

NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

Our Vision

On the National Forests in Alabama, it is our mission to restore and maintain beautiful, resilient, and productive landscapes, and to connect people to these landscapes through recreational, educational, and economic opportunities.

Our Agency Core Values

Service · Interdependence · Conservation · Diversity · Safety

Our Forest Priorities and Goals

Forest Health and Restoration

We are committed to utilizing best forest management practices, tools, technology and authorities to improve forest conditions, restore native forests and minimize forest impacts from insects, disease, and wildfires.

We will support our forest health and restoration initiatives through the following goals:

- Encouraging shared stewardship and partnerships.
- Implementing the Million Acre Challenge to revive the longleaf pine throughout Alabama's forests.
- Restoring native forests utilizing "8 Steps to a Healthier Forest" which includes implementing controlled fire, forest management, tree planting, understory plant management, forest inventory, GIS mapping, and partnerships.
- Identifying a program of ecological restoration work that is explicitly grounded in our Forest Vision and Priorities; includes both unit and forest-wide restoration priority work that are agreed upon by the Forest Leadership Team, and is clearly supported by budget allocation and planning.
- Developing, communicating and implementing a process that creates restoration work objectives and project lists for each fiscal year on every unit. The list must be clearly linked to the Forest Vision and Priorities.

Good Business Management

We are committed to best practices, fiscal responsibility and cost-effective approaches to providing our internal customers the necessary resources to accomplish their program of work.

We are dedicated to transparency, ethical behavior, and conducting business in good faith through the following goals:

- Implementing the regional strategic budget process with a focus on an integrated program of work and timely execution of funds by focusing on a "landscape budget approach".
- Improving collaboration and prioritizations at all levels. Working together, the Forest Leadership Team, will align the program of work with Forest allocations to assure all critical work is accomplished.
- Promoting positive customer service and ethical relations with employees, partners, contractors, and vendors.
- Assuring the Forest is spending in accordance with congressional intent by ensuring expenditures and accounting records are in accordance with Forest Service regulations.

Employee-Focused Culture

Employees are our most valued resource. We are "One Forest, One Team" committed to ensuring behaviors are consistent with Forest Service values and will promote an environment of transparency, interdependence, trust, communication, and appreciation.

We will support an employee-focused culture through the following goals:

- Incorporating the "One Forest, One Team" spirit and attitude across all programs and levels within the National Forests in Alabama, leading to efficient, effective, and strategic delivery of programs.
- Mentoring, development, and recognition of all employees to boost organization morale and productivity, as well as, preparing new leaders.
- Building organizational capacity and individual skills to provide sustained leadership for meeting the mission of the National Forests in Alabama into the future.
- Being intentional in providing exposure of rising leaders to the Forest Leadership Team meetings through opportunities such as invited presentations, acting roles, and invitations as guests.
- Promoting a respectful, transparent, diverse, and safe work environment where employees can share concerns and work to improve their workplace as a whole.

Customer Service, Community Engagement, and Promoting Forest Recreation Opportunities

We are committed to enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, sustaining infrastructure, promoting recreation benefits, and providing exceptional customer service.

The following goals will aim to meet the real demand and logistical needs of the people we serve:

- Delivering quality service, information, and products in a timely, professional manner.
- Continuing sustainable recreation realignment. Clearly identify our niche and sustainable funding strategies for providing opportunities within this niche.
- Improving access, sustaining infrastructure, and communicating to communities on how they benefit from national forests.
- Seeking opportunities to participate and/or host community projects, meetings and special events to promote agency initiatives.
- Identifying, developing, and marketing "new recreation user groups" and day-use opportunities.
- Developing and implementing better promotional strategies and tools for engaging urban users, hunters, hikers, anglers, and other targeted outdoor enthusiasts.
- Encouraging partners and volunteers to join us in upholding our mission, goals, and objectives that will help sustain recreation opportunities for future generations to enjoy.

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

- Theodore Roosevelt

