

A Watchable Wildlife Recreation Vision for the Flagstaff Region, Coconino County



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Potential Partners:



Watchable Wildlife Recreation

What is it?

Watchable Wildlife Recreation offers nature-related recreation opportunities to the public, while conserving native plants and animals in their natural habitats.



Nationally, wildlife watching is an \$18.1 billion dollar industry; offering economic potential for the State of Arizona, Coconino County, and the City of Flagstaff.

Between 1980 and 1990, there was a 63% national increase in trips to watch, feed, and photograph wildlife.

57% of hunters and 50% of anglers are also wildlife watchers.

Communities in Northern Arizona are already showing a demand through their actions: wildlife-watching events are published weekly in local newspapers, workshops at The Flagstaff Arboretum are well-attended, and the local birding groups are some of the most active in Arizona.



In late summer, hundreds of visitors are drawn to view elk at the Pumphouse Greenway.

Our Vision for the Flagstaff Region, Coconino County

Our vision?

To create a network of
Watchable Wildlife
Recreation sites in the
Flagstaff region of
Coconino County.



How?

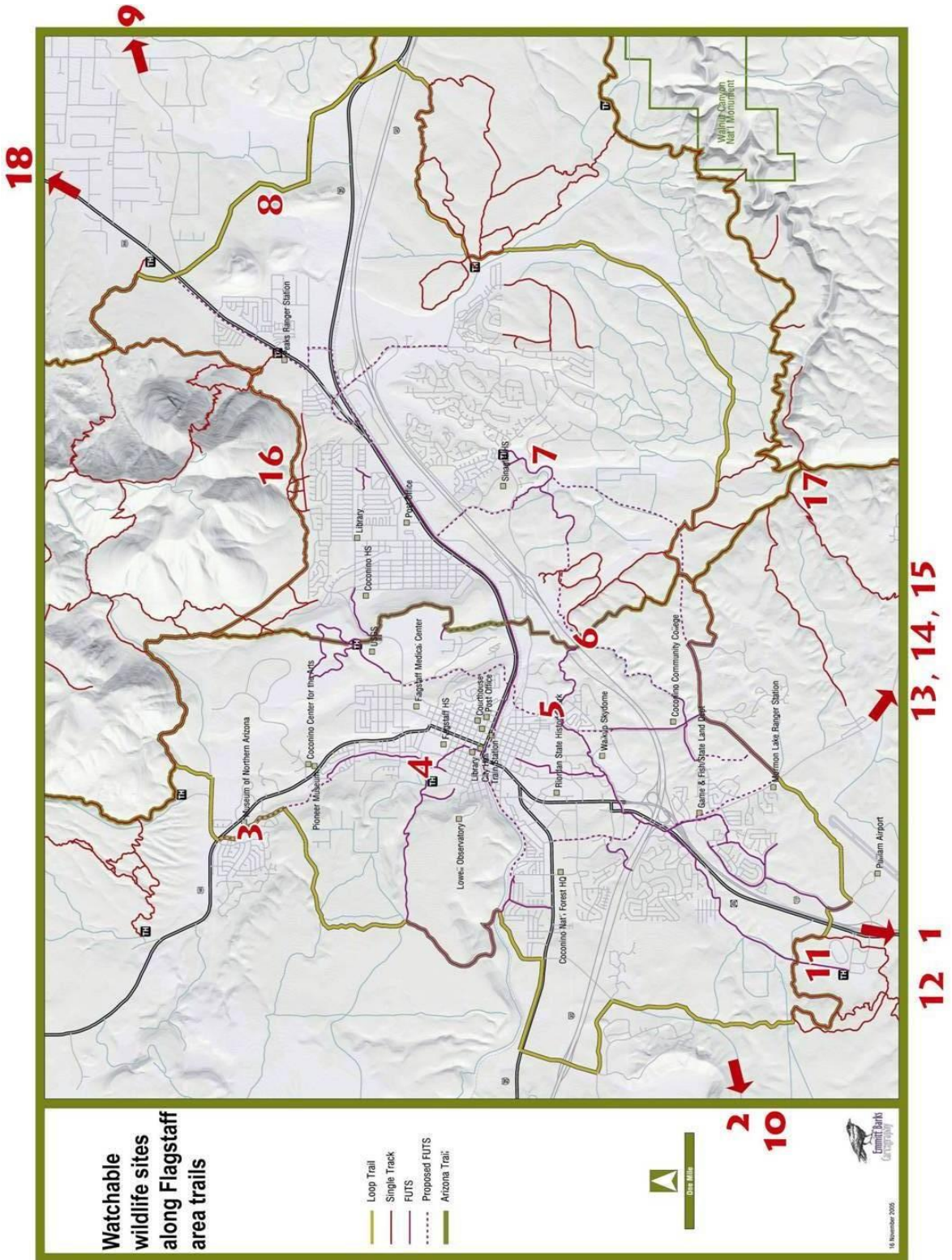
The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Coconino County Parks and Recreation Department will partner with the City of Flagstaff, Coconino National Forest, and local interest groups to create Watchable Wildlife sites at Coconino County parks and open spaces, Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) nodes, national forest recreation sites, and hopefully more.

Sites will be managed to conserve and enhance their unique wildlife habitat features. We will provide ecological interpretation, areas for viewing and photography, and nature trails.

The network of sites will be linked together via the Urban Trail System, the Flagstaff Loop Trail, the Arizona Trail, and Forest Service trails and roads.

A small, glossy brochure with maps, photographs, site descriptions, and wildlife-watching tips will be developed.

Watchable Wildlife Sites in the Flagstaff Region, Coconino County



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Where?

- 1) Pumphouse Greenway, KVID Wetlands***
- 2) Rogers Lake**
- 3) Rio de Flag – Museum of Northern Arizona (FUTS)***
- 4) Rio de Flag – Francis Short Pond (FUTS)***
- 5) Rio de Flag – Sawmill County Park/Willow Bend***
- 6) Rio de Flag – I-40 Wetlands (FUTS)***
- 7) Rio de Flag – Picture Canyon**
- 8) Rio de Flag – Townsend-Winona Wetlands**
- 9) The Arboretum***
- 10) Fort Tuthill County Park***
- 11) Upper and Lower Lake Mary***
- 12) Marshall Lake**
- 13) Mormon Lake***
- 14) Mt Elden Environmental Study Area**
- 15) Walnut Canyon**
- 16) Prairie dog colony Peaks View Park**
- 17) Prairie dog colony near dog pound (FUTS)***

* Indicates sites where habitat improvement projects and/or watchable wildlife interpretation projects have been initiated.

Watchable Wildlife Sites in the Flagstaff Region, Coconino County

Examples of a Viewing Guide...

1) **Pumphouse Greenway/ Kachina Wetlands**

Description: A unique opportunity in an easy-to-access, urban setting near Flagstaff. Pumphouse Greenway is a rare, high-elevation wet meadow leading to a meandering, forested stream through Pumphouse Wash. Kachina Wetlands is a wastewater treatment facility where several reservoirs and surrounding Ponderosa Pine attract the birds, and the birders! These sites are within 1 mile of each other, so visit both areas together to view wildlife in a diverse range of habitats.

Wildlife to watch: bald eagle, osprey, waterfowl, wading birds, forest songbirds, riparian songbirds, elk, fox, Abert's squirrels

Ownership: Coconino County



2) **Rogers Lake**

Description: This large ephemeral lake at 7200 feet is surrounded by Ponderosa Pine forest. In wet years there are several hundred acres of shallow water, and thousands of migratory waterfowl stop over to feed in the spring and fall. In late summer, large numbers of elk descend from Woody Ridge to cool off in the lake. Great photographic opportunities of the San Francisco Peaks!

Wildlife to watch: bald eagle, elk, mule deer, cinnamon teal and other waterfowl, wading birds, coyote, fox

Ownership: Arizona State Trust Land (and, current Coconino County Open Space Project)



Watchable Wildlife Sites in the Flagstaff Region, Coconino County

Examples of a Viewing Guide...

5) Rio de Flag – Sawmill Multicultural & Nature County Park



Description: Located in the culturally diverse “Southside” of Flagstaff, Sawmill County Park sits above the Rio de Flag and is easily accessed from the park or the FUTS. Wildlife watchers at this site are treated to hummingbirds buzzing overhead, butterflies and dragonflies along the hillside, and forest songbirds along the Rio. While you’re there, be sure to visit the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center’s sustainably-designed strawbale teaching facility and enjoy the backyard wildlife gardens built for birds, butterflies, and lizards!

Wildlife to watch: butterflies, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, riparian and forest songbirds, lizards

Ownership: Coconino County

7) Rio de Flag – Picture Canyon

Description: Walking among the scenic basalt rock, waterfalls, and Sinaguan petroglyphs of Picture Canyon, you won’t believe you are in the industrial section of the east Flagstaff! Located along the Rio-de-Flag, current effluent discharge from the Wildcat Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant supports diverse riparian and wetland vegetation. Mature ponderosa pine and oak woodlands along the canyon are rich with wildlife.

Wildlife to watch: Lewis’s woodpeckers (and 6 other woodpeckers!), flycatchers, vireos, warblers, marsh birds, raptors, mule deer, elk, fox, bats, lizards, and butterflies

Ownership: Arizona State Trust Land

