

Wood for Life: *Partnership Statement*

Purpose of Document

Wood for Life (WFL) is a collaborative network of organizations in northern Arizona working to achieve common goals. The primary goals are to provide resources and a sustainable source of firewood to local tribal and firewood-using communities through forest restoration efforts; to reduce forest-wide fuels; and to foster and strengthen partner relationships.

This document represents a statement of partnership among the network of organizations working together on Wood for Life (WFL). This document articulates the vision, mission, and objectives of WFL, as well as the respective roles of the organizations in the WFL partnership and how they work together. This document provides a common statement for how partnering entities communicate about WFL. This document can aid in bringing on new partners or informing transitions in individual contacts within partner organizations in the WFL network. It is a living document and will evolve with the partnership. This is not a legally binding document and does not impact the individual expectations and authorities of the partnering organizations.

What WFL Is

- A group of organizations with a common goal.
- An open group that accepts all interested participants.

What WFL Is Not

- Not a formal entity;
- Not a decision-making body; and
- Not a funding organization: WFL cannot receive or distribute funds but individual partner organizations may be able to serve that role or identify solutions.



Photo courtesy of Ancestral Lands Hopi

Background

See Appendix 1 ([Wood for Life Project Highlights](#))

Vision

Tribal communities are supported through the provision of firewood from timber, restoration of forests, and improvement of sustainable partner relationships for the needs of present and future generations.

Mission

Relationship-building, coordination, and information exchange across a network of partners in northern Arizona facilitates the supply, transportation, and processing and distribution of firewood to tribal communities and promotes the sustainability of healthy forests.

Objectives

- Create firewood supply through forest restoration activities.
 - ◊ Integrate within the Forest Service to coordinate and align WFL with the forests' (i.e., Kaibab and Coconino national forests) programs of work, including alignment during planning — including forest-led and partner-led implementation.



Photo courtesy of Ancestral Lands Hopi

- Transport and supply firewood to firewood-using communities.
 - ◊ WFL creates an additional outlet for low-value wood. Non-profits, community groups, and volunteers offset the transportation costs to reservation community distribution points.
- Process and distribute firewood.
 - ◊ Partners cut, split, and distribute firewood to tribal households.
- Coordinate and exchange information across network of partners.
 - ◊ Share lessons learned and best practices (e.g., pilot/model) with other forests, including peer-learning and information exchange.
- Ensure program sustainability.
 - ◊ Including education about good practices for harvesting wood and using legally harvested firewood.

Partner Organizations and Respective Roles and Responsibilities

Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC) (a program of Conservation Legacy)

- Can potentially help with small deliveries (up to five cords) with gooseneck and utility trailers.
- ALCC crews and staff lead efforts to process whole log decks into firewood, can buck and split wood into firewood length. All sawyers receive Forest Service-recognized saw certifications (Forest Service A and B-level sawyers).
- Coordinate with local village leaders to provide secure storage, identify community members, schedule deliveries and pick up of firewood. Work with Hopi Village CSAs to identify families in Hopi; coordinate project information with Forest Service and National Forest Foundation partners.
- Secure additional funding to support processing and delivery of firewood to Hopi Community members.

Chizh for Cheii

- Through the dedication of volunteers helps supply wood to elders on the Navajo Nation through locating supplies on National and Tribal forests and then cuts, processes, loads, transports, and distributes firewood directly to the homes.
- *Chizh for Cheii*'s mission to create love, compassion, and dignity through the active participation of providing firewood to elders has led them to join the WFL partnership collaboration to meet this mutual goal.
- Cultivates long-term sustainability through the hard work, commitment, and continual efforts of the volunteers as well as building community relationships.
- Secures funding through private donations and non-governmental organization funding.

Coconino County Flood Control District

- Will work with partners to identify available wood sources from County, Flood Control District (FCD) and Forest Restoration projects.
- Provide political support from our County Board of Supervisors and FCD Board of Directors.
- Support transport of wood from County projects through subcontractors.

Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI)

- Provides subject matter expertise with tribal relations, interpretation of Tribal Forest Protection Act policies and practices, collaborative team-building, and actions to promote cross-boundary and shared stewardship forest restoration treatments.
- Provides guidance and expertise in collaborating with local, state, tribal, and federal government initiatives that may support WFL.
- Outreaches to tribal governmental entities to facilitate the development of cooperative agreements between these entities and the U.S. Forest Service.
- Provides the most relevant forest restoration and social science to the partnership.
- Facilitates research opportunities pursued by academic departments within Northern Arizona University.
- Facilitates the development of reports, briefings, publications.

Hopi Tribe

- Participates as a government-to-government partner in Wood for Life and represents all Hopi people in acquiring wood for home and ceremonial use.

National Forest Foundation

- Works with partners to identify available wood supplies from sources across National Forests and collaborates on the funding and logistics needed to secure it for the WFL partnership. As a restoration implementation organization, NFF leads forest restoration projects on National Forest lands through agreements with the Forest Service and sets aside wood from these projects for the WFL partnership as well.
- Provides technical support and funding aimed at reducing barriers to transporting wood from restoration projects to Indigenous communities, including by transporting wood from NFF-implemented restoration projects.
- Builds the network of communities and nonprofits who process and distribute WFL wood, including partnering with youth corps, other nonprofits, and local governments to support this work.
- Co-facilitates coordination calls with the partnership and assists with development of communications materials. NFF also shares information and lessons learned with other interested Forests, policy makers, and partners across the region and US.
- Supports and implements WFL projects to catalyze efforts, expand partnership, and build momentum. As WFL is increasingly integrated into Forests' programs of work, agreements directly between the Forests and Indigenous organizations are helping stabilize, expand, and sustain the program. As a program champion, we are committed to adapting our role to add value where needed as the program evolves. As an implementor of forest restoration projects, we are also prepared to continue supplying wood from NFF projects.



Photo courtesy of Ancestral Lands Hopi

Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD)

- Assists in coordinating and communicating with Chapters and other Navajo community organizations.
- Supports and participates in fundraising efforts.

Pikyanivi Wood Haulers – Warmth for Hopi and Tewa

- Provides stove-ready wood, an essential resource for warmth, comfort, and safety, that will allow Hopi families to live on their ancestral lands and continue to practice Hopi ways of life.
- Enhances the Hopi value of Naminangwa, neighbors helping neighbors.
- Obtains and/or generates financial stability in order to provide a living wage to local residents.
- Begins conversations about solutions to heating resources beyond wood, for generations to come, that are viable and environmentally responsible.

Red Feather Development Group

- A non-profit centered around coordinating with homeowners and community administrators to distribute and install “healthy home” supplies and services ranging from weatherization, home repair, heating resources, appliances, and general home safety. Red Feather also develops and hosts workshops centered around workforce development, and “do-it-yourself” trainings.

The Nature Conservancy

- Supports with the identification of barriers and potential efficiencies associated with the movement of wood to partners, and report out on improvements on logistics, policies and financial mechanisms.
- Facilitates the movement of wood to partners and coordination between partners.

United Natives

- A local nonprofit focused on distributing firewood, water, and warm-weather gear to neighbors on Navajo and Hopi, especially elders. United Natives rents a woodlot in Flagstaff across from REI and Aspen Sawmill. Local loggers and excavators routinely drop firewood there where it can be made available for pickup.

USDA Forest Service

- Coordinates, funds and plans small sales program and stewardship agreements to support partnership efforts. Coordinates with purchasers and contractors of wood products to disseminate wood to tribal reservations. Uses proper authorities to supply firewood to tribal communities.
- Develop local firewood supply sources available for distribution. Conduct all planning and wood supply development activities, including NEPA analyses, actively participate in the WFL networking partnership, outreach with tribal governments and non-profit organizations about WFL opportunities, and pursue partnership and stewardship agreements in support of firewood distribution efforts through forest restoration activities and fuels reduction projects.
- Provide a partnership contact from each forest while deferring to Forest Supervisors for leadership in terms of providing for a consistent approach.

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

- Provides wood from forestry projects on state and private land for distribution via firewood banks.
- Works with the Forest Service and BLM to coordinate the hauling of wood from their projects to processing sites.
- Works with tribes, nonprofits, and local communities to identify storage locations and distribution sites for firewood bank donations.
- Facilitates public-private sector partnerships to engage existing firewood processors in the “Wood for Life” initiative.

Partner Expectations

There is an expectation that all individuals and organizations working with the WFL network consistently communicate the vision, mission, and objectives articulated in this partnership statement to all interested parties. This partnership statement is supported by the organizations in the WFL network and listed in this document. All interested parties are encouraged to become involved in WFL, and it is an open group that is driven, in large part, by local community members. Messaging about WFL should emphasize the critical role of community support in making WFL happen, the numerous partnerships that WFL has created and is sustaining, and the benefits of WFL. Delivery of the WFL program and communication should be consistent and ensure that all partners are recognized in any media or press releases to the degree possible. All partners will work within the purview of their respective organizational authorities.

How We Work

The WFL network currently meets virtually on a monthly basis. The virtual meetings are currently co-hosted and run by the National Forest Foundation (NFF), the Coconino National Forest, and the ERI, who share the duties of taking notes and running the meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend the monthly WFL coordination meetings. New partners are encouraged to read this Partnership Statement and the WFL Project Highlights document to understand the way in which the network works and what it aims to achieve. Beyond that, there is no formal mechanism for joining the WFL network other than agreeing to work cooperatively with the other partners.

Partner Contacts

Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps

- ◇ *Mariah Holiday*, ALCC WFL Communication Coordinator (mholiday@conservationlegacy.org)
- ◇ *Marshall Masayesva*, ALCC WFL Project Director (marshall@conservationlegacy.org)
- ◇ *Chas Robles*, ALCC Director (Albuquerque) (chas@conservationlegacy.org)

Cameron

- ◇ *Milton Tso*, Former Cameron Chapter President (tsomilton@yahoo.com)

Chizh for Cheii

- ◇ *Loren Anthony*, Founder/Organizer (ChizhforCheii@gmail.com)

Coconino County Flood Control District

- ◇ *Jay Smith*, Forest Restoration Director (jaysmith@coconino.az.gov)

Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI)

- ◇ *Melanie Colavito*, Director of Policy and Communications (melanie.colavito@nau.edu)
- ◇ *Jonathan Martin*, Director of Native American Forest and Rangeland Management (jonathan.martin@nau.edu)
- ◇ *Niki vonHedemann*, Human Dimensions Specialist (niki.vonhedemann@nau.edu)

Hopi Tribe

- ◇ *Matthew Honanie*, Koho for Hopi (mjhonanie@gmail.com)
- ◇ *Monica Nuvamsa*, Hopi Foundation (monica.nuvamsa@hopifoundation.org)
- ◇ *William Charley*, Upper Village of Moenkopi (williamcharley55@gmail.com)

National Forest Foundation (NFF)

- ◇ *Sean Etsitty*, WFL Program Coordinator (setsitty@nationalforests.org)
- ◇ *Chad Kim*, WFL Project Coordinator (ckim@nationalforests.org)
- ◇ *Sasha Stortz*, Arizona Program Manager (sstortz@nationalforests.org)

Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department

- ◇ *Timothy Begay*, Navajo Cultural Specialist (tbegay@navajo-nsn.gov)
- ◇ *Erik Stanfield*, Anthropologist (erikstanfield@navajo-nsn.gov)

The Nature Conservancy

- ◇ *Joel Jurgens*, Forest Program Director (joel.jurgens@tnc.org)

Pikyanivi Wood Haulers – Warmth for Hopi and Tewa

- ◇ *Charlie Lewis and Denise Masayesva* (pikuniviwoodhaulers@gmail.com)

Red Feather Development Group

- ◇ *Alex Torgler*, Firewood Distribution Coordinator (alex@redfeather.org)

Tuba City

- ◇ *Dr. Sophina Calderon*
- ◇ *Terry Hudson*, Forestry Edge
- ◇ *Ames Meyers* (amesmeyers@gmail.com)

United Natives

- ◇ *Andrew Robarge* (andrew.m.robarge@gmail.com)

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

- ◇ *Bergen Eskildsen*, Forest Products and Businesses Program Coordinator (bergeneskildsen@utah.gov)

USDA Forest Service, Coconino National Forest

- ◇ *Leigh Cominiello*, Tribal Relations (leigh.cominiello@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Jake Dahlin*, Forester (jacob.dahlin@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Jada Hayworth*, Forester (jadalyn.hayworth@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Austin Cash*, Forester (austin.cash@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Jacob Lopez*, Forester (francisco.lopez@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Mark Nabel*, Forester (mark.nabel@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Randi Shaffer*, Public Information Officer (randi.shaffer@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Hank Smith*, Forester (joseph.smith2@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Jeanne Stevens*, District Archaeologist (jeanne.stevens@usda.gov)

USDA Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest

- ◇ *Samantha Flores*, Forester (samantha.flores@usda.gov)
- ◇ *Nanebah Lyndon*, Tribal Relations Staff Officer (nanebah.nezlyndon@usda.gov)

USDA Forest Service, San Juan National Forest

- ◇ *David Casey*, Supervisory Forester (david.casey2@usda.gov)

Statement Updates

This partnership statement will be updated approximately every four months.

Last update occurred February 2025.