



# Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

May 2011

## A Parashant Partnership St. George, UT Workshop #2

Where the Mojave and Colorado Plateau converge, sky islands hold ponderosa pine trees and numerous understory forbs and grasses. As elevation decreases, the soils change and the vegetation ranges from ponderosa through pinyon and juniper woodlands and savannas into arid grasslands and finally down to the Mojave Desert.

Bands of Paiute and pioneer settlers have managed these lands in distant and recent history. The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was established by Presidential proclamation in January 2000 to protect the cultural and natural resources of the Monument, as well as species like the desert tortoise and ponderosa pine. The Monument is co-managed by the NPS and BLM.

Current threats to the Monument include invasion by noxious weeds and altered fire regimes: widespread fire in the Mojave could prove catastrophic, while continued fire exclusion in the mid- and upper-elevation forests will lead to decreased forest health. Managing the Monument is complex, with a need to balance multiple objectives including species habitat, cultural values, recreation, grazing and more. As a result, a



### Draft Objectives

1. **Create a coalition** of land managers and interested stakeholders to communicate values and identify shared objectives for the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.
2. **Create a framework** for building a collective knowledge of the Monument's natural and cultural resources by learning from traditional and contemporary land uses and management approaches and through scientific research.
3. **Work in partnership** with the staff of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument to:
  - Share knowledge, expertise, and human and financial resources;
  - Conduct research;
  - Review and assess approaches to ecological restoration intended to increase the ecological resilience of the monument; and
  - Collaboratively develop management activities that seek to protect and enhance the values for which the monument was designated.

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group of collaborators who can represent the variety of values and objectives is essential.

Meeting for a second time, a wide array of stakeholders who make up the Parashant partnership reviewed mission statements and group charter, shared presentations on biomes and protected objects in the region, discussed forest and grassland health, and identified threats to valued items in the landscape. With assistance from the Fire Learning Network, this group is working toward a shared vision that will



## Participating Agencies & Organizations

Arizona Game and Fish Department  
 Bar 10 Ranch  
 Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office  
 Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Office  
 Bureau of Land Management, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
 Citizens for Dixie's Future  
 Ecological Restoration Institute  
 Friends of Gold Butte  
 Friends of the Arizona Strip  
 Grand Canyon Trust

Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
 Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
 National Park Service, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument  
 National Park Service, Lake Mead  
 National Park Service, Mojave Desert Monitoring and Inventory  
 Shivwits Band of Southern Paiute  
 Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The Wilderness Society



allow those with varied interests to restore, maintain, and understand the various cultural values and ecosystems on the Monument, and make them available in a healthy and sustainable manner for generations to come.

**For more information about the partnership on the Parashant National Monument contact:**

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The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.



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