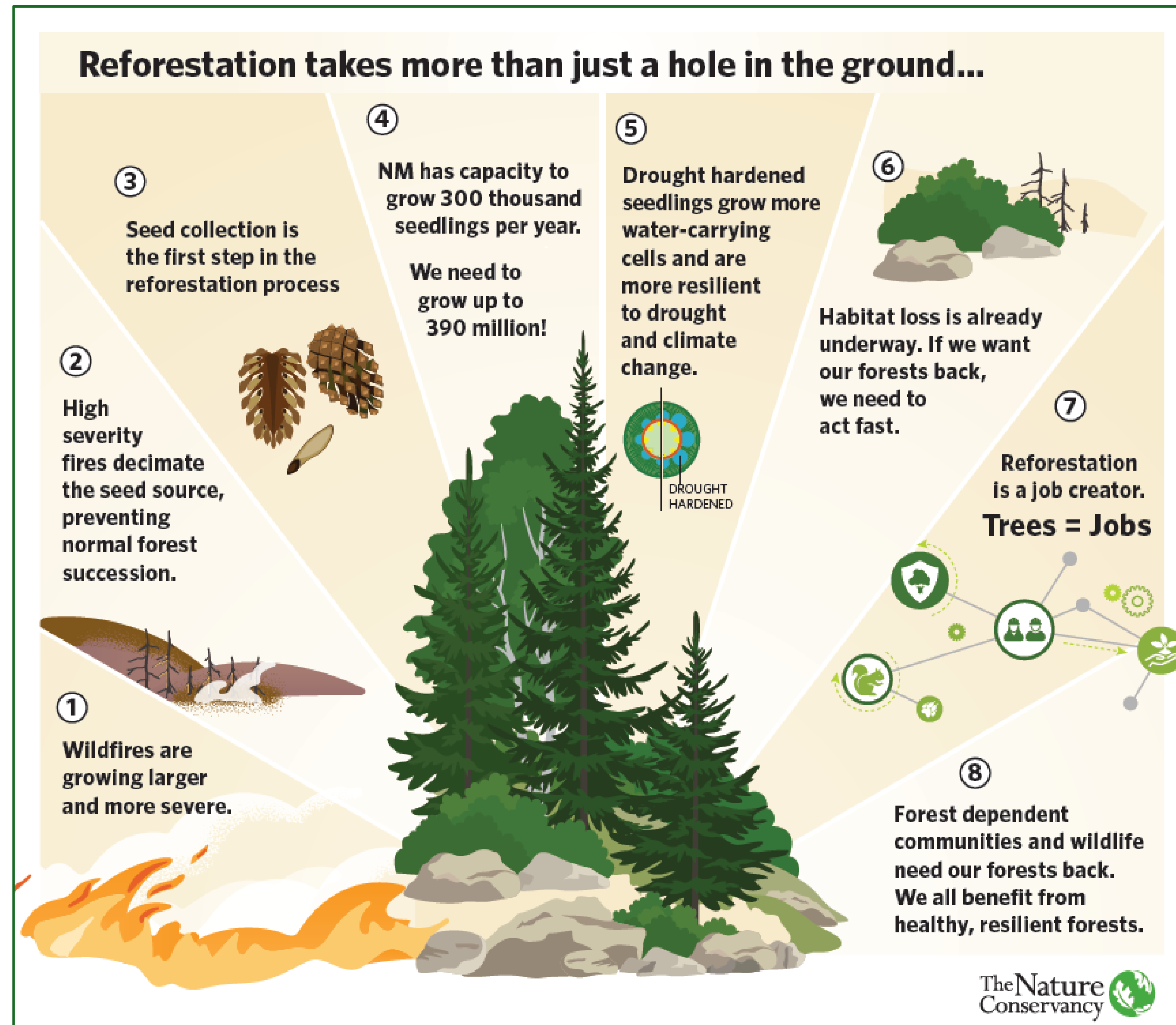


What Is Reforestation?

Reforestation is the growing and nurturing of trees to help maintain healthy, resilient forests. This work is done to maintain appropriate forest cover, achieve desired ecological conditions, and restore forests for wildlife, watersheds, and recreational experiences.

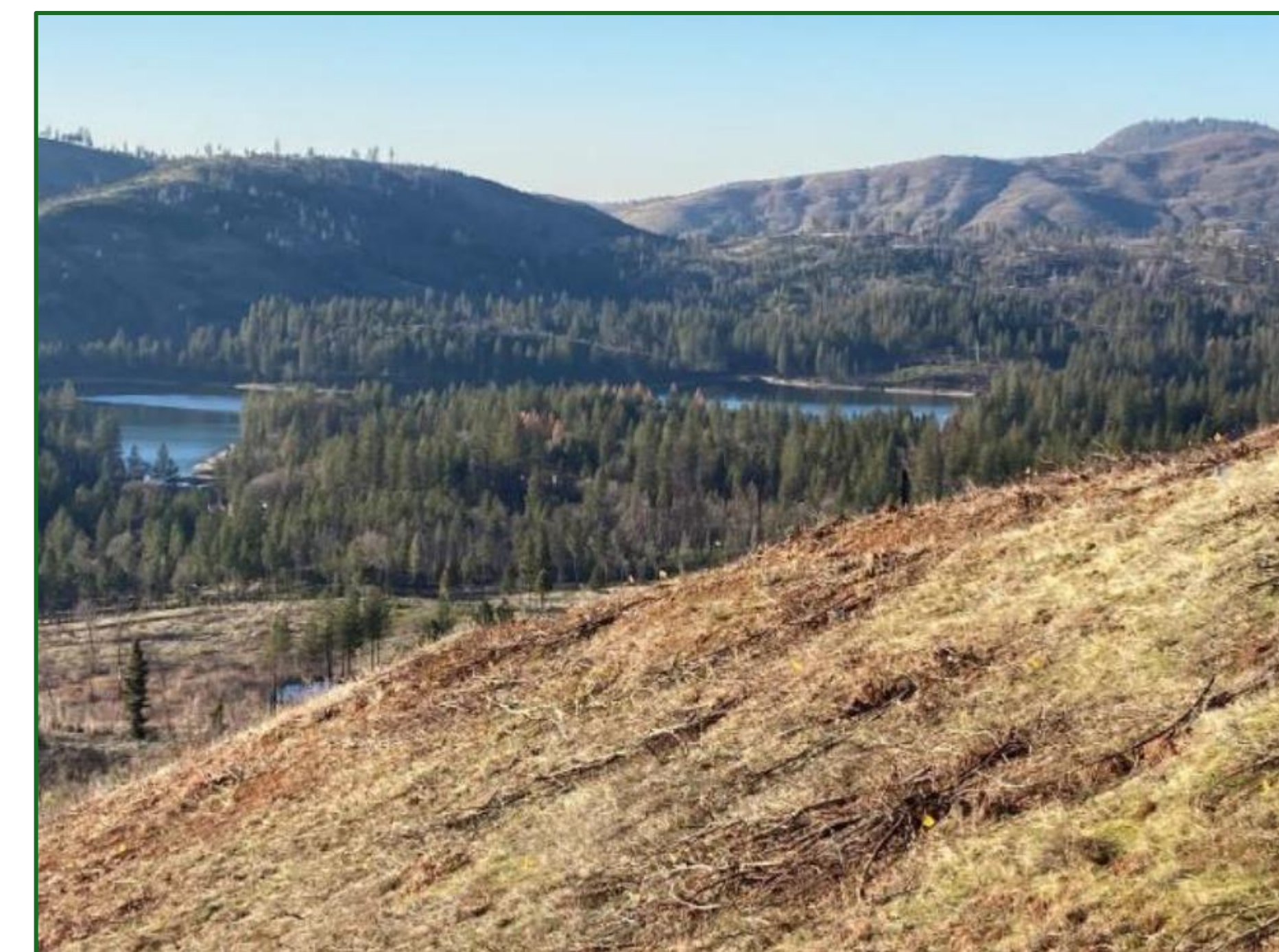


Severe threats to forested landscapes continue to escalate in size, frequency, and intensity. Uncharacteristic wildfire, insect infestations, diseases, drought, flooding, and invasive species endanger forests and create a need for restoration.

In the case of particularly large, severe disturbances such as wildfires, remaining seed sources may simply be too far away to support effective natural regeneration.



After two repeat high-severity fires (the 1996 Dome Fire and the 2011 Las Conchas Fire), this former ponderosa pine forest in northern New Mexico is now dominated by re-sprouting shrubs and nonnative grasses. Photo taken in 2016. USDA Forest Service photo by Sean Parks.



- Hillside after mechanical site preparation for tree planting

To grow and nurture resilient forests for tomorrow.



- Healthy forests provide life-sustaining benefits, goods, and services.



First, we determine if planting is appropriate at a given site or whether natural regeneration is a better option.



Douglas-fir seedlings growing in containers at the Coeur d'Alene Nursery, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, in 2021. USDA Forest Service photo by Kas Dumroese.

Reforestation in the right place, at the right time, with the right species, and at appropriate scales are the keys to successful reforestation efforts.

Achieving this vision of growing and nurturing resilient forests for tomorrow requires action today.