



Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve Timeline

1970s: City of Flagstaff channelizes portions of the Rio de Flag above and below the waterfall.

1980s: Wildcat Hill Water Treatment Plant begins operation and discharges effluent into Picture Canyon's channel.

1990s: Water treatment technology at Wildcat Hill advances to the point of producing B+ rated reclaimed water.

1998: City of Flagstaff's Flagstaff Area Open Space and Greenways Plan recommends Picture Canyon as "the first priority for [retention] for State Lands within the entire Plan Area."

1999: Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services designate Picture Canyon as a "Special Conservation Area".

1999-2001: Arizona State Land Department undertakes first full-scale effort to eradicate weeds within the San Francisco Weed Management Area, which includes Picture Canyon.

2001: Arizona Land Reform Initiative passes Arizona legislature, setting aside Picture Canyon as an area for possible preservation.

2002: Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District submits a proposal to the Arizona State Trust Lands Department to restore the Picture Canyon wetlands.

2005: Coconino County District 4 Supervisor Deb Hill holds a series of Rio de Flag public forum workshops, with an entire workshop focusing on Picture Canyon.

2005: Vested agencies and stakeholders, including representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff Area National Monuments, and City of Flagstaff form the Picture Canyon Working Group.

2005: City of Flagstaff contracts Natural Channel Design to prepare a preliminary design for restoring the Rio de Flag through Picture Canyon.

2005: Local businesses, governments, and community organizations sponsor “Make a Difference Day” event at Picture Canyon, which removes tons of trash and debris from the Canyon, including abandoned cars and tires.

2006: City of Flagstaff awarded \$380,225 from Arizona Water Protection Fund/Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program Grant to restore natural stream functions, re-establish native vegetation along Rio de Flag, and create a deep water wetland habitat for migratory fowl.

2007: Arizona Trail section through Picture Canyon completed.

2008: Picture Canyon listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to its significant abundance of cultural resources.

2010: Arizona Game and Fish Department and City of Flagstaff trade land and water rights. Arizona Game and Fish deeds a 3-acre pocket park (Bow and Arrow Park) in exchange for a 20-year guarantee of minimum water release from the Wildcat Hill plant into Picture Canyon’s channel for wildlife purposes.

2010: Coconino County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopts resolution 2010-56 supporting efforts to preserve and restore Picture Canyon by the Picture Canyon Working Group.

2011: City of Flagstaff Open Spaces Commission approves use of City bond funds for acquisition of Picture Canyon.

2012: Arizona State Land Department holds a public hearing at Flagstaff City Hall to gauge community support for purchasing Picture Canyon.

2012: Flagstaff City Council adopts Resolution 2012-12, approving a cultural resource policy for Picture Canyon.

2012: City of Flagstaff partners with Arizona Public Service to relocate overhead transmission lines at Picture Canyon.

2012: City of Flagstaff applies for Growing Smarter Grant funds to acquire Picture Canyon. Arizona State Parks Board awards City of Flagstaff \$2.4 million Growing Smarter Grant funds to acquire 478 acres of State Trust Lands at Picture Canyon for conservation purposes. City of Flagstaff purchases Picture Canyon using \$2.4 million from the 2004 voter-approved Open Space bond and \$2.4 million in funding from the 2012 Growing Smarter Grant.

2013: City of Flagstaff awarded a \$252,000 Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant to complete Phase 2 of the Rio de Flag/Picture Canyon restoration project.

2014: Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience releases audio guide for Picture Canyon.

2014: City of Flagstaff revegetates El Paso Gas pipeline easement through Picture Canyon in partnership with Kinder Morgan.

2016: City of Flagstaff Open Space Program receives \$74,446 in grant funding from Arizona State Parks' Recreational Trails Program to fund improvement projects at the Preserve, including additional trails, kiosks, trail signs, and interpretive signs.

2016: City of Flagstaff receives \$32,000 in grant funding from Flagstaff Area National Monuments to construct the Waterbird Trail at Picture Canyon.

2016: Pilkington Advertising Design, LLC. and Michael Hagelburg develop fifteen interpretive signs for the Preserve, educating visitors about the ecological, archaeological, and historical value of the property.