



AFGC PENNY PINES PROGRAM

National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, currently have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is renewed approximately every three years. In part, this MOU states, *“the purpose is to coordinate their mutual interest of restoring forest ecosystems and to work cooperatively in the conservation, protection, and development of natural resources on the U.S. Forest Service System land...”*

The MOU further states that NGC, Inc., provides:

- a) Donations to National Forests shall be in increments of \$68.00.
- b) Donations will be for the purpose of procuring or planting trees that are indigenous to the geographic locations in both species and elevation – not necessarily pine trees.
- c) NGC provides the U.S. Forest Service with donation information each month when funds are sent to the USFS [this is the job of the NGC Penny Pines Chair].
- d) NGC understands that not every national forest plants trees every year.
- e) The USFS will pool NGC funds with other tree-planting funding and donations to carry out these activities.

These criteria apply to all states. With the wildfire events in Arizona in recent years, our forests are most likely undergoing planting each year. When these donations get to Arizona, funds donated by other organizations may have been merged with ours and thus become difficult to break out. Sandy Dennis is the 2023-2025 NGC Penny Pines Chair. Her files indicate the following numbers for Arizona in the past three years:

June 2022 thru May 2023 - 47 plantations, or \$3,196
June 2021 thru May 2022 - 52 plantations, or \$3,468
June 2020 thru May 2021 – 29 plantations, or \$1,360

At this time there is approximately \$27,000 total monies donated to the Southwestern Region’s eleven national forests in Arizona and New Mexico. Some forests in the region are allotted more funds, depending on the need. The region’s Superintendent is going to instruct the forests to utilize all funds they have received on the next planting project they have. None of our donated funds are sufficient to support a project as stand alone, but they can be mixed with others to support a reforestation project. He will ask each area to report at year end what the donations supported, i.e., location and total acres. If there are insufficient funds to pay for a project, they will allow the funds to accrue enough to support the work. They will spend the funds only on reforestation: buying tree seedlings or planting contracts.

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