

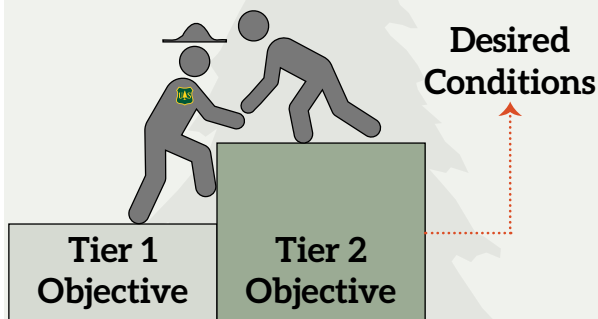
# Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Plan Revision

## Consolidated Objectives

The forest plan provides a general framework for managing the forest over the next 15 years. In the plan, desired conditions describe what we want the forest to be like in the future. Objectives outline measurable steps we will take to achieve those long term goals. Objectives identify priorities rather than every activity. For some objectives, there are two tiers:

1) What the Forest can accomplish with existing budgets and capacity; and

2) What we can accomplish with the help of partners and additional resources.



Forest plan objectives are a critical part of understanding how the plan will be implemented. This document is not a complete list of all objectives, but will help you visualize some of what we want to achieve. For all the details, read the descriptive resource sections throughout the plan.

In working together with partners and the public to understand priorities, we recognized four broad themes that the plan needed to address:

### Partnering with Others

Working collaboratively across boundaries to achieve shared objectives



### Connecting People to the Land

Contributing to social and economic well-being of local communities and beyond



### Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems

Managing diverse forest communities from southern pine to northern hardwood



### Providing Clean and Abundant Water

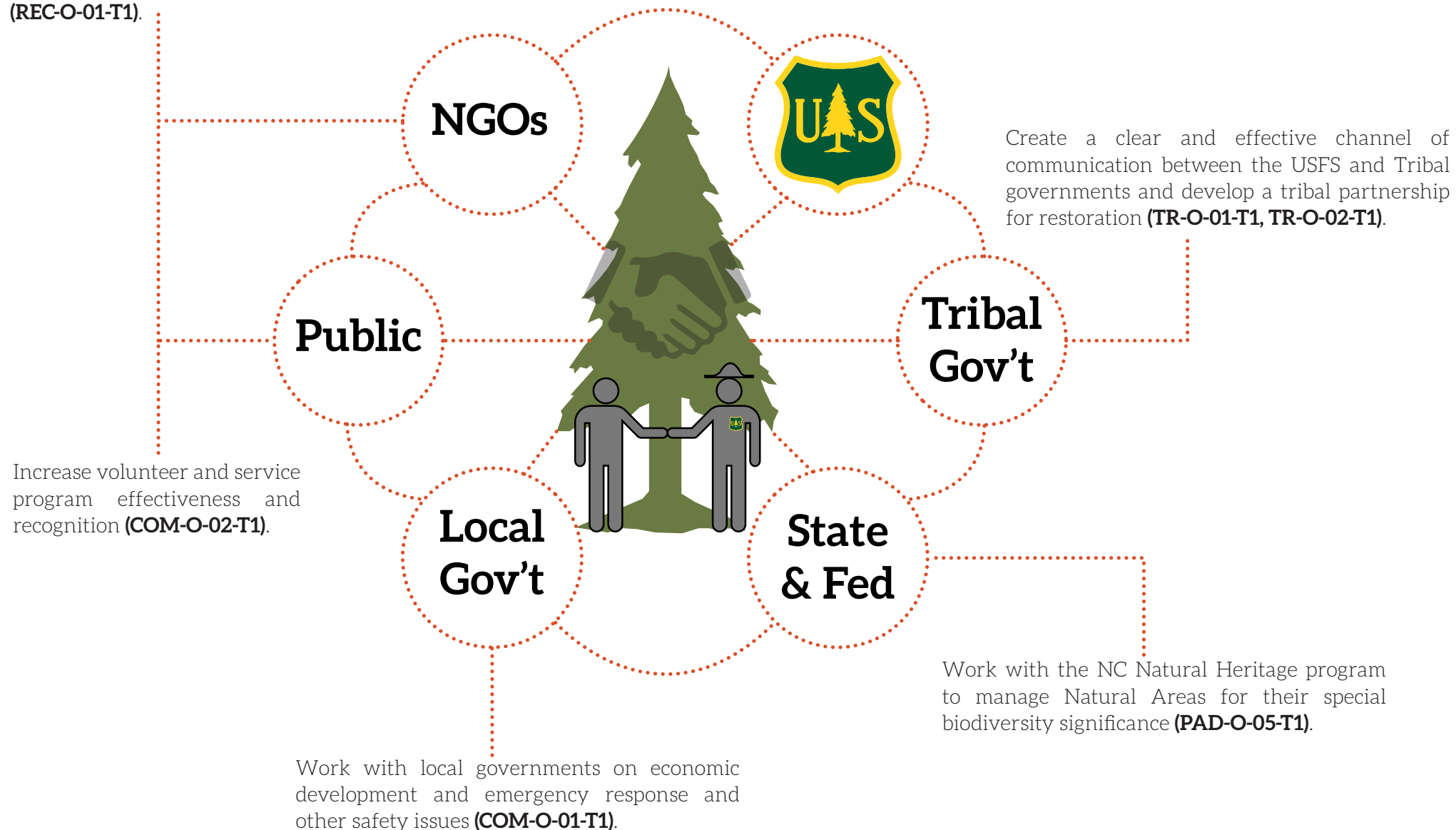
Ensuring supply to ecological communities, municipalities, agriculture, & industry



# Partnering with Others



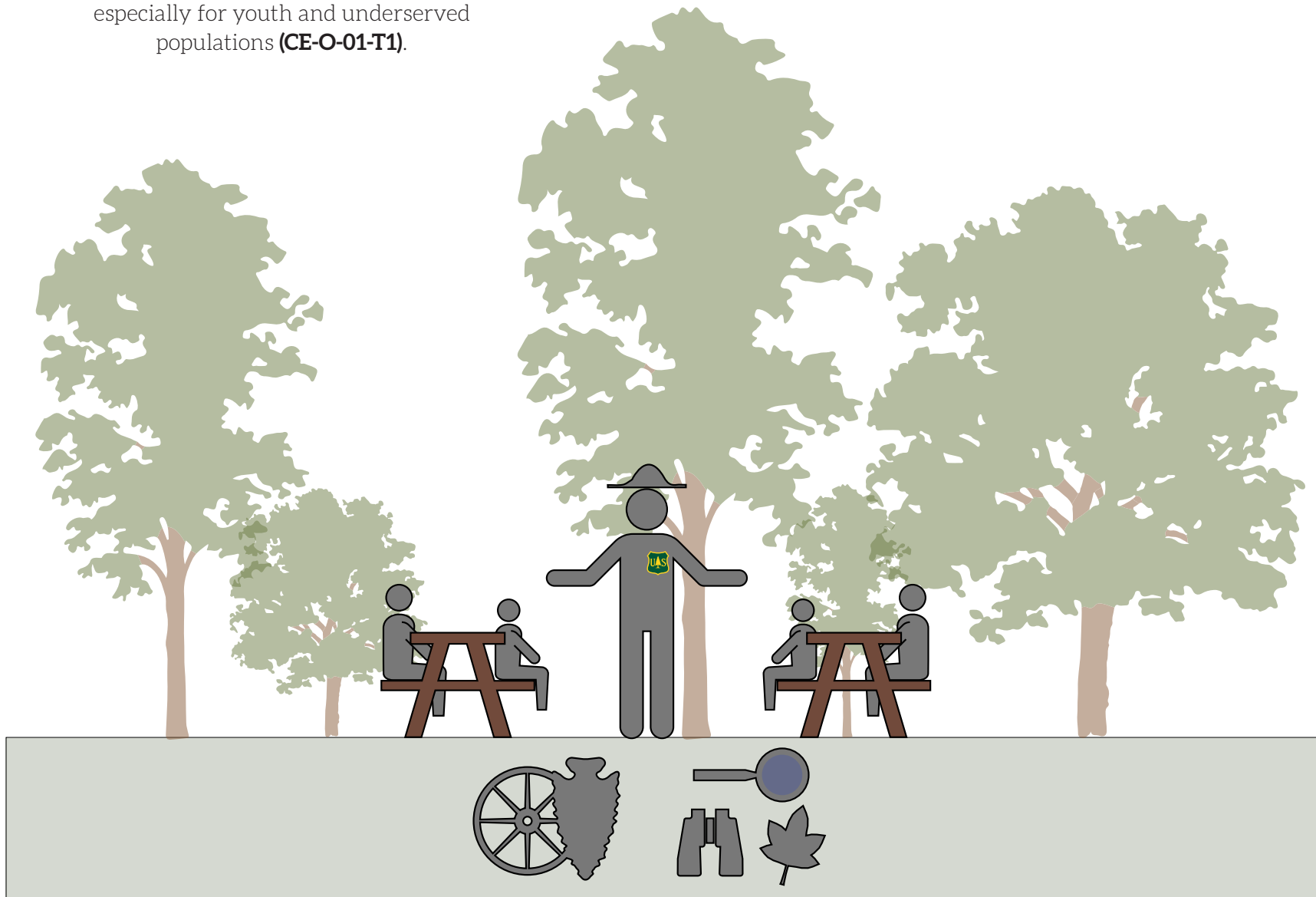
Move towards a sustainable recreation program through collaborative planning with partners to develop strategic guidance and a shared vision **(REC-O-01-T1)**.



# Connecting People to the Land



Expand educational and interpretive programs,  
especially for youth and underserved  
populations **(CE-O-01-T1)**.

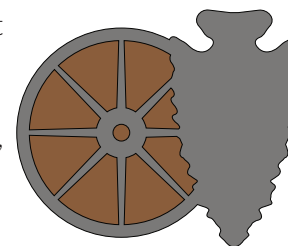


# Connecting People to the Land



Reduce the backlog of cultural resource site evaluations and protect sites that are at high risk from looting (**CR-O-02-T1, CR-O-03-T1**).

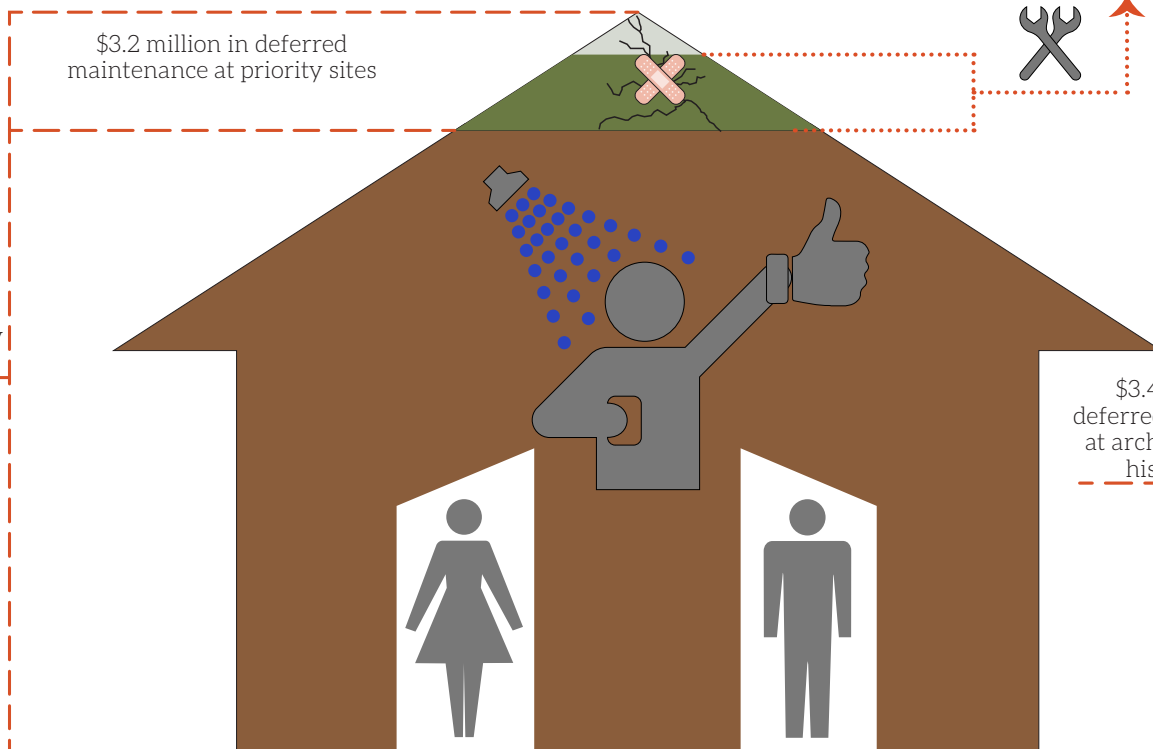
Create cultural landscape reports for managing and preserving the Trail of Tears, Unicoi Turnpike, and Overmountain Victory Trail (**HC-O-01-T1, HC-O-03-T1**).



Improve visitor satisfaction by maintaining and operating priority developed recreation sites at a higher standard (**REC-O-01-T1**).

\$3.2 million in deferred maintenance at priority sites

Over \$22 million invested in priority site assets

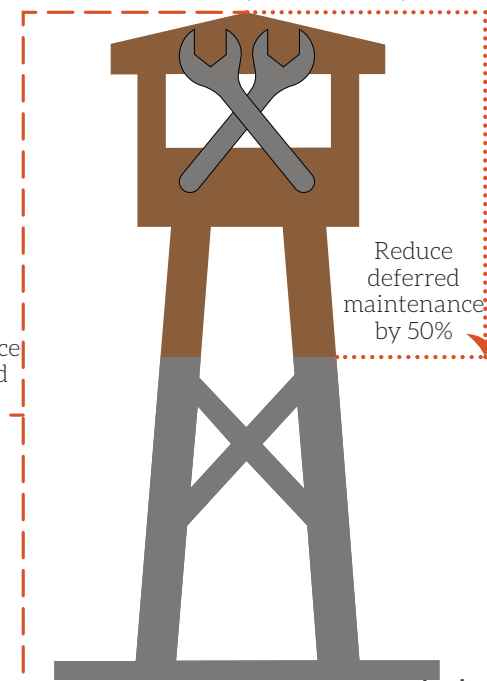


Reduce deferred maintenance by \$1.8 million to reach a 90% Facility Condition Index



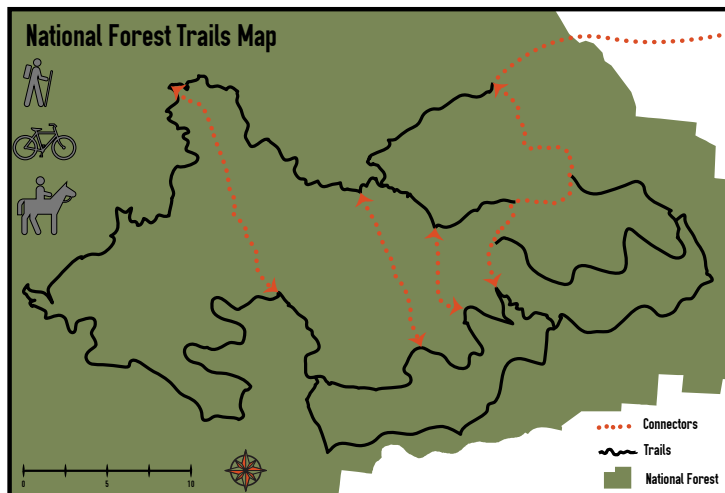
Reduce deferred maintenance at archeological sites and historic structures (**CR-O-01-T1**).

\$3.4 million in deferred maintenance at archeological and historic sites



Reduce deferred maintenance by 50%

# Connecting People to the Land



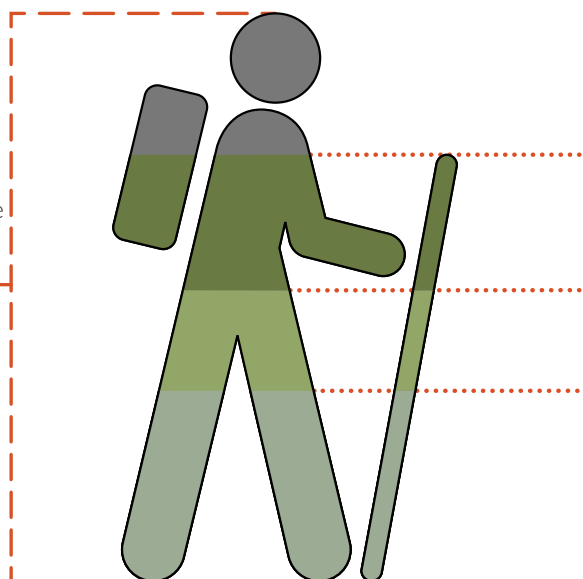
Tier 2: Provide 10 new trail loop opportunities by creating short connectors to existing NFS trails or gated roads **(REC-O-08-T2)**.



Establish a "Trail Bank" within 3 years that can be used to add new sustainable trail miles to the non-motorized trail system **(REC-O-07-T1, Alt. D)**.

Increase trail miles meeting National Quality Standards **(REC-O-06-T1)**.

1,555 miles of trail on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests



Tier 2: Increase trail miles meeting standard to 75%

Tier 1: Increase trail miles meeting standard to 50%

# Connecting People to the Land



Tier 1: Maintain 280 miles of roads to standard annually **(TA-O-01-T1)**.

Tier 2: Reduce the road maintenance backlog by 10% more **(TA-O-01-T2)**.

Tier 1: Increase the amount of sunlight to 2 miles of roads used for wildlife habitat annually **(TA-O-05-T1)**.

Tier 2: Annually daylight 5 miles of road **(TA-O-05-T2)**.

2,320 miles of roads  
on the Nantahala and  
Pisgah National Forests

# Connecting People to the Land



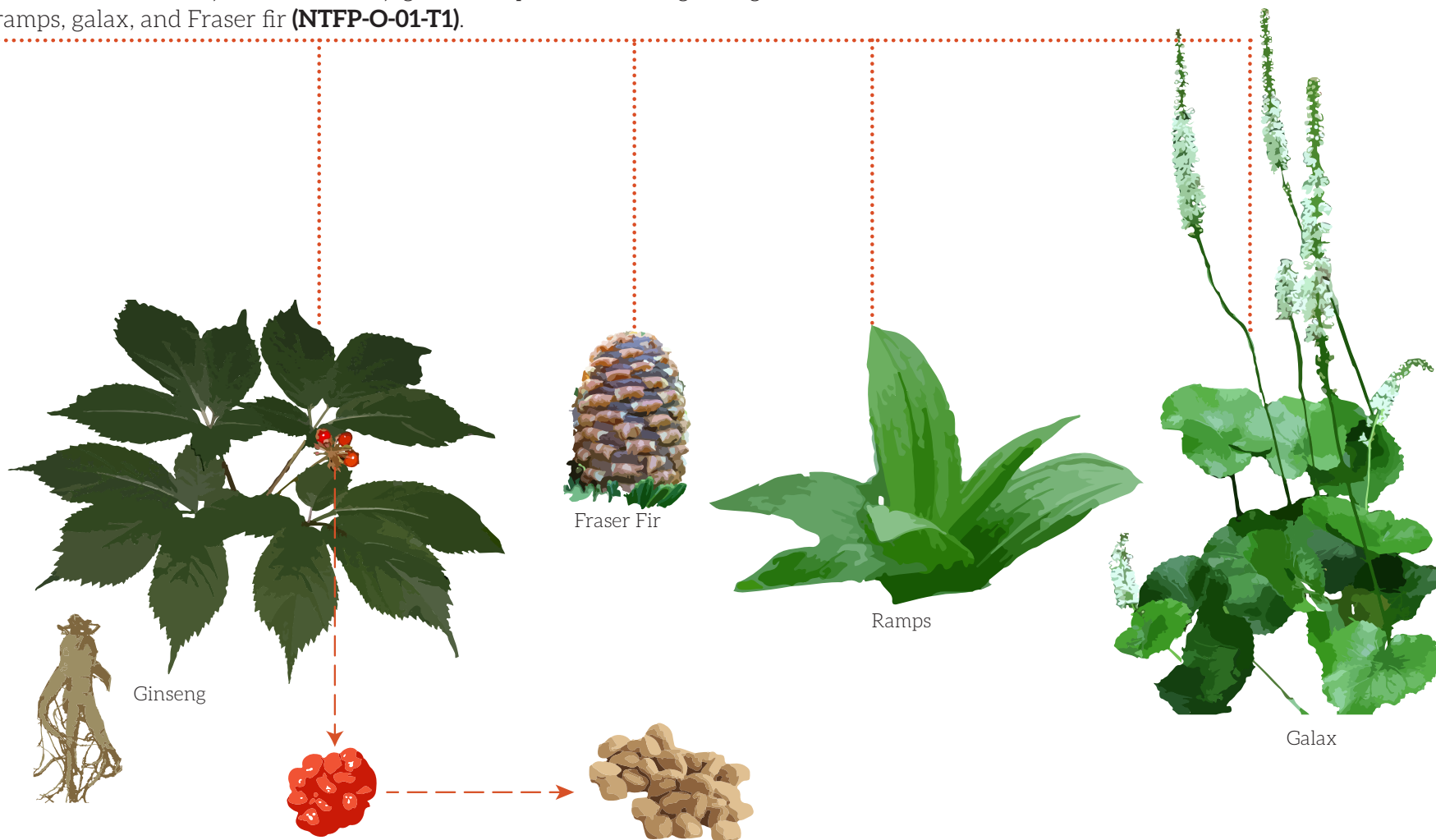
Analyze fatal accidents across the forest to determine if additional measures would lead to a safer recreation experience (REC-O-03-T1).



# Connecting People to the Land



Ensure sustainability of traditionally gathered species such as ginseng, ramps, galax, and Fraser fir (NTFP-O-01-T1).



Continue to produce local ginseng seeds in the nursery and use them to establish or improve Southern Appalachian ginseng populations (NTFP-O-02-T1).

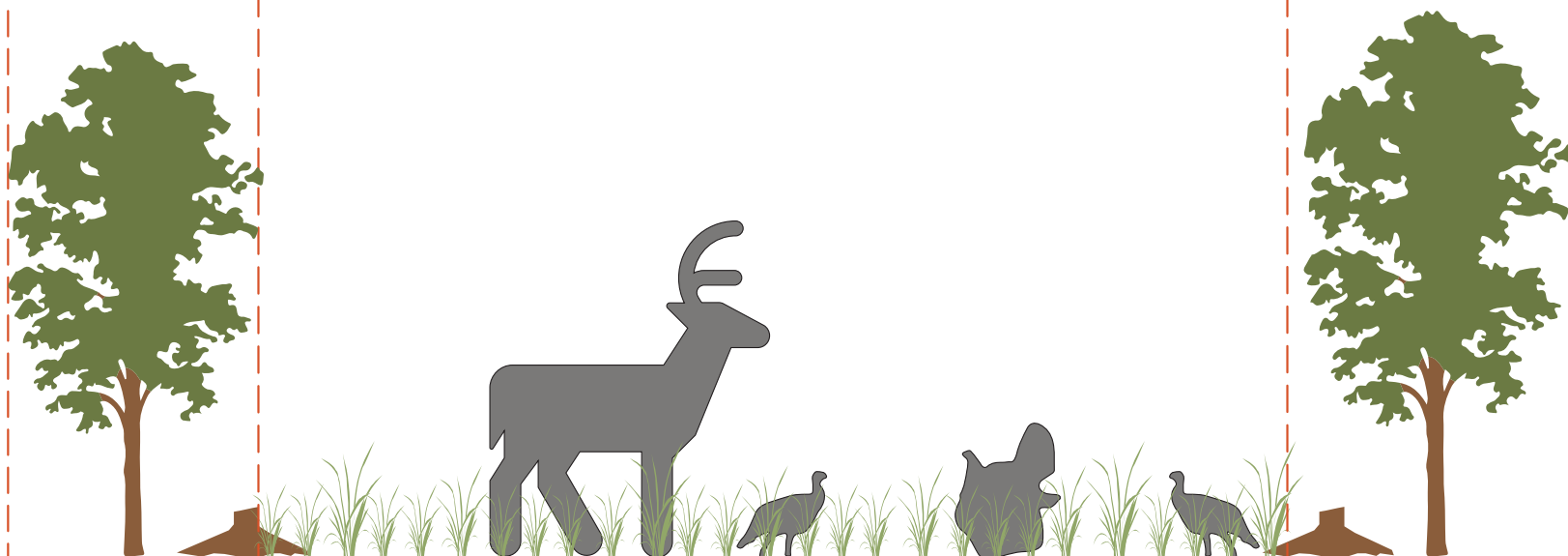


# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems



Tier 2: Restore 1,450 acres of grass, forb, and shrub openings (**ECO-O-01-T2**).

Tier 1: Maintain 3,750 acres of existing grass, forb, and shrub openings (**ECO-O-01-T1**).



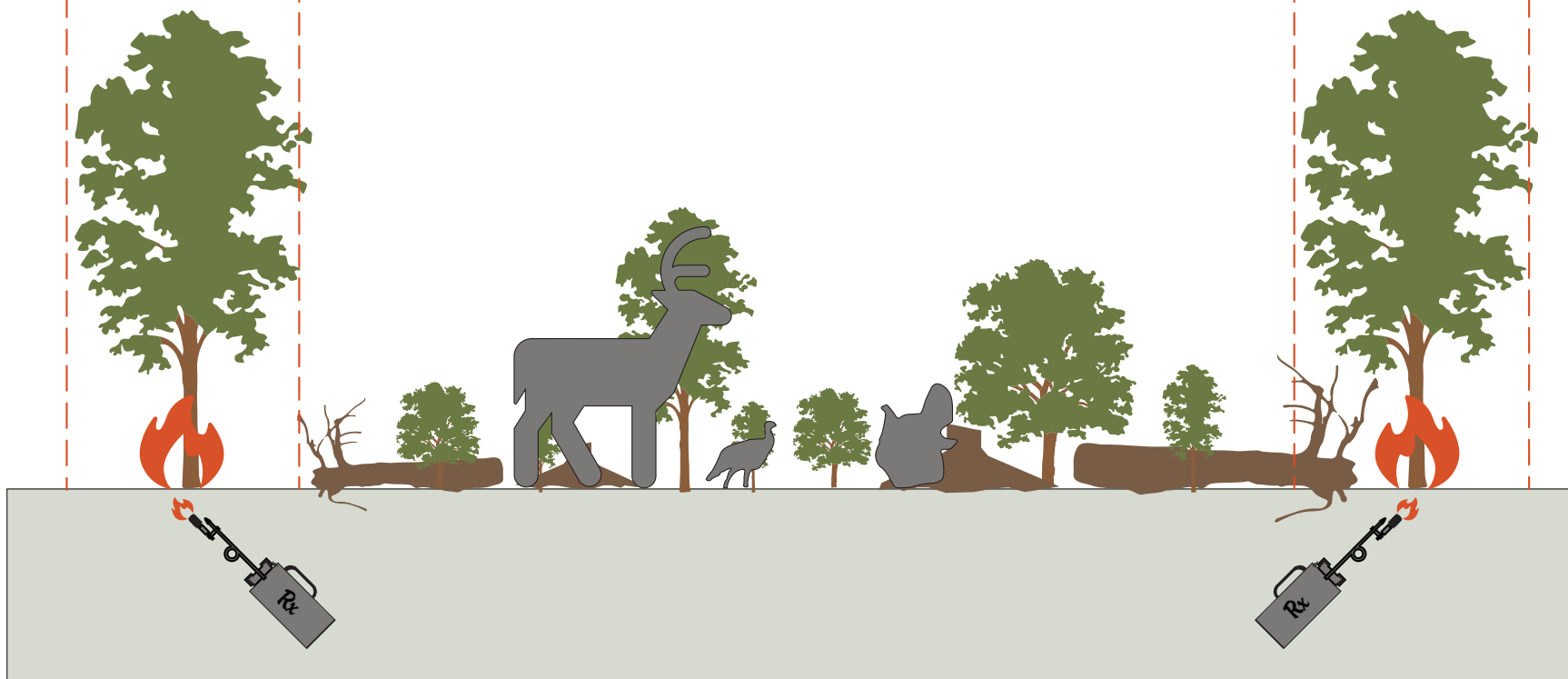
# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems



Tier 2: Create more young forest (up to 37,000 acres) with more focus on using prescribed fire **(ECO-O-02-T2)**.



Tier 1: Create 11,000 to 17,000 acres of young forest **(ECO-O-02-T1)**.



# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems



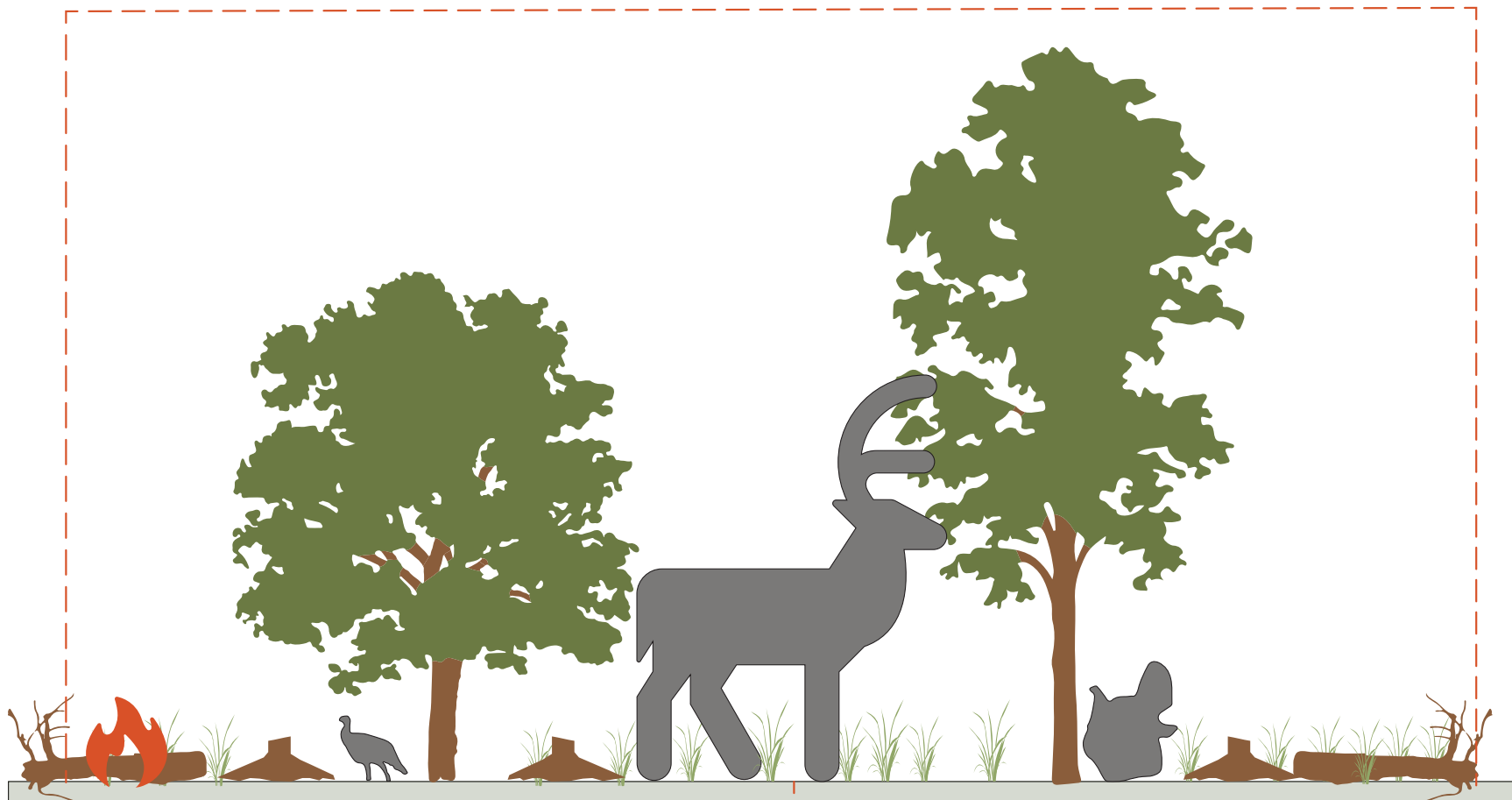
Improve old growth conditions (ECO-O-03-T1).



# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems



Create 1,500 to 4,000 acres of open forest woodlands **(ECO-O-04-T1)**.



Ensure at least 50% of open forest woodlands are within NCWRC Wildlife Active Habitat Management focal areas and also provide for elk habitat.

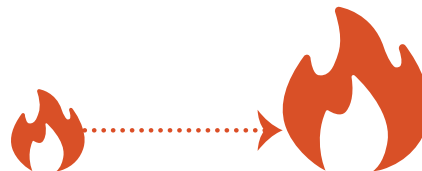
# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems



Tier 1: Prioritize prescribed burns in the most fire-adapted ecozones and where burns will help protect adjacent private property. Use prescribed burns on 6,500 to 10,000 acres annually **(ECO-O-06-T1)**.



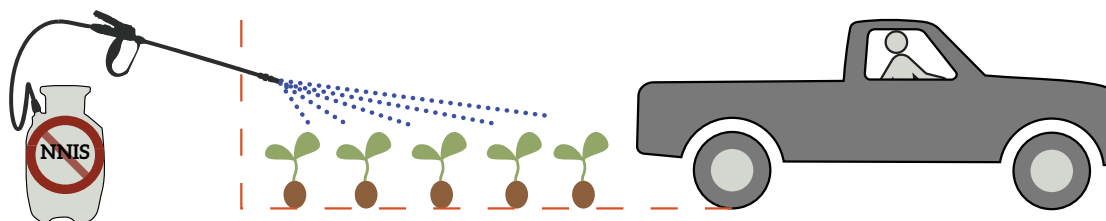
- Shortleaf Pine: 1,000 to 1,500 acres
- Pine-Oak/Heath: 1,000 to 1,500 acres
- Dry-Mesic Oak: 800 to 1,300 acres
- Dry Oak: 400 to 600 acres



Tier 2: Expand the use of prescribed fire up to 20,000 acres annually **(ECO-O-06-T2)**.

Tier 1: Control or eradicate non-native invasive plants (NNIS) on 750 to 1,500 acres **(ECO-O-09-T1)**.

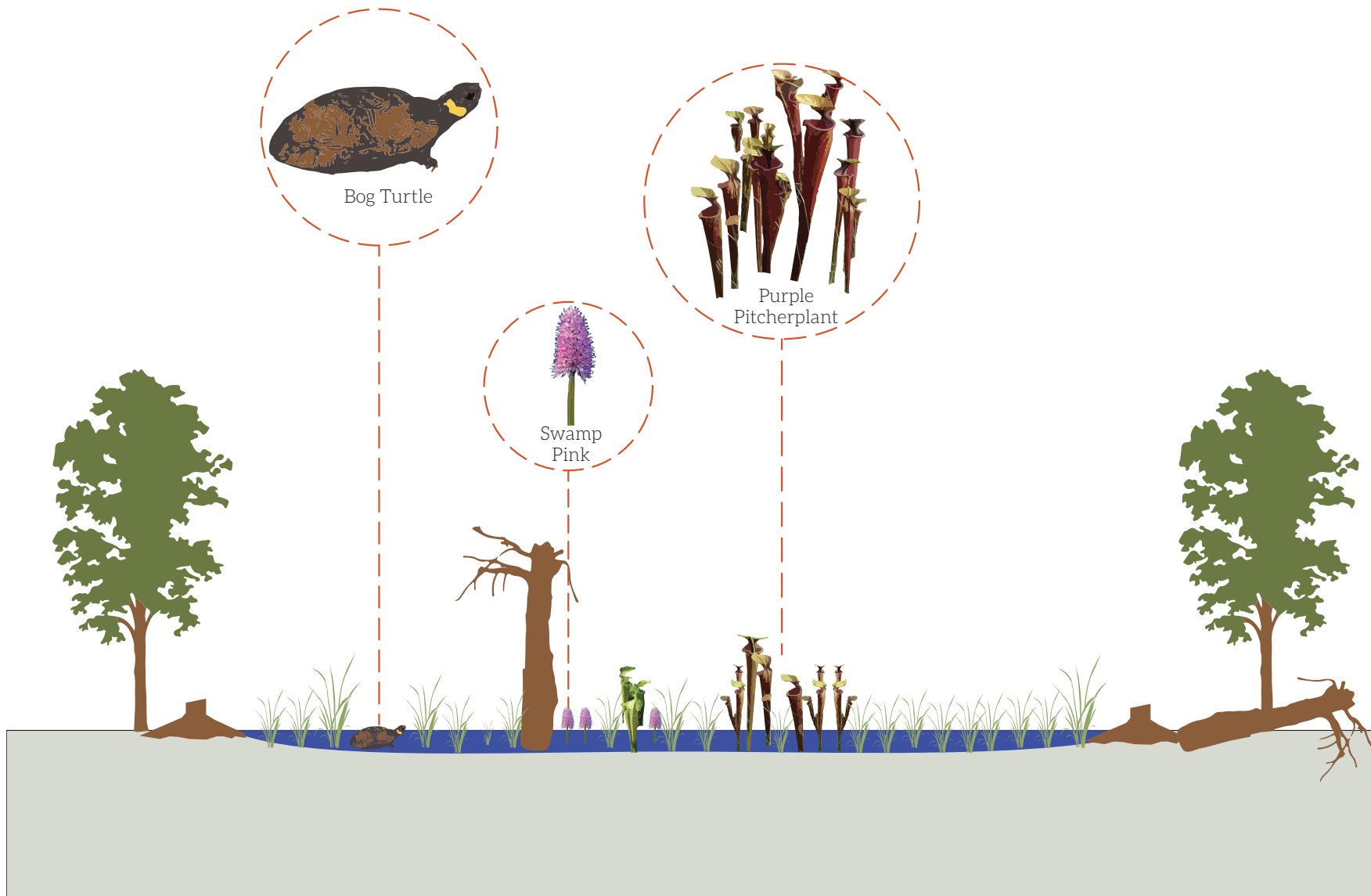
Tier 2: Control or eradicate non-native invasive plants on 3,000 acres **(ECO-O-09-T2)**.



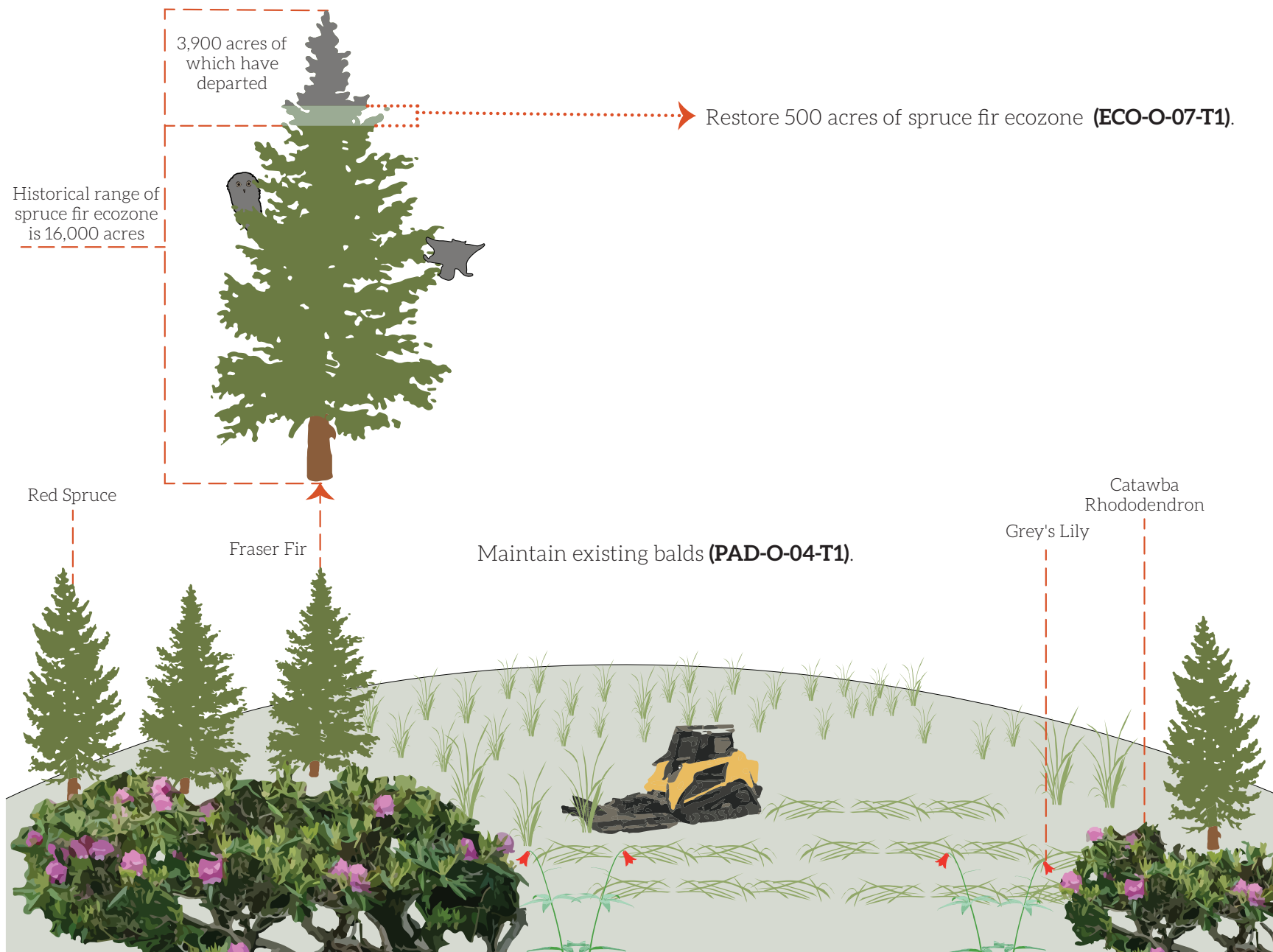
# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems



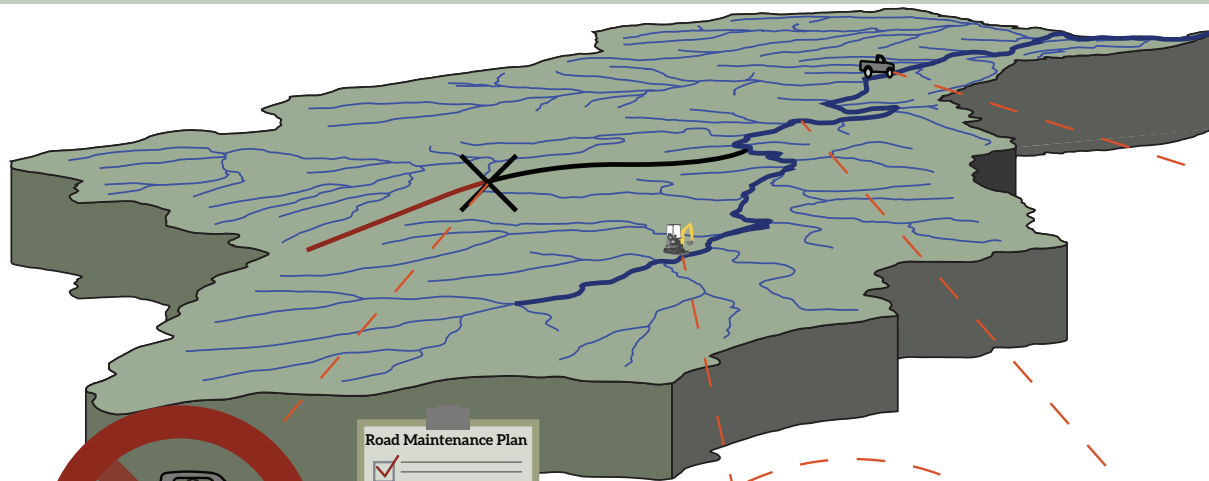
Restore and/or maintain at least 12 Southern Appalachian bogs (PAD-O-03-T1).



# Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems

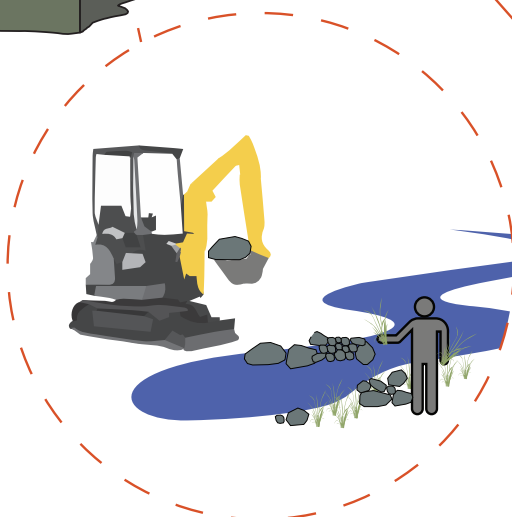


# Providing Clean and Abundant Water



Develop and implement a forest-wide road maintenance plan **(TA-O-03-T1)**.

Identify unauthorized roads and trails within priority watersheds and Inventoried Roadless Areas and prioritize for obliteration **(TA-O-04-T1)**.



Tier 1: Restore at least 3 acres of streamside zones annually **(TA-O-03-T1)**.

Tier 2: Restore at least 20 acres of streamside zones annually **(TA-O-03-T2)**.



Work with partners to complete the assessment of aquatic organism passage (AOP) needs across the Forests. Replace a minimum of two impaired stream crossings annually to improve AOP and connectivity **(AQS-O-03-T1)**.



Maintain or expand populations of freshwater mussels and other aquatic federally-listed species or species of conservation concern **(AQS-O-01-T1)**.