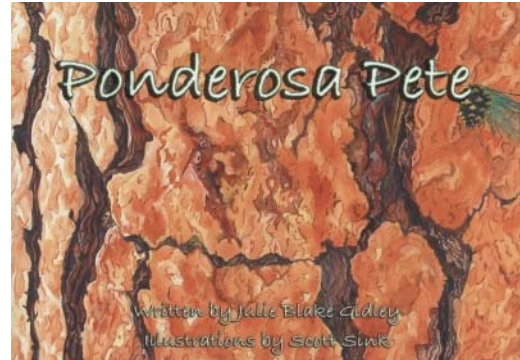




## **Ponderosa Pete Arrives!**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Heritage Fund, ERI has printed 2,500 copies of *Ponderosa Pete*, a children's book written by **Julie Blake Gidley** (B.S. Environmental Science '99, MLS '05) and illustrated by **Scott Sink** (B.S. Forestry '04). Julie created and wrote the story about a talking ponderosa pine tree, aptly named Ponderosa Pete. A self-taught artist, Scott painted the beautiful pictures that grace every other page of the book.



*Ponderosa Pete*, which is written for third through fifth graders, was created to help young students understand the need to restore ponderosa pine forests. It will be distributed by ERI, Arizona Game and Fish, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Willow Bend Education Center to schools and libraries throughout northern Arizona. Student activity kits will be provided to teachers, and there will be teacher training sessions in the fall.

There will be a book signing event on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at the Downtown Flagstaff Public Library. Readings are scheduled at 4:30, 5:00, and 5:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. One free book per family will be given to the first 200 people who request a copy. For more information on the event, please see the flier on the next page.

Schools and libraries interested in receiving copies of *Ponderosa Pete* should contact Robin Long, 928/523-7187, [robin.long@nau.edu](mailto:robin.long@nau.edu) or Shelly Shepherd, 928/214-1241, [sshepherd@azgfd.gov](mailto:sshepherd@azgfd.gov).



**Heritage Fund**

