

Restoring, Maintaining, and Imparting Resilience to Pacific Northwest Landscapes

Our Challenge and Opportunity

The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region's challenge is to manage 27 million acres of public lands—and to provide support to state and private land managers—so that our landscapes provide the greatest good for our communities, and the country, in the long run. Many of the landscapes of the region bear the marks of past management or disturbance that have left them less resilient to future disturbance than we want—the processes and functions that make a landscape healthy are missing or impaired. Others function within their historic range, but all evidence is that we face future climate conditions outside what our landscapes have experienced for millennia. It is time to work together, with all our partners, using the most innovative science and management, to assure that nature continues to provide the services our society values, whether tangible or intangible, for future generations.

Our Goal

The goal of restoring and imparting resilience to landscapes is to re-establish or maintain ecological process and function so that our ecosystems and watersheds are not permanently diminished or compromised when subject to fire, insects, disease, changing climate and weather, and other disturbances. We will use the best science to inform innovative active management and to manage natural disturbance. We will prioritize our actions, focusing on where the risk is greatest and the need most urgent. We will work with our partners to assure social and economic resilience for our communities as we impart ecological resilience to the landscapes.

Our Scope

Resilience is the ability to recover and be successful after a set-back or disruption. Restoration is the work of re-establishing process and function, and thereby resilience, where they've been disturbed. Imparting resilience to landscapes is using active or passive management to assure ecological, social, and economic processes continue to provide, even in the face of future disturbance.

Restoring resilience encompasses every part of our landscapes — terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, soils, air, water, and the whole range of natural processes we rely on for the services our landscapes provide to the public. By restoring resilience to landscapes we manage, we will contribute to the resilience of communities. Active management, such as thinning a ponderosa pine forest to restore open, fire-adapted conditions helps impart resilience. So might placing large woody debris in a stream, decommissioning a failing or poorly located road, and removing unwanted invasive species. Passive management—leaving the land to its own devices—may be appropriate management as well. Looking forward to what our landscapes face in the future, we will provide a vision of the best mix of management to achieve common goals.

The need doesn't stop at the Forest Service boundary. We must work with our public, private, and tribal partners so that nature continues to provide for our society's future generations.



for the greatest good

Our Actions

Working with our partners, we will develop an approach to identify where the risk is greatest and the need to restore or impart resilience is most urgent. The maps we generate will inform land managers and the public alike, and place ecological, social, and economic challenges and opportunities in clear focus.

We're trying new approaches at a sub-regional level by assigning a dedicated interdisciplinary team to the Blue Mountains. That team has been challenged to increase the pace and scale of treatments, and empowered to test innovative approaches to environmental analysis and documentation. We've committed to accelerating the pace of active management on Blue Mountain National Forests to achieve an outcome of resilient landscapes while providing commercial outputs—timber and biomass—to sustain local infrastructure.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects on the National Forests in Oregon and Washington are accelerating the pace and scale of landscape resilience treatments while pioneering new and innovative approaches to management, informed by the latest science, and developed in collaboration with community partners.

Our Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy focuses partnerships and resources on restoration of priority sub-watersheds. Travel Analysis and the Legacy Roads Program guide our work in road maintenance, repair, relocation, and decommissioning.

Our public, private, and tribal partners are contributing their own resources, through collaboration as well as direct financial investment, in supporting resiliency treatments across all forest lands. The State of Oregon is directly supporting restoration efforts on National Forest lands.

We will measure our progress and report to the public. We will learn as we work and adjust our actions so that our management is creative and innovative, but firmly rooted in the best scientific knowledge and mindful our public mandate.

We will continue to work with our partners, strengthening forest collaboratives, establishing liaisons with state government, further developing our government-to-government and staff-to-staff relationships with tribes, and increasing our engagement with the public so that the roadmap to resilience is charted and shared by us all.

These efforts are our immediate focus, and long-term stewardship of resilient landscapes is our mandate. But restoring resilience isn't all we must do. We provide opportunities for mining, ski areas, power lines, and campgrounds. We are stewards of Wilderness. We provide wood, water, wildlife, fish, and forage for human needs and jobs in local communities. We manage resources in trust for our tribes. We provide memories for visitors, ties across generations, and a connection with our heritage.

Our Commitment

The Region's Leadership commits to work together to provide the greatest good, for the greatest number, in the long run. That's been our commitment since the beginning of the Forest Service, and it's our commitment going forward.