The Nature Conservancy is restoring forests for people, water and wildlife.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

America’s forests are home to the world’s oldest, tallest, and largest trees. Our forests:

• provide half our nation’s water
• sustain thousands of species
• support one million forest products jobs
• absorb 13 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions
• offer 1 million square miles for recreation, hunting and fishing
• generate $14 billion in economic activity on U.S. Forest Service lands alone

Today, approximately 60 million acres of federal forestland—an area the size of Oregon—are at risk for unnaturally severe fires.

The Nature Conservancy’s Restoring America’s Forests program (RAF) seeks to double the pace of U.S. federal forest restoration to at least seven million acres a year in coordination with a network of state-based staff in 23 states.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We helped win a $74 million increase in hazardous fuels treatment funding in 2014 that will protect communities, water and wildlife.

We quadrupled funding over 5 years for the federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), which has reduced the risk of megafires across 1.5 million acres and restored more than 700 miles of forested waterways.

We helped lead a coalition effort to secure permanent legislation for stewardship contracting. In 2015 alone, about 25 percent of Forest Service management accomplishments were attributed to stewardship contracting.

Fire Learning Network efforts in 15 landscapes, seven of which are RAF demonstration sites, are engaging more than 250 partners in 20 states in multi-stakeholder collaborative planning and restoration.

Community resilience to fire is being accelerated by the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, currently working in 18 project sites around the nation, five of which include or are adjacent to RAF demonstration sites.

We have reached every National Forest and Army Corps of Engineer campsite in the Recreation.gov database with the Don’t Move Firewood message.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the next year Restoring America’s Forests will:

• Pursue passage of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act to improve forest management resources
• Seek to double CFLRP funding to $80 million a year for expanded restoration efforts
• Collaborate with several state chapters to generate non-federal funding used to enhance water security, forest health and community resilience
• Promote implementation of the National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy
• Demonstrate in three to six strategic places how communities and government agencies have collaborated to allow controlled fire to follow or replace mechanical treatments, and allow inevitable wildfires to burn as part of wildland fire management.

WORKING TOGETHER

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
National Association of State Foresters
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Park Service
Property Casualty Insurers Association
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Forest Service
Forest products industry
Municipal and state utilities
Non-governmental organizations
Recreation and tourism interests
State fish and wildlife agencies, water and air agencies
Tribes, county and local governments

LEADING THE PROJECT

Chris Topik
Director
Arlington, Virginia
(703) 841-4504
ctopik@tnc.org

Russ Hoeftich
VP and Senior Policy Advisor
Portland, Oregon
(503) 720-6656
rhoeftich@tnc.org