



Thinning planned for North Kaibab

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

A contested plan to log and do prescribed burns in 33,000 acres of the Kaibab National Forest has been scaled back and limited to trees 18 inches and smaller in diameter, following pressure from environmental groups.

Thinning and burning is now to be conducted on 26,000 acres of forest on the Kaibab Plateau north of the Grand Canyon, in the Jacob Lake area, to restore forest health and thin trees. The Kaibab National Forest managers have proposed no logging of trees that appear to be more than 130 years old, in line with requests from the Center for Biological Diversity.

The area to be thinned is north of a large area that burned in a 2006 when the Warm fire, which was started naturally, was allowed to burn but then had to be suppressed by forest firefighters.

The Southwest Forest Alliance, Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity had previously appealed the proposal, objecting to the logging of trees up to 24 inches in diameter, among other complaints.

For more information, see www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai/projects.

-- Sun staff report