not be cut. All of the trees not marked could be cut.



Blue paint is used in a *cut tree mark*. A cut tree mark is when all the trees that have blue paint will be cut and all of the other trees without blue paint remain.

The best part about using this special paint is that it fades. Within a few years it will be difficult to see any remaining paint left on trees.

FWPP, the People's Project

During the November 2012 elections, City of Flagstaff voters overwhelmingly approved (74%) a \$10 million bond to support forest restoration work within key watersheds in and around Flagstaff. This is one of only a handful of examples in the country where forest restoration work on a National Forest is being funded by a municipality, and the only known instance where such an effort is funded from municipal bonds.

