



Forest Health and Water Supply Protection Project

Ballot Question #405

It happens every year. Each spring we watch with fingers crossed as the forest dries out, hoping we escape another devastating wildfire season. The monsoons once signaled our reprieve, but have recently become a source of overwhelming fear and anxiety. Lessons learned from the unprecedented flooding following 2010's Schultz Fire have awakened a new awareness of the extraordinary impacts that can occur long after a wildfire has been put out. The *Forest Health and Water Supply Protection Project Bond Question 405* highlights a new urgency to protect our community from not only the threat of wildfire, but from potentially more devastating post fire flood events.

The fire(s) themselves would immediately impact us all – evacuations, smoke, potential neighborhood damage or loss, business and tourism declines, etc. Flooding in the Rio, coming from a severely-burned area, is estimated to be upwards of ten times the 100-year flood event, swamping many neighborhoods throughout the community, rendering downtown unusable, and damaging much of the NAU campus. Flooding at Lake Mary would result in loss of storage capacity and a change in the chemical composition of the water itself. This would require the City to immediately seek alternate water sources (new wells) or incorporate significant engineering and filtration redesigns into the Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant

Implementing forest treatments in these areas will greatly reduce the risk of severe wildfire and associated post fire flooding. While much of the area proposed for treatment under this project lie outside of City limits, the impacts from a severe wildfire and subsequent flooding will be ours. If approved, the \$10 million *Forest Health and Water Supply Protection* bond will augment US Forest Service funding. Working with numerous partners, this money will be used to accelerate and expand planned forest treatments to help ensure a safe and sustainable community.

Forest Health and Watershed Protection Project. Bond Question #405

- **It's about an exceptional danger**
- **It's about partnering with others**
- **It's about quality of life**
- **It's an opportunity to invest in our future**
- **It's about viewing our forests as an integral part of our water system**
- **It's about *Forest to Faucets, OR Fire to Flood***

Where can I find additional information on this Question? For more detailed information on the Forest Health and Water Supply Protection Bond Question visit the City website at:

www.flagstaff.az.gov/bondinformation. You can also refer to the Voter Information Pamphlet you should receive in the mail or contact us at:

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