

# The National Fire Plan

## Mt Trumbull Ponderosa Pine Ecosystem Restoration Project Arizona 2002

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The Mt. Trumbull Ponderosa Pine Ecosystem Restoration Project is a long-term cooperative project, developed through a partnership between the BLM, Northern Arizona University, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and a steering committee of diverse interests. The project is committed to resolving ponderosa pine, wildlife and recreation issues and maintaining a healthy ecosystem and increased biodiversity while meeting the needs of the users within the Mt. Trumbull area. This project is now in its sixth year.

Treatments include harvesting trees for wood products, thinning of smaller trees, prescribed burning and reseeding over an area of about 1,900 acres. The BLM is responsible for implementing treatments. Adaptive management is being utilized so treatments are adjusted as knowledge is gained.

Prior to treatment within the restoration project area, researchers completed data collection on the current ecosystem related to wildlife populations, forest density and age structure, etc., to reconstruct what this forest and others similar to it looked like prior to fire exclusion.



*Fire crews burn understory to mimic historical conditions.*

The University, Arizona Fish and Game Department and BLM are conducting studies to analyze changes in forest structure since disruption of the natural fire regime, and to determine effects of restoration treatments on ecosystem components including vegetation, insect, reptile, bird and mammal communities. Local environmental groups such as the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity and the Grand Canyon Trust support this restoration work.

Recently, the Mt. Trumbull project area was included in the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument in January 2000. BLM will continue to work cooperatively in studies and research within the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument to learn more about the restoration of ponderosa pine ecosystems to healthy, sustainable conditions. BLM is also exploring potential ecosystem restoration in the Mt. Trumbull and Mt. Logan wildernesses with a steering committee and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.