

**File Code:** 2000**Date:** MAR 02 2020**Route To:****Subject:** Ecosystems Services - Leadership Intent Letter**To:** Regional Leadership Team

The Region 5 Ecosystem Services Team has been working to communicate Nature's Benefits in the context of modern-day living, connecting California National Forest land management activities to benefits that the public sees, feels, and hears. Ecosystem Services refer to the benefits people receive from healthy natural systems, also known as "Nature's Benefits."

To date, the key Nature's Benefits Region 5 has been focusing on the following five categories as identified by leadership and include:

- Clean water provision
- Jobs and economic contributions to communities
- Carbon sequestration
- Recreation, to include wildlife habitat, open space, scenic viewing, cultural, and wellness opportunities, and
- Timber and other wood products

Other benefits that come from our Forests include: clean air, pollination, and flood control.

The intent of the Pacific Southwest Region is to retain and restore provisions of a broad range of Nature's Benefits coming from National Forest lands to people. Engaging in this work can help incentivize citizen-stewardship, increase volunteerism, and assist in bringing more resources to bear for the restoration goals the Region is trying to meet. The enclosed *Leader's Intent on Nature's Benefits* ensures the Region is applying this lens to our work, and thereby connecting others to the value and benefits they receive from those efforts.

This critical work builds off the Region 5 Leadership Intent document on Ecological Restoration stating our commitment to restoration-based management and renewed focus on sustainable delivery of ecosystem services. Also supported are the Agency priority areas of: Shared Stewardship Vision, Improving the Condition of Forests and Grasslands, Enhancing Recreation Opportunities, Improving Access, and Sustaining Infrastructure. This meets the intent of the Associate Deputy Chief's goals for establishment of the 2013 National Ecosystem Services Strategy Team (NESST) which Region 5 is a member of.

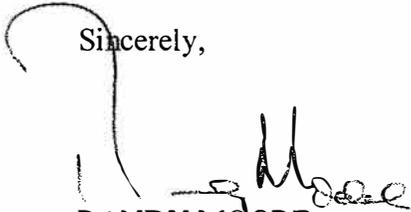


Goals include collaboratively developing national strategy and policy around ecosystem services, integrating into Forest Service programs and operation, and were further expanded in the 2016 Charter “to implement recommendations identified by the team in its analysis of Forest Service opportunities for implementing ecosystem services throughout the agency's programs and operations”. In 2017, the Forest Service published General Technical Report 943 (GTR-943) *Integration of Ecosystem Services into National Forest Service Policy and Operations*, which provided opportunities for the Forest Service to: 1.) consider a broad suite of service in decision-making and priority setting, 2.) quantify and communicate in terms of benefits to people in measurement and reporting, and 3.) connect providers and beneficiaries of ecosystem services through partnership investments.

Telling our stories in a meaningful way about the project work we are engaging in, sharing various Nature’s Benefits in play and at potential risk, we leverage this work with the help of others, to increase the pace and scale of our restoration.

The Nature’s Benefits Leadership Intent document will become part of your team’s planning and everyday work, adding a tool to our tool-box to assist in bringing partners and investment to the table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" that loops back to the left.

RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester Pacific Southwest Region

Enclosure