



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Current Forest Priorities in The Nature Conservancy

And Moving Towards Shared Stewardship

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.**



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





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 RESTORING
AMERICA'S FORESTS

Discuss Today:

TNC links- Towards Shared Stewardship

1. Protecting Lands and Waters, including stewardship
2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation - Natural Climate Solutions
3. Living with Fire
4. Urban Greening and forestry

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.

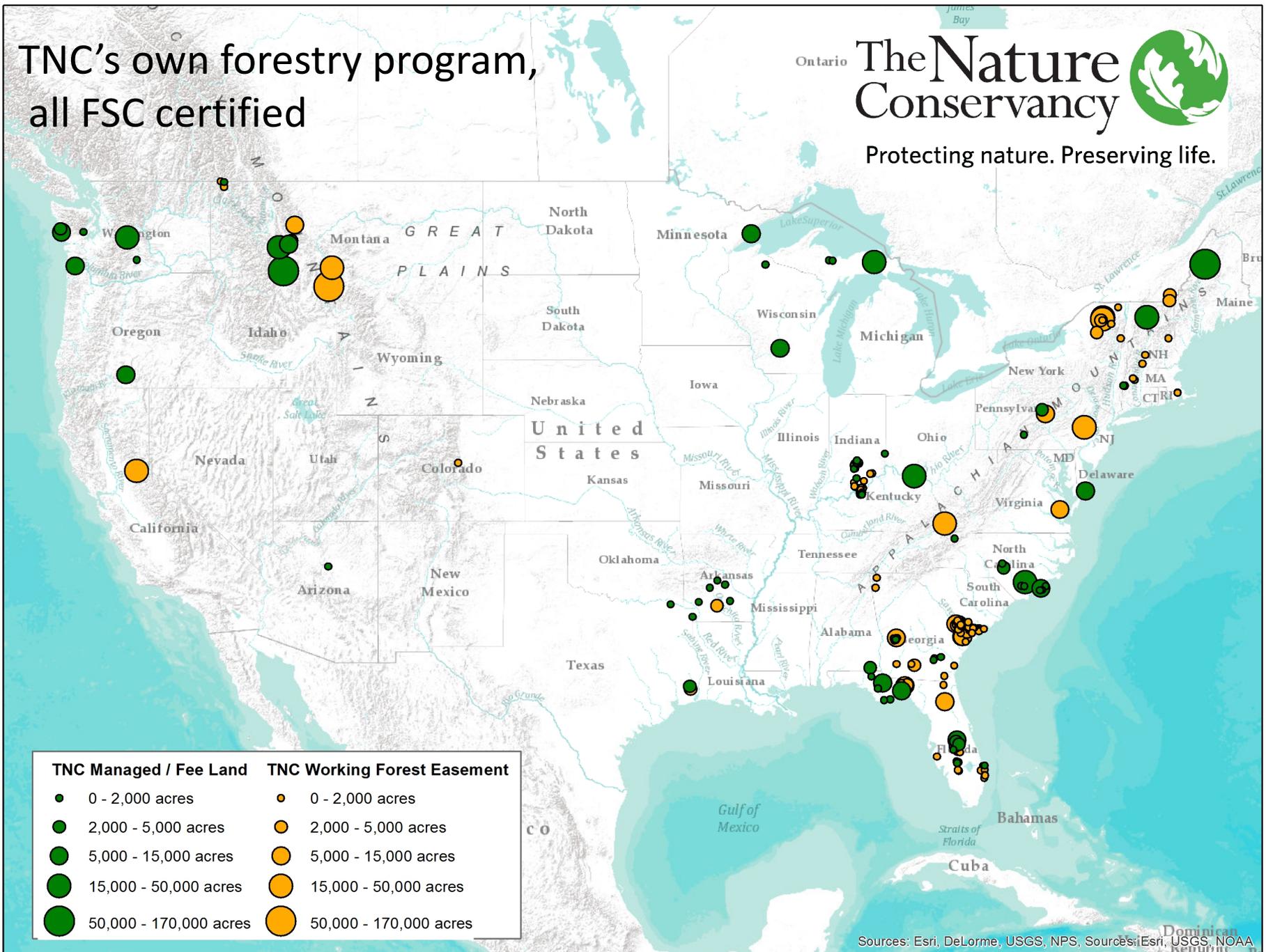
Derived from IUCN definition

TNC's own forestry program,
all FSC certified

Ontario The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.



TNC Managed / Fee Land	TNC Working Forest Easement
● 0 - 2,000 acres	● 0 - 2,000 acres
● 2,000 - 5,000 acres	● 2,000 - 5,000 acres
● 5,000 - 15,000 acres	● 5,000 - 15,000 acres
● 15,000 - 50,000 acres	● 15,000 - 50,000 acres
● 50,000 - 170,000 acres	● 50,000 - 170,000 acres



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.

***Restoring America's Forests team
2016 Flagstaff, Arizona***





**“In the West, whiskey’s for drinkin’,
and water’s for fightin’ over!”**

- Mark Twain

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.



1
1

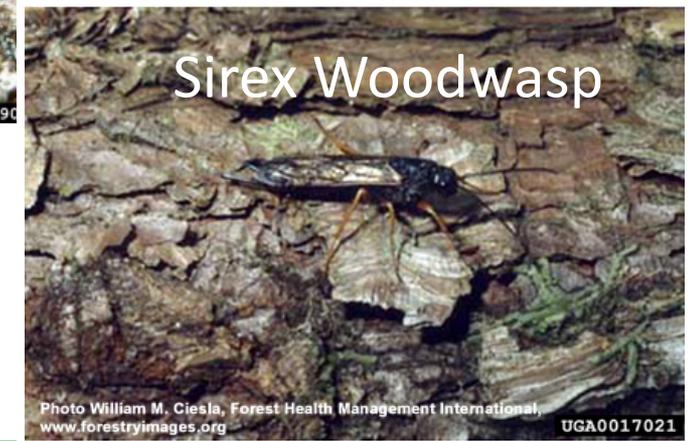
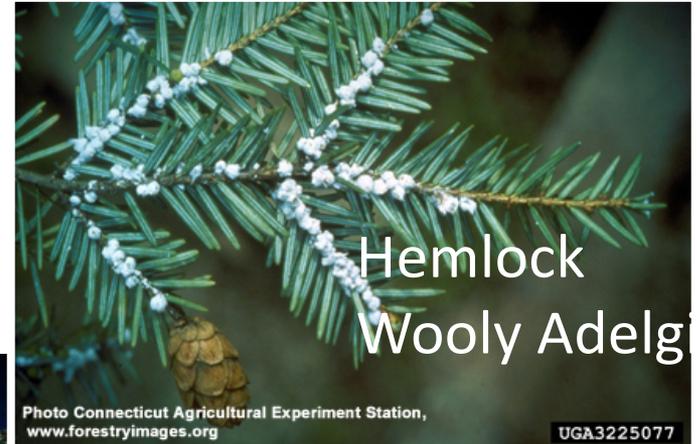
Securing Clean Water

Transforming public funding for forests and water



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

What bugs you?



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

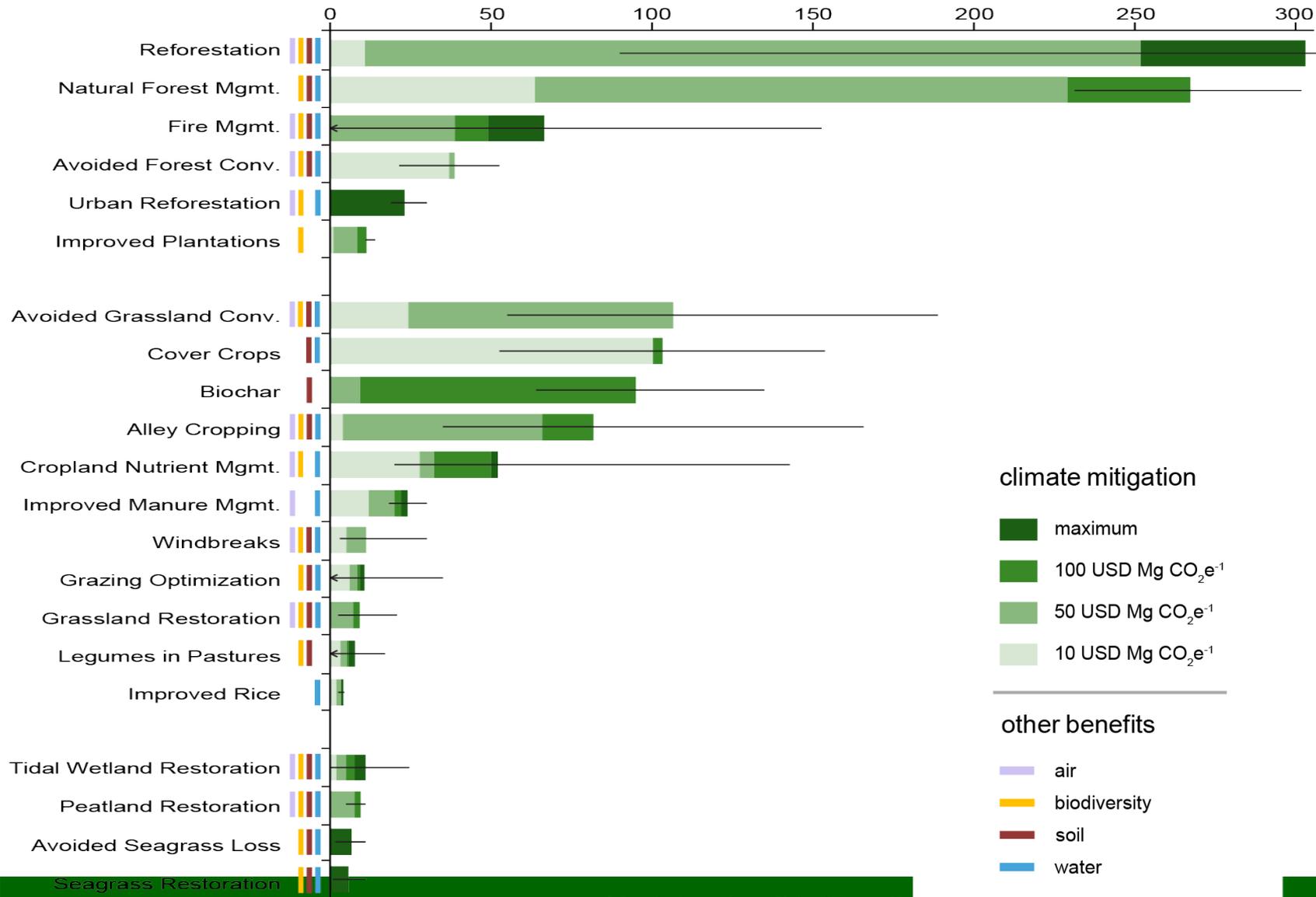


Woodall, CW, et al. 2015. The U.S. Forest Carbon Accounting Framework: Stocks and Stock change, 1990-2016. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-154. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station see abstract

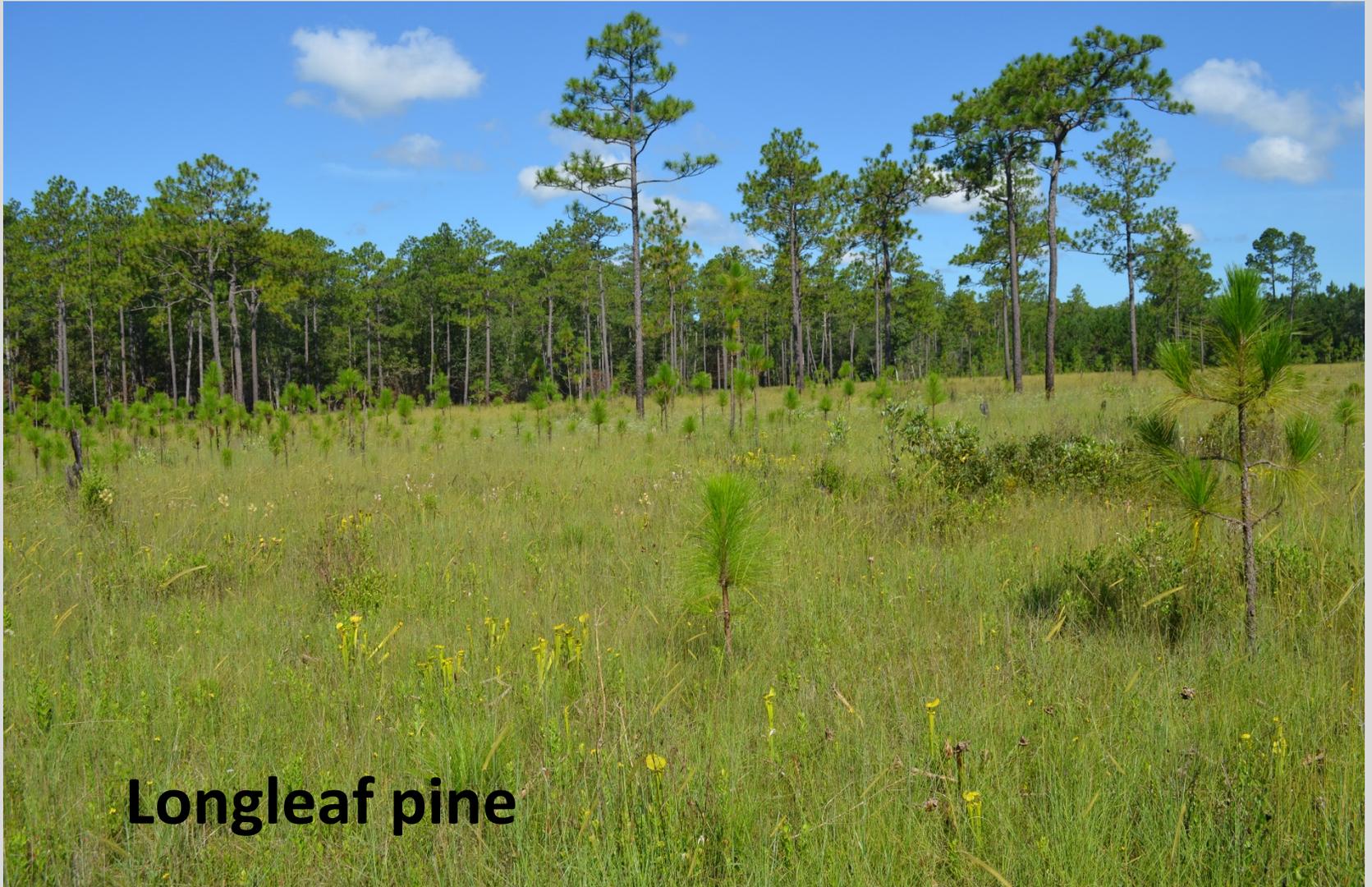
Natural Climate Solutions Pathways, US max NCS potential = 1.3 Pg CO₂e yr⁻¹

Fargione et al SCIENCE ADVANCES Nov 2018

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



Reforestation is critical pathway to Natural Climate Solutions



Longleaf pine



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

**More
forests
need
restoration
treatments**



Our Forests are At-Risk

SCIENCE CONNECTIONS →

WESTERN WILDFIRES & CLIMATE CHANGE

Wildfires are **increasing** and wildfire season is getting **longer** in the Western U.S.



Average number of large wildfires per year

bigger than 1,000 acres



1980-1989

~140



1990-1999

~160



2000-2012

~250

Average length of wildfire season

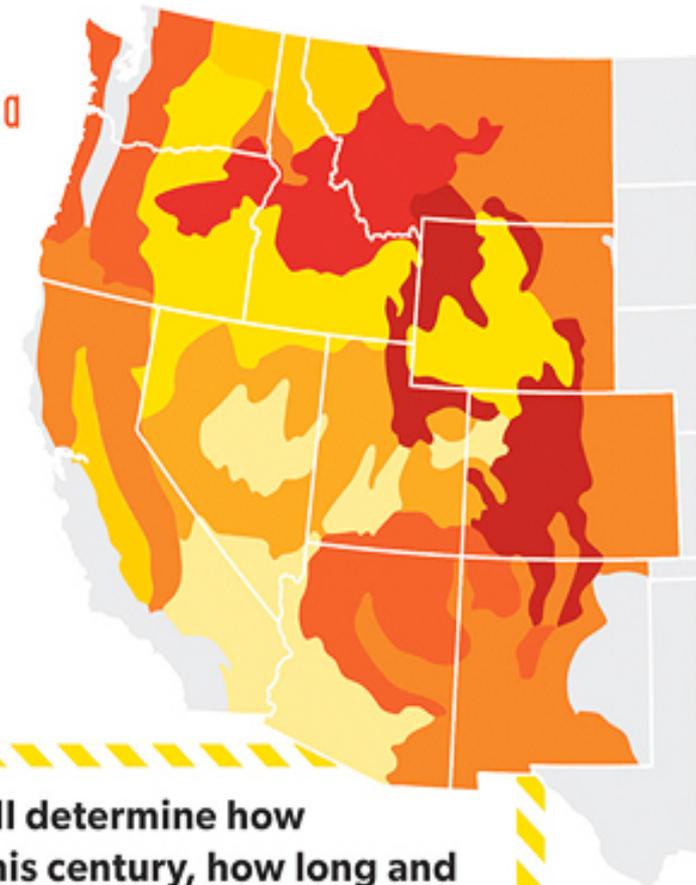
Early 1970s: 5 months



Today: 7+ months

Wildfires are projected to **burn more land** as temperatures continue to rise.

Projected increase in annual burn area
with an additional 1.8° F rise in temperature



By mid-century, temperatures in the Western U.S. are expected to increase even more (**2.5°–6.5° F**) due to heat-trapping emissions from human activity.

The choices we make **today** will determine how much temperatures increase this century, how long and damaging wildfire seasons become, and how prepared communities are for the growing risks of wildfires.

Our
FORESTS
are at risk

Living With

Fire

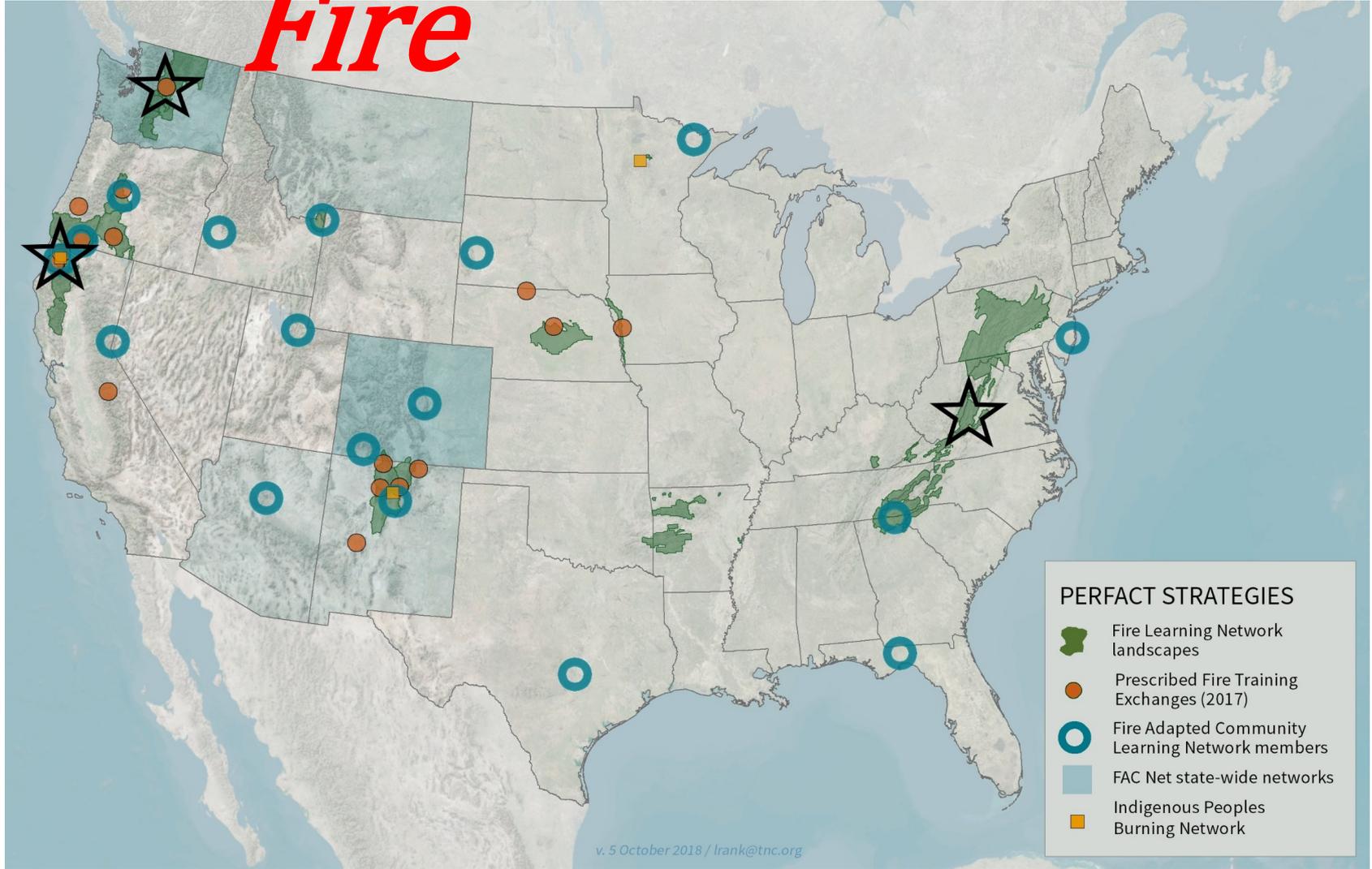


TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL NEEDED TO MAKE ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT TO WILDFIRE. OUR PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS EFFECTIVE LEARNING NETWORKS, TRAINING, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TARGETED COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS ON THE GROUND

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OVER 16 YEARS

Living With

Fire



Living With Fire



LOCAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS WITH PARTNERS

LEARNING EXCHANGES & WORKSHOPS

ENGAGEMENT WITH STATE OFFICIALS





FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES-NET Affiliate Membership



- Who joins?
 - Individuals **and** organizations
 - Fire departments
 - Conservation districts
 - Non-profits
 - Firewise/FAC councils and coordinating groups
- Perks of joining:
 - Connect with others
 - Access



THIS IS WHAT CO- MANAGEMENT LOOKS LIKE!

WKRP (FLN)

KLAMATH & YUOK TREX

CULTURAL FIRE MGMT
COUNCIL & IPBN

FAC NET MEMBERS



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

Cities



New Opportunity For Forest Conservation



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

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects

2010-2012





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.**

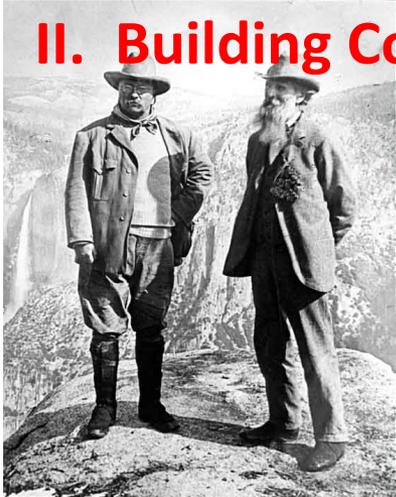


A road crossing on Cedar Creek, a priority tributary in the watershed, was improved to **enhance wildlife habitat.** During rain events, high levels of sediment washed into the creek, so a culvert was constructed to significantly reduce erosion while also allowing for fish passage and better vehicle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



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

USDA Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership



II. Building Coalitions & Collaboration



Broad
Effective
Influential

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

**Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
5-Year Report**

Forest Service FS-1047 March 2015



Russ Hoeflich
Congressman
Greg Walden



III. Reform public policy



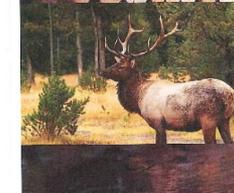


Monday, September 7, 2015
AAEC Ref Num: 144662

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



IV. Communications & Education



People Restoring America's Forests:

A Report on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

November 2011



The Nature
Conservancy



OKTOBERFOREST



A word cloud on a dark green background. The word "Resilience" is the largest and most central. Other large words include "Acceptance", "Collaborate", "Partnerships", "Adapt", "Education", and "Communities". Smaller words scattered around include "Mitigate", "Health", "Effective", "Healthy", "Action", "Respect", "Culture", "Change", "Empowerment", "Responsibility", "Smokey", "Future", "Community", "Ceremony", "Hugs", "Controlled", "Humbleness", "Stewardship", "Work", "Prescribed", "Forest", "Prepare", "Sustainability", "Teamwork", "Learn", "Inclusion", "fire", "Ecological", "together", "literacy", "Proactive", "Natural", "Vida", "Equity", "Management", "Embrace", "Smoke", "Urgency", "All", "Wokeness", "burning", "Understand", "Restoration", "Relationship", "Ownership", "Awareness", "Embodiment", "communication", and "Communities".

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

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What's
Next ?



