Healthy Lands, Healthy Water

Natural infrastructure as a path to clean water

For more than 15 years, water funds have enabled downstream water users to invest in upstream habitat protection and land management to improve water quality and quantity.

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The lands around our water sources serve as vital infrastructure that can meaningfully improve water quality and quantity for cities around the world. Beyond protecting our water sources, forests, grasslands, wetlands and improved agricultural practices can help reduce our carbon footprint, maintain critical ecosystems and build healthier, more resilient communities in the face of climate change.

Healthy Lands, Healthy Water

- Protecting existing forests and grasslands can reduce erosion, capture and store carbon, and serve as critical habitat for plants and animals.
- Replanting trees on barren hillsides and land reduces erosion, captures carbon and can restore habitat for imperiled species.
- Using cover crops on fallowed fields can reduce erosion and nutrient pollution and ensure the long-term productivity of the soil.
- Improving roads and stream crossings reduces sediment flowing into water sources.
- Restoring and retaining pollinator habitat near farmland contributes to crop production.
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