

Bergen Eskildsen

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands Forest Products & Business Program Coordinator bergeneskildsen@utah.gov 801-889-6266

Matthew Podolinsky

National Forest Foundation Utah Recreation Program Coordinator mpodolinsky@nationalforests.org 385-264-4812







HOW THE NFF WORKS

- We work with Forest Service AND PARTNERS to develop relationships and understand restoration and partnership needs at the District, Forest, Regional, and National Levels.
- We work with communities and partners to raise, aggregate, and deploy funding.
- The NFF can support collaboration, planning, pre-implementation surveys, and other assessments. We raise and aggregate local government and private funding sources, and then use those to match and leverage federal investments. NFF creates, oversees and administers contracts in partnership with USFS staff, operators, small businesses, and other organizations to complete projects efficiently, and can work with local NGOs via invited grants.







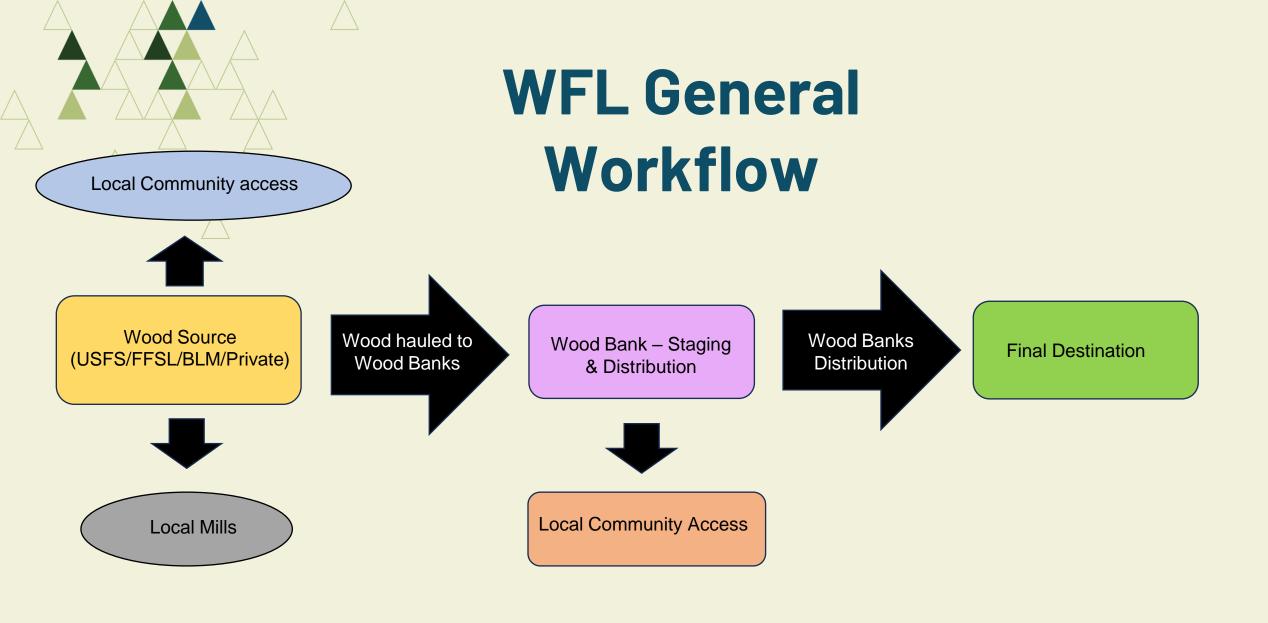
Overview of Wood For Life

- Wood For Life <u>Partnership</u>: A network of organizations working to achieve the common goals of:
 - 1) providing resources and a sustainable source of firewood to Indigenous communities through forest restoration efforts;
 - 2) reducing forest-wide fuels; and
 - 3) strengthening partner relationships.

Firewood Banks

- Similar to food banks
- Provides emergency and seasonal firewood for heating and cooking
- Firewood banks that partner with WFL provide wood to tribal communities for heating, cooking, and traditional uses.
- Critical for tribal communities and rural areas.
- Can be partially funded by federal funds









BACKGROUND

- Closure of the Navajo Generating Station and Peabody coal mine in Kayenta –
 Coal fired power plant and residual coal was the main source of fuel for off–
 grid homes in Hopi and Navajo communities.
- Community members can burn wood as easily as coal. It is a good transitional, and possibly long term, fuel source.
- Forests are ancestral Tribal lands with abundant fuelwood.
- Forest restoration efforts are ongoing. Lack of markets for small diameter wood and biomass.
- In response to requests and grassroots discussions, Wood For Life started in Arizona in 2020.
- Similar efforts had started in Idaho and have continued. Wood for Life partnership expanded to include Southwest Colorado and the San Juan National Forest in 2021.

Wood for Life Programs Around the West

WFL Programs in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4

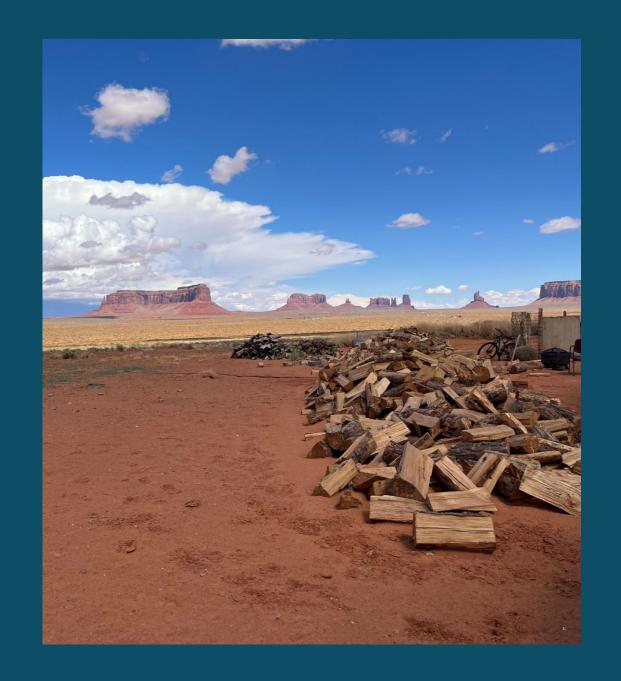
- Colorado we are working with the San Juan National Forest, local contractors, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, and Southwest Conservation Corps to transport the byproducts of forest restoration projects to neighboring Indigenous communities.
- Northern Arizona and NW New Mexico We work to connect wood from restoration projects on the Kaibab, Coconino, and Santa Fe National Forests with Indigenous communities and nonprofits in the four corners region.
- Southern Idaho In Idaho, we are transporting wood byproducts from restoration projects on the Sawtooth and Boise National Forests to the Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock tribes for distribution to elders and other vulnerable community members. We are actively working to expand this program to additional tribes in the Region.
- Montana After several years of planning, the WFL program will be transporting wood to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and the Blackfoot Tribe.
- Nevada The NFF is currently working with the Sawtooth NF and Humboldt-Toiyabe NF to transport wood to Washoe Tribe and Shoshone Tribe.
- Wood For Life video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZf6EmRF-W8





WFL in Utah

- FFSL has provided a framework for the WFL program in Utah.
- FFSL has a trailer that can haul small loads.
- USFS currently has a free-use permit for tribal firewood gathering.
- A number of wood banks are established in San Juan County.
- NFF and FFSL are in discussion with the Manti-La Sal to haul wood in late summer.
- Goal: Grow the WFL across the state and develop more partnerships





None of us can do it alone!

Coconino, Kaibab National Forests (R3), San Juan National Forest (R2), Navajo Nation Dept. of Forestry, Cameron, Chinle, Tuba City, Birdsprings, Leupp, and Red Mesa Chapters, Ames Family, Honanie Family/Koho for Hopi, Hopi Tribe, Hopi Villages, Hopi Foundation, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Red Feather Development Group, Triple JR Logging and Cattle, DNT Construction, JMS Building, University of Arizona Tribal Cooperative Extension, Northern Arizona University Ecological Restoration Institute, WL Gore, Church groups, Chizh for Cheii, Alamo Navajo Fuels Crew, The Nature Conservancy, Ute Mountain Ute, Southern Ute, The National Forest Foundation, and the City of Flagstaff

Soon to Come:

Manti-La Sal National Forest, Utah Bureau of Land Management, Ute Mountain Ute, Utah Conservation Corps, Brandt Services, Moab Solid Waste Authority, Moab City, Saint Christopher's Mission, The Nature Conservancy Utah, Private Landowners











