

**From:** Forest Lakes News [mailto:flnews@cox.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:36 PM

**Subject:** Black Mesa Ranger District News

Forest Lakes Residents and friends,

We have quite a bit of information from the Black Mesa Ranger District and so I'm going to send it all in a separate email. You will want to know most of this information right away instead of waiting for the April Forest Lakes Happenings.

Judy

## [Black Mesa Ranger District burning slash piles March 29-31](#)

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Black Mesa Ranger District will be burning 2 acres of slash piles within the Mogollon Campground along Forest Road 300, March 29 - 31.

Burning of the piles will reduce ground fuels within the Mogollon Campground area, providing a more open area within the campground for forest visitors. It will also help reduce the threat of potential severe fire within the area, and improve the health of the local forest ecosystem. Fire personnel will be on scene from ignition until there is no longer a threat of escape from the project boundaries. Prescribed fire operations are subject to cancellation due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Smoke may be seen from State Highway 260 and the community of Forest Lakes, but impacts should be very minimal. Community members and forest visitors are reminded to use caution when traveling in the vicinity of the pile burn as smoke may reduce visibility in the area.

For questions or concerns please contact the Black Mesa Ranger District at (928) 535-7300, or dial 311 to reach the [Northeastern Arizona Public Information System](#). Also, check out our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/asnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf) or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs/>.

## [Summer Season Job Opportunities](#)

The Black Mesa Ranger District will be hiring two Recreation Technicians for the 2017 summer season. These are entry-level jobs, perfect for anyone looking to get a taste of working for a federal land management agency. The announcement will be posted on <https://www.usajobs.gov/> from next Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 3 (5 days). Once the announcement closes, no additional applications can be accepted.

All applications **MUST be submitted through USA Jobs**. If you know any dedicated, hardworking individual looking for a summer job, please share this email.

Recreation Technicians work outdoors in the forest. Duties include maintenance and rehabilitation of dispersed camping areas, trail maintenance, maintenance of signs and bulletin boards, Vault Toilet maintenance (including regular cleaning of dispersed vault toilets), and other duties as assigned. Must be able to: work weekends, work long hours out of doors sometimes in adverse conditions, be able to safely lift or maneuver heavy loads, have a clean driving record with a valid state license.

These positions are open to applicants who will reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by April 30 and older. No housing is available.

Other positions may be available. Please check USAJobs for all opportunities.

Submitting an application through USAJobs can be a challenge. Applicants are encouraged to log on early and develop a profile as soon as possible. First time users should expect to spend a minimum of two hours developing their profiles on USA Jobs.

The announcements will open on March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Thank you,



**Debbie Roznovak**  
**Special Use Permit Administrator**

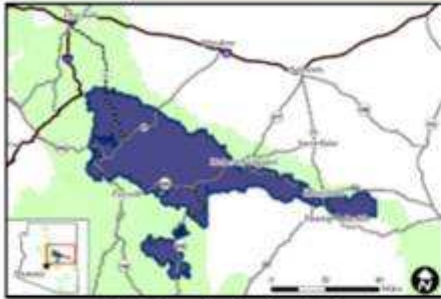
**Forest Service**  
**Apache-Sitgreaves NF, Black Mesa Ranger District**

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**Public Workshop  
Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)**



Rim Country Analysis Area

**Public input wanted:  
Rim Country  
forest restoration  
treatments**

The Forest Service and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative's collaborators are hosting a workshop to develop alternatives for forest restoration activities along the Rim Country of Arizona.

**We want to hear from you!**

Two public meetings are planned:

**PAYSON:**

5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 13: Julia Randall Elementary School  
Gymnasium, 902 W. Main St., Payson, AZ 85541

**SHOW LOW:**

4:30 – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 18: Show Low City Hall "Deuce of Clubs"  
room; 180 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Show Low, AZ 85901

For more information, visit [www.4fri.org](http://www.4fri.org)



*Hosted by the collaborative effort between the Forest Service, the public, and the 4FRI stakeholder group representing nearly 40 individuals, organizations, and governments.*



The two public meetings as mentioned above are for the U.S. Forest Service to present, and obtain public comment upon, draft alternatives for proposed forest restoration activities across the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) "Rim Country" project area. This Rim Country environmental analysis covers 1.2 million acres of our National Forest lands. These draft alternatives describe various ways to meet restoration goals, and input is desired by 4FRI project proponents to ensure your interests are included!

These alternatives were developed in response to comments from earlier public scoping as well as National Forest staff's continuing research and analysis of the Rim Country project area. Treatments are planned for the Black Mesa and Lakeside Ranger Districts of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, the Mogollon and Red Rock Ranger Districts of the Coconino National Forest, and the Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts of the Tonto National

Forest. This environmental analysis is the largest of its kind in the country, and will set the stage for forest restoration treatments in its footprint for the next 10 or more years.

### **Alternatives being Considered for the 4FRI Rim Country Project**

\*No Action This is the no action alternative required by NEPA. It represents no changes to current management, and the forest plans would continue to be implemented. Ongoing vegetation treatments and fire management activities, as well as road maintenance, recreation, firewood gathering, authorized livestock grazing, and other activities already authorized in separate NEPA decisions would continue. There would be no other restoration activities approved with the Rim Country Project. The no action alternative is the baseline for assessing the action alternatives.

\*Proposed Action (Modified) This is the Proposed Action as presented for scoping, with additional detail, clarifications, corrections, and modifications in response to public comments received during the scoping period. This alternative will address the Economics, Wildlife and Aquatics Habitat, Treatments in MSO and Goshawk Habitat, Large Tree Retention, and Dwarf Mistletoe Mitigation issues.

\*Alternative 3 This alternative will be designed to increase mechanical and fire treatments in order to maximize functional restoration across the Rim Country project area. Treatments will be designed to treat more acres to lower the basal area, and move farther and faster toward the desired conditions in the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, and Tonto Forest Plans. Alternative 3 is being drafted to address the Economics, Large Tree Retention, and Dwarf Mistletoe Mitigation issues.

\*Alternative 4 This alternative will be designed to determine where treatments can be optimized in areas most in need of treatment due to being most highly departed from the natural range of variation (NRV) of ecological conditions, or in areas that may put communities at risk from undesirable fire effects. Areas selected to treat will be those that can be moved the furthest toward desired conditions and be treated cost-effectively, optimizing both ecological restoration and economics, and resulting in fewer acres being treated. Alternative 4 is being drafted to address the Smoke/Air Quality, Economics, and Roads issues.

**[Here is a larger map of the Rim Country Analysis Area](#)**

# Rim Country Analysis

