

Restoring America's forests



AMERICA'S FORESTS:

Store and filter half of the nation's water supply. In the West, half of the water is sourced from U.S. Forest Service lands alone;

Are **habitat** to more than 10,000 species of American wildlife and plants;

Provide jobs to nearly a million wood products workers;

Offer one million square miles of unparalleled **outdoor recreation**, with U.S. Forest Service lands generating \$14.5 billion in recreation-related activity;

Absorb 16% of America's carbon pollution.



America's forests are home to the world's tallest, biggest and oldest trees. Besides being a place of beauty and comfort, our forests are a living resource that provides an abundance of benefits supporting our lives and livelihoods. Trees afford the very air and water we need to survive; indeed, the mere presence of healthy trees is linked to improved health for people. And these benefits, of course, are shared with an incredible diversity of American wildlife and plant species.

But America's forests are now facing a perfect storm of threats. Today, a forested area the size of California is in an unhealthy condition. The four most pressing issues undermining the health of America's forests are:

An Unnatural Fire Cycle:

More than a century of suppressing natural fires and disrupting historical fire cycles has left many American forests choked with trees and brush, increasing their risk to devastating and costly megafires (the eight biggest wildfire seasons in the last 60 years have all come since 2000).

Pests and Pathogens: Pests and pathogens, such as the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, are harming forests, causing environmental and social effects.

Climate Change: Warming temperatures and drought are already increasing the size, frequency and severity of both wildfires and insect and disease outbreaks.

Expanding Development:

Development continues to fragment forests, introduce invasive species, create erosion control issues, threaten water supplies and increase the safety risks and costs related to wildfire.



We Have a Plan to Restore America's Forests —and YOU CAN HELP!

More than 40% of American forests are managed by the federal government. This fact, in combination with growing support for restoration from national leaders, offers us a window of opportunity. We can now improve the long-term resilience of our forests in the face of these threats by working with federal land managers to **accelerate the pace of forest restoration**.

The Nature Conservancy is in a unique position to provide the science-based leadership, demonstration of hands-on forest and fire practices and collaborative, non-confrontational approach to catalyze this forest restoration effort. Our first action as an organization, more than 60 years ago, was conserving a forest on the border of New York and Connecticut. Today The Nature Conservancy is the largest non-industrial private forest owner in the country. We lead the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases and are the major private partner in the national Fire Learning Network with the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior.

We already have evidence that **Restoring America's Forests** is working. In 2009, The Nature Conservancy helped lead the creation of the federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program, which is now working to restore forests in 17 states across the country. In 2012 the Forest Service announced it was increasing the pace of restoration on all of its lands by 20 percent during the following three years.



We need your help to ensure we meet our shared obligation to leave a vibrant forest legacy in the United States for future generations. For more information on specific needs and opportunities, please contact:

CHRIS TOPIK
Director
Restoring America's Forests
ctopik@tnc.org

AMY TIDOVSKY
Senior Philanthropy Officer,
North America
atidovsky@tnc.org

RUSS HOEFLICH
VP & Senior Advisor
rhoeflich@tnc.org

During the next five years The Nature Conservancy has a window of opportunity to improve the health of America's forests for people, water and wildlife, by:

Promoting innovative, hands-on forest restoration solutions on 13 large-scale forest demonstration sites across the country, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, communities, timber companies, conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts.

Fostering broad coalitions working to increase proactive forest stewardship for people, water and wildlife, while streamlining decision-making and reducing costs.

Leading the national Fire Learning Network, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior, and promoting the development of more fire-adapted communities.

Preventing the spread of forest pests and pathogens into the United States through national public outreach and advocacy.

Developing new and innovative methods of financing forest management and acquisition to bring those who benefit from healthy forests to the table in supporting priority forest restoration work.

Communicating the value of forests and their restoration to gain more public support for policy solutions.

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.®