

Reforestation and Resilient Forests

The National Forest System’s [Reforestation Strategy](#) was released in July 2022. Approximately **3.6 million acres** of National Forest land need reforestation largely due to wildfire. The Reforestation Trust Fund is projected to provide between **\$140-260 million annually** for reforestation and related work. The Forest Service has annually reforested an average of **190,000 acres**, including 60,000 acres of tree planting and 130,000 acres of natural regeneration.

The REPLANT (**Repairing Public Lands by Adding Necessary Trees**) Act, was signed into law in 2021 as part of the [Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act \(IIJA, BIL\)](#). The Act provides an historic opportunity and a clear mandate to address post-wildfire and other reforestation needs, emphasizes climate-informed reforestation and investments to increase the capacity for seed and cone collection and nursery facilities and provides the United States Forest Service with funding to plant or support the natural growth of more than **1.2 billion trees over the next decade**. This work creates nearly **49,000 jobs** and captures carbon dioxide equal to the emissions from **85.3 billion gallons** of gasoline.



Northern Region Implementation of the REPLANT Act

Region 1 received **\$4.9 million** in REPLANT Act funds in 2022 and **\$8.3 million to date** in Fiscal Year 2023. Over **\$4 million** has been committed to address tree improvement area (TIA) or local reforestation infrastructure needs. The current reforestation need backlog in Region 1 is 386,000 acres - 73% from certification of natural regeneration and 25% from tree planting. **Total regional reforestation needs are projected to be greater than 759,000 acres by 2030.** The Regional Reforestation Strategy outlines the plan to work towards accomplishing the 24,000 acres of annual planting or ~7.2 million seedlings planted each year.



Coeur d’Alene Nursery Investments - In 2022, over **\$35 million** in funding was put towards the National Nursery System, which includes six national nurseries and two seed extractories to address backlog deferred maintenance, to increase efficiencies in the seed extractories and greenhouse production, and to expand seedling growing.

The **Coeur d’Alene Nursery** in Region 1 received over **\$3.7 million dollars** for facilities upgrades to meet expanded needs. Upgrades started this spring (2023) and will include:



REFORESTATION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

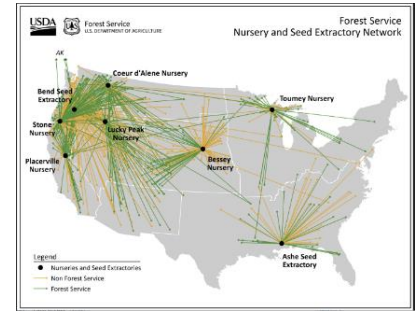
Our Nation has a rich history of tree planting using federally funded programs. Now the scale is so vast that we must accelerate and work with our partners on private, tribal and state reforestation efforts.

Programs supporting tree establishment: Urban and Community Forestry Program at the Forest Service, the Conservation Reserve Program administered by the Farm Service Agency and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program administered by the NRCS.

Partnerships: The National Reforestation Partnership Program (NRPP) includes four organizations: American Forests (AF), National Forest Foundation (NFF), Arbor Day Foundation (ADF), and One Tree Planted (OTP). R1 forests receive over **\$1.0 million annually** from these partnerships for seedlings.

The WO is leveraging the Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC) and the Public Lands Service Corps (PLSC) to expand reforestation implementation capacity.

- Replacement of nine hoop style greenhouses with modern greenhouse structures. Upgrades will result in an increase of seedling production from **850,000 to 1.2 million seedlings** in the same building footprint. Total capacity will increase to **4.2 million seedlings** annually by 2025.
- Investments in the Seed Extractory, the Bareroot Production and the Container Production Programs include new seed cleaning equipment, a digital Xray machine, new tractors/ implements, new irrigation booms, high efficiency greenhouse heaters and growing benches for the new Greenhouse.



Good Neighbor Authority

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) program [Good Neighbor Authority](#) was passed into law in 2014 and allows the Forest Service to enter into agreements with states, counties, and tribes to achieve critical cross-

jurisdictional restoration work. Our current partners include **Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and North Dakota Forest Service**. There are a **total of 24 project agreements**, one on each unit in the Northern Region, with approximately **\$12 million obligated**.

- The first project level GNA was signed with the **Montana DNRC** in 2016 on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. The first R 1 project agreement in the **state of Idaho** was signed in 2016 with the Idaho Department of Lands for the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests
- The first project level **Tribal GNA agreement** was signed with the Nez Perce Tribe in 2022.
- North Dakota signed an agreement in 2017 with the **North Dakota Forest Service** for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Increasing Capacity - since last month the FS has hired: **1** Grants management specialist * **2** Staff Officers * **2** Physical Science Info Specialists * **1** Plant Biologist * **1** Supervisory Budget Analyst * **1** Program Manager * **1** Interdisciplinary Fish/Wildlife specialist * **1** Deputy Forest Supervisor * **1** Regional Director

OUTCOME SPOTLIGHT - Nez Perce Clearwater Lower Salmon WCS Landscape

Since its designation in 2023, **Two NEPA decisions** have been signed - *Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project* and *Green Horse* - which authorize fuels reduction through timber harvest, prescribed fire, or mechanical fuel treatments on over **12,000 acres over the next 10 years**. The Hungry Ridge Draft SEIS was sent out for public comment on March 6. This project would authorize vegetation treatments on nearly **30,000 acres in high risk firesheds** within the Landscape. Crooked Christie, Center Johnson, and Tinker Bugs timber sales are currently being harvested as part of previously approved fuels reduction projects – **Over 50 million board feet (mmbf)** will be harvested and **2700 acres treated**. Funds generated by sale of the timber will be used to implement **priority aquatic restoration** projects.

The Forest is planning to treat an additional **5,000 acres through prescribed fire** in 2023 and will treat more acres if conditions allow. The Forest awarded its first ever **Integrated Resource Service Contract** for the Black Helicopters project – which makes possible implementation of helicopter logging by offsetting the cost using funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This timber removal project is a cornerstone to facilitate safely and effectively **burning over 15,000 acres** within the critical firesheds in the future. **Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Department of Fish and Game** are directly engaged in the fuels reduction work through contracts, NEPA analysis and planning, data collection and direct project implementation.



The **Youth Conservation Corps** crews on the Forest will be doing work this summer to address the wildfire crisis. Using contracts and partnerships, the projects in the Landscape Action Plan will contribute significantly to the local economies of communities in the Lower Salmon.