

Treatment of Invasive Plants Post-Museum Fire

Project Start: Spring 2020

Project End: Winter 2021

Funding Source: Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management



The project area covers ~5200 acres adjacent and leading into the July 2019 “Museum Fire” that burned 2000 ac in Flagstaff, Arizona and includes the projected flooding zone. Project boundaries were determined by accounting for known locations of weed populations and access points to the burn scar. Surrounding vegetation is ponderosa pine/oak forest and high elevation meadow, which is prime wildlife habitat due to the occurrence of springs and diverse vegetation. The primary landowners are City of Flagstaff, Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA), and private citizens. The burn area is Coconino National Forest land in an area with high-use recreational trails and is also adjacent to the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS). Multiple avenues of access increase the risk of spreading non-native invasive weeds into the now highly disturbed burn site. Species of concern include Dalmatian toadflax, Scotch thistle, musk thistle, knapweeds, cheat grass, jointed goat grass, Japanese brome, yellow star thistle and poison hemlock. Additional species are likely present. The Forest Service has secured funding for surveys and treatments in the direct burn area and this project will strongly support their efforts.

This is a collaborative project with the City of Flagstaff and the Museum of Northern Arizona. Using an integrated weed management approach, this project will remove existing weeds, prevent weed spread through treatment and public education, and revegetate disturbed sites in the project area. For more information about the project, education opportunities or to volunteer, please e-mail Kristin.Haskins@thearb.org.

