

Great Lakes Reforestation

A Holistic Approach

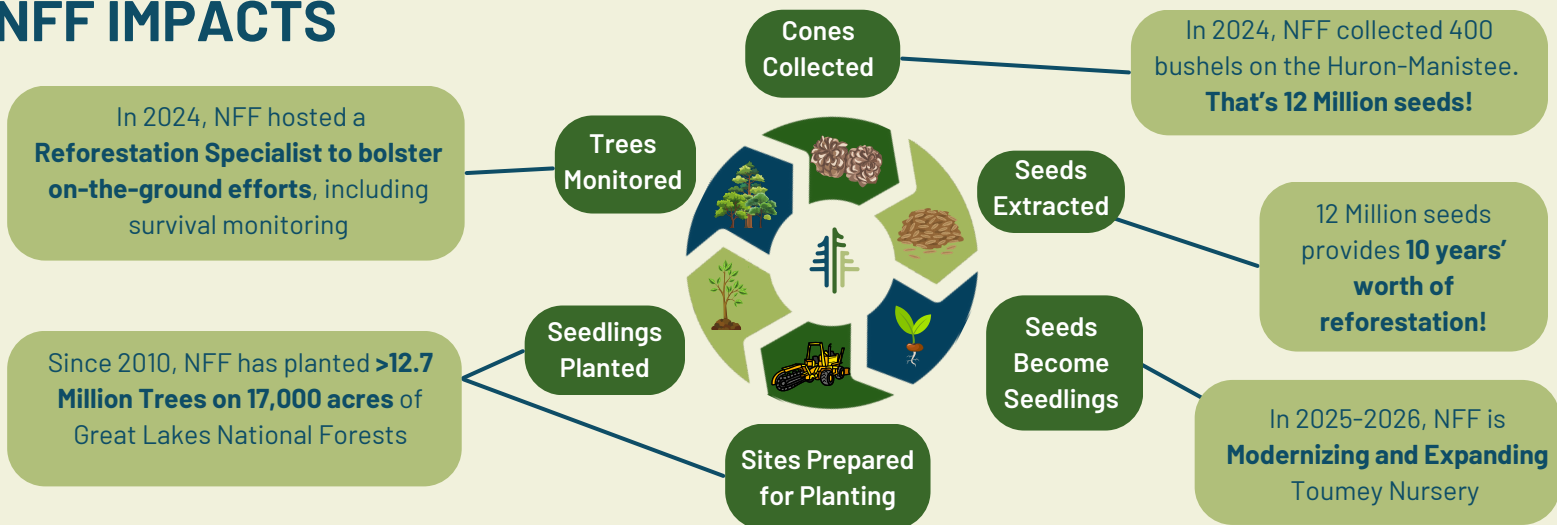


National Forests in the Great Lakes provide year-round recreation opportunities, breathtaking shorelines, and an abundance of wildlife habitat. Rivers that flow through these National Forests connect to the vitality of the Great Lakes. A healthy forest supports a healthy watershed, and the Great Lakes area has an incredible need for both.

These Forests are vulnerable to climate change impacts, insects and disease, and severe weather events, coupled with an insufficient supply of native seeds.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is working alongside the U.S. Forest Service and local partners to implement a **holistic reforestation approach in the Great Lakes, from seed supply to tree survival monitoring**. Together, we can ensure that these National Forests stay healthy.

NFF IMPACTS



Restore Native Habitat 🌿 Climate Adaptation
Provide Rural Jobs 🌿 Maintain Fresh Water Supply

Cone Collection: Boosting Seed Supply

Great Lakes National Forests lack a sufficient seed supply to effectively manage all reforestation needs. To address this, the NFF collects cones to restock native seed for reforestation and critical wildlife habitat. In 2024 we collected 400 bushels of jack pine cones for [Kirtland's warbler habitat](#). This will support 10 years' worth of reforestation for this rare songbird!

In partnership with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan and the Forest Service, we are launching a Climate Adaptation Seed Collection Network to support assisted migration of key species on Michigan National Forests. This Network will support long-term reforestation and climate adaptation goals, while building the seed supply and Tribal workforce.



Nursery Modernization: Increasing Seedling Production

J.W. Toumey Nursery (est. 1935) is the only Forest Service nursery in the eastern US, and provides seedlings and seed to all 14 National Forests in the region. The agency has finalized an extensive modernization plan to increase production from 5 million seedlings to an estimated 20 million seedlings annually. The NFF is supplying horticultural programming for critical planning and operations analysis and a 30' by 130' greenhouse. Our efforts will ensure targets are met and the nursery can meet production goals during the transition.



Reforestation: Planting the Right Tree, in the Right Place, at the Right Time

Since 2010, the NFF has planted more than 12 million trees across the Great Lakes National Forests. Our Forest Service partners provide expertise and science-backed prescriptions to carefully assess and prepare sites for planting, select ecologically appropriate species, plant under optimal conditions, and monitor trees for survival.

The NFF is also adding capacity during the heavy field season by hosting a Reforestation Specialist on the Forests.



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