

NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 8, 2003

For more information: Herb Hopper, Project Director, (520) 524-6063 ext. 5, email: hhopper@littlecolorado.org, **Editor, please note: We appreciate your cooperation in publishing this news release. The Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D is a nonprofit, 501(C) (3). Our mission is to support partnerships providing leadership in natural resource conservation and development within East-Central Arizona communities. Thank you.**

**Five Arizona Projects Receive
Forest Partnership Grants**

Five Arizona projects to demonstrate forest restoration, community economic development and wildfire reduction have received approximately \$160,000 in grants for 2003 from the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership. The Partnership, formed by the state foresters for New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah, with the support of the U.S. Forest Service and many other organizations, is in its fifth and final year of awarding grants to non-profit organizations as well as entrepreneurial enterprises in each of the states.

A total of \$645,000 in grants was awarded for 2003 in all four states, while project sponsors are providing matching funds of more than \$300,000, for a total program of more than \$1 million this year. In the last three years, Arizona has seen the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership award \$997,900 in grants to demonstration projects. The grant program was created to address the problems of deteriorating forest health, declining forest-based economic activity in communities in the Four Corners region, coupled with increasingly severe wildfire hazards. The projects revolve around funding economic applications for small diameter trees and harvesting these trees to convert them into useful products that can be marketed.

**San Carlos Apache Tribe
San Carlos, Arizona**

\$40,000 Amount Funded

The San Carlos Apache Tribe is in the process of completing comprehensive planning related to their forest enterprise. Through a previous year grant from

Four Corners, San Carlos was able to conduct a sawmill improvement evaluation and provide an automated logging operations plan, small log processing plan as well as a marketing plan. The objective of this project is to provide the assistance needed to take this project from concept to a reality. The key components will be; development of a business plan, preliminary engineering of equipment needs, overall process flow evaluation and tests regarding the suitability of ponderosa pine for the end use products planned.

Mountain Top Wood Products \$50,000 Amount Funded
Show Low, Arizona

Mountain Top Wood Products currently operates an existing log processing yard where they receive, debark, peel, cut and shape small diameter timber. This project will allow Mountain Top to set a more efficient log sort yard as well as purchase a log merchandiser saw and loaders to service the merchandiser. The saw will cut small diameter logs into predetermined, uniform lengths. This allows for a faster, more efficient operation with less waste, and can produce a wider range of value added products.

White Mountain Regional Development Corporation
\$20,000 Amount Funded
Show Low, Arizona

The purpose of this project is to establish and operate a self-sufficient, sustainable, regional, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting value-added utilization of local small diameter wood. Partners of this project are Small Business Development Center of Northland Pioneer College, The Arizona Sustainable Forest Partnership and The Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership.

Indigenous Community Enterprise \$20,000 Amount Funded
Flagstaff, Arizona

Indigenous Community Enterprise (ICE) has been funded by Four Corners previously to assist in the establishment of a community based housing product business using small diameter ponderosa pine to create affordable, culturally compatible housing. Funding ICE for this year will help add a laser guided automated sorting deck that will enable the operation to both dramatically increase sorting speed and efficiency.

Town of Eagar \$30,000 Amount Funded
Eagar, Arizona

The Town of Eagar received funding previously from Four Corners to help purchase a chain flail chipper. The chipper has been used to chip over 44,889 tons of small diameter trees thinned from urban interface projects. This one time funding will assist the community in rebuilding and upgrading the hydraulic system.