



## **Office of the State Forester**

Tribal Liasion Quaterly Report Status

Janurary 2011 – June 30, 2011

The mission of the Arizona State Forester is to manage and reduce wildfire risk to Arizona's people, communities, and woodland areas and provide forest resource stewardship through strategic implementation of forest health policies and cooperative forestry assistance programs.

The Arizona State Forestry Division provides for the prevention and suppression of wildland fire on 22 million acres of State Trust Land and private property located outside incorporated communities.

---

### **Overview:**

In 2010 the Arizona State Forestry Division (ASFD) published an assessment of efforts and status of the goals and objectives of the agency (see [http://www.azsf.az.gov/forest\\_strategy.asp](http://www.azsf.az.gov/forest_strategy.asp) for full publications of the assessment and strategies). One area of focus in the 2010 assessment was enhancing partnerships with Tribal entities. The goal is to establish ongoing collaborative efforts in supporting Tribal efforts aligned to the goals and objectives of the ASFD.

To accomplish this undertaking the ASFD advertised and hired a Tribal Outreach Coordinator in mid-February of 2011. Over the past four months the Tribal Outreach Coordinator has met with representatives from 20 of the 22 Arizona Tribal Communities. The following report outlines an overview of the efforts from the past four months of outreach activities.

### **Enhancing Partnerships with Tribes**

Each Tribe has unique characteristics with application to the goals and objectives of the agency that lend opportunities for collaboration and support to each of the Tribes. While not all Tribes have woodland areas, they are all subject to wildland fire threats. State Forestry's efforts are underway to establish Cooperative Rate Agreements with each Tribe or its contracted fire protection service. Currently the Division has Cooperative Fire Rate Agreements with WMAT, CRIT, and San Carlos. In addition each tribe will be made aware of ASFD Firewise programs and guidelines.

Another universal program that benefits the Tribal communities as well as Arizona overall is participation in the Arizona Community Tree Council. Participation in this

ASFD support program helps each community grow and nurture trees in their communities which in turn enhances the community and the local environment. More about the ACTC can be found at <http://aztrees.org>.

The Tribal Outreach Coordinator is currently developing a list serv for Tribal contacts separating fire and land management individuals. The purpose of this is to provide appropriate information to each group. Fire personnel will be kept up to date on training activities and grants associated with fire suppression. Those individuals who oversee the land management of the Tribes will be updated as to programs, grants, and technical assistance opportunities including pest and noxious weed suppression efforts. Both groups will be regularly informed about upcoming conferences and workshops.

The following is a brief overview of what the State Forestry Division has assessed in regards to current activities and efforts of each Tribe that are aligned with the goals and objectives of the ASFD.

**Ak-Chin:** Fire suppression support – noxious weed control – riparian restoration efforts.

**Cocopah:** Noxious weed control efforts. Contracts with local town for fire suppression.

**Colorado River Indian Tribe:** Tribe manages its own fire department and is one of three Tribes with a cooperative fire rate agreement with the ASFD. ASFD is working to assist the team at the preserve in working with other Tribes engaged with riparian restoration efforts.

**Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation:** Land management programs including noxious weed control and fuel reduction efforts in conjunction with the development of Tribal enterprises.

**Fort Mojave:** Primary efforts include firefighter training and riparian restoration. Fort Mojave collaborates with CRIT for fire suppression.

**Gila River Indian Community:** Support in riparian restoration and fire suppression areas is a current focus.

**Hopi:** New forestry program - one year since establishment. Working with Hopi Forester to assist in efforts. Collaboration efforts in developing land management programs associated with Tribal/State Trust land outside of Flagstaff are being developed. Areas of development that ASFD can support include harvesting, re-forestation, biomass, and noxious weed control.

**Hualapai:** Timber sales support, biomass opportunities, and support for recently established Tribal fire department.

**Kaibab Paiute:** Current discussions include opportunities for timber sales, riparian restoration and support of the tribal fire department.

**Navajo/Zuni:** Noxious weed control, timber sales, assistance in helping utilize the potentials of the greenhouses, and discussion on how to support Navajo Fire while BIA manages all wildland fire suppression.

**Pascua Yaqui:** Interest in ACTC programs. No current issues that lend ASFD support.

**Quechan:** Interest in support of riparian restoration endeavors and noxious weed suppression. Contracts with local fire municipality.

**San Carlos Apache:** One of three tribes with cooperative rate agreements. Areas of support include timber sales and opening the mill as well as biomass opportunities.

**Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community:** Primary focus is support for fire suppression and hazardous fuel reduction.

**TON:** Primary areas of focus are: fire suppression and fuel reduction. Some interest in riparian restoration efforts.

**Tonto Apache Tribe:** Primary focus area is hazardous fuel reduction programs. Tribe contracts with municipality for fire suppression.

**Yavapai Apache Nation:** Current focus areas are in increasing run off into water shed in conjunction with fuel reduction programs. Contracts with City municipality for fire suppression.

**Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe:** Primary support in GIS mapping and contracts with City municipality for fire suppression.

**White Mountain Apache Tribe:** Focus interest is in timber sales and reestablishing the mill. Additional support in noxious weed control. Wildland fire suppression is managed by the BIA, however WMAT does have a cooperative fire rate agreement with ASFD.

Future visits are planned to Havasupai and San Juan Southern Paiute tribes.

## **Ongoing and Future Activities**

Fact sheets –the agency is in the process of developing fact sheets that incorporate a brief overview of each tribe. It also identifies primary woodland and riparian areas and the predominant species in those areas. In addition, fact sheets also identify if tribes are actively involved with ACTC, CWPP, Firewise programs, or elect to establish a fire rate agreement. Each contact sheet also identifies the primary contact for land issues and fire issues. These fact sheets are expected to be completed in the next quarter.

In April of 2011, the Forestry Division hired a Woodland Utilization and Marketing Specialist who works closely with the Tribal Outreach Coordinator to help reestablish the timber market in Arizona and identify markets to develop a biomass industry in Arizona with direct support to the tribes.

In conclusion, the Office of the State Forester is exploring holding a tribal conference in November of 2011 that will bring all stakeholders together to create awareness of program opportunities. Workshops would offer education about the benefits of establishing programs such as ATC, CWPP, and Firewise.