



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Advancing Active Management: The New Forest Service Approach to Collaboration and Mission Delivery

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# USDA Forest Service Mission – managing for multiple uses



*"To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."*

# Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production



## Executive Order 14225 – March 1, 2025

- Mandates a 25% increase in timber production on federal lands by 2028
- Emphasizes the dual priorities of expanding domestic timber supply and reducing wildfire risk

## Secretarial Memo 1078-006 – April 3, 2025

- The Forest Service will:
  - Issue guidance to increase timber production.
  - Streamline processes related to timber production
  - Develop a strategy to improve efficiency of delivering the timber program
  - Identify legislative proposals to improve timber production

# National Active Forest Management Strategy



**Describes priority actions that the agency can take to support active forest management under four focus areas:**

- Capacity Building and Streamlining Implementation
- Environmental Compliance
- **Shared Stewardship, Partnerships, Contracting & Markets**
- Salvage and Reforestation

# Collaboratives and Partnerships in the National Active Management Strategy

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- Created a dedicated national team to support field offices with technical expertise and resources for partnership execution
- Streamline approach across agreement implementation to enhance efficiency and clarity in partnerships.
- Strengthen partnerships through shared stewardship, formal partner agreements, and broader use of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA).

# Collaboratives and Partnerships in the National Active Management Strategy

- Implement Explore Act GNA modifications: empower states, tribes, and counties to lead project implementation and benefit from retained revenues.
- Launch a national solicitation for GNA-funded projects focusing on road and bridge maintenance and reconstruction, with awards targeted for FY 2025.
- Foster robust markets and facilities by ensuring long-term supply commitments and investing in innovative uses for wood products.



# Growing Partnerships and Capacity

| Fiscal Year | Total Value     | Total Agreements |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2023        | \$1,641,468,341 | 2,282            |
| 2024        | \$1,146,769,237 | 1,974            |
| 2025*       | \$340,098,548   | 530              |
| Total       | \$3,128,336,126 | 4,786*           |



# HR1 'One Big Beautiful Bill' : Expanding Timber Sales and Forest Materials Contracts for the Forest Service

- Requires the Forest Service to increase the annual timber volume offered for sale by at least 250,000,000 board feet each year from FY2026 through FY2034.
- Mandates a minimum of 40 contracts, each at least 20 years long, with private individuals or entities for the sale of materials from national forests.
  - Stipulates that all receipts from these sales must be deposited into the U.S. Treasury.



# Recent changes in National Forest System staffing levels

**~22% overall reduction in Non-Fire staff**

**600+ Foresters/ Forestry Techs resigned**

**30% reduction in SES**

**-15% change in Engineering staff**

**10% loss in Line Officers**

**16% loss in Heritage staff**



# Q&A

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# Post Fire and Disturbance Salvage and Reforestation

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## Challenge:

Timely planning and execution of salvage and reforestation projects to accelerate the pace and scale of post-wildfire recovery and reestablish healthy and resilient forests.

## Potential Actions:

- Develop and complete an agency-wide programmatic effort to authorize site-specific salvage harvest, hazard tree removal, and reforestation actions.
- Deploy salvage incident support teams as needed during incidents.
- Create and make available geospatial tools to quickly identify areas available for salvage, hazard tree and reforestation work.
- Form a team that will assist in planning for all salvage and reforestation efforts.