



# Future Forests

Spring 2018

*Accelerating the pace and scale of forest restoration for a healthy Arizona*

## Restoring Arizona's Forests NOW



Credit: Southwest Aerial Photography

Chimney Springs treatment area, Future Forests Project, north of Flagstaff

Two million acres of northern Arizona's forests are vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire, risking clean water supplies, wildlife habitat, rural communities, and jobs.

Today, forest restoration requires **collaboration** between the Forest Service, industry, and organizations like The Nature Conservancy **to change rules and guidelines** that don't align with current needs, **using advanced technology** that will help us work smarter and faster, at a lower cost.

TNC and the Forest Service (FS) have agreed to treat 22,000 acres in the Coconino and Kaibab national forests to test innovative practices designed to reduce agency and industry costs. During 2017 we treated 1,600 acres, creating 12 jobs and supporting more jobs at regional mills receiving TNC-harvested wood. TNC is projecting to restore 5,000 acres during the 2018 operating season.

## Transforming Forest Management for our Future / Spring 2018

- **We completed an agreement with the White Mountain Apache Tribe** to purchase logs harvested under our Future Forests Project.
- We presented our project to **Congressional representatives Gosar and O'Halleran and the Western Caucus Foundation** to increase awareness about the Conservancy's efforts to improve restoration economics.
- **Our Future Forests Project was highlighted as a significant mechanism to modernize business practices** at the annual Industry Roundtable, where wood businesses and FS coordinate wood sales.
- **The FS held a workshop for over 40 people that included our digital technology** to improve restoration efficiency.
- **We will encourage national wood industry interest in northern Arizona wood supplies** by presenting our project to the National Timber Purchasers Committee at their annual meeting this May.
- **A request for proposals to design new technology to measure harvested tree diameters** in real time was distributed to a variety of academic, research, and engineering contacts. Bids are due in April.
- **We submitted a proposal to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones)** to the Four Forests monitoring board to collect aerial imagery to help us analyze treatments more efficiently.
- **AmeriCorps interns will be collecting monitoring data** at our harvesting sites to evaluate treatment effectiveness.