



FRIENDS OF
NORTHERN
ARIZONA FORESTS

NEWSLETTER

November 2018

An “Amazing Year” for FoNAF in spite of Nature’s Challenges

In his Annual Statement summarized below, FoNAF President Tom Mackin provided an overview of our successes and speed bumps for 2018. His remarks were made at our Annual Meeting on October 17 at the Flagstaff Ranger Station attended by FoNAF board members, members at large, and representatives from the Forest Service. He references the Aspen Team which is a specialized group of volunteers working in the field on our signature projects like fence building, removal, and modifications and informative stations at trailheads, and issuing permits:



It has been an unusual and challenging year for us due to the lack of snowfall, drought in the spring and early summer months, and then high moisture situations in late summer into fall. But in spite of these conditions, FoNAF and the Aspen Team made significant contributions overall again this year.

Tom explained that we continue to move toward more diversification in geographical and project interests beyond fences in the immediate Flagstaff forests. He acknowledged the following focus areas and the volunteer hours spent on each:

- fence construction for aspen protection (747 hours)
- assisting with pronghorn fence modifications (292 hours)
- protecting sensitive riparian meadows (490 hours)
- re-building wildlife water catchment north of the peaks (168 hours)
- removing old wire fencing that is dangerous for wildlife and humans (301 hours)
- PSAR continuing to provide hiking guidance at the Humphrey's Trailhead (157 hours)
- Back Country Permits (210 hours)
- forest closure monitoring stations during drought (242 hours)

We contributed over **3563 volunteer hours** this year to a variety of events and projects. The Aspen Team alone contributed 2455 hours. From an environmental perspective, the team also collected and recycled 5 tons of scrap metal.

FoNAF received two prestigious awards during 2018 for our contributions to the wellbeing of the forests in northern Arizona and the community's awareness of good safety practices:

- "Organization of the Year" presented by the *Arizona Daily Sun*.
- "Climate Action Hero Award" from the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

The actual awards are hung in the lobby of the Flagstaff Ranger Station.

While membership is holding steady, we have a consistently high level of participation at more than 50%. These are active volunteers in our projects and community service activities. The board's consensus was that this is a very high percentage for volunteer organization.

Tom emphasized it was another productive year for FoNAF and he is proud of our many contributions. He is very pleased with the outstanding support of the Forest Service through the efforts of Mark Nabel, Cary Thompson, Patrick McGervy, Tom Runyon, Roger Joos, Gary Hayes, and many others. Tom also recognized the Arizona Game and Fish Department for use of their tools and vehicles.

In addition to the above, new partnerships were formed with Grand Canyon Trust, Diablo Trust, Society for Range Management, and Northern Arizona Forest Fund.

Accomplishments in 2018

Aspen Team

Despite a large section of the forest being closed for most of June and early July, the Aspen Team had a very productive work season, accumulating more than 2000 hours on a larger variety of projects than usual. For example, the team completed the following:

- Built two exclosures on the Kaibab National Forest to protect springs – one at Elk Springs, north of Williams, and one at Rosilda Spring, which is south of Williams,



- Constructed a large (8 acres) fence to protect the meadow at T-Six Spring, located between I-17 and Lake Mary south of Flagstaff,



- Removed many miles of old pasture fence at Hay Meadow (on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District), at Casner Cabin near the Mogollon Rim west of I-17 and at Foster, Tea and Bud Tanks on Anderson Mesa south of Walnut Canyon,
- Rebuilt a Trick Tank at Saddle Mountain, north of Flagstaff, and deconstructed two old ones on Anderson Mesa south of Walnut Canyon,



- Finished a new aspen exclosure at Sheep Spring, south of Mormon Lake, and built a new one off FR9006D, just west of US180 north of Flagstaff,



- Assisted in rebuilding the old Red House Pueblo near Wupatki National Monument,

- Spent a rainy weekend at McClintock Draw, just above the Mogollon Rim, building a new fence to protect the meadow, and



- Modified about a mile of pasture fence at Cedar Ranch, on the far northern edge of the Coconino National Forest, to make it pronghorn friendly.



In addition to the great variety of projects, we also worked with folks from several organizations other than our usual colleagues from the Coconino National Forest – these included staff from the Kaibab National Forest, AZ Game and Fish, The Grand Canyon Trust, and the Diablo Trust.

[Kachina Peaks Wilderness Access Permits](#)

This winter FoNAF will once again be providing forest visitors with the opportunity to obtain a Kachina Peaks Wilderness Access Permit (aka Back Country Permits) at Agassiz Lodge on weekend mornings.

This season-long permit is required for entry into the forest outside the Snowbowl Ski Resort and from Snowbowl Road. While permits are available at USFS ranger stations, many people arrive at the ski area unaware of the requirement and our presence provides a much needed, and often much appreciated service. We provide information on avalanche dangers, trail conditions and weather to those wishing to hike, snowshoe, ski or snowboard in the back country.

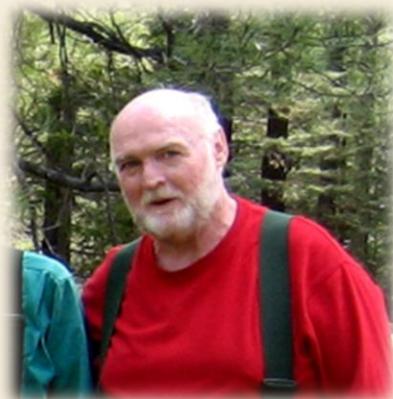


The permit is free and is intended to inform visitors of the risks inherent in backcountry travel in the winter. A log is kept of each permit holder listing an emergency phone contact for notification of if a problem arises.

An orientation will be offered in early December on avalanche preparedness by Kachina Peaks Avalanche Center and we will begin issuing permits at Snowbowl shortly thereafter. Watch for an email announcing the initiation of the program and an opportunity to sign up to help.

SOMEONE to KNOW.....

Jim Hoyne



Jim is a member of FoNAF's Board of Directors and the Aspen Team. He is very much appreciated on the team for his fence building expertise, work ethic, and friendship. His deep knowledge of building things likely comes from working in construction and architecture related jobs before joining Kitchell Contractors in Phoenix in 1979. He retired as a Senior VP from Kitchell in 2009 after 30 years. More recently Jim's dog Watson has also joined the team, but that's another story for another newsletter.

We're getting ahead of his whole story. Here's his background in roughly chronological order:

- Jim grew up in Tyrone, a small town in central Pa. and married his high school sweetheart Cathy in 1974 (that's 44 years, congratulations),
- He graduated from Penn State in 1976 with a major in Architecture (and fence building),
- Somewhere in those early years, Jim's love of motorcycles necessitated a one year "sabbatical" for traveling around the country on his motorcycle before the trappings of work and family demanded more attention. There's a scene in "Easy Rider" in northern Arizona where he may be visible, but don't spend too much time looking.
- Jim and Cathy moved to Phoenix in February 1977. They have two sons and six grandchildren living in Chandler and Montana.
- Like several other members needing to escape the heat and congestion of Phoenix, he and Cathy bought a second home in Flagstaff in 2004. They now divide their time between Flagstaff and Phoenix.

- His involvement with FoNAF began when another member, Scotty, invited Jim to a Public Work Day in 2010. Jim joined the organization soon after that and has become a significant contributor to the success of our Aspen Team projects.

There are several reasons Jim enjoys his time with Aspen Team. Here are a few:

- ✓ getting out and enjoying the beautiful weather and scenery the Flagstaff area has to offer,
- ✓ seeing parts of the back country I wouldn't likely get to see,
- ✓ a sense of accomplishment after a hard day's work helping the Forest Service protect the forest and wild life,
- ✓ but most of all the camaraderie developed working and socializing with a great bunch of people.

When not volunteering with FoNAF, Jim enjoys hiking, snow skiing, riding his Harley or taking his Corvette to the track in Phoenix.

A personal note from Jim:

“We still split our time between Flag and Phoenix. Then of course we treasure our time with the grand kids and enjoy traveling to Montana.

We also have a Portuguese Water Dog puppy, a breed known for their active life style. Those of you that have been on FoNAF outings where we bring our dogs can vouch that Watson is a very inquisitive and high energy dog.

I'm very fortunate to have joined such a great outfit such as FoNAF and hope to remain an active member for years to come.”

Thank you Jim for your dedication to FoNAF and the many hours of volunteer work you give us. We too hope you'll be active with us for many more years.

2018 Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR)

This year's Preventative Search and Rescue effort (PSAR because the government loves acronyms) covered a shorter season due to the early summer forest closure. Even so, our volunteers provided hundreds of hikers with safety information, minor first aid, and copious amounts of free advice both at the Humphreys Peak trailhead and along the trail.

The program was successful primarily due to the efforts of Forest Service volunteers Cathy and John Harrington. They are a remarkable couple who staffed the trailhead station every weekend, putting up the pop-up, weather info board and various swag items. A big "Thank You" to them from FoNAF for offering their time, expertise, and dedication to making sure hikers are fully aware of their adventure up the mountain.

FoNAF provided one hundred fifty-seven hours of service. Thanks to each member that contributed.

What's New?

"Land-in-Hand" Smartphone Application

Have you ever been in the forest and noticed a problem, like a tree that has fallen across a trail, and wondered what you should do to report it? Well FoNAF has partnered with the staff at the Flagstaff Ranger District to provide an app for your smart phone that will enable each user to be another set of eyes in the forest.

The app was developed for the Red Rock District and our partner organization there, Friends of the Forest Sedona, and it has been modified so that it now works for all members of FoNAF. If you have a smart phone and want to get started, just let Dave Downes (dhdowes@GMAIL.com) know and he will send you the instructions for downloading the app, which is called Land-in-Hand.

And then be sure to take your phone with you whenever you are in the forest. Our plans are that we will eventually be asking the fence stewards to use the app for reporting whenever they check their exclosures, but that is probably a year away.

Power T-Post Driver and Power Fencing Winder

At the October FoNAF board meeting consideration was given to purchasing two pieces of equipment for use by the Aspen Team that will make their jobs in the field much easier and less harmful to older body parts that most of the team still have. We've experimented with both a power t-post pounder and a power winder for pulling old fencing into rolls for recycling.

Rather than continuing to borrow these items from other groups like Arizona Game and Fish, the team recommends buying them for convenience and immediate access when needed. The board agreed with the purchase but recommended waiting until next spring when additional funding sources may be available through the Forest Service.



Next Board of Directors Meeting Scheduled

The board has scheduled their next meeting on January 16, 2019, at the Flagstaff Ranger Station at 4:00. It will be a planning meeting for projects in 2019 and will include representatives from the Forest Service presenting their requests.

FoNAF Board of Directors

Tom Mackin, President	Ed Clark	Curt Knight
Bruce Belman, Vice President	Tony DeCou	Marty Lee
Bob Dyer, Secretary	Jim Hoyne	Jim McGeorge
Dave Downes, Treasurer	Bill Kluwin	Bill Waters

Coconino National Forest information:

District Rangers: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coconino/about-forest/offices>
Website address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino/>