



Project Spotlight

The Dude Fire Restoration Project is a large-scale effort to restore 8,500 of the 24,000 acres burned in the 1990 Dude Fire, an incident that tragically claimed the lives of six firefighters. Located just below the Mogollon Rim on the Tonto National Forest, forests in the fire scar are at various stages of recovery. Seedlings planted during post-fire recovery in the 1990s and early successional species have grown to become hazardous fuels.



The project aims to reduce the hazardous fuels and create stands closer to natural conditions through mastication. The treatment will be maintained by the Tonto National Forest using prescribed fire and reestablishment of the understory with additional plantings. Project collaborators include the Salt River Project and the AZ Game and Fish Department. The project was divided into four phases, which began in 2023. Phase 3 is currently underway, and Phase 4 is expected to be completed in 2027.

4FRI Seasonal Surveys

DFFM assisted 4FRI with seasonal surveys to sustain timber projects, as federal seasonal hiring was no longer permitted in FFY25. The following work was contracted and administered by DFFM and paid for with federal dollars:

- 5 botany surveys
- 5 wildlife surveys
- 2 archeology surveys

SRP & DFFM Sign 5-Year Commitment for Continued Forest Restoration

DFFM and the Salt River Project (SRP), a water and energy provider for central Arizona communities, extended their commitment to partner on strategic forest thinning projects through 2030.

First 5 years of accomplishments (2020-2025):

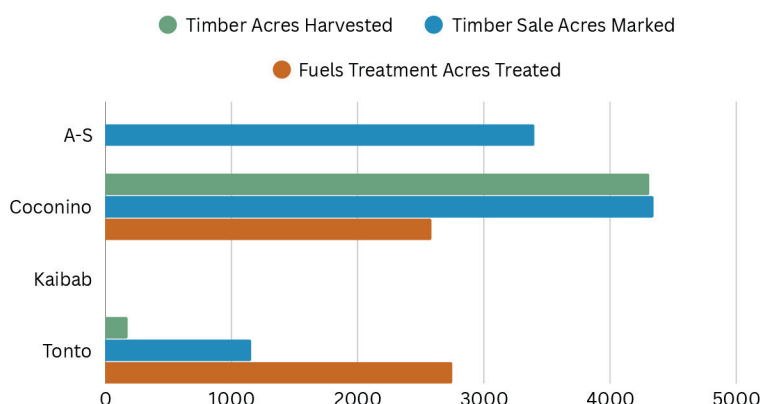
- Funded and started 25 projects
- 35,000 acres restored upon completion
- 129,600 tons of timber removed
- 50,150 tons of biomass removed

The next five years (2026-2030) will expand work onto two additional National Forests and an additional 52,000 acres of restoration treatments.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Noteworthy developments:

- The A2S District began work on DFFM's first G-Z (involves all post-NEPA project planning and implementation), the Brentwood sale on the Apache-Sitgreaves (A-S) National Forest.
- The Kaibab Lidar project is testing more efficient and innovative cruising methods with LIDAR.

4FRI Accomplishments by Forest



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

6 of 6
National
Forests

1 BLM
District

17 Active
Projects

9,905 acres
treated

Middle March, Coronado NF

9 Pre-sale projects
completed

8,900 Pre-sale
acres marked

Funding



State \$1,685,900
Federal \$4,958,500
Partner \$2,734,310



\$5.5M Paid to the private
sector

10 Businesses
received contracts

Objectives



Watershed
Restoration
4,310 acres



Wildlife Habitat
Improvement
2,584 acres



Hazardous Fuels
Reduction
3,011 acres

Impact



of Loads



Tons Removed

3,222

Timber

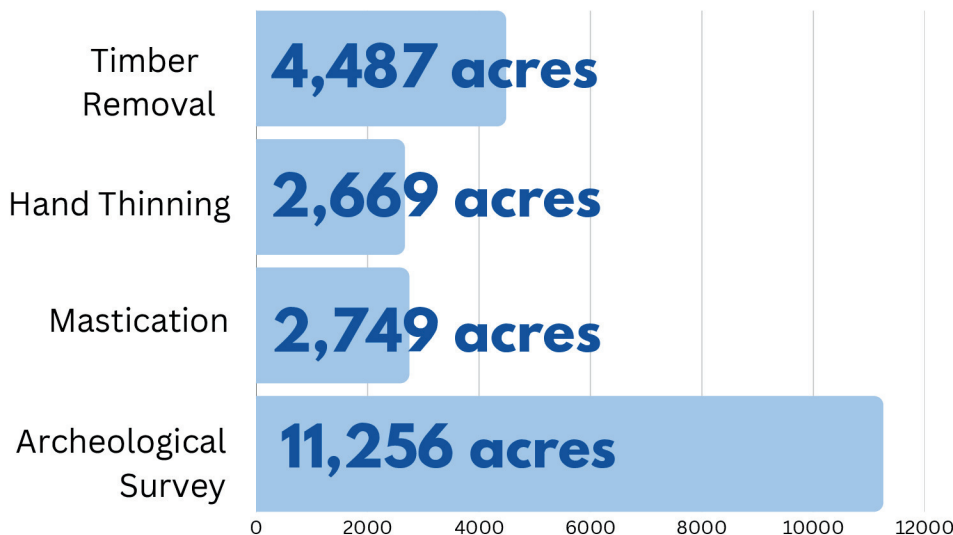
86,213

1,323

Biomass

33,682

Accomplishments



2026 Outlook

New implementation agreements will be executed with the Apache-Sitgreaves, Kaibab, and Coronado National Forests.

Planned Acres: 21,218

Expected project awards: 12

Timber removal: 4,705 acres

Mastication: 5,329 acres

Hand thinning: 4,862 acres