



# Northwest Forest Plan — Enduring Legacies & Progress

The Northwest Forest Plan works to balance conservation and sustainability across 17 forests and one national scenic area in California, Oregon and Washington. This balance includes conserving natural resources and species’ habitat, providing timber and other forest products from federal lands, ensuring clean water, and meeting community and visitor needs. As we mark 30 years, here is some of what the Northwest Forest Plan has accomplished.

## 1. Created an Interagency Monitoring Program

Nature is never static. Wildfires, climate change, invasive species, disease and humans all alter the health and resilience of forest ecosystems. The plan provides regular reports and long-term data to track the effectiveness of the plan. As a model for other monitoring strategies worldwide, this program tracks unforeseen challenges like atypical wildfires and climate changes.

*...possibly the largest such program undertaken anywhere in the world*

—ECOLOGY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 2019

## 2. Halted the Loss of Older Forests & Habitats

Centuries-old conifers and other mature forests and old-growth habitat easily owe their continued existence to protections provided in the Northwest Forest Plan. These rich forests provide habitat for endangered and sensitive species, store carbon, and provide clean air and water.

## 3. Established an Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The plan has helped us conserve aquatic habitats that provide clean and cold water and help at-risk species. The watersheds with high-quality salmon habitat covered by the plan have shown improvements in canopy cover, large tree densities, and forest stand condition. Decreased road density has also resulted in less instream sediment — reducing impacts on the often unseen, instream macroinvertebrate communities.



## 4. Shifted Toward a Shared Ecosystem Approach

The plan created landscape-scale research and forest management practices to benefit people, plants and animals. This inclusive approach continues to gather and refine data, to share with the public and partners. This conservation of trees, aquatic systems, and species is interwoven with economic and cultural resilience

for the communities within the Northwest Forest Plan area.

**For more information about the Northwest Forest Plan, including how to comment, scan the QR code or visit: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfpbackground](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/nwfpbackground)**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service salmon photo.

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