



WOOD FOR LIFE



WOOD FOR LIFE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

2024 SPRING FIREWOOD DISTRIBUTION

Through the ALCC: Wood For Life (WFL) project, we aim to address the heating sourcing needs while laying the foundation for a more resilient and self-sufficient community in the face of future challenges.

This effort is leveraged by congregating local resources, creating employment opportunities for youth, and fostering community resilience.



Our 2024 Spring Firewood Season strengthened community resilience by ensuring access to sustainable and reliable heating solutions.

Young adult crews from Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps (ALCC) and Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) worked tirelessly through diverse conditions, producing over 203 cords of firewood and treating 20 acres to reduce wildfire risks, which is relevant to forest health and community safety.



**311 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED
FIREWOOD FREE OF CHARGE**



Alongside the crews' significant milestones, were able to prioritize providing processed firewood, free of charge directly to 311 individual Navajo and Hopi households.

This initiative seeks to sustain and create habitual home heating practices for tribal families through the Winter season.

2024 SPRING FIREWOOD DISTRIBUTION



For **98%** of our applicants, firewood remains their primary heat source during the harsh Winter months



Wood For Life's solution to address the heating crisis within Tribal communities is by supporting families in transition.

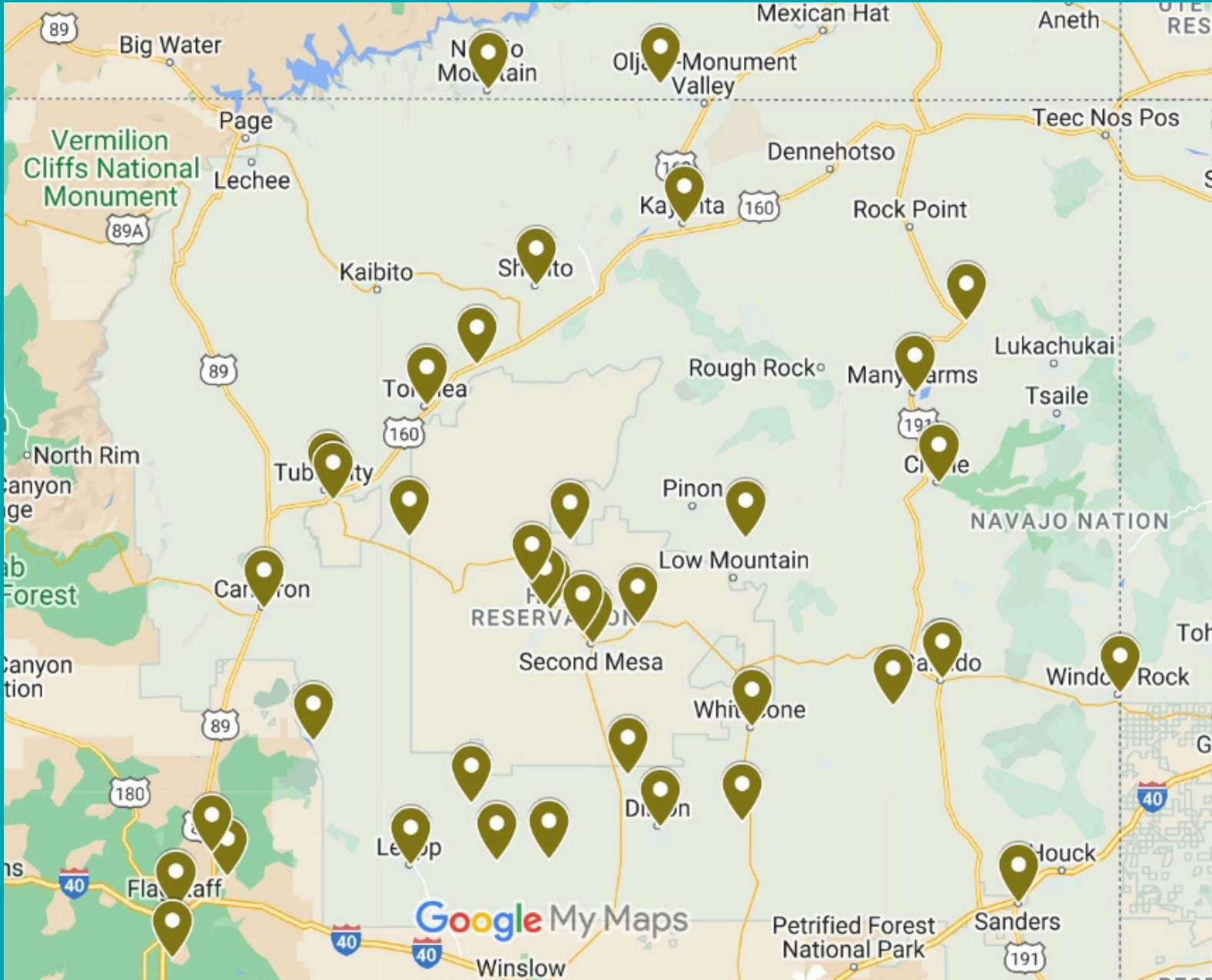
The Individual Household Firewood Distribution Program focuses on assisting communities most impacted by the closure of the Peabody Coal Mine by providing much-needed firewood resources to address home heating challenges.



“Awesome! It was great just to park and stack the wood. No hassle with chain saws or tools to haul it. I wish all families on Hopi took advantage of this opportunity.”

- Individual Household Firewood Recipient

FIREWOOD DISTRIBUTION MAP: COMMUNITIES SERVED IN 2024



Google. (n.d.). WFL Program Map. My Google Maps. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&mid=1Fvoxvs8QBSy9bQni8SiydBB87uX0go0&ll=36.19087660188667%2C-110.10533260944327&z=8>

This map highlights the communities who have received firewood through our 2024 Individual Household Firewood Distribution Program. This distribution map reflects the vast outreach efforts and support we provide throughout Hopi and Navajo Nation.



2024 FALL POST & BEAM DISTRIBUTION



In the 2024 Fall season, our focus shifted towards our 1st pilot Post & Beam program. Through this program our goal is to connect tribal communities to natural materials for traditional and cultural building efforts such as kivas, hoghans, ceremonial ladders, and much more.

Having these resources accessible to our tribal communities honor Native/ Indigenous knowledge and empower self-sustaining practices that have been custom since time immemorial.



516 Post and Beam material were distributed to support cultural construction and revitalization efforts

2024 FALL POST & BEAM DISTRIBUTION

The Post & Beam initiative not only helps us maintain and revive traditional building practices but also builds a legacy of connection and resilience.

We understand that accessing Post and Beam material can be challenging due to forest regulations, permitting process, and the technical skill required to fell trees.

Our program is designed to alleviate these challenges by providing these materials to local tribal communities at no cost, with a straightforward request process.

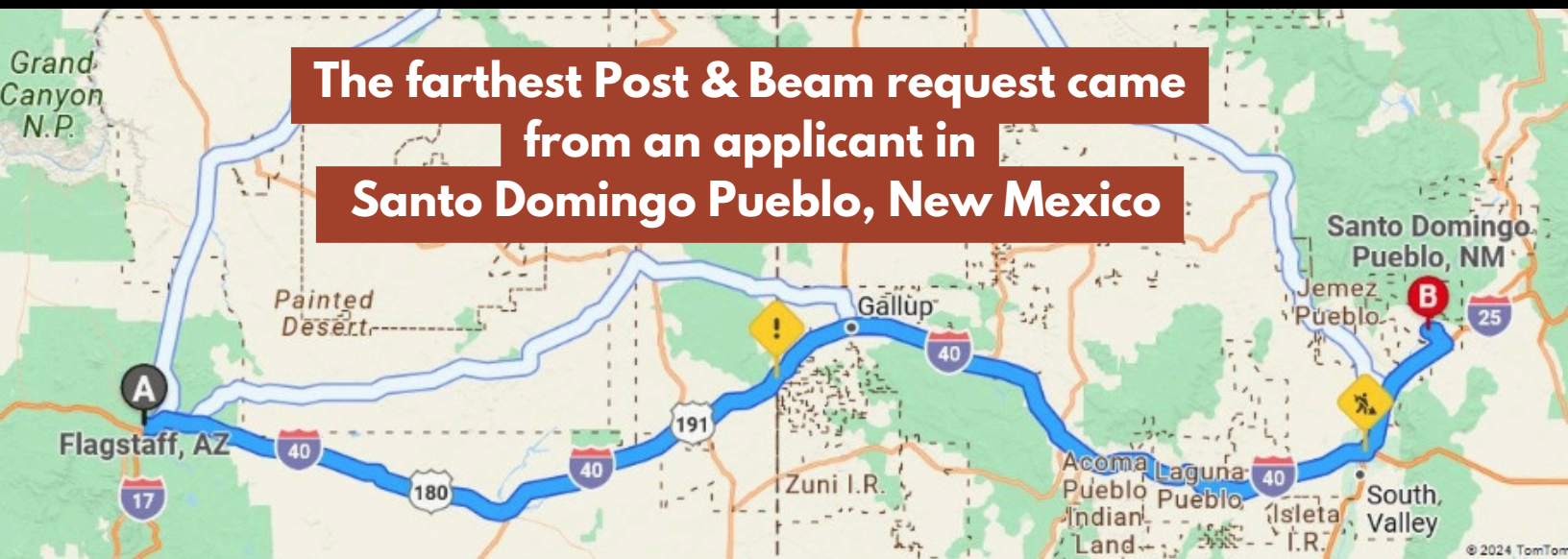


“ Staff, leaders, and members all acted with professionalism and kindness. It was an honor and a pleasure to receive logs for my project from the WFL program. Thank you!

— ”
- Post and Beam Recipient

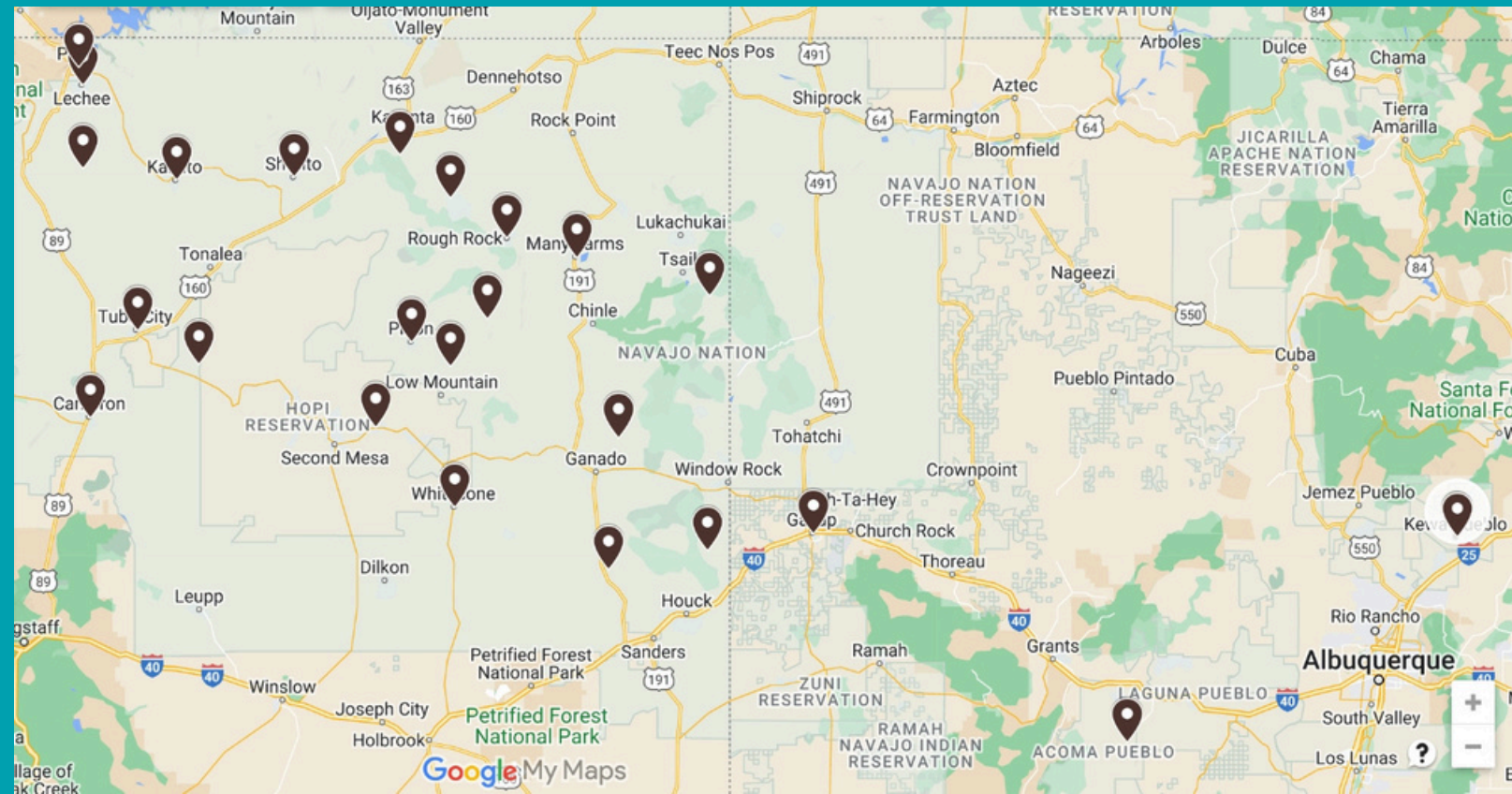
2024 FALL POST & BEAM DISTRIBUTION

60% of Post & Beam requests were to support Traditional Hohan Building Projects



We received an overwhelming number of request -- totaling well over **2,000 Post & Beams**

POST & BEAM DISTRIBUTION MAP: COMMUNITIES SERVED IN 2024



Google. (n.d.). WFL Program Map. My Google Maps. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?hl=en&mid=1Fvoxs9QBSy9bQni8SiydBB87uXOgo0&ll=36.19087660188667%2C-110.10533260944327&z=8>



This map highlights the communities who have received Post & Beam material through our 2024 Post & Beam Distribution Program. This distribution map reflects the vast outreach efforts and support we provided for sustainable cultural building projects throughout Hopi and Navajo Nation.



2025 WFL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



As we look ahead into 2025, we stay dedicated to ensuring that tribal communities have access to resources provided by our Wood For Life (WFL) Programs. Although, with the lack of moisture this Winter, we are anticipating a challenging fire season for Coconino National Forest. This in mind, we are implementing a contingency plan for possible USFS Fire Restrictions that will require us to shut down WFL Firewood Distribution operations.

This is where we need your help! We are seeking Partners to assist us with firewood distribution and accessibility in preparation for possible USFS Fire Restrictions.



We are calling on grassroots organizations, community groups, nonprofits, and businesses to join us in this essential mission to make firewood accessible in 2025.

Through this strengthening of networking, you can help us play a critical role in the distribution of firewood within tribal communities to those who may not be able to access our resources due to WFL project site shut-down, lack of transportation, finances, and limited physical abilities.

2025 WFL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



How you can get involved:

Transportation and Distribution

Are you an organization, non profit or community group with a vehicle with hauling capacity, trailers, & transport crews? We can support your distribution efforts by providing processed firewood. Your support in delivering firewood directly to households or distribution centers will be invaluable and assist us in our mission to expand our reach.

Project Site Restoration & Fire Mitigation

Your help would also assist us with distribution of excess firewood from our Project Site to prepare us for possible US Forest Service Closures due to Fire Restrictions. This will reduce fire fuel loads and mitigate fire hazards for the surrounding communities as well as help us quickly move material before full closures come in effect.

Community Outreach

Partner with us to identify those in need and assist by distributing request form information. Through this connection we will be able to make our resources more accessible to underserved households who may lack internet access or computer systems for applications and scheduling.

This WFL Partnership program is continuously evolving and each year we are incorporating new ways to build this program. Please reach out to Mariah, WFL Communication Coordinator at mholiday@conservationlegacy.org for questions or interest.

WOOD FOR LIFE: MISSION & PURPOSE

Wood for Life (WFL) is a collaborative network of organizations including, National Forest Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps in Northern Arizona.

Through this collaborative effort we are working to achieve common goals that help sustain the Wood For Life program and forest restoration efforts for the Coconino National Forest.



As we are advancing forest restoration with forest thinning, we reduce the source of forest fire fuel. Forest thinning is a cornerstone for forest fire prevention and mitigation. Overcrowded forests with dense undergrowth act as a source of fuel for wildfires that create conditions for fast-moving, destructive blazes. Thinning helps mitigate this risk by reducing fuel loads, creating natural firebreaks, and enabling more control for interactive fire management.

These practices are not only critical for protecting nearby communities of the Coconino National Forest but also for preserving the long-term ecological balance of our surrounding forests.



By selectively removing overcrowded trees and underbrush, it reduces the competition for water, sunlight, and nutrients, allowing healthier old growth trees to thrive.

This process also promotes the growth of native plant populations, improves wildlife habitats, and strengthens the forest's resilience against diseases and invasive species.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



To close out year 2024 and prepare for another action-packed year of 2025, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to our ALCC Hopi-Kykotsmovi Crews 652, 651 and AZCC Crews 374, 375, 383 whose tireless efforts were the backbone of our achievements this year.

Working 10-hour days over 8 consecutive days each hitch, these crews exemplified resilience, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. Their dedication not only ensured the efficient production and distribution of resources provided by Wood For Life but also supported the necessary treatment for forest restoration and wildfire prevention.



A special acknowledgment also goes to our Wood for Life (WFL) leadership team—Program Director Marshall Masayesva, Project Coordinator Mac Jacobs, and Communication Coordinator Mariah Holiday.

Their success in seamlessly organizing and deploying distribution events ensured essential home heating and traditional building resources were accessible. Their leadership strengthened partnerships and laid the groundwork for the continued success for the ALCC: Wood For Life Programs.