

## A Renewable Resource

A managed forest can also provide wood products that people use every day. Wood is the most renewable and sustainable of the major building materials. Comparing the environmental effects of common building materials,

**...wood has the least impact on total energy use...**

wood has the least impact on total

energy use, greenhouse gases, air and water pollution, and solid waste. For every billion board feet of wood we use instead of other building materials like steel and concrete, we save 720 million gallons of oil and prevent 7.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions from entering our atmosphere.



country, we grow more trees than we

cut – an important measure of sustainable forest management. Yet, we continue to import a larger percentage of our wood supply from other countries. As the largest consumer in the world, conserving trees and using forest products wisely are ways we can be more responsible.

**...we grow more trees than we cut...**

## Leaving a Legacy

Conserving healthy, vibrant forests in the United States is essential. With professional forestry expertise and science-based research, we can develop more resilient forests that are capable of surviving wildfire, insects, and diseases. The diversity of human values, needs, and demands with regard to forest management is greater now than it

**...you play a critical role...**

has ever been. The decisions we make are not going to be easy, but we can all agree, forests are a legacy we want to leave to our children, and YOU play a crucial role in sustaining our magnificent forestlands for future generations.



## Consuming Responsibly

As Americans, we continue to be the largest consumers of wood products in the world. Fortunately, the United States has the science and technology to responsibly manage forests in a sustainable way, unlike some areas around the world. Today, in this

**"The best friend on earth of man is the tree: when we use the tree respectfully and economically we have one of the greatest resources of the earth." ~ Frank Lloyd Wright**

## Your Legacy

### What You Can Do

Realize that forests are important to all of us.

Recognize that we all have differing values and objectives.

Understand that actively managing our forests is critical.

Learn how to be a wise consumer of wood products – a renewable resource.

Get involved in forest management debates and understand the consequences of our choices on national and international forest resources.

Contact a professional forester to learn more about managing your forest.



Colorado State Forest Service  
(970) 491-6303  
<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS>



South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry  
(605) 773-3623  
<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/forestry/index2.htm>



Wyoming State Forestry Division  
(307) 777-7586  
<http://lands.state.wy.us>



Intermountain Forest Association  
(605) 341-0875  
<http://www.ifa.com>



Society of American Foresters  
(970) 491-7598  
<http://www.safnet.org>



USDA Forest Service  
(303) 275-5026  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/tnew.htm>

These institutions are equal opportunity providers.

# FORESTS

## A Legacy to Our Children

**"We must remain good stewards of our forests. If we fail, we abdicate our responsibility to our children to ensure that the gift of trees will be passed on to future generations."**

**~ U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth ~**



# Forests are Important

People treasure forests for many reasons. Forests provide places to recreate and to find solitude. They also provide diverse habitat for wildlife and fish, clean air and water, and many forest products. Forests are an important renewable resource that can be managed sustainably to ensure their benefits for future generations.

**...caring for our forests...is of paramount importance...**

As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and our country approaches a population of 300 million people, caring for our forests – from the nearest city street to the most remote mountaintop – is of paramount importance.



Photo by Mel Glazier

*"Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests... as we have...consumed." ~ J. Sterling Morton*



*When natural fire is suppressed or forest management activities have been excluded, forests become more dense and are subject to large-scale insect damage and high intensity fires.*



*Well-managed forests allow grasses and other vegetation to prosper while providing forage and shelter for wildlife.*

## Differing Values and Objectives

Caring for our forests requires us to be responsible land stewards. Healthy debate over how forests should be managed is inevitable and productive. Differing values often lead to different objectives. However, too much of the discussion has been focused on the extremes of either no active forest management, or cutting trees solely to maximize profit. Dialogue must focus instead on what conditions best describe a "healthy forest."

**Healthy debate over how forests should be managed is inevitable and productive...**

## Managing Our Forests

In order to maintain healthy forests for recreation, clean air, clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, and forest products, we must take care of them. Here's why. In places where fire has been suppressed and forest management activities have been excluded, forests have become extremely dense. There is more competition for water, nutrients, and sunlight; the trees in these forests become stressed, and the forests are more at risk from large-scale insect epidemics and catastrophic wildfires. Neither wildfires nor insect epidemics have any regard for property boundaries. Insect epidemics can kill thousands of acres of trees, setting the stage for catastrophic wildfires that threaten

**In order to maintain healthy forests...we must take care of them...**

wildlife habitat, air and water quality, and people's homes.

Professional forest managers have a variety of tools at their disposal to care for the forest. These tools include thinning, logging, and prescribed fire. Thinning is used to reduce the density of crowded stands of small trees so that the remaining trees will be more healthy and vigorous. Logging is used to thin dense stands of larger trees, to remove dead or dying trees, or to cut larger trees to allow regeneration of new stands of young, thrifty trees. Commercial logging also provides revenue to help offset the costs of forest management. Prescribed or planned fire is used to reduce the amount of forest fuels or to stimulate the growth of grasses and forbs.

**Neither wildfires nor insect epidemics have any regard for property boundaries...**

Forest managers protect the environment during forest treatments. For example, logging prescriptions include Best Management Practices to ensure the protection of water quality, and, similarly, prescribed burning prescriptions incorporate smoke management guidelines to reduce the effects of smoke.



*Planned fire*