

 <p>GREATER FLAGSTAFF FORESTS PARTNERSHIP</p>	<p>WOOD & BIOMASS UTILIZATION INDUSTRY</p> <p>October 2010</p>
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POSITION STATEMENT

The four-fold goals of the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP) are to:

- Restore our forests
- Protect communities from wildfire
- Practice monitoring and adaptive management
- Promote sustainable utilization of resulting wood and biomass

To accomplish these goals, GFFP must build and maintain partnerships with a variety of agencies, organizations and interests. Key among them is the establishment of appropriately scaled, financially sound, small-diameter wood-based businesses who are committed to the principles above and intend to remain viable partners in ensuring the success of sustainable wood utilization and biomass processing solutions.

The quantities of woody material that must be removed from our over-dense forests are staggering. Left in their current condition, these same forests, prone to disease, wildfire, insect, drought, and other undesirable change-agents, are unsustainable. The impact of their loss to societal well-being is beyond comprehension.

As such, GFFP endorses the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) position approved July 28th, 2010, which states:

“The 4FRI Stakeholder Group is committed to promoting and supporting economically and socially sustainable businesses and industries. However, the 4FRI Stakeholder Group is business/industry neutral. We believe it is in the best interest of the unfolding collaborative process to be open to all potential businesses with a preference for solutions that are appropriately scaled and community based. This will ensure there is equal opportunity for all viable businesses/industries to compete for contracts in order to achieve an optimum solution for reducing the costs of treatment, utilization of all restoration by-products, and providing benefit to all communities across the 4FRI area.”

GFFP has long recognized that industry capable of removing and utilizing excess trees and woody biomass is essential to our success. We have been, and continue to be, engaged in efforts to encourage such private-sector business enterprises.