

HOW TO JOIN: WOOD FOR LIFE

NORTHERN ARIZONA

AUGUST 2025

WHAT IS IT?

The Wood for Life (WFL) partnership began developing in 2019 in response to both the increased need for firewood at the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation after a reduction of coal availability and the need to scale up restoration projects on national forests. The partnership works towards three main goals: (1) providing resources and a sustainable source of firewood to local tribes through restoration efforts; (2) reducing forest-wide fuels; and (3) fostering and strengthening partner relationships.

HOW TO GET FIREWOOD

- Make contact and/or join the monthly WFL meeting.
- The Forest Service or NFF will announce when wood is available from the project sites.
 - This wood will either be made available for pickup at the sites or will be able to be delivered to a wood bank hub location.
 - The wood may come in varying sizes (from logs to stove-ready firewood).
 - The Forest Service and NFF will attempt to best match their project to your communities' needs and capacity.
- Wood may also be delivered to homes and wood bank hub locations by partner organizations listed below ("Involved Nonprofits to Contact").
- Communities with the capacity may be able to enter into agreements with the Forest Service to further facilitate removal of wood from the forest and delivery to homes (refer to "Entering into Agreements").

TRADITIONAL & CEREMONIAL WOOD

Direct any requests for traditional and ceremonial wood needs to [Leigh Cominiello](#) or [Austin Cash](#) listed in the contacts below. This includes post and pole, firewood, and mulch.

MONTHLY MEETING

Join us via Teams the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm Arizona time. Current wood availability is discussed first. Reach out to any of the contacts below for the Teams link.

BURNING SAFELY

Find more information on safe wood burning and cleaning practices here.

<https://www.redfeather.org/heating--cooling-edu.html>

GRANT FUNDS

- **The Alliance for Green Heat** awards grants of up to \$50,000 for wood bank support. Many WFL partners have successfully won these grants!
 - Eligible expenses include chainsaws, log splitters, building materials for sheds, protective gear, etc.

<https://www.firewoodbanks.org/>

For other funding options contact [Sean Etsitty](#) at the NFF (listed below) or [Tess Ryley](#) at Coalitions and Collaboratives (therese.ryley@co-co.org).

ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, 638 Contracts are an option for Tribal governments and Tribally recognized entities to enter into agreements with the Forest Service. The agreement proposals must be drafted and submitted by the Tribal entity to the Forest Service. These agreements would allow Tribal entities to carry out long-term projects on federal land, receive funds for wood processing equipment, hire personnel to assist with wood processing and distribution, and a variety of other firewood related projects. For more information on how to do this, contact [Jon Martin](#), listed in the contacts below.

<https://www.nationalforests.org/get-involved/wood-for-life/northern-arizona-wood-for-life-partnership>



WHO CAN I CONTACT?

About getting wood:

Forest Service Northern Arizona

Jake Dahlin: District Timber Staff,
Flagstaff Ranger District
Jacob.Dahlin@usda.gov

Austin Cash: Forester, Flagstaff Ranger District
austin.cash@usda.gov

Leigh Cominiello: Tribal Relations Specialist,
Coconino National Forest
Leigh.Cominiello@usda.gov

Noni Lyndon: Tribal Relations, Kaibab National Forest
nanebah.nezlyndon@usda.gov

National Forest Foundation (NFF)

Sean Etsitty: Wood For Life Coordinator
woodforlife@nationalforests.org

WFL Needs Assessment Questions:

Ecological Restoration Institute (at NAU)

Niki vonHedemann: Human Dimensions Specialist
Niki.vonHedemann@nau.edu

Jon Martin: Director, Native American Forest and
Rangeland Management Program
Jonathan.Martin@nau.edu

Navajo Nation Tribal Government

Erik Stanfield: Anthropologist, Navajo National
Heritage and Historic Preservation Department
erikstanfield@navajo-nsn.gov

INVOLVED NONPROFITS TO CONTACT

Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC)

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

Pikyanivi Wood Haulers - Warmth for Hopi and Tewa

- **Charlie Lewis**
 - pikuniviwoodhaulers@gmail.com

Koho for Hopi

- **Matthew Honanie**
 - mhonanie@koho4hopi.org

Chizh for Cheii

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

Diné Bá'ádeit'í/For the People

- **Ames Meyers**
 - amesmeyers@gmail.com

Red Feather

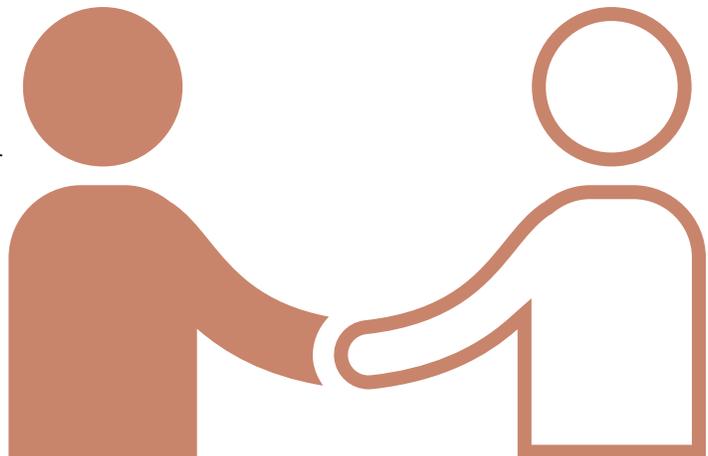
- **Alex Torgler**, Firewood Distribution Coordinator
 - alex@redfeather.org

United Natives

- **Andrew Robarge**
 - andrew.m.robarge@gmail.com

Community Strong

- **Jonathan Yazzie**
 - jyazzie_23@yahoo.com



<https://www.nationalforests.org/get-involved/wood-for-life/northern-arizona-wood-for-life-partnership>