**4FRI Stakeholder Group**

4FRI, the [**Four Forests Restoration Initiative**](https://www.fs.usda.gov/4fri), has moved from the Planning Phase into the Implementation Phase! This is a major step forward, facilitated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act. These two bills are providing billions of dollars of funding to move forward with projects across the West to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. 4FRI was one of the first projects selected for immediate action because it is deemed "shovel ready" based on the years of work done to plan for its implementation and will be funded with $54M per year for the next 3 years.

The Stakeholder Group (SHG) has been working with the Forest Service (FS), Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD) and other entities since 2010. AZTU is an active member of the SHG. On Wednesday, January 25th, the SHG hosted our "4FRI Collaborative Next Steps Meeting" including senior leadership from the US Forest Service. The SHG is committed to work in partnership with the Forest Service to ensure that all community interests are considered as the work is executed on the ground. AZTU is actively advocating for, and monitoring activities related to, aquatics restoration. Our new Conservation Project Manager will be leading our participation, with ongoing support by volunteers.