

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of green leaves stands in the center of a lush green field. The sun is positioned behind the tree, creating a bright glow and lens flare effects. The sky is a clear blue with some light, wispy clouds. In the background, a line of smaller trees and a few distant buildings are visible on the horizon.

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

# One Trillion Trees Initiative

GROWING, RESTORING, AND CONSERVING THE WORLD'S TREES



Dear Mr. President,

At the [50th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#) in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2020, you proudly announced that the United States would join the global Trillion Trees Initiative. Your decision for the United States to participate in the World Economic Forum's Trillion Trees Initiative positions our Nation to play a vital role in achieving its goals.

In October 2020, you signed [Executive Order 13955, establishing the One Trillion Trees Interagency Council \(Council\)](#) and appointing us as its co-chairs. Pursuant to Executive Order 13895, the Council will develop, coordinate, and promote Federal Government interactions with respect to tree growing, restoration, and conservation efforts and coordinate with key stakeholders to advance the Trillion Trees Initiative. The Federal Government has many agencies and programs that can contribute.

This document describes major opportunities, or "focus areas," that the Federal Government will pursue to fulfill its obligations under Executive Order 13955, which provides a framework for coordinating Government resources to help achieve the Trillion Trees Initiative's goals. This framework includes the following general categories:

- Federal forest management;
- Technical assistance for private landowners and State, Tribal, and county governments;
- Public/private partnerships;
- Data and science; and
- International sustainable forest management.

The Council will proudly implement Executive Order 13955 for years to come in order to continue growing, restoring, and conserving trees in the United States and around the world.



David L. Bernhardt  
Secretary of the Interior, Co-chair of Council  
December 21, 2020



Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture, Co-chair of Council  
December 21, 2020

# Support for Trillion Trees

## COURSE TO THE FUTURE

In January 2020, recognizing the importance of forests, the global community issued a Trillion Trees Challenge at the [50th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#) in Davos, Switzerland. The Davos forum launched [1t.org](#), a global platform for conserving, restoring, and growing 1 trillion trees by 2030. [American Forests](#), a conservation organization founded in 1875, collaborated with the Administration and worked with the World Economic Forum to establish a [U.S. Chapter of 1t.org](#). This is the first national chapter of the global movement.

At the Davos forum, President Donald J. Trump announced that the United States would join the Trillion Trees Initiative. In October 2020, President Trump signed [Executive Order 13955 establishing the One Trillion Trees Interagency Council \(Council\)](#).

Co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Council spans more than a dozen Federal agencies and works independently from the American Forests and 1t.org. The Council's task is to identify opportunities for Federal agencies to work with partners to protect, restore, and conserve trees. The Council will recommend ways to overcome statutory, regulatory, and other barriers that might stand in the way. The Council will also establish methods for tracking and measuring Federal contributions to the Trillion Trees Initiative, including trees grown, restored, and conserved.

The United States has many opportunities to contribute to the Trillion Trees Initiative. We have 8 percent of the world's forests across 766 million acres (about a third of the Nation's land area), including 238 million acres of Federal forests, all managed for growing and conserving trees. The Federal Government also offers technical assistance and financial support for growing trees and conserving forests on State, Tribal, private, and other lands.

The United States has opportunities to strengthen existing and develop new public/private partnerships that will build Nation's capacity to grow more trees. Federal agencies also conduct extensive research on growing trees and conserving forests and are able to make their data and science available to support the Trillion Trees Initiative. Drawing on Federal expertise in forest science and management, the United States will work with partners to plant trees and protect and sustainably manage forests around the world.



Using a compass and other tools, a USDA Forest Service scientist collects data in the Pacific Northwest (USDA Forest Service photo by Mike Ausman).

## One Trillion Trees INTERAGENCY COUNCIL MEMBERS

U.S. Department of the Interior  
(co-chair)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
(co-chair)

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of the Treasury

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Agency for International  
Development

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Management and Budget

Office of Economic Initiatives  
and Entrepreneurship

Council on Environmental Quality

Office of Science and  
Technology Policy

Senior Advisor to the President

Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy

Assistant to the President and Director  
of Intergovernmental Affairs

Assistant to the President and Deputy  
Chief of Staff for Policy Coordination

Assistant to the President for  
Economic Policy

Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)



# Establishing the Interagency Council's **FIVE FOCUS AREAS**

The Council will establish five focus areas for its work over the next several years to advance the Trillion Trees Initiative.

## **① EMPHASIZE AND ENHANCE FEDERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT**

The system of national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands in the United States is the birthright of every American and the envy of the world. On average each year, agencies in the U.S. Department of the Interior alone plant approximately 20 million trees to reforest public lands or establish new forests. On the national forests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service has opportunities for reforestation across millions of acres of public land, many suffering from the effects of wildfires. Legislation currently before Congress to lift the cap on the Reforestation Trust Fund would dramatically increase reforestation opportunities in national forests. Working with Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners, the Forest Service is developing a comprehensive reforestation strategy for the next 10 years.

## **② EMPHASIZE AND ENHANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Federally recognized Tribes, private companies, and family forest landowners own 58 percent of the forest lands in the United States; State and local governments together manage an additional 11 percent. Federal agencies have programs which assist States, Tribes, local governments, and private forest landowners in managing their lands sustainably through training, planning assistance, grants, scientific knowledge, and innovative practices. Through its Urban and Community Forestry Program, for example, the USDA Forest Service helps American communities maintain and protect about 12 billion trees using many of these tools.

## **③ LEVERAGE PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships between Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations can capitalize on public enthusiasm for the Nation's forests and the philanthropic spirit of our citizens to support the Trillion Trees Initiative. Public/private partnerships can help fill gaps in seed production and tree nursery capacity. Working with partners, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supports tree planting to reduce soil contaminants, improve drinking water aquifers, and conserve green spaces in urban areas. Through its Seeds of Success program, the Bureau of Land Management has engaged partners and volunteers for 20 years in collecting native seeds for replanting trees to restore forests following wildfires. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement at the Department of the Interior works with private partners to plant trees on lands previously cleared for mining. For example, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, a coalition of groups including citizens, the coal industry, and Federal and State Governments, conducts outreach, trainings, and tree planting events on reclaimed coal mine lands. At the National Park Service's Flight 93 National Memorial, Federal agencies and partners hold annual tree planting events on the site, attracting hundreds of volunteers each year. The USDA Forest Service routinely works with partners such as the National Forest Foundation, American Forests, and the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees and reforest public lands.

Additionally, USDA and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) serve on the Stakeholder Council of the 1t.org U.S. Chapter. Our continued collaboration with the U.S. Chapter will be critical to ensuring the United States meets its goals to contribute to the Trillion Trees Initiative.





## ④ EMPHASIZE AND ENHANCE DATA AND SCIENCE

Sustainable forest management depends on sound forest science. The U.S. Department of the Interior, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency all support basic and applied forest science that can benefit the Trillion Trees Initiative. For example, the USDA Forest Service conducts nationwide forest surveys through its Forest Inventory and Analysis Program that is being utilized in various activities by the U.S. Chapter of 1t.org. The Office of Science and Technology Policy facilitates workforce development through education in science, technology, engineering, and math, all crucial to sustainable forest management. Internationally, the USAID works with partners on new science and technology applications, including improved monitoring of results. The Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey routinely uses Landsat data to assess deforestation and reforestation across the globe and to monitor forest change globally. These data could be used to identify habitat that is suitable to be forested.

## ⑤ EMPHASIZE AND ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The United States is a leader in fostering sustainable forest management around the world. The U.S. Department of State supports other countries in building their capacity for sustainable forest management. The U.S. Government can help other governments foster private investment in sustainable forest management, in part by improving forest governance, stopping illegal logging and deforestation, and creating frameworks for participatory decision making. The USAID works with governments, local communities, and other partners in 45 countries to conserve, restore, and protect their forests. Together with the USDA Forest Service and other interagency partners, USAID delivers technical assistance to improve the conservation and management of forests, protected areas, and other public lands.

**Previous page captions:** TOP: USDA Forest Service employees and partners survey a forest (USDA Forest Service photo). TOP MIDDLE: Hand tree planters planting seedlings in the USDA Forest Service's Northern Region (USDA Forest Service photo by Erika Williams). BOTTOM MIDDLE: USDA Forest Service expert shares forest inventory protocols with members of the National Office of Forest Inventory (USDA Forest Service photo by Roni Ziade). BOTTOM: Bureau of Land Management hosts a Native Seed Collection event in Wyoming (Bureau of Land Management photo). **This page:** TOP: Prescribed burn on the USDA Forest Service's Oconee Ranger District (USDA Forest Service photo by Tim Kolnick). MIDDLE: The Bureau of Land Management employees planting willow tree cuttings in Idaho (Bureau of Land Management photo). BOTTOM: USDA Forest Service employees and park ranger in Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Africa) (USDA Forest Service photo by Roni Ziade).



# A Legacy of TREES AND FORESTS

The United States joined the Trillion Trees Initiative as part of a global effort to promote healthy and resilient forests, rangelands, and woodlands. In the United States and around

the world, forests are part of our national heritage and a vital source of our national health, wealth, and well-being. The One Trillion Trees Interagency Council is poised

to work within these five focus areas to expand the vast forest resources of our Nation and meet the Trillion Trees Initiative's ambitious objective by 2030.

White pine planted near the Tower of Voices at the Flight 93 Memorial. Planting by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation Enforcement (Photo by Scott D. Eggerud, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement).

