

Strategic Objective A.

Foster resilient, adaptive ecosystems to mitigate climate change

Healthy ecosystems have the capacity for renewal, for recovery from a wide range of disturbances, and for retention of ecological resilience while meeting current and future needs. As land managers working on behalf of the American people, the Forest Service will work to restore impaired natural functions of forest and grassland ecosystems, such as filtering and purifying the water that goes into streams. We will improve the ability of forests and grasslands to remain healthy and resilient, despite stresses and disturbances such as drought and wildfire.

Many land areas are particularly susceptible to insects, disease, and wildfire. Climate change is exacerbating these challenges. Such areas might need more land management attention to address altered ecological conditions. Coordinated inventory, monitoring, and assessments support our prioritization of the areas of greatest concern and need for investment. Forest Service managers use the best available science and information to understand and respond to integrated ecological, social, cultural, and economic dynamics.

Our investment in restoration work and managing the land will help ensure that forests and grasslands continue to deliver values, uses, products, and services that people want and need, such as clean air and water; high-quality recreation settings and opportunities; scenic character; forest products; cultural sites; and a full suite of habitats for plant, aquatic, and wildlife species (including threatened and endangered species). Working with our partners, the Forest Service's ecological restoration projects will support the growth and development of healthy ecosystems and vibrant, resilient communities.

▶ LONG-TERM RESULT

The Nation's forests and grasslands are in a healthy ecological condition.



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Means and Strategies

- Integrate our work to achieve restoration objectives:
 - Restore ecosystems that are naturally adapted to wildland fire and repair ecosystems that have been damaged by severe wildfire.
 - Use information from climate change vulnerability assessments to inform adaptive management strategies.

- Maintain resilient land and water conditions at the watershed level and restore deteriorated lands and waters (such as abandoned mine lands and areas of unmanaged recreation use needing rehabilitation).

- Collaborate with other Federal agencies, State agencies, private landowners, communities, and American Indian tribes to improve the health and resilience of the land.

- Develop and apply detection, prediction, prevention, mitigation, treatment, restoration, and climate adaptation methods, technologies, and strategies for addressing disturbances such as wildfire, human uses, invasive species, insects, extreme weather events (e.g., storms), and changing climatic conditions.

- Coordinate inventory, monitoring, and assessment activities across all lands to improve our adaptive management of natural resources.

