



REPLANT Act

Growing Trees & Jobs on U.S. National Forests

America's 193 million acres of national forests are at a crossroads. Our forests are damaged more rapidly and intensely by extreme wildfire, drought, and pests supercharged by climate change. Because climate change is driving hotter, more severe wildfires, up to one-third of all wildfire areas simply cannot grow back on their own—millions and millions of acres. We must speed the process of reforesting millions of acres of national forest to restore their ability to collect and filter drinking water, naturally capture carbon dioxide, generate wood products and related forest jobs, and provide for wildlife and recreation.

The REPLANT Act will ensure more than 1.2 billion trees are planted or naturally regenerated over the next decade, creating nearly 49,000 jobs.

The REPLANT Act

Included in the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, the REPLANT Act will fix this by modernizing the Reforestation Trust Fund. The **Reforestation Trust Fund is funded** by reliable, plentiful revenues from imported wood products. While revenues into the trust fund have increased, its antiquated limit of \$30 million for reforestation means that most of these revenues are unavailable for critical reforestation priorities, even as wildfires and disease have exponentially increased. The REPLANT Act removes this outdated cap. With this essential investment, more than 1.2 billion trees will be planted or naturally regenerated over the next decade, creating nearly 49,000 jobs. Today's reforestation is climate-smart with science-based techniques to give our forests the best chance to withstand future drought and climate stress.

Urgent Need for Reforestation

The 2021 wildfire season was catastrophic and the aftermath is also calamitous with post fire mudslides washing out roads, fouling drinking water supplies and endangering communities. Since 2000, western forests have experienced nearly 100 megafires of 100,000+ acres. Pressing reforestation demands after such wildfires have prevented the Forest Service from adequately addressing other important needs, like reforesting abandoned minelands in the eastern and central states and restoring longleaf pine on national forests across the Southeast.

The Solution: The REPLANT Act

Congress established the Reforestation Trust Fund in 1980 to meet these needs. Despite ample revenues coming into the Trust Fund, Forest Service is limited by a cap of \$30 million annually as part of the original authorizing legislation.

The REPLANT Act will provide essential funding to address the critical national forest reforestation backlog without increasing or in any way altering tariffs and without relying on taxpayer dollars.



The REPLANT Act directs funds toward replanting areas unlikely to naturally generate on their own, such as in burn scars from severe wildfires that kill all the of trees that could support natural reseeding. With access to the full Reforestation Trust Fund, the Forest Service can catch up and keep up with the reforestation backlog—completing shovel-ready planting projects, restoring vital ecological function, and supporting rural communities.

The Payoff for Our Economy and Environment

- △ More than 1.2 billion trees planted and regenerated on our national forests each decade
- △ Increased reforestation will create nearly 49,000 green jobs per decade, primarily in rural communities hard hit by COVID-19
- △ Nearly 758 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent captured over the lifetimes of the trees planted each decade, equal to emissions from using 85.3 billion gallons of gasoline
- △ Drinking water sources in public and private forests protected, serving 55% of the U.S. population
- △ Habitats restored for the 80% of all land-dwelling species that rely on forests to survive

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