



2446 N. Fort Tuthill Loop Road
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001-8701
(928) 679-8000 Fax (928) 774-2572
coconino.az.gov/parks

December 15, 2011

Arizona Preserve Initiative/CPOS Project: Fort Tuthill Expansion

Location: 220 acres in the Northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 20 North, Range 7 East
County Supervisor District 3: Matt Ryan
State Legislative District: Karen Fann, Andy Tobin, and Steve Pierce
Congressional District 1 Rep. Paul Gosar

Project Summary: Coconino County submitted an Arizona Preserve Initiative Petition No. 116166 for the purpose of requesting that the Land Commissioner reclassify previously identified state trust lands within the County, adjacent to Fort Tuthill County Park, as suitable for conservation purposes. A reclassification will make this project eligible for a Growing Smarter matching grant and the purchase by the County at public auction in 2012. Currently, this petition has been accepted by the Land Commissioner and was sent to the President of the State Senate on November 12, 2011 as part of a 60-day review and comment period.

Project Description: The nominated lands are situated just south of the City of Flagstaff in the northwest quarter of Section 6 known as the Fort Tuthill parcel because of its proximity to the Fort Tuthill Historic District within the County Park. The gently hilly topography with basalt outcroppings is covered with a dense stand of Ponderosa pine trees that has not been logged for nearly 100 years. The acquisition of the nominated lands will benefit the community's open space values by retaining iconic scenic resources surrounding Fort Tuthill, conserving biological resources, and providing for public enjoyment, environmental education and research.

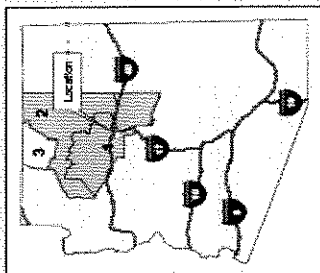
Following purchase by Coconino County the lands will be an addition to Fort Tuthill County Park. The proposed uses of the land would be: conservation of the natural resources, including protection of wildlife habitat and movement corridors, preservation and restoration of native plant species including the old growth Ponderosa pine, environmental education, scientific research, and passive recreation for the general public, such as wildlife viewing and low-impact, non-motorized trail activities.

Originally, the state lands at Fort Tuthill were used to establish an Arizona National Guard summer encampment and training area in the late 20s. The fort was active from 1928 until 1955 as a training site for the 158th Regiment of the Arizona National Guard for conflicts in World War I, II and the Korean War.

The nominated state trust lands are designated as high priority for retention by the Flagstaff Area Open Spaces and Greenways Plan (adopted by the Flagstaff City Council and the Coconino County Board of Supervisors in 1997) within the plan's Griffith's Spring Landscape District. The lands are in a natural state and will be used for purposes consistent with management of open space values.

Legislative District 2 (Pink): Senator Jack Jackson Jr., Rep. Tom Chabin, Rep. Albert Hale

Proposed lands for API reclassification, Fort Tuthill, Coconino County



Legislative Districts

Legend

- Soldier's Trail
- Flagstaff City Limits
- State Trust Land
- Luke AFB Recreation Area
- County Owned Land

Legislative Districts

DISTRICT

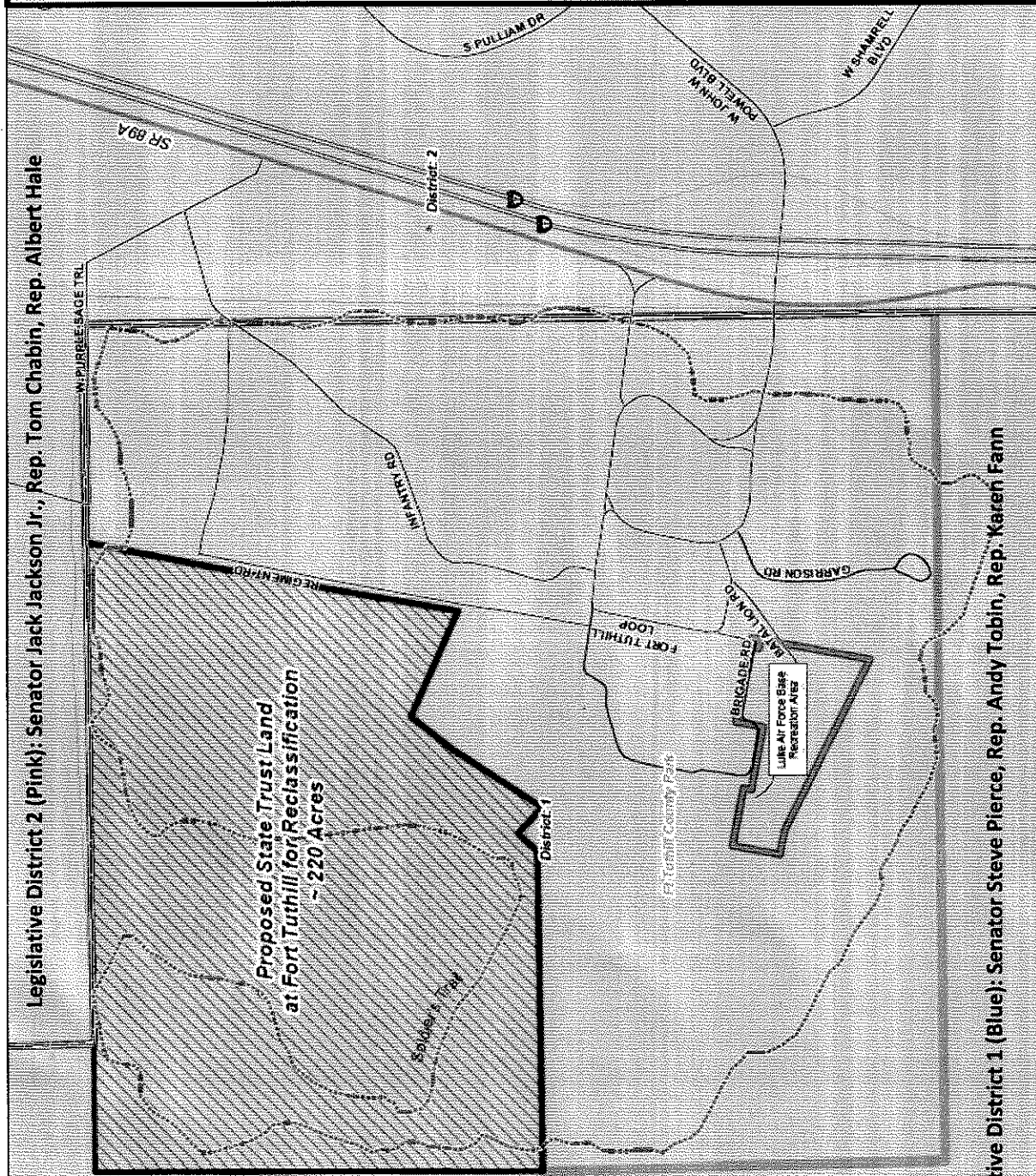
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COCONINO COUNTY ARIZONA

Coconino County Parks & Rec
 (928)-676-8000
www.coconino.az.gov/parks
 Coconino County GIS
 (928)-676-7800
www.coconino.az.gov/gis

Scale: 0 150 300 450 750 950 Feet

These data are for planning purposes only. No warranty of accuracy is given or implied.



Proposed State Trust Land at Fort Tuthill for Reclassification ~ 220 Acres

Legislative District 1 (Blue): Senator Steve Pierce, Rep. Andy Tobin, Rep. Karen Fann

In the Flagstaff Area Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan (adopted by the Flagstaff City Council and Coconino County Board of Supervisors in November 2001) the nominated lands are designated as Park land. This plan calls for State Trust lands with valuable open space qualities, including the nominated lands, as *High Priority for Retention* to “serve as buffers, quiet areas, wildlife habitat or scenic areas.”

Matching Funds Opportunity: The Coconino Parks and Open Space tax revenues (approved by voters in 2002) can be leveraged by grant funds from the Land Conservation Fund (\$40M remaining for the 2012 grant cycle beginning June 30, 2012) through the Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Program administered by Arizona State Parks at an amount up to 50% of the appraised value.

Next Steps: Solicit support from key supporters to prepare for the upcoming reclassification process led by the State Land Department.

Contact Information: Jeanne Trupiano, Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department at (928) 679-8025

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE COCONINO COUNTY PETITION TO RECLASSIFY STATE TRUST LANDS AT FORT TUTHILL FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES

WHEREAS, conservation of State Trust Lands at Fort Tuthill has been of great interest to Coconino County citizens and City government for many years; and

WHEREAS, Fort Tuthill was designated as high priority for retention for open space purposes in the 1998 Flagstaff Area Open Spaces and Greenways Plan and for retention as park land in the 2000 Flagstaff Area Regional Transportation and Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2003 calls for Coconino Parks and Open Space funds to be used to acquire State Trust Lands at Fort Tuthill designated as high-priority for retention in the Flagstaff Open Space and Greenways Plan; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2002 Coconino County voters approved a 1/8 cent sales tax to fund the Coconino Parks and Open Space Program (CPOS) that includes the acquisition of identified parcels to become County open space parks including the forested State Trust Lands adjacent to Fort Tuthill County Park; and

WHEREAS, Coconino County has submitted an Arizona Preserve Initiative petition to the State Land Commissioner to reclassify the State Trust Lands (220 acres) directly adjacent to Fort Tuthill County Park as suitable for conservation purposes; and according to A.R.S. § 37-312, et. seq. to fulfill the CPOS ballot measure for the acquisition of open space containing the forested State Trust Lands at Fort Tuthill County Park; and

WHEREAS, the County is requesting that the State Land Commissioner through this reclassification deem the State Trust Lands at Fort Tuthill eligible for the Arizona Preserve Initiative process and as such for the Arizona Growing Smarter State Trust Land Acquisition Program for the 2012 grant cycle; and

WHEREAS, the nominated lands are situated just south of the City of Flagstaff in the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 20 North, Range 7 East known as the Fort Tuthill parcel because these State Trust lands form the scenic backdrop and cultural landscape surrounding the Fort Tuthill Historic District and County Park; and

WHEREAS, the State Trust Lands at Fort Tuthill originally were used to establish an Arizona National Guard summer encampment and training area in the late 1920s; and

WHEREAS, the Fort was active From 1928 until 1939 and again after WW II during 1947 and 1948 as the summer annual field training site for the 158th Infantry Regiment Arizona National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the land and buildings containing the original Fort, adjacent to the Fort Tuthill parcel, were conveyed to Coconino County in 1955 for the enjoyment of County residents; and;

WHEREAS, the benefits of acquiring the nominated lands as an addition to Fort Tuthill County Park include:

- Ensuring permanent conservation of the natural and cultural resources including wildlife habitat and corridors providing an enhanced opportunity for residents and visitors to better understand the unique area they are visiting or living in,
- Preservation of the iconic scenic vistas surrounding the County Park and the Fort Tuthill Historic District,
- Provision for low-impact, non-motorized recreational activities, outstanding wildlife viewing, and outdoor education for the public; and

WHEREAS, \$40 million remains in Arizona's Land Conservation Fund for the 2012 grant cycle beginning June 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of this parcel of State Trust Lands will not impact tax revenues, agencies, or land management; and

WHEREAS, ownership by the County will enhance Fort Tuthill County Park by 220 acres that will be treated as County Natural Area-for conservation purposes and the enjoyment of future generations of County residents, including City residents, and visitors;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Flagstaff hereby expresses its support for Coconino County's petition to reclassify Fort Tuthill State Trust Lands for conservation purposes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Flagstaff this _____ day of _____, 2012.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jana A. Killgrew for

CITY ATTORNEY