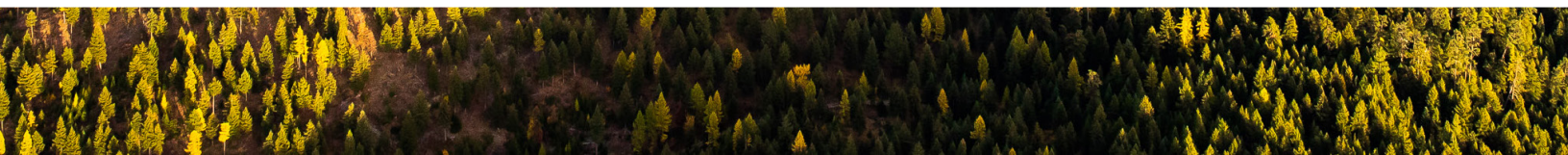




Forest Service  
**US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



# LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM





# LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM

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# Landscape Scale Restoration Program

Authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, which amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act( CFAA), the purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration Program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes. This competitive grant program supports collaborative high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in the State Forest Action Plans.

Projects contribute to healthy, climate-resilient, rural forests and communities, supporting Agency objectives to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires, improve fish and wildlife habitats, maintain or improve water quality, and mitigate invasive plants, insects, and disease. By fostering more resilient lands and waters, projects contribute to climate policy objectives and the Administration’s goal to conserve 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by 2030.

**WORKING AT A LANDSCAPE SCALE**

More than two thirds of the nation’s forests are owned by private landowners, Tribes, states, and localities. These non-federal forests provide critical, life-sustaining benefits to the public – including timber for building homes, jobs in rural communities, and the water we drink. Resilient, sustainably managed forests store and sequester carbon, protect wildlife habitat and biodiversity, conserve cultural resources, and often offer recreation access.



Longleaf, Marion County, GA, March 2019, Photo Credit: Lisa Duncan, GFC



Prescribed burn, Marion County, GA, March 2019. Photo Credit: Lisa Duncan, GFC

These and other benefits depend on sustainable management and economic potential to keep working lands rural. At the same time, these forests face many threats, including wildland fire, invasive species, and pests and disease, which spread across the landscape to include many ownerships and jurisdictional boundaries. By working across landownerships at the landscape scale, in state-identified priority areas, the Landscape Scale Restoration program is positioned to address the challenges facing the nation’s forests.

**Cross boundary:** Landscape Scale Restoration projects are cross-boundary and include a combination of ownerships including state, private, and tribally owned forest lands. Projects may also work across states to address regionally important ecosystems, such as the longleaf pine ecosystem or forest health concerns, such as emerald ash borer. Working across ownerships results in a more coordinated, efficient, and effective delivery of forest restoration across federal and non-federal forest land.

**On-the-ground accomplishments:** Landscape Scale Restoration projects result in measurable on-the-ground impacts. The Agency tracks projects to account for reduced wildfire risk; improved fish and wildlife habitats; maintained or improved water quality and watershed function; mitigated invasive species, insect infestation, and disease; and improved forest ecosystems. In accordance with direction provided by the 2018 Farm Bill, the Agency improved accomplishment tracking systems for

Landscape Scale Restoration projects, collecting enhanced project outcome data beginning in FY 2019.

**Partnerships:** The Landscape Scale Restoration Program leverages the collective effort of federal and non-federal investments and harnesses expertise and resources from many partners to deliver locally driven, nationally scaled conservation outcomes. Projects knit together a variety of resources, inspiring voluntary stewardship by private landowners alongside public resources to improve federal, state, and tribal lands. When delivered in coordination with other landscape initiatives utilizing complementary authorities such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Good Neighbor authority, the Landscape Scale Restoration Program extends impact to meet challenges across the landscape. State Shared Stewardship Agreements and State Forest Action Plans ensure program alignment to state priorities developed through robust local stakeholder input.





Longleaf Pine Prescribed Burned, Marion County, GA, March 2019, *Photo Credit: Lisa Duncan, GFC*

**POLICY AND GUIDANCE FSM 3800 (CODIFICATION)**

The 2018 Farm Bill codified the Landscape Scale Restoration Program and directed the Forest Service to establish a competitive grant program to provide financial and technical assistance to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. The Forest Service worked in consultation with State Foresters and other key stakeholders over 12 months to implement the changes identified in the Farm Bill. The resulting directive (Forest Service Manual (FSM) 3800) sets forth direction for the program including policy, roles and responsibilities, eligibility, and the competitive process. Key program elements include:

- Focus projects on nonindustrial private forest land or state forest land that is also rural.
- Establish a definition of rural for program eligibility. The definition uses current census data to define rural as all U.S. land area located outside urbanized area such as a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants.
- Expand grant recipient eligibility beyond State and territorial forestry agencies or an equivalent state agency to include units of local government, non-profit organizations, universities, and Tribes.
- Require projects to include measurable outcomes tiered to national objectives.
- Prioritize projects that complement other federal and state investments.

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, SELECTION, AND EXECUTION**

The Forest Service delivers the program through robust partnership with state forestry agencies and other partners to deliver conservation projects on the ground on state and private lands. Landscape Scale Restoration funds are competitively awarded to eligible entities (states, local governments, nonprofits, Tribes, institutions of higher learning) through grants and cooperative agreements.

**REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Recipients of Landscape Scale Restoration funding are required to communicate the results of the federal investment and demonstrate meaningful outcomes. The Landscape Scale Restoration reporting tool, or LaSR, is the official national reporting system for all program grants. The reporting tool captures narrative, quantitative and spatial accomplishments in a searchable online database. The system also provides a clear and searchable means to describe how the projects align with national program objectives and includes the amount and source of leveraged funding. The public can search and download LSR project reports from from [Landscape Scale Restoration Projects](https://apps.fs.usda.gov/formap/public), <https://apps.fs.usda.gov/formap/public>. These project summary reports pull from LaSR and describe the project purpose, recent narrative and quantitative accomplishments and include a map of the project impact area.

Beginning in 2019, the Agency implemented several system enhancements to better measure and track program performance. Grant recipients now input quantitative accomplishments into discrete fields (e.g., acres treated for hazardous fuels) in addition to entering them in the narrative fields. By collecting consistent accomplishments across hundreds of projects, the Agency can quantify key program accomplishments and tell outcome-based stories. Other changes include grant recipients must identify a primary project objective which tiers to the national objectives laid out in the Farm

The Landscape Scale Restoration competitive process prioritizes projects that include a combination of ownerships including Tribal, state and local governments, and private lands. Other criteria include maximizing the federal investment by leveraging non-federal resources, collaboration with multiple stakeholders, improving the delivery of public benefits in coordination with complementary state and federal programs, and delivering clear and measurable outcomes.

Funds are allocated on a competitive basis. The Forest Service and states work together to implement the Landscape Scale Restoration program. This approach ensures that federal funds are spent on projects that are focused on priorities identified in each State’s Forest Action Plan and other restoration strategies

The program is carried out through three regional processes in collaboration with regional state forester organizations. The geographic regions are responsible for the establishment of interagency teams comprised of state and federal representatives with diverse skills and have the flexibility to design and implement the competitive process based on national guidance and regionally specific criteria. The interagency teams in each geographic region review project proposals and recommend projects for funding to the Forest Service for award. Implementation of approved projects may extend 1-3 years.



Bill/CFAA and to upload or create a discrete spatial footprint or impact areas which allows users to visualize and quantify where these projects influence change on the ground. Other enhancements allow users to better search for projects and download summary reports.

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout the United States and its territories, the Landscape Scale Restoration program is an important tool to restoring resilience to the nation’s forest. From 2018-2021 the Forest Service has awarded 206 competitive grants to support projects to 46 States, and 5 territories. \$49,500,000 in federal funding has leveraged approximately \$56,000,000 in additional partner support. A portion of Landscape Scale Restoration funds is also competitively allocated by the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Deputy Area for priority projects. These funds are used to catalyze or expand national and regional cross boundary partnerships that support landscape restoration.

Funded projects reflect local forest conditions and state and regional priorities. In the western United States, many of the Landscape Scale Restoration projects reduce wildfire risk and restore priority watersheds. In the Northeast and Midwest, often projects protect water quality and mitigate invasive species that threaten forest ecosystem health, wildlife, climate resilience, and economic value of forests. In the South, wildlife habitat protection to conserve threatened and endangered species is an important priority to ensure continued economic productivity of rural working lands. The following case studies demonstrate the program’s impact and the wide variety of resource concerns addressed

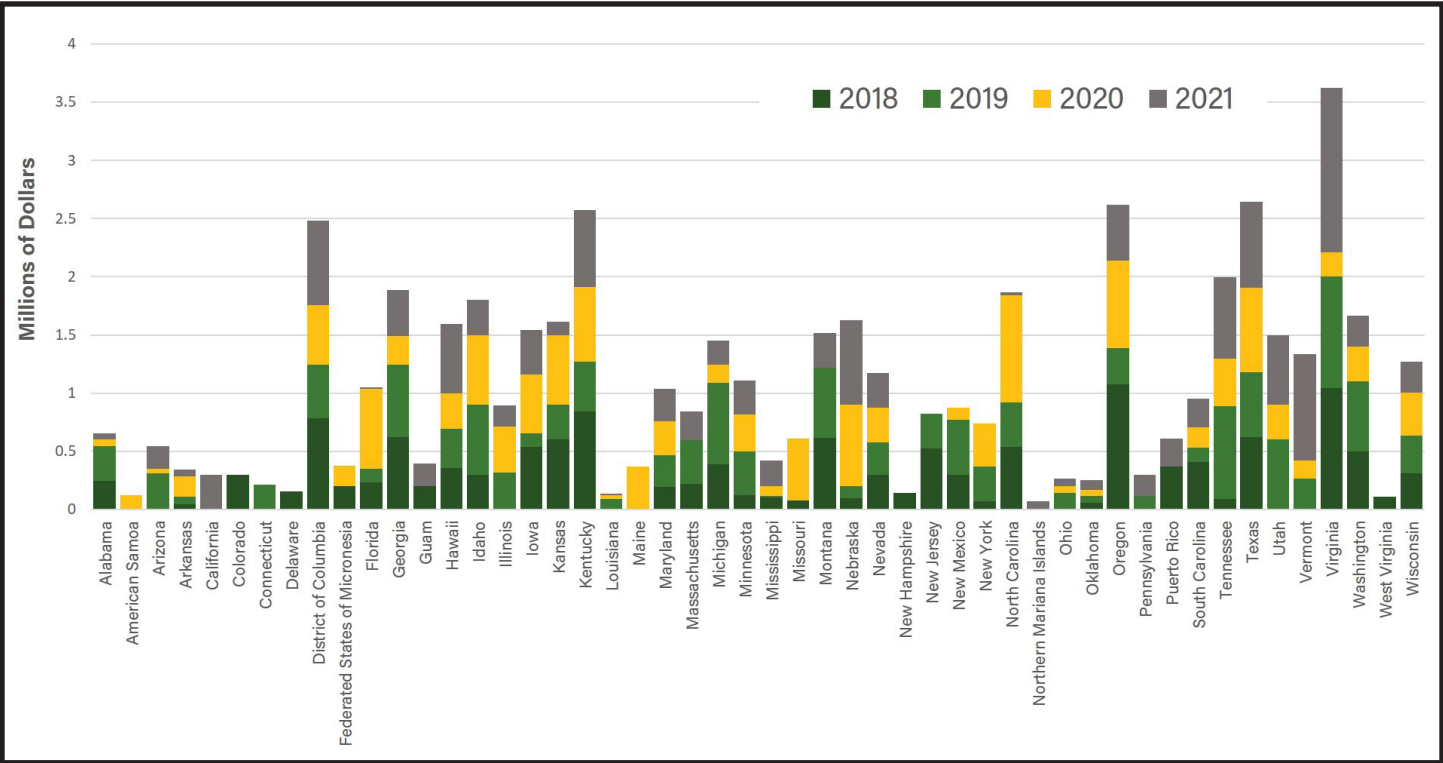


Figure 1. Funding by state and fiscal year.

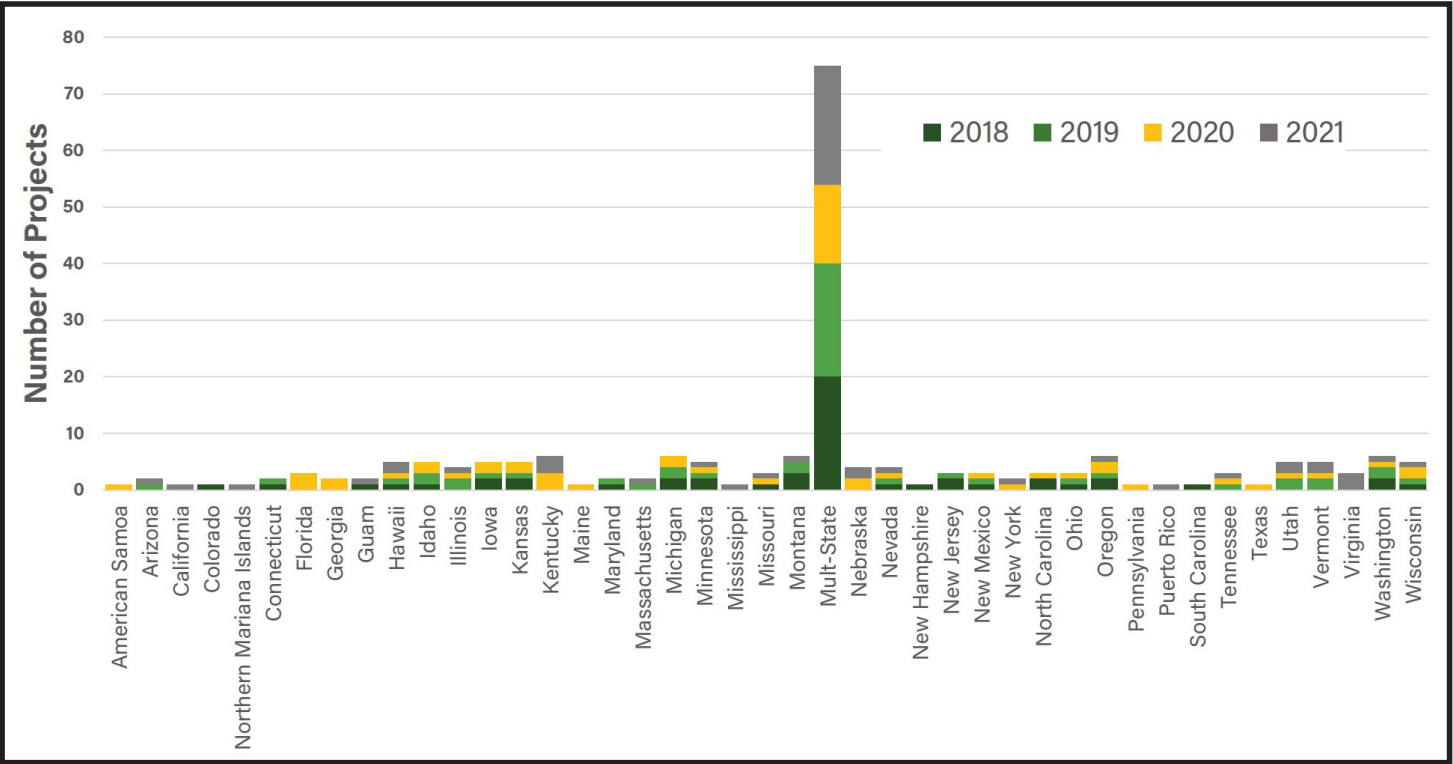


Figure 2. Number of Funded Projects by State and Fiscal Year

Acres treated for hazardous fuels	26,595
Acres treated for insects and disease	13,207
Acres treated for invasive plants and weed management	47,427
Acres treated for water quality	2,024
Acres treated for wildlife habitat	40,740
Acres under new forest management plans	443,683
Acres treated for silviculture/forest management	7,092
Private forest landowners reached through technical assistance	9,975

Table 1. Quantitative Accomplishments 2018-2021



# Case Studies





# 2020 WILLAMETTE VALLEY OAK COLLABORATION IN OREGON

**Funding Amount:** Federal \$300,000; State \$300,000; Additional partner support<sup>1</sup> \$670,000; Total \$1,270,000

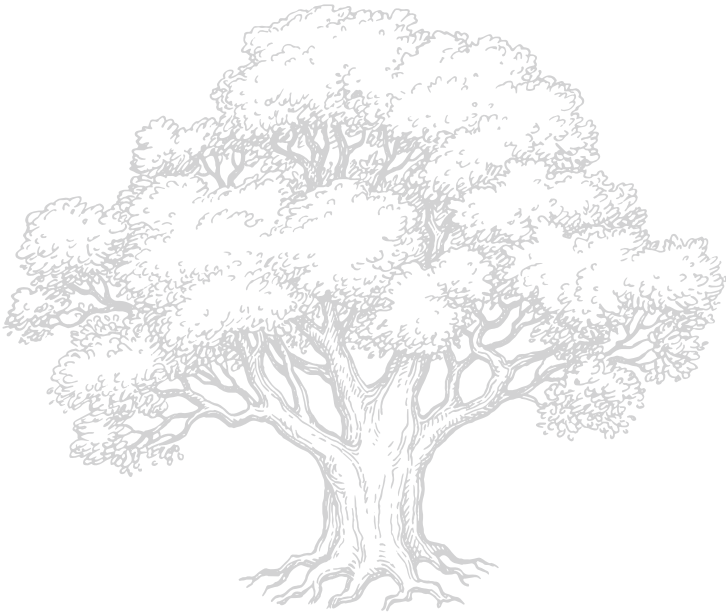
**Primary Partners:** Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon State University (OSU), Long Tom Watershed Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Collaborative.

**Project Overview:** Engaging private landowners in voluntary stewardship protects public benefits and helps communities manage wildfire risk. The Willamette Valley Oak Collaboration simplifies landowner access to planning and cost-share services provided by state and federal agencies to increase the pace and scale of restoration of critical oak habitat. Initial efforts will create a landscape management plan that covers 575,000 acres of Willamette Valley oak and prairie habitat, an endangered forest ecotype, in a fragmented high priority landscape. The project also supports collaboration and agreement across key state and federal agencies to provide landowners across nine highly fragmented oak habitats with a simple menu of management actions that can be

<sup>1</sup> Additional partner support includes additional partner leveraged match (both funding and in-kind) that does not meet the same standards (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners) as the required 1:1 non-federal match. The competitive process prioritizes projects that leverage funding from multiple entities and includes both match and non-match leverage.

uniformly approved for cost-share as projects under one Landscape Management Plan, rather than requiring each landowner to develop a unique management plan.




**Conclusion:** Landowner access to forest stewardship incentives can be improved and made more efficient through efforts to build cooperation and agreement across agencies and find common planning priorities and cost share agreements. This effort can reduce the per-acre cost of restoration across the landscape. Providing forest management planning and support for small parcels improves voluntary participation in restoration efforts within an endangered forest ecotype. As climate change transforms the landscape, drought tolerant oak forests are a resilience strategy to reduce future wildfire risk and improve wildlife habitat in the wildland-urban interface in the next 20 years.



Open Oak Woodland Restoration before and after reduction of hazardous fuel and improving habitat quality. Photo Credit: Abby Colehour, Long Tom Watershed Council.

## At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments to date:

-  A draft Landscape-Scale Management Plan that includes 9 oak habitat types covering 575,000 acres.
-  Participation from 12 partner entities including the primary partners as listed and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Siletz, and Oregon Small Woodlands Association in development of the draft plan.
-  202 acres of on-the-ground oak restoration treatments using \$447,352 in leveraged funding within the planning footprint.

## Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Simplified landowner access to cost-share opportunities translates into increased pace and scale of landowner driven restoration activities: Develop an understanding and formal agreement between key agencies to satisfy the requirements of NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Oregon Department of Forestry's wildfire prevention and fuels reduction programs, and ODFW's Habitat Conservation and Management Program.
2. Simplified landowner access to planning and stewardship translates into increased pace and scale of landowner driven restoration activities: Develop acceptance and agreement around 20-year restoration and maintenance treatment plans for 9 habitat types.
3. Informed landowners are more likely to increase pace and scale of landowner driven restoration activities: Produce 3 how-to guides for landowners from OSU extension



# 2019 RESTORING THE TETON RIVER RIPARIAN FOREST IN IDAHO: TETON COUNTY BUXTON RIVER PARK AND RECREATIONAL ACCESS SITE

**Funding Amount:** Federal \$300,000; State \$300,000; Additional partner support: \$1,120,000 Million; Total: \$1,720,000

**Primary Partners:** Friends of the Teton River, Teton Creek Collaborative, USFS, NRCS, Idaho Dept. of lands, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality, Idaho Dept of Water Resources, Teton County, Teton County Farm Bureau, Legacy Works Group, Teton Soil Conservation District, City of Driggs, Teton Regional Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, Flood Control District – Teton County, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development, and Private Landowners.

**Project Overview:** The Teton Watershed in southeast Idaho is a high priority landscape for habitat restoration and protection of at-risk fish and wildlife species due to development pressures/urbanization and canopy loss that compromise riparian forest resilience, water quality and watershed function. It is also home to one of the most ecologically significant systems for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, a species of special concern under threat throughout the West due to habitat degradation and climate change. The project focuses on restoring highly visible riparian lands along the upper Teton River within the Teton Valley Watershed which are critical for sustaining native at-risk species (big game,

songbirds/raptors/migratory birds, and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout) and supporting southeast Idaho’s agricultural and recreation-based economy. Federal funds play a critical role in the holistic approach to riparian restoration and leveraged approximately \$1.2 million in additional partner support in the project area.




**Conclusion:** Federal funds enabled partners to implement critical planning, education, and on-the-ground treatments on impaired, ecologically valuable riparian corridors across multiple ownerships in the Teton Valley Watershed. Public benefits range from engaging private landowners to implement stewardship practices, to the importance of restoring riparian forests, to public access via recreational trails. Additionally, the success of this projects will drive further restoration actions within the identified 8-mile stream reach of the Teton Creek Corridor as well as the 12.5-mile reach of the Upper Teton River.



FY19 Project – The Buxton River Park banks in this picture were heavily eroded and undercut prior to restoration activities in the form of bank hardening. LSR funding paid for the installment of trunk boles with root wads above the ordinary high-water mark as well as additional riparian vegetation (cottonwoods/willows) and wetland sod planting. *Photo Credit: Ara Andrea, Idaho Dept of Lands*

### At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments to date:

-  Stabilization of river channels through willow/cottonwood plantings to reduce erosion and provide shade to decrease water temperatures/ improve water quality.
-  Planting native trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses or wetland sod to reforest and afforest riparian areas.
-  Development of Riparian Restoration Management Plans for Teton Creek and the Teton River - an overarching plan for the entire ~3000-acre Upper Teton River Corridor identifying the highest-priority areas needing restoration treatments.

### Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Collaborative and coordinated watershed scale planning addressing and mitigating issues across ownerships
2. Improved riparian forest function and connectivity to adjacent forestlands
3. Stream bank stabilization, increased flood resilience, sediment and temperature reduction, improved water quality, and protection of Yellowstone Cutthroat and other native fish and wildlife species.



# 2018 UPLAND OAK SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT IN THE CENTRAL HARDWOOD REGION IN OHIO, IOWA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, MARYLAND, MICHIGAN, AND MISSOURI

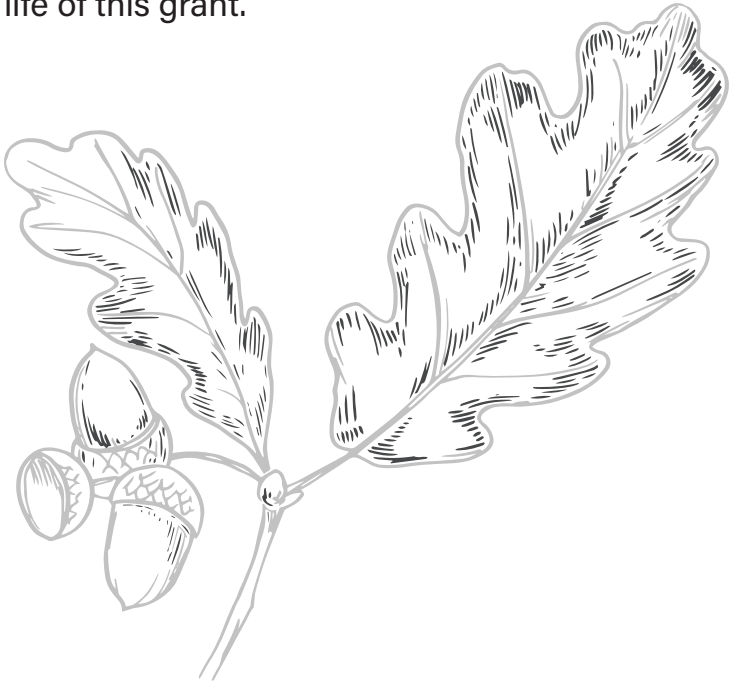
**Funding Amount:** Federal \$597,500; State \$597,500 Total: \$1,195,000

**Primary Partners:** American Forest Foundation, University of Kentucky, the Dendri Fund, Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, and Michigan.

**Project Overview:** Upland oak forests in the central hardwood region provide important wildlife habitat and generate valuable wood products, but the health of these forests is declining due to poor forest management/ high grading, invasive plants, insects, disease, fire suppression and a high number of deer consuming oak seedlings. State Forest Action Plans for participating states identified active forest management actions to sustain these important oak ecosystems as a priority. Primary project activities include a comprehensive assessment of upland oaks across all owners to identify priority areas; survey of landowners and forestry practitioners to understand barriers to oak management; a conservation plan with strategies for upland oak forests in the region; oak management demonstration (demo) and state implementation projects; and a technical guide, tools, and workshops for practitioners. In Ohio, this project supports/assists rural low-income communities through economic activity (e.g., logging crews and

sawmills) from sustainable timber harvesting. (including Vinton County, OH, identified as moderate-high vulnerability by the [CDC social vulnerability index](#) and identified as an [Opportunity Zone](#) (economically distressed)).




**Conclusion:** This grant enabled local, state, and federal partners to assess, plan, and complete treatments in priority areas to sustain healthy upland oak ecosystems in Ohio and across the region. Public benefits from well-managed oak forests include increasing wildlife habitat, water quality, and climate resilience; and sustaining economic activity/jobs from sustainable timber harvesting. Thousands of landowners and forestry professionals will be reached through this project, leading to more sustainable management of oak ecosystems beyond the life of this grant.



USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station Researcher Todd Hutchinson standing in a sea of oak seedlings that had a significant growth response from a midstory removal treatment at Vinton Furnace State Forest, Ohio. *Photo Credit: Cotton Randall, Ohio Division of Forestry.*

## At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments for the Ohio project to date:

-  Completed inventories on multiple forest demo areas, using Oak SILVAH<sup>2</sup> plot methods and decision support tool.
-  Developed a treatment plan for a subset of demo areas, including control of competing understory and midstory vegetation for oak seedling development on 15-25 acres.
-  Developed a plan to expand midstory removal treatment areas around a small, pilot treatment completed by USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station staff.

## Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Collaborative and coordinated watershed scale planning addressing and mitigating issues across ownerships
2. Improved riparian forest function and connectivity to adjacent forestlands
3. Stream bank stabilization, increased flood resilience, sediment and temperature reduction, improved water quality, and protection of Yellowstone Cutthroat and other native fish and wildlife species.

<sup>2</sup> SILVAH is a computer tool for making silvicultural decisions in hardwood stands of the mid-Atlantic and upper Appalachian region.



# 2020 MAPPING, PRIORITIZING, AND CONTROLLING INVASIVE PLANTS IN MAINE WOODLANDS

**Funding Amount:** Federal \$370,846; State \$225,306; Additional Partner Support \$208,674; Total: \$804,826

**Primary Partners:** Maine Forest Service and Maine Natural Areas Program in Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in partnership with the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, Acadia National Park Exotic Plant Management Team, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, land trust staff, private consulting foresters, Soil and Water Conservation District staff, experienced herbicide contractors, and others.

**Project Overview:** As identified in the Maine Forest Action Plan, invasive plant infestations are a threat to forest ecosystem health, wildlife, climate resilience, and economic value of forests. Funding was needed to mitigate invasive plants across ownerships and is critical for private lands since most landowners don't have access to funding and resources for invasive plant management. The Maine Forest Service and Maine Natural Areas Program are collaborating with a wide range of partners to map, strategically prioritize, and control terrestrial invasive plants on family, state, and municipal woodlands through a multi-phase effort:

1. Develop an Invasive Plant Landscape Plan to survey, map, and prioritize land management actions.
2. Provide financial incentives for landowners in priority areas to get Invasive Plant Control Practice Plans prepared by trained professionals.
3. Carry out a competitive program to implement priority Invasive Plant Control Plans.

This project reaches small scale low-income rural landowners , including counties identified as moderate-to high vulnerability by the [CDC social vulnerability index](#) and communities identified as [Opportunity Zone](#) (economically distressed).


**Conclusion:** This project mitigates invasive plants at a landscape scale on priority forest lands and equips resource professionals to address invasive plants after the project concludes. By managing invasive plants, the project aims to maintain and enhance forest health, so these woodlands are more climate resilient and continue to provide public benefits such as forest products and valuable wildlife habitat. When completed, they will have educated 300 landowners, prepared 240 invasive plant control plans, and treated 22,515 acres of forest land resulting in improved wildlife habitat, climate resilience, and economic value of the forest lands.



May 2021 Invasive Plant Academy at Pondicherry Park in Bridgton, Maine, one of the six field sites where the inaugural class of the academy practiced plant identification and mapping. Photo Credit by Hadley Couraud.

## At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments to date:

-  Treated 12,000 acres of private forest lands (federal funds)
-  Treated 8,115 acres of state forest lands (state match)
-  Treated 2,400 acres of other forest lands, e.g., municipal and land trust lands (leverage)

## Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Mitigate invasive plants on 22,515 acres state, private, and municipal forest lands.
2. Improve priority forest ecosystems and wildlife habitat across public and private lands.
3. Increased coordination with partners at a landscape level to mitigate invasive plants.



# 2018 FORT BENNING AREA PRESCRIBED FIRE INITIATIVE IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA

**Funding Amount:** Federal \$289,700; State \$289,700; Total: \$579,400

**Primary Partners:** Georgia Forestry Commission, Alabama Forestry Commission, Fort Benning, The Nature Conservancy, Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tall Timbers.

**Project Overview:** Military installations include some of the most important conservation areas in the southeast including longleaf pine habitat. The Fort Benning Area Prescribed Fire Initiative focuses on promoting and applying prescribed fire within the Fort Benning Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) and on similar state and private forests in West Central Georgia and East Central Alabama. Longleaf pine forests are adapted to fire and require fire to sustain and manage them. The initiative creates an opportunity for landscape-level management that supports and improves critical habitat for wildlife, such as gopher tortoise (a keystone species found in longleaf pine communities of the Southern United States), while helping maintain working forests. The project area is widely recognized as a key area for longleaf pine establishment, as is evidenced by the many projects funded and supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Conclusion:** Prescribed fire is a key management tool to restore and manage longleaf pine ecosystems. Assisting private landowners with prescribed burning – through forest management planning, prescribed burn manager certification courses and cost-share programs – ensured the project’s prescribed burning goals were achieved within the target area. In fact, this collaborative approach resulted in an increase in acres treated from prior years. Public benefits from well managed longleaf pine forests include improved wildlife habitat including for threatened and endangered species, water quality, and valuable timber.



Learn and Burn, Marion County, GA, March 2019  
Photo Credit: Lisa Duncan, GFC



## At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments to date:



Trained 295 landowners in prescribed fire operations through prescribed burn certification and Learn and Burn classes.



Completed 83 forest steward management plans covering 23,491 acres within the West Central Georgia Forest Landowners Association area.



Conducted prescribed burn operations that contributed to a total of 114,100 acres successfully treated with prescribed fire in the area, which supported the maintenance of at least 27,200 acres of longleaf pine.



Funded 185 prescribed burn applications through the West Central Georgia Prescribed Fire Initiative Cost Share Program for private forest landowners, which resulted in 21,289 acres burned.

## Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Promote prescribed burning application: Empowered private forest landowners and increased the number of certified prescribed burners through the delivery of certification courses.
2. Implement prescribed burning: Completed prescribed burns and supported landowners in completing prescribed burns through a competitive cost-share program.
3. Promote forest stewardship within the priority landscape surrounding Fort Benning: Prescribed fire and forest management were promoted through the collaborative development of forest stewardship plans and continued outreach to landowners about forest stewardship.

Prescribed burn, Marion County, GA, March 2019, Photo Credit: Lisa Duncan, GFC



# 2018 SUSTAINING HEMLOCKS WHILE LONG-TERM STRATEGIES ARE ESTABLISHED

**Funding Amount:** Federal \$150,000, State \$190,000; Total: \$340,000

**Primary Partners:** North Carolina Forest Service, Hemlock Restoration Initiative, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina State University (NCSU) Cooperative Extension, Blue Ridge Forever, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Tennessee Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Plant Industry Division, Blue Ridge Resource Conservation and Development Council, NCSU Forest Restoration Alliance and NCSU Camcore.

**Project Overview:** Eastern hemlocks are a foundation species in several distinct Appalachian habitats where they drive entire ecosystems and influence hydrology. The forest pest, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has heavily impacted native hemlock populations and is primarily to blame for the severe decline of eastern and Carolina hemlock in the eastern United States. The current mortality rate of NC’s hemlocks is estimated to be near 80%. This project leverages existing funding to expedite

the treatment (through a mix of chemical treatments, predatory beetle releases and demonstrations) of currently unprotected stands on both public and private lands. This effort helps ensure genetic diversity and conserves vital ecosystem functions throughout the range of hemlocks in the treatment area – while developing and integrating long-term sustainable strategies.





**Conclusion:** This effort is part of a larger commitment from the state to restore and maintain hemlocks and their ecosystem functions. While emphasizing initial chemical protection of stands, partners are collaborating with others to develop, establish and advance additional longer-term control and hemlock management strategies – many of which will be implemented within the hemlock conservation areas established through this project. Hemlock treatment on these hemlock conservation areas is an ongoing priority.



Hemlock Restoration Initiative staff teach HWA management workshop participants about biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid. (McDowell Tech Community College). *Photo Credit: North Carolina Hemlock Restoration Initiative*

## At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments to date:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Established 57 new hemlock conservation areas on at least 1,500 acres.                |  Chemically treated 82,101 hemlocks on 5,261 acres of public and private lands in North Carolina.                               |
|  Released 6,374 predatory beetles, which target the HWA forest pest, onto state lands. |  Conducted 15 training workshops, with treatment demonstrations, to promote hemlock protection, for state and private partners. |

## Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Establishment of Hemlock Conservation areas: Hemlock Treatment Plans are created, documenting the site’s value and a plan for each hemlock conservation area.
2. Chemical treatment of Hemlock: Most hemlock stands on state parks, state forests, state game lands and agricultural research stations have received at least one treatment.
3. Long term hemlock management strategies: Predatory beetles have been surveyed in areas where releases occurred in previous years.



# 2019 MONROE MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT IN UTAH

**Funding Amount:** Federal \$300,000, State and other non-federal match \$332,553; Additional partner support: \$198,940 Total: \$831,493

**Primary Partners:** Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands; Sevier County; USFS Fishlake National Forest; Monroe Mountain Working Group; Utah Partners for Conservation and Development; Natural Resources Conservation Service; USU Cooperative Extension; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Western Aspen Alliance; Utah Cattlemen’s Association; Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Utah Farm Bureau; Monroe Mountain Permittees; Grand Canyon Trust; Brigham Young University; and Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative.

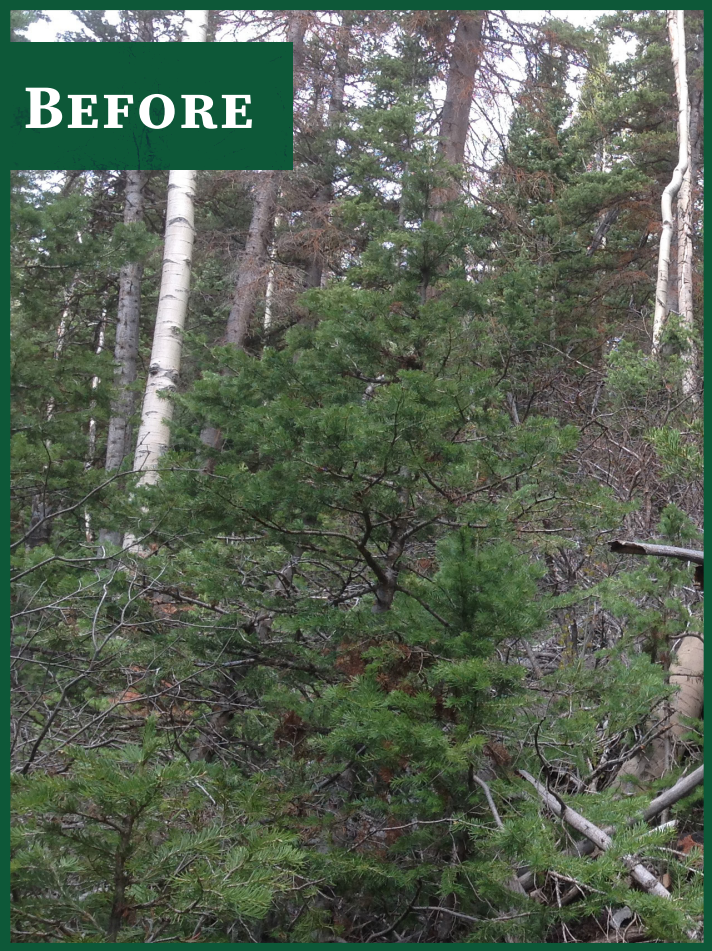
**Project Overview:** Nestled within a larger project area encompassing 188,000 acres of public and private land, the Monroe Mountain project in Utah is within the boundary of the Fishlake National Forest and targets 400 acres of private land in critical need of aspen restoration. Aspen trees are declining on Monroe Mountain due to conifer trees encroachment, abundant fuel loading, and lack of aspen regeneration due to browsing by cattle, sheep, elk and deer, which also creates fire risk. The project targets private land within the Monroe Mountain boundary

through forest management, assessment, and conservation planning with willing private landowners. Project goals are to improve aspen forests, reduce wildfire risk, increase water quality and habitat connectivity, and provide other public benefits.

**Conclusion:** Restoring aspen ecosystems to Monroe Mountain is critically important to the State of Utah. This innovative private-lands approach complements aspen restoration on federal lands, provides multiple benefits, and advances an all-lands approach on Monroe Mountain. Public benefits from aspen restoration include wildfire risk reduction, water quality and quantity enhancement, and improved habitat and habitat connectivity for aspen-dependent species.



## BEFORE



## AFTER



Monroe Mountain pre and post treatment. Photo Credit: Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands

### At A Glance:

Primary on-the-ground activities and accomplishments to date:



Treated 267  
acres to reduce  
hazardous fuels



Treated 100  
acres for insects  
and disease



Treated 100  
acres to enhance  
wildlife habitat

### Three key restoration outcomes that will result from the project:

1. Healthy aspen forests will be restored through selective cutting and thinning of conifers on about 400 acres of private land in-holdings, improving the function of aspen ecosystems and creating short-term and long-term job opportunities for local contractors.
2. Wildfire risk to private landowners and surrounding communities will be reduced by re-establishing healthy and resilient aspen forest ecosystems.
3. Water quality and quantity will be improved for surrounding communities by restoring healthy aspen ecosystems across Monroe Mountain’s 188,000-acre public-private landscape.



Appendix A, Fiscal Year 2018, Landscape Scale Restoration Funded Projects

State	Project Name	Funding
AL	Trees and the Law: Reduced-Cost Training to Educate Forest Owners, Arborists, Lawyers, and Political Decision-Makers	\$40,000
CO	Emerald Ash Borer Collective Response	\$300,000
CT	Connecticut's Land Trusts: A Sustainable Model for Habitat Management	\$71,265
DE	Chesapeake Tree Stewards: Mobilizing a network for tree canopy	\$353,168
FL	Transitional Geospatial Training for State Forestry Field Personnel	\$55,148
FL	Expanding Landscape Scale Planning and Automation	\$280,000
FL	Florida, Georgia and North Carolina Wood Supply Assessment	\$235,000
FM	Improving Pacific Island Priority Mangrove and Terrestrial Area Monitoring under the Micronesia Challenge	\$234,835
GA	Fort Benning Area Prescribed Fire Initiative	\$289,700
GU	Manell-Geus Watershed Landscape Restoration	\$198,000
HI	Developing Seed Orchards for Hawaiian Sandalwood	\$250,800
IA	Healthy Forests and Invasive Plants Control in the Lower Missouri River Valley	\$196,071
IA	Block by Block - Transforming Disaster into Community Engagement	\$341,527
ID	Idaho Forest Economic Analysis and Investment Prioritization Program	\$300,000
KS	Utilizing Community-Based Programs to Combat Canopy Loss in Metro Kansas City	\$300,000
KS	Restoring Arkansas River Water Quality and Quantity Phase Two	\$300,000
KY	Energy-Saving Trees Program	\$236,000
KY	Upland Oak Sustainability and Management Project	\$690,175
KY	Promoting Forestry in the South: Education on Utilizing Economic Data	\$136,553
MA	Grassroots Tree Planting in Three Small Low-Income Cities within Rural Massachusetts	\$219,399
MD	Weathering the Storm: Strategies for Long-term Management of Tidal Forests Decimated by EAB	\$208,257
MI	Trout and Trees: Linking Forests and Streams Through On-the-ground Restoration and Education	\$171,847
MI	Protecting Michigan's Hemlock Resource	\$390,220
MN	Landscape Scale Restoration with Prescribed Fire in Minnesota	\$245,474
MN	Protecting Minnesota's Family Lake Resorts and Enhancing Local Tourism Through Forest Stewardship	\$95,000
MN	Advanced Wood Basket Analysis Training	\$29,300
MO	Kansas City's Energy-Saving Trees	\$80,952
MT	Forest Stewardship on Alvord Lake Community Forest	\$132,000
MT	Gold Creek Meadows Partnership	\$300,000
MT	Trees in Montana's Tribal Communities	\$186,000
NC	Sustaining Hemlocks While Long-term Strategies Are Established	\$150,000
NC	Working Toward Restoration of Critically Imperiled Forest Tree Species	\$142,744
NC	Estimating Soil Erosion Reductions from Operational Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices	\$145,000
NH	Town Forests & Citizen Science: A Tool for Public Engagement & Stewardship Planning	\$144,842
NJ	Storms, Sewers & Social Justice: Increasing Resiliency in 2 Sewersheds of the Delaware River Watershed	\$306,470
NJ	New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team: Expanding Partnerships to Increase Invasive Plant Control	\$216,275
NM	Restoring the Rare Santa Rosa Cienegas	\$299,718
NV	Truckee Meadows Cooperative Weed Group - Integrated Weed Management and Ecosystem Restoration	\$300,000
OH	Landscape Restoration: Upland Oak Sustainability Management in the Central Hardwood Region	\$597,500
OR	Tree Mapping	\$300,000
OR	Forestry Schools	\$300,000
SC	Creating Resilient Coastal Forests in the Southeastern United States	\$370,000
TN	Regional Forest Products Export Conference	\$94,000
TX	Tree Canopy on the Edge	\$236,851
TX	Forest Champions: Advancing Forest Advocacy, Leadership and Legacy through the Forest Owner Institute	\$320,000
TX	Blue Skies Ahead: Recovering from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma	\$215,600
VA	Expanding Markets, Management, and Utilization of Urban, Community & Interface Forests	\$344,744
VA	Developing and Implementing Strategies to Improve Management, Health and Utilization of Forests and Forest Industry through Market Development	\$185,122
WA	PS Canopy Analysis	\$300,000
WA	Urban Forest Equity	\$200,154
WI	Financial Contributions of the Urban Forest Industry and Resource in the Northeastern Area	\$309,200
	Total	\$12,344,911

Appendix B, Fiscal Year 2019, Landscape Scale Restoration Funded Projects

State	Project Name	Funding
AL	Expanding Landscape Level Planning in Alabama & Tennessee	\$325,000
AR	Shortleaf Pine Phase IV	\$246,009
AZ	Bark Beetle Prioritization and Rapid Response Planning	\$300,000
CT	The Connecticut Master Woodland Owner Program	\$216,025
FL	Growing Young Conservation Leaders and Natural Resource Career Exploration	\$340,148
GA	Evaluating the Southern Region Forest and Water Connection	\$416,924
GA	Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives	\$325,000
GA	Community Forest Pre-Planning for Storms Online Course Development	\$162,000
HI	Community Based Collaborative Restoration: An Innovative Approach to Reforestation of Public Lands (PuuWaaWaa/Akaka)	\$198,497
IA	Hazardous Fuels Management in Iowa's Loess Hills Eco-Region	\$119,677
ID	Restoring the Teton River Riparian Forest	\$300,000
ID	Idaho Fire Resilient State Parks	\$300,000
IL	Landscape Scale Stewardship Clusters: Prioritized Implementation of Oak Ecosystem Recovery	\$298,005
IL	Assuring Self-Sufficiency in Forest Restoration at the Public/Private Interface	\$317,350
KS	All Lands Stewardship: Cross-Boundary Landscape Forest Stewardship in the Wooded Plains, Flint Hills, and Loess/Glacial Drift Hills in High Priority Landscapes	\$300,000
LA	Cost of Forest Practices Scale of Assessment for the Western Gulf	\$98,737
MA	Increasing Resiliency in Southern New England Oak Forests	\$191,201
MA	Planting Trees for Improved Community Health	\$252,124
MD	Increasing the Pace and Impact of Forest Restoration in the Potomac Headwaters Landscape	\$245,861
MD	Adapting Mid-Atlantic Reservoir Forests for Climate Change	\$269,490
MI	Little Bridges of Michigan Counties	\$301,313
MI	No Markets, No Management	\$398,500
MN	Our Dynamic Forests: 4D Canopy Volume and Other Important Metrics for Modern Forest Management	\$350,000
MT	Lolo Creek Post Fire Restoration	\$300,000
MT	Sanders County Stewardship Initiative	\$300,000
NC	Southern Forest Area Change Tool	\$210,000
NJ	Rehabilitating New Jersey's Pest-Plagued Forests	\$300,000
NM	Restoring and Reconnecting Navajo Nation's San Juan River	\$293,768
NV	Upper Meadow Valley Wash Riparian Forest Improvement Project	\$276,406
NY	Expand the Gowanus Tree Network to Build a Sustainable Urban Forest	\$297,348
OH	Longitudinal Assessment of Urban Tree Canopy EAB	\$141,000
OR	Wasco County Oak Restoration	\$300,000
PA	Southern Laurel Highlands Plant and Pest Management Partnership	\$85,000
TN	Hemlock Adelgid Suppression TN/KY	\$355,000
TX	Streamlining Landowner Assistance Through Electronic Land Management Records (ELMR)	\$266,683
TX	Emerging Rural Landscapes Initiative	\$210,000
UT	Monroe Mountain	\$300,000
UT	Virgin River Watershed Restoration	\$300,000
VA	Utilizing the SRTS Model	\$95,798
VA	The Grand Slam: Slowing Ash Mortality in the South	\$350,000
VA	Economic Impact of Southern Community Forestry Industry	\$150,000
VA	Developing the Next Generation of Fire Line Leaders	\$60,000
VA	Improving Forest Health and Utilization by Improving Use of Firewood Fuels	\$179,995
VT	Stories of Vermont's Forests	\$68,541
VT	Community Forests as Models of Stewardship	\$197,146
WA	Addressing Environmental Inequities in Low-Income and Racially Diverse Cities by Working with Youth to Restore an Urban Watershed	\$300,000
WA	Colville-Little Spokane Watershed Landscape-Scale Forest Stewardship Project	\$300,000
WI	PlayCleanGo Outreach Campaign Expansion	\$219,340
WI	Bringing Sustainable Forestry Outreach into the 21st Century: Testing New Methods and Digital Outreach Strategies to Connect with the Increase of Women Forestland Owners	\$108,658
	Total	\$12,236,544




Appendix C, Fiscal Year 2020, Landscape Scale Restoration Funded Projects

State	Project Name	Funding
AL	Drone Fire Support	\$455,000
AS	Invasive Plant Species Control, Coastal Erosion Management, and Reforestation Efforts in the islands of Ofu and Olosega, American Samoa	\$120,850
FL	Increasing Prescribed Fire on the Longleaf Priority Landscape Through Partnerships	\$240,000
FL	Smoke Modeling and Burn Authorization Process	\$96,000
FL	Weather Forecasting/GIS Application for Maximizing Prescribed Burns on Public Lands	\$130,000
FL	Modernizing Florida BMP Monitoring with GIS Technology Implementation	\$157,000
FM	Micronesia Challenge terrestrial monitoring... to support FSM FAP	\$199,922
GA	Keeping Forests as Forests	\$299,769
GA	West Central Georgia Prescribed Fire Initiative: Phase 2	\$100,000
HI	Kohala Watershed Partnership: Protecting and Sustaining the Source Waters of Kawaihae and Honokoa Watersheds through Restoration & Community Stewardship	\$300,000
IA	Restoring Adaptive Capacity in Driftless Area Forests	\$249,978
IA	Regenerating Iowa's White Pine Population in the Driftless Area	\$69,811
IA	Tree-mendous Growth; 3 Million Iowans for 3 Million Trees	\$181,249
ID	Clearwater Basin Critical Need Seed Orchard	\$300,000
ID	Wood River Valley Collaborative Forest Enhancements	\$300,000
IL	Preserving Oak Ecosystems for the Future: Public and Private Partnerships	\$397,500
KS	Improving Water Quality & Quantity Across Boundaries in Priority Watersheds	\$300,000
KS	Improving Water Quality on Tribal and Private Forestlands in the Delaware Watershed - Phase 2	\$300,000
KY	Limiting the spread of laurel wilt disease on sassafras in Kentucky and Tennessee through outreach and management	\$150,000
KY	Conservation, protection, and enhancement of forest canopies in rural communities and small municipalities	\$416,337
KY	Assessment of volunteer-driven reforestation efforts in Northern Kentucky	\$41,447
ME	Mapping, Prioritizing & Controlling Invasive Plants In Maine Woodlands	\$370,846
MI	Integrating Forest Management & Bird Habitat in Michigan	\$130,241
MI	Engaging Youth & Communities to Protect and Restore Forest Landscapes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula	\$151,932
MN	Protecting Minnesota's Forested Watersheds for Loons, Lunkers & Logs	\$285,000
MN	Restoring Adaptive Capacity in Driftless Area Forests	\$31,500
MO	Heart of the Ozarks Landscape Scale Restoration Project	\$530,000
NC	Increasing Prescribed Fire Capacity Through Education and Experiential Learning	\$487,053
NC	Sustaining Hemlocks, Phase II	\$150,000
NE	Creating Rural Community Forest Advocates	\$300,000
NE	Forest Resiliency	\$299,000
NM	Reintroducing Fire to the Turkey Mountains Landscape	\$101,000
NV	Upper Diamond Peak Hazardous Fuels Reduction & Forest Restoration Project	\$300,000
NY	Amplifying the creation of dynamic, diverse, and resilient forests: Connecting foresters with habitat-motivated forest owners through targeted training, engagement, and demonstration sites	\$208,945
NY	Eradication of New York State's Invasive Giant Hogweed in Rural Forested Sites on Public and Private Land	\$163,332
OH	Ohio Call Before You Cut 2.0: Expanded Outreach and Modernization	\$60,000
OR	Willamette Valley Oak Collaboration	\$300,000
OR	South Fork John Day Partnership for Forest Health	\$300,000
PA	Restoring Pennsylvania's Forests through Technology-efficient Outreach & a Market-based Approach	\$474,430
PA	Building Woodland Stewardship Networks across the Mason Dixon	\$293,553
TN	Forestry Workforce Promotion & Training Program	\$100,000
TN	Equipping our Foresters with Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively	\$100,000
TN	Learn Plan Act 2.0 - Interactive E-Learning Videos for Tennessee Landowners	\$175,000
TX	Implementing Restoration Practices to Establish and Enhance Pollinator Habitat	\$200,000
TX	Conservation Education Innovative Growth and Expansion	\$120,000
TX	Building awareness and acceptance of cross-laminated timber among development, planning, and design professionals across the South	\$263,000
TX	Extending Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification Across the South	\$195,000
TX	Demographic and Health Analysis	\$315,000
UT	Aspen Resilience in Priority Watersheds of Southeastern Utah	\$300,000
VT	Healthy Forests, Healthy Sugarbushes BMPs: A collaborative approach to sustainable sap production	\$157,295
WA	Integrated Restoration across Multiple Land Ownerships in the Stemilt Watershed	\$300,000
WI	Catalyzing Regional Forest & Wildlife Habitat Management Through Cooperative Management & Landowner Engagement in Central WI	\$248,000
WI	PlayCleanGo Outreach Campaign Expansion	\$120,967
	Total	\$12,335,957

Appendix D, Fiscal Year 2021, Landscape Scale Restoration Funded Projects

State	Project Name	Funding
AL	Enhancing & Modernizing the Cost Trends of Southern Forestry Practices Survey	\$102,500
AZ	Integrated Methods to Maximize Multi-Watershed Restoration Impacts in Southern Arizona Borderlands	\$195,347
CA	Butte County Forested Wildland Urban Interface	\$300,000
GA	Engaging Family Forest Owners in Carbon Solutions and Markets	\$180,000
GU	Guam Restoration of Watershed (GROW) Initiative: Ugum Restoration	\$199,849
HI	Napu'u Conservation: Protecting and Reforesting the Threatened Montane Dry Forests of North Kona, HI	\$300,000
HI	Stopping the Spread of Invasive Tree Ferns to Preserve Hawaii's Remaining Native Forests	\$299,002
IA	Planting trees for climate-adapted communities in rural Iowa and Illinois	\$386,010
ID	Blackfoot River Watershed Restoration - Phase 3	\$300,000
IL	Regional Adaptive Management Partnerships	\$181,178
KY	Upland Oak Sustainability & Management in the Central Hardwood Region Phase II	\$444,945
KY	Increasing the Pace and Scale of Forest Restoration & Wildlife Habitat Improvement in Eastern Kentucky	\$183,342
KY	Restoring Shortleaf Pine forests in the Cumberland Plateau	\$95,000
KY	Increasing Resiliency in Forestlands Across Kentucky	\$60,000
KY	Recognizing the Contribution Trees on Private Property Make to Community Sustainability and Livability	\$122,500
MA	Creating resilient riparian forests to protect source water in the Merrimack River Watershed	\$250,297
MD	Delmarva Woodland Stewards for Wildlife, Wildfire, Water, & Wood	\$280,852
MI	Biomass Power Economic Analysis Project	\$244,121
MN	Collaborative County – Family Forest Conservation	\$295,000
MN	Restoring Ecosystem Resiliency with Prescribed Fire across Minnesota & Wisconsin Landscapes	\$499,662
MO	Treesilience in the St. Louis Area	\$197,778
MP	Lao Lao Bay Restoration and Re-vegetation Project	\$70,000
MS	Removing bottlenecks in the supply-chain of the sawmilling sector: Identification, improvement, & economic benefits	\$179,795
MT	Clearwater Valley Collaborative Landscape Restoration	\$300,000
NE	Nebraska Forest Restoration Partnership: Accelerating Pace & Scale of Post-Fire Reforestation	\$300,000
NE	Small Projects, Wide Reach Nebraska	\$98,070
NE	Improving Bur Oak Resiliency: Phase One - NE/KS multi-state	\$343,640
NH	Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program	\$500,719
NV	Walker River Riparian forest noxious weed mitigation	\$294,990
NY	Accelerating Improved Forest Management and Carbon Sequestration in New York State	\$148,574
OH	Making a Young Landscape Old: Landscape-scale forest restoration to promote biodiversity & resilience to climate change	\$67,500
OR	Elk River - Port Orford Watersheds Project	\$300,000
PR	Forest Fire Prevention in Fire Prone Landscapes in Puerto Rico	\$242,264
SC	Proactive sky-scouting to detect areas at high-risk from spread of invasive Callery pear	\$231,595
TN	Forestry Workforce Promotion & Training Program	\$202,000
TN	Shortleaf Pine Initiative and Restoration Partners	\$321,510
TN	Landscape Management Planning 2.0	\$136,491
TX	Integrating Climate Change data into SouthWRAP	\$110,000
TX	Identify Ways to Enhance Connections, Develop Tailored Programs, & Promote Forest Management to Small-Acreage, Non-timber Objective Landowners	\$216,695
TX	Rising from the ashes: Facilitating ecosystem recovery following natural disasters.	\$226,100
TX	Delivering Technical Assistance in the Virtual World	\$258,500
TX	Using UAS for forest health: Monitoring key threats, prioritizing management, & educating the public	\$358,430
UT	Little Bear Forest Resilience Project	\$300,000
UT	Mill and Pack Creeks Watershed Restoration	\$297,308
VA	Putting Plans into Action: Hardwood Management in Virginia	\$190,000
VA	Rebuilding Prescribed Burning Capacity for Restoration Landscapes in Virginia	\$205,000
VA	Restoration of Ailanthus Stands Following Their Removal with a Bio-herbicide	\$100,000
VT	Women in the Woods: Healthy forests through empowerment & engagement of women in Vermont	\$231,173
VT	Building Forest and Community Resilience to Invasive Species through Proactive Management	\$179,878
WA	San Juan Archipelago Garry Oak Ecosystem Restoration	\$268,460
WI	Upland Oak Sustainability & Management in the Central Hardwood Region	\$476,703
WI	Enhancing Climate Adaptability of Lake Michigan Coastal Forests & Shoreline Habitats	\$263,450
	Total	\$12,536,228





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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
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