



Redesign Components: NATIONAL THEMES



A concise set of national themes is needed to help focus federal investments on issues, challenges, and opportunities which, if addressed, will lead to significant progress in providing diverse and sustainable public benefits from trees and forests for current and future generations. Properly crafted, these themes can serve multiple functions, including:

- Communicate the threats to, and provide a vision for, management of America's forests and associated benefits
- Identify the types and opportunities for returns that could be expected from investment of federal funds
- Provide the framework for a simplified program and budget structure, regional allocations, accountability and reporting results

After considering many alternatives and significant dialogue the Board agreed on three themes. The desired outcome associated with each of those themes follows.

Conserve Working Forest Landscapes

Desired Outcomes — Actions under this theme are directed at: 1) reducing the rate of conversion of forested landscapes to other uses; and 2) informing decisions about which landscapes should be conserved as working forests to optimize public benefits for current and future generations.

Key strategies under this theme include: 1) forest products, woody biomass, and environmental services market development; 2) tax policies, conservation easements, and county planning tools; and 3) facilitating other social and economic incentives to encourage retention of important forested landscapes. Technical assistance to communities and landowners on the various techniques available to maintain healthy forests will be an essential supporting activity.

Protect Forests from Harm

Desired Outcomes — Actions under this theme are directed at reducing threats to forest health and productivity associated with: 1) uncharacteristic wildfire; 2) insects and disease; and 3) invasive species.

Key strategies under this theme include: 1) restoration of fire adapted forests; 2) monitoring, assessment, and treatment of forest insect and disease pathogens; and 3) prevention, early detection, and rapid response to eradicate or control invasive species. An ongoing national inventory and assessment of forest conditions and technical assistance would be essential supporting activities.

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Enhance Benefits Associated with Trees and Forests

Desired Outcomes - Actions under this theme are directed at: 1) enhancing the suite of public benefits associated with trees and forests such as: clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, open space, outdoor recreation opportunities, renewable supplies (e.g., building materials, paper products, bio-energy, medicinal products), economic attributes (e.g., employment, reduced heating/cooling costs, enhanced property values, reduced water storage and treatment costs, reduced flood risk and impacts, reduced fire suppression costs and impacts), and climate change buffering; and 2) helping reduce the risk to communities from uncharacteristic wildfire.

Key strategies under this theme include: 1) urban forestry; 2) watershed planning; 3) enhancing community fire protection capabilities; and 4) linking environmental health with community well-being. Promoting environmental literacy and partnership building would be important supporting activities to increase public understanding of the benefits provided by trees and forests, build support for managing forests to secure those benefits, and leverage federal resources.

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