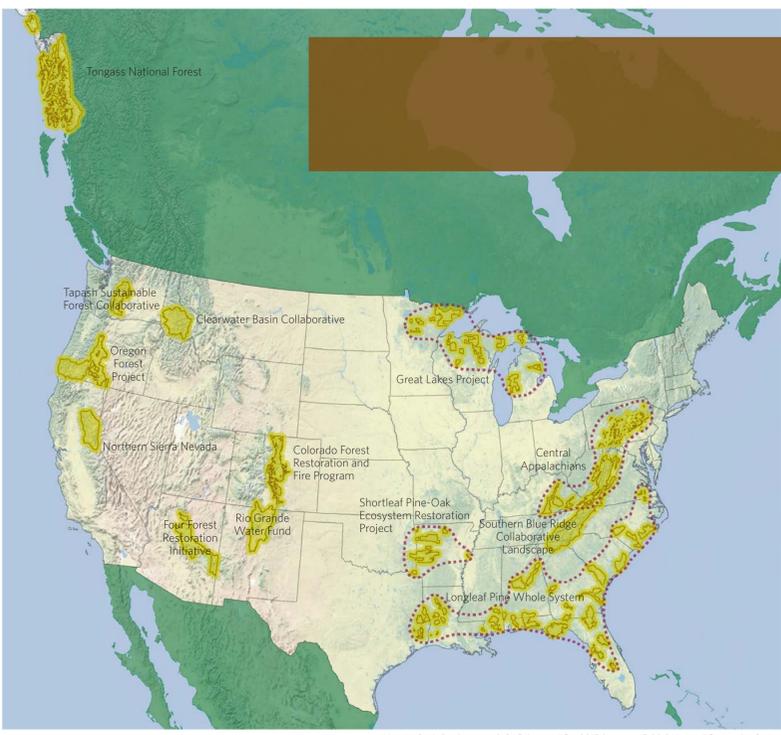


RESTORING AMERICA'S FORESTS



Map: Liz Rank (lrank@tnc.org), RAF data v. 16 Oct 2015; basemap © 2013 National Geographic Society

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



The Nature Conservancy's Panther Knob Preserve in West Virginia.

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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 13 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.



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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

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.



Nature Conservancy staff from 23 states make up the Restoring America's Forest team.

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