



Current Forest Priorities in The Nature Conservancy

Chris Topik





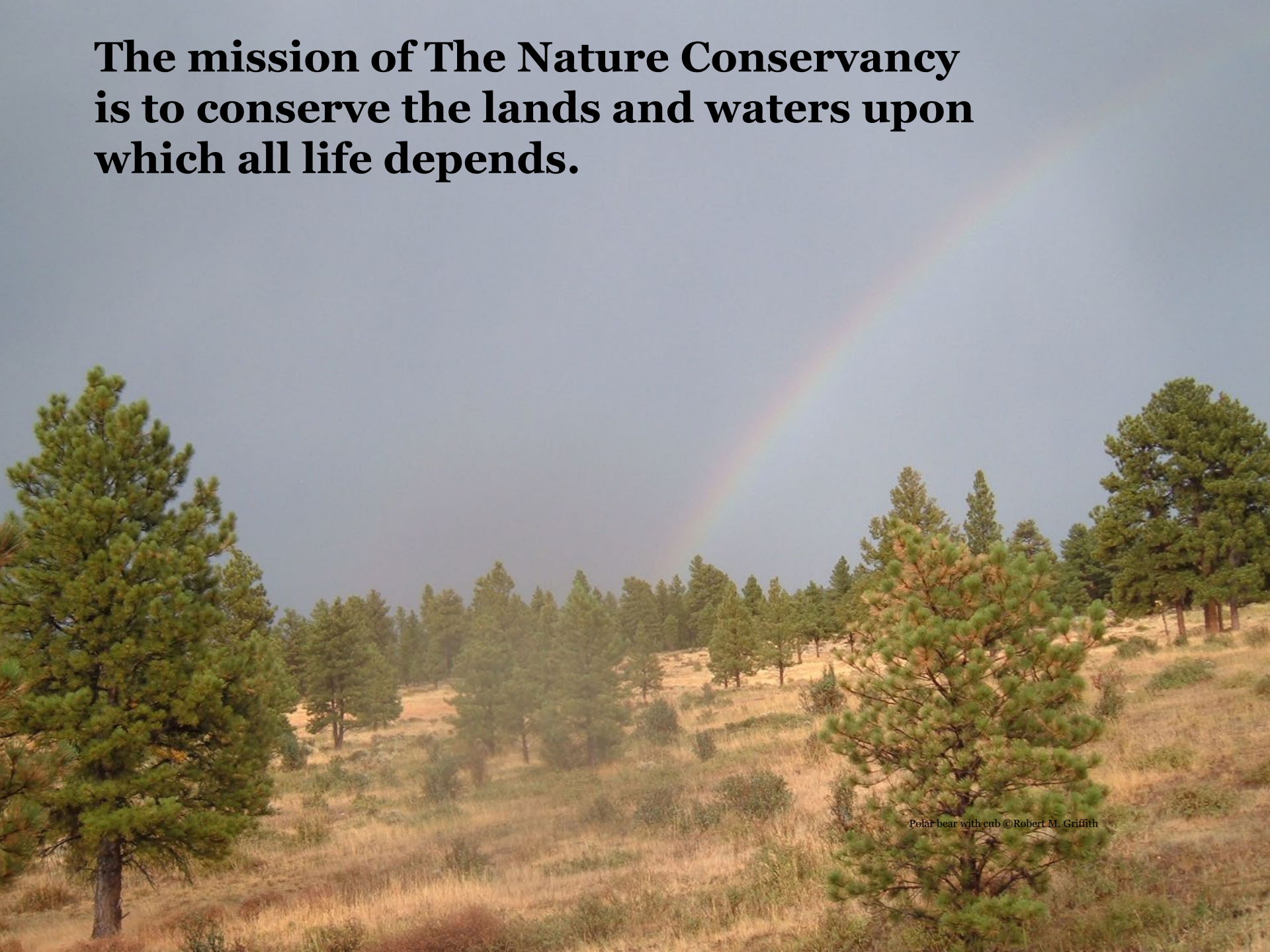
Why care about our Forests



The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

 **RESTORING**
AMERICA'S FORESTS

**The mission of The Nature Conservancy
is to conserve the lands and waters upon
which all life depends.**



Polar bear with cub ©Robert M. Griffith

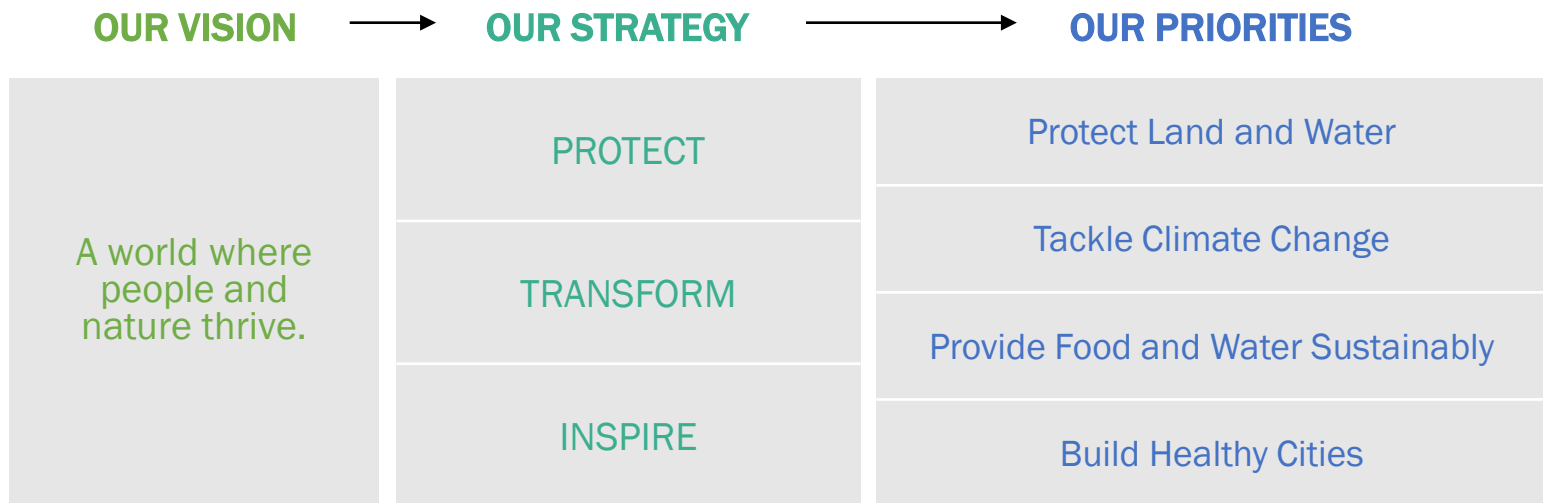


CREATING A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE THRIVE

OUR CONSERVATION AGENDA

Our Plan

By solving the top threats to nature, we can also improve the lives of millions of people.



Our Team

The Nature Conservancy is a leading global conservation organization with a mission to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Our strength starts with our team:

400
scientists

4,000
conservationists

A FAR REACHING ALUMNI NETWORK
of leaders in the conservation community

72
countries

50
U.S. states

1 MILLION
dedicated members

1,300 prominent
volunteer leaders

Our Priorities

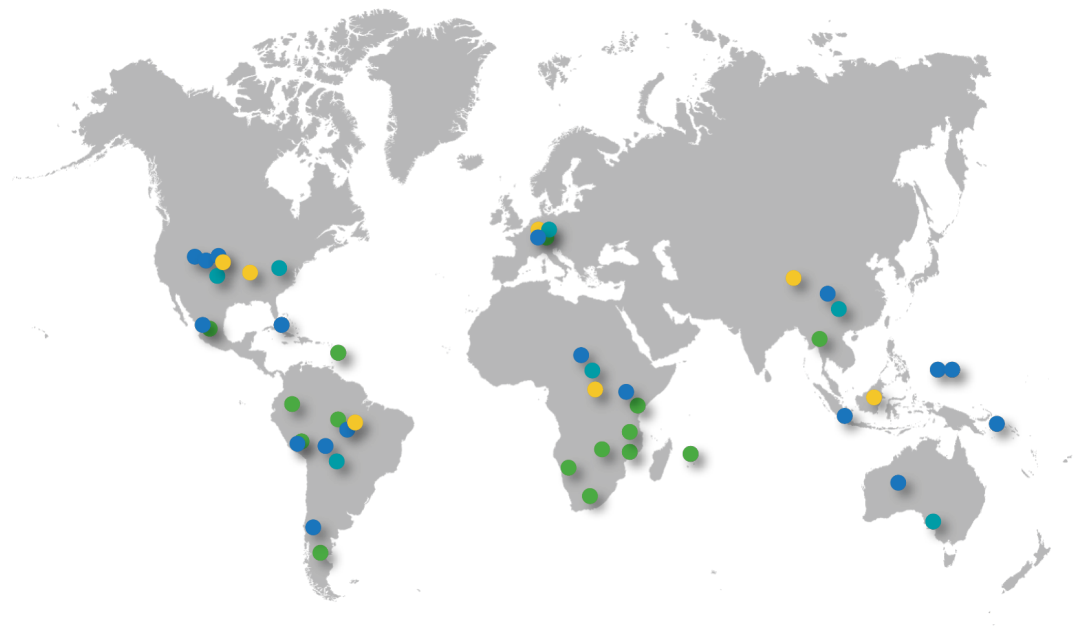
To help solve some of the greatest challenges facing people and nature today, The Nature Conservancy is focused on 4 priorities:

Tackle
Climate Change

Protect Land
and Water

Provide Food and
Water Sustainably

Build
Healthy Cities



Where are Forests in TNC's new alignment?

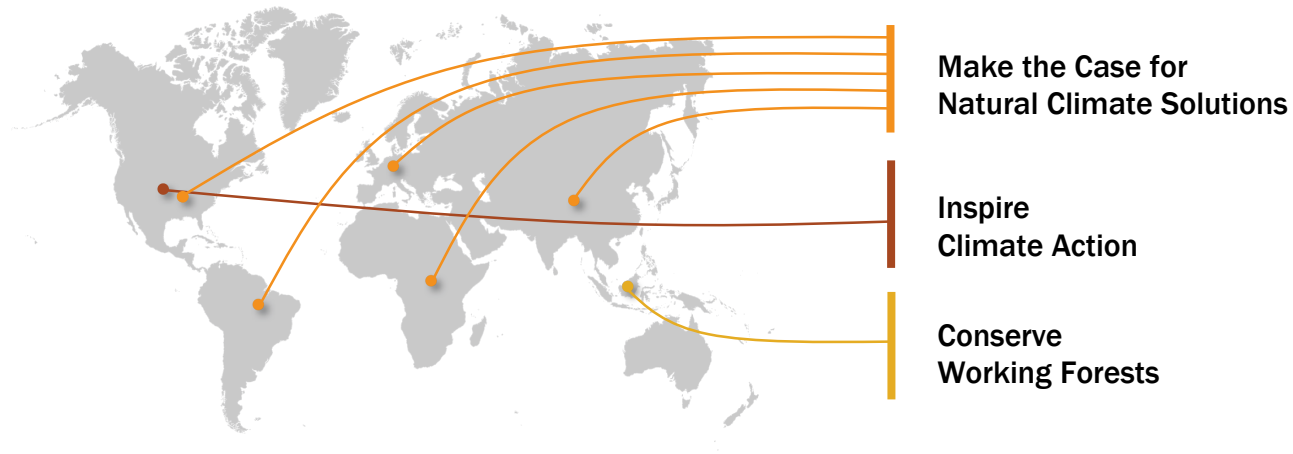


Forest on Roslyn Ridge in Washington State

OUR PRIORITIES

Tackle Climate Change

Implement and increase emphasis on readily available, cost-effective natural climate solutions, such as reforestation, and drive policy changes to accelerate our transition to a clean energy future



Forests Help Climate

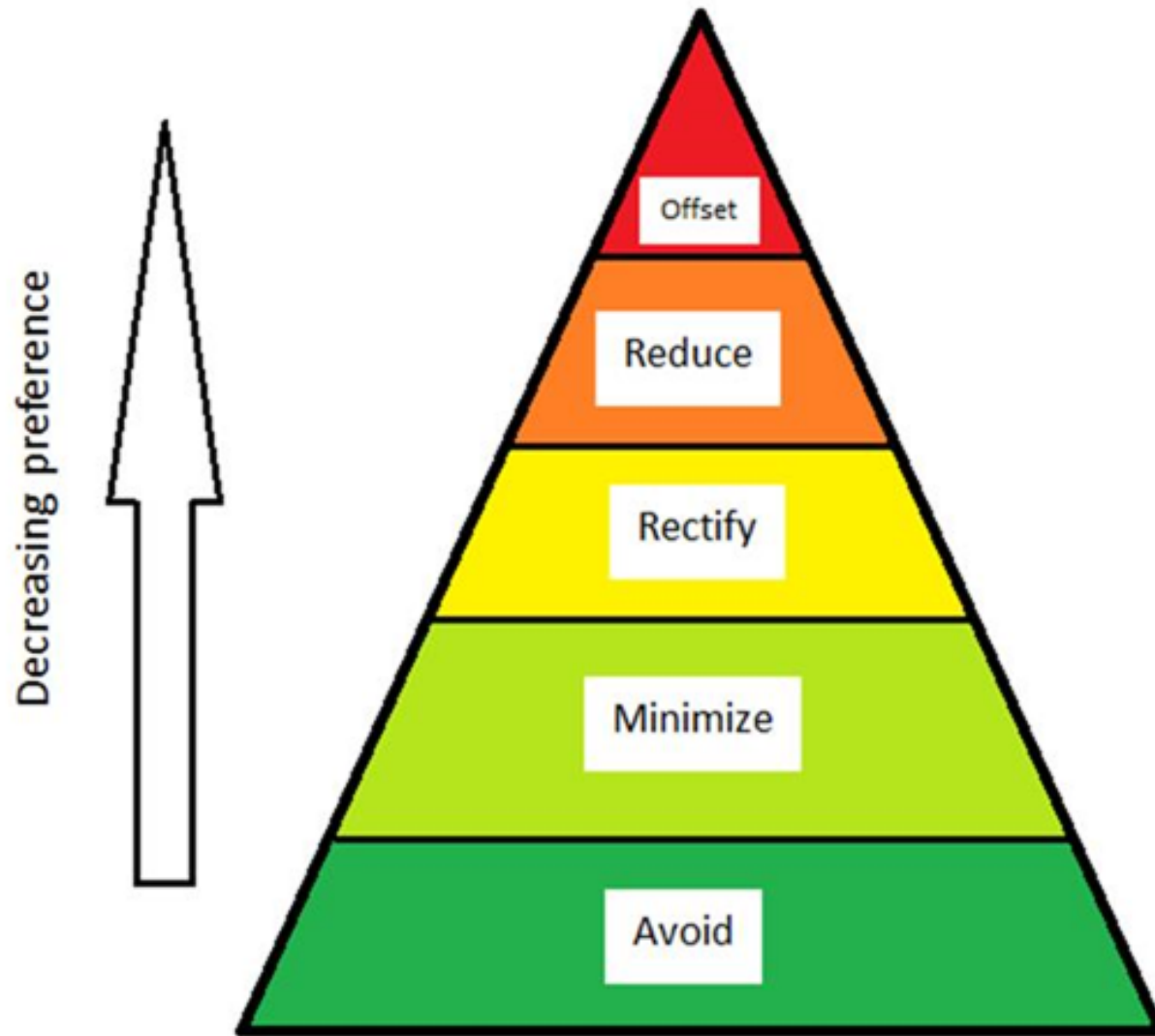
Keeping Forests as Forests is best way
to reduce green house gases

U.S. Forests
currently
capture
15% of the
nation's
fossil fuel
carbon
emissions



Woodall, CW, et al. 2015. The U.S. Forest Carbon Accounting Framework: Stocks and Stock change, 1990-2016. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-154. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station see abstract

Policy and Actions to prevent and reduce Invasive insects and Diseases are vital to support forests and retain climate change mitigation

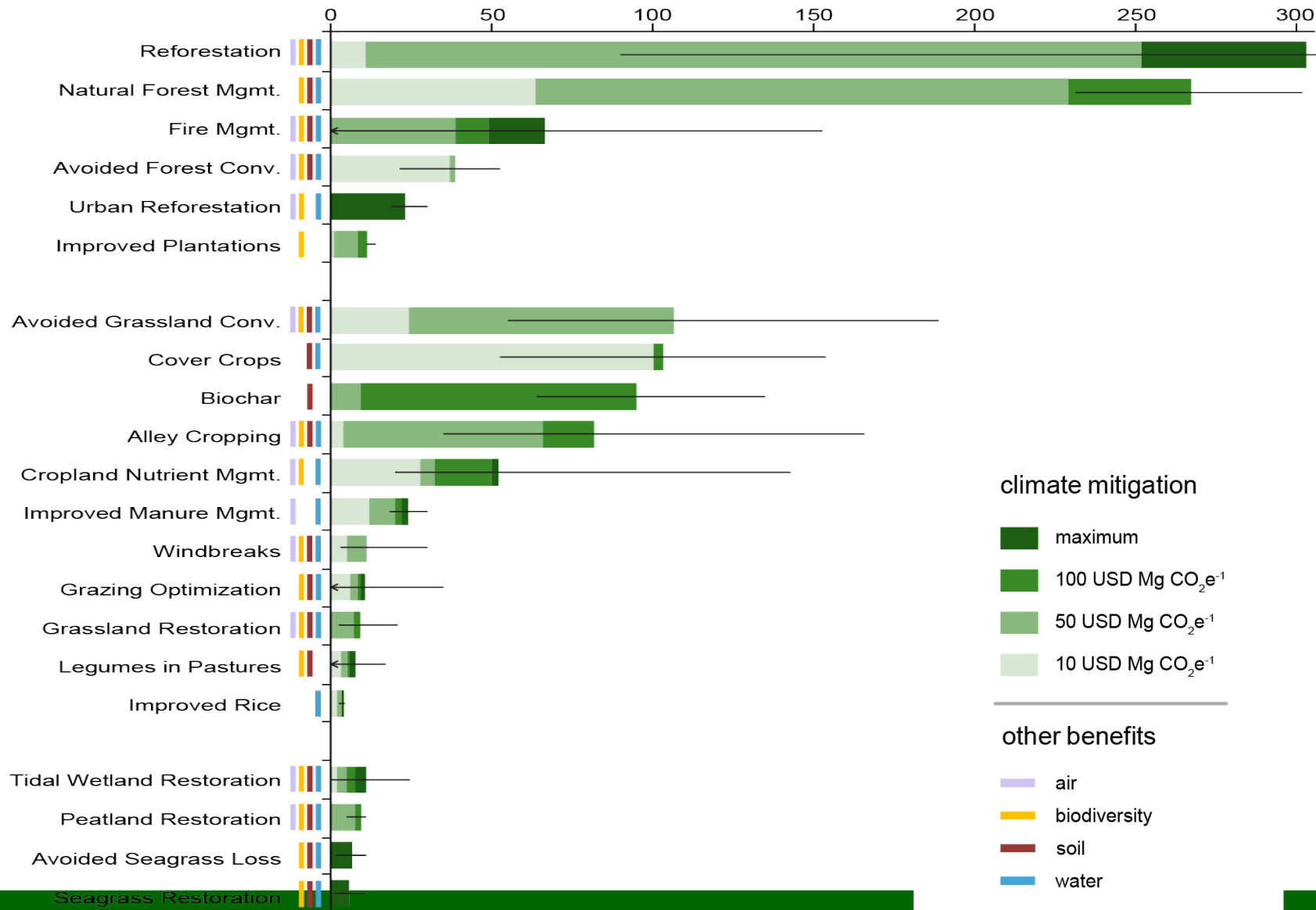


Mitigation Hierarchy

Natural Climate Solutions Pathways, US max NCS potential = 1.3 Pg CO₂e yr⁻¹

Fargione et al in press SCIENCE ADVANCES Nov 2018

Climate mitigation potential in 2025 (Tg CO₂e yr⁻¹)



North American Priorities – Forest Priority: Restore America's Forests



Helping Forests adapt to climate change results in long term climate change mitigation

More
forests
need
restoration
treatments



Wouldn't it be great if we
had these back?

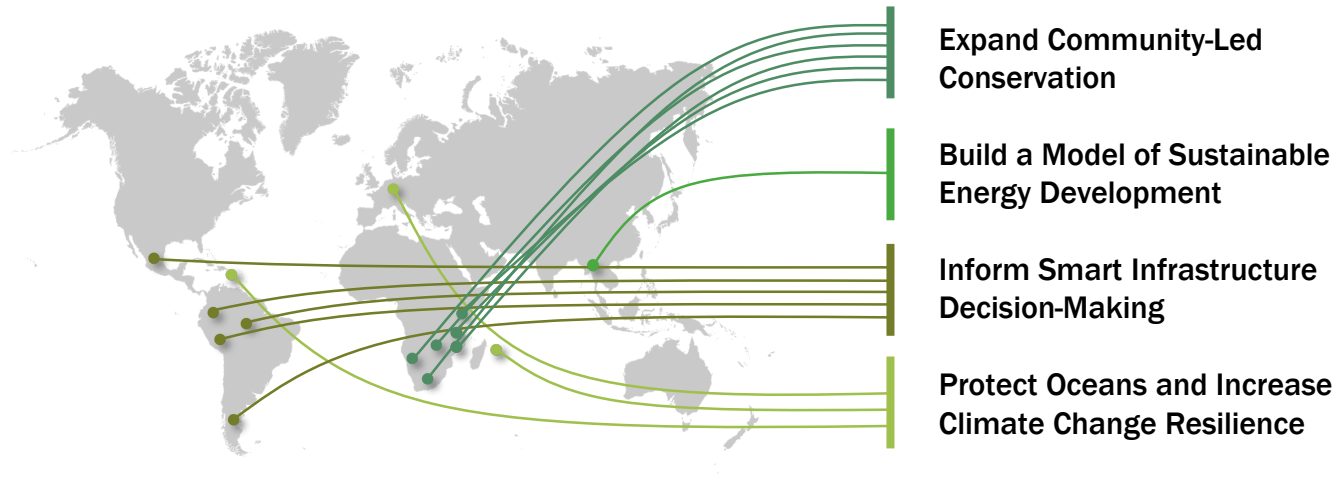


biggest American chestnut in Sherwood,
Oregon

OUR PRIORITIES

Protect Land and Water

Complete large protection deals using innovative finance, share smart infrastructure siting principles to encourage sustainable development and partner with indigenous people to strengthen their rights as environmental stewards



Save Great Places: Protect Land and Water

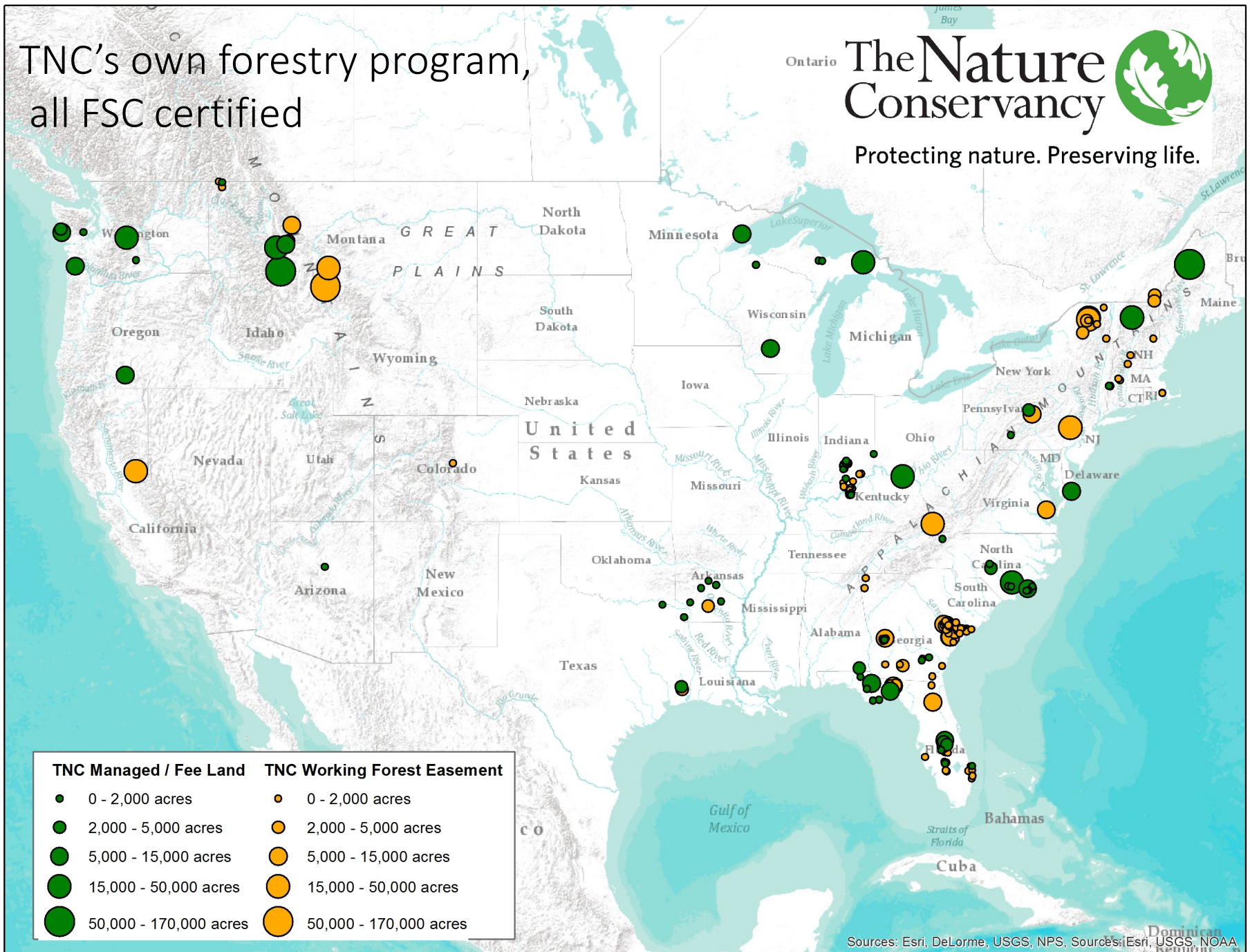
“Preserve the core and stimulate progress.”

Tom Tierney, TNC Board Chair

Protection means designating a clearly defined geographical space, **recognized, dedicated and managed**, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

Derived from IUCN definition

TNC's own forestry program,
all FSC certified





Restoring America's Forests

DEMONSTRATION LANDSCAPES

with Fire Learning Network Landscapes and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program sites

LEGEND

Restoring America's Forests Demonstration Sites

(shaded green)

1. Tongass National Forest
2. Central Cascades Forest
3. Oregon Forest Project
4. Northern Sierra Nevada
5. Clearwater Basin Collaborative
6. Four Forest Restoration Initiative
7. Rio Grande Water Fund
8. Colorado Forest Restoration and Fire Program
9. Shortleaf Pine-Oak Ecosystem Restoration Project
10. Great Lakes Project
11. Central Appalachians
12. Southern Blue Ridge Cooperative Landscape
13. Longleaf Pine Whole System



Forest Service Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects where the Conservancy is a partner (16 of 23 CFLRP projects)



31 Fire Learning Network (FLN) landscapes

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

10.

11.

12.

13.



United States Department of Agriculture

JOINT CHIEFS' LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

It Takes a Watershed

WESTERN ARKANSAS WOODLAND RESTORATION PROJECT



Ouachita River Watershed © Steve Duzan

With meandering streams that flow year-round, the Ozarks and the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas are blessed with diverse, wondrous landscapes that are enjoyed by kayakers, hikers, hunters and others from across the region. And it isn't just recreation enthusiasts who rely on the area—almost 500 active public water sources in the region deliver water to homes and businesses. However, land converted to other uses, fragmentation of forests and uncoordinated development are pushing this watershed to its limits. The forests, mountains and glades of the Ouachita, Ozark and St. Francis national forests are under assault from invasive species such as feral hogs and bark beetles, and a legacy of suppressing natural fire has led to changes in how the forests and surrounding lands function. The Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership project in the watershed tackled these issues in multiple ways, all the while driving toward long-term health in the context of providing freshwater resources today and in the future.

PROJECT IMPACT

\$1.00 : \$2.13

A study by the University of Arkansas showed that for every dollar spent on similar work here, \$2.13 in economic growth was realized in jobs and tourism.

Total awarded through the JCLRP from 2014-2016: \$9 million

The U.S. Forest Service and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands. Through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes by reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat. The effort, to increase collaboration among federal agencies and private partners, began in 2014 and each year, new three-year projects are selected.



Results of the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership in the Western Arkansas Woodland Restoration Project



Eastern collared lizard © Casey Brewster



Wildfire threats to communities and landowners were reduced

through a variety of tactics including the creation of more than 1.3 million feet of firebreaks and applying controlled burns on more than 21,000 acres while also supporting species such as the Indiana bat and the eastern collared lizard.



To keep cattle out of waterways, 102,000 feet of fencing was installed along streams. This effort improves wildlife habitat by reducing erosion and maintaining water quality.



A road crossing on Cedar Creek, a priority tributary in the watershed, was improved to enhance wildlife habitat. During rain events, high levels of sediment washed into the creek, so a culvert was constructed to significantly reduce erosion while also allowing for fish passage and better vehicle access.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

USDA Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership



United States Department of Agriculture

New Opportunity For Forest Conservation



Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy



Forest Service

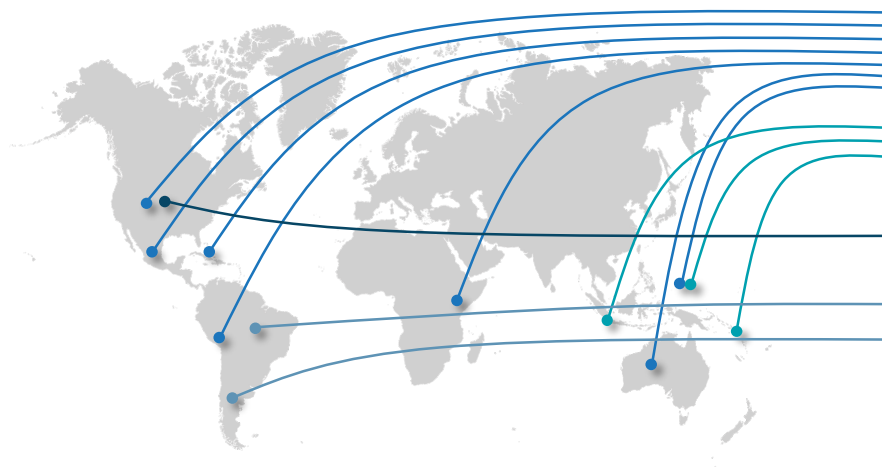
FS-118

August 2018

OUR PRIORITIES

Provide Food and Water Sustainably

Work with farmers, ranchers, fishers and water managers to create sustainable supplies of food and water, reduce negative environmental impacts and promote economic growth



Improve Fishery Health

Transform Tuna Fisheries

Rethink Agricultural Practices

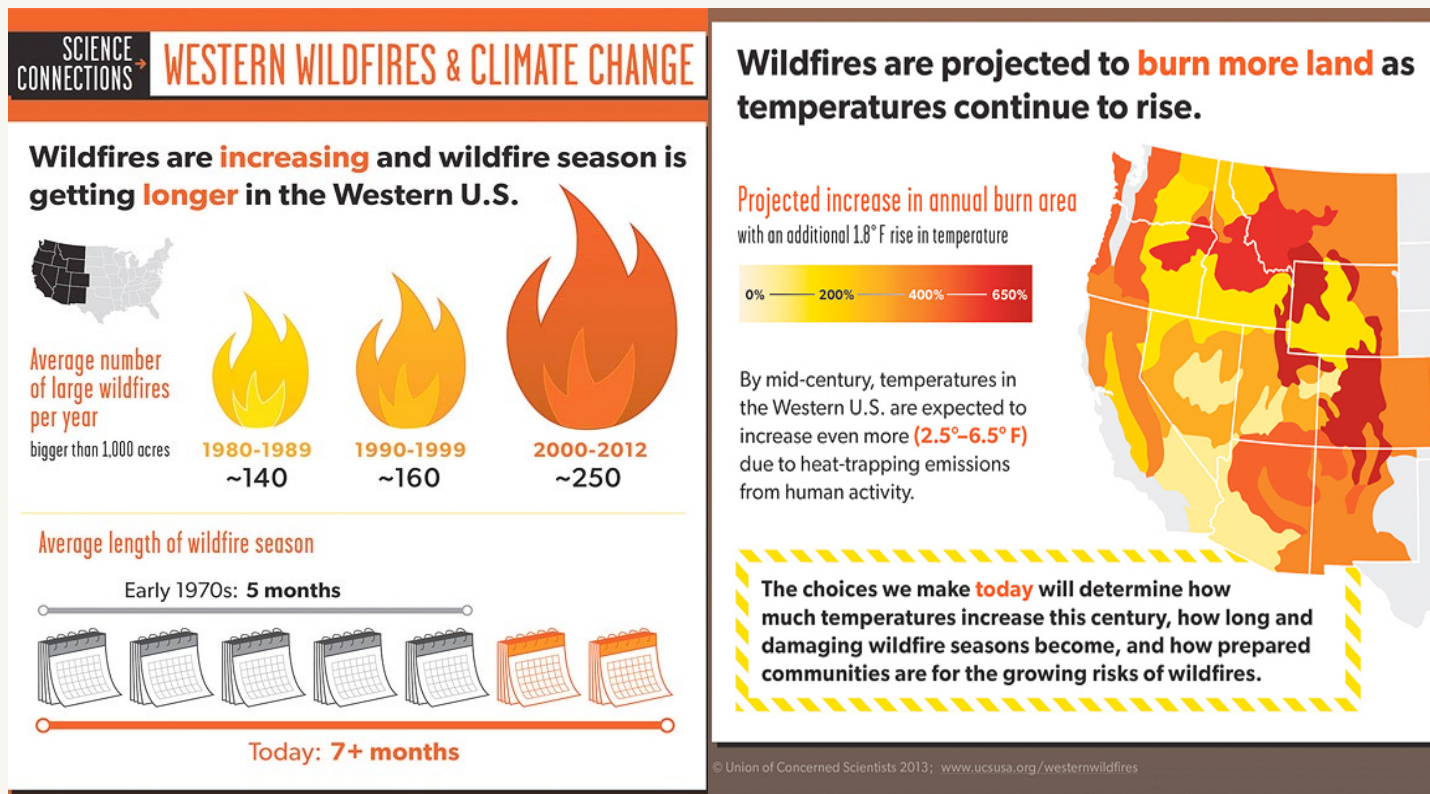
Build 'Zero-Deforestation' Supply Chains

The role of FORESTS in securing CLEAN WATER

Our forests store and filter half our nation's water supply.

Over 124 million people rely upon our forests for their drinking water.

Our FORESTS are at risk



Securing Clean Water

Transforming public funding for forests and water

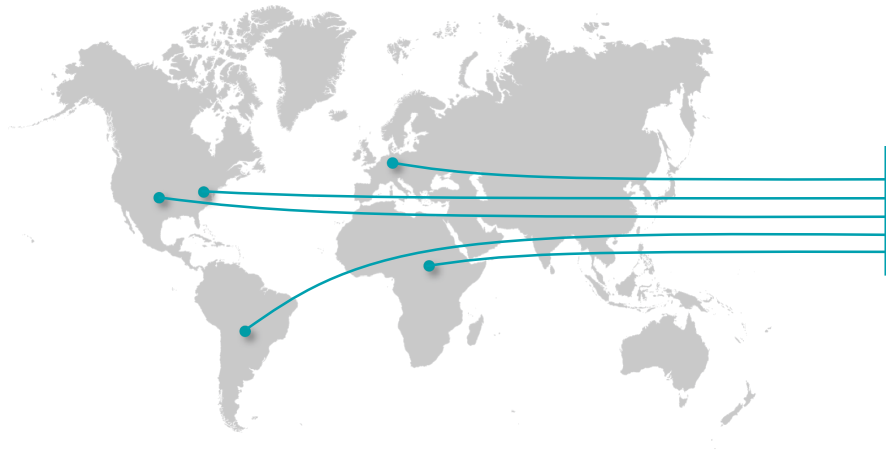


\$2 Billion in new revenue streams for forest restoration over the next five years.

OUR PRIORITIES

Build Healthy Cities

Demonstrate how green infrastructure, such as planting trees, can address urban challenges, including stormwater run-off, air pollution and heat islands



Protect Water at its Source

TNC North America Priority Strategy –*Transforming the City Landscape*

OBJECTIVE:

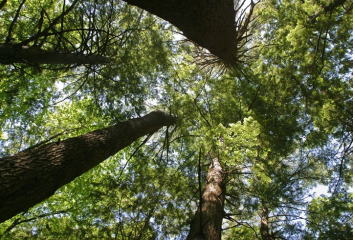
Enhance quality and quantity of open space in cities and ensure the long term health of urban socio-ecological systems, with particular attention to communities who lack quality open space and are most vulnerable to climate change



Emerging New Shared Conservation Agenda-draft ideas

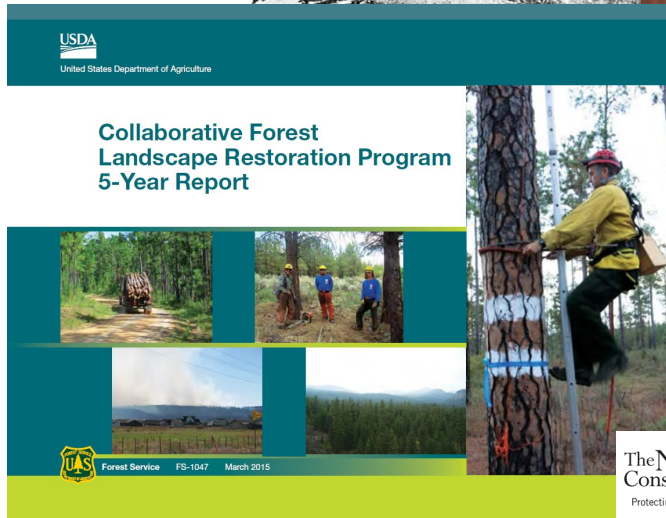
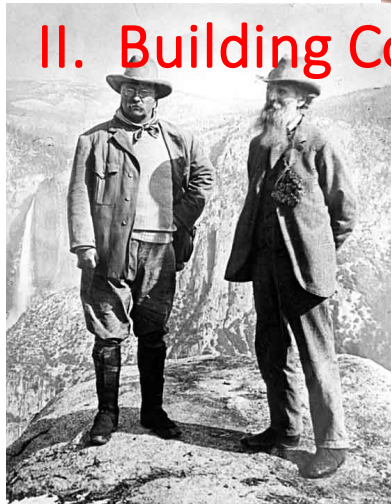
North America Forests and Fire: TNC Shared Conservation Agenda Alignment draft August 2018

TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE		PROTECT LAND	LIVING WITH	HEALTHY	CONNECT PEOPLE
Natural Climate Solutions/ Mitigation	Climate Adaptation	& WATER	FIRE	CITIES	& NATURE
Forest management methods	healthy forests for many ecosystem services	connectivity of ecosystems	Policy and Funding to Drive Change	urban forests:	community protection
reforestation	fire risk reduction	avoided deforestation	Co-MGMT Workforce Development & Coordination	Air & heat	engagement with nature
avoided deforestation	source water protection	stewardship of healthy forests, including fire	Shared Risk and Decision-Making	water supply & stormwater	rural economics
reduced carbon emissions	flood plain protection	maintain economic return & benefits of productive forests	Market-Based Incentives for Change	biodiversity	
maintain forest cover	community engagement	bbiodiversity			Maintain forestry & fire cultures
	maintain ecosystem connections	Relationships with Indigenous Peoples			
	Restoring/sustaining resilience with fire	Effective wildfire response			



Broad
Effective
Influential

II. Building Coalitions & Collaboration





III. Reform public policy



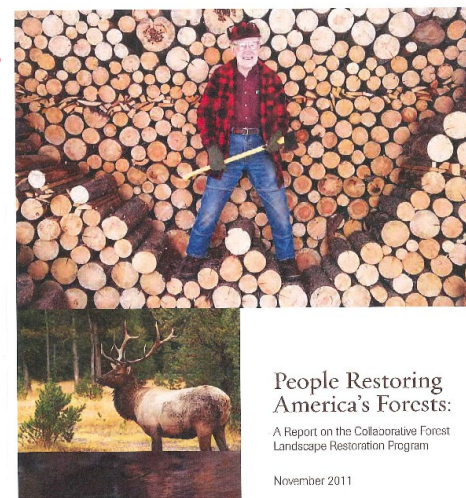


Monday, September 7, 2015
AAEC Ref Num: 144662

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/display.cfm/144662/>



IV. Communications & Education



The Nature
Conservancy



OKTOBERFEST



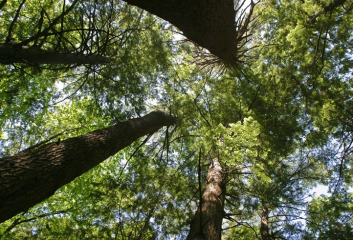
Discussion

“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.

—John Muir

The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

 RESTORING
AMERICA'S FORESTS



Policy and funding challenges abound--

What do you think should be done?



