

Trees for US FAQs

Where are the trees planted?

- Because the NFF works almost exclusively on National Forests, our tree planting sites are typically limited to lands within the 193-million-acre National Forest System.
- The NFF works with the Forest Service to select planting locations where ecological benefits are maximized.
- The NFF can work with larger donors to select preferred project sites; however, smaller donations are pooled together to create a more significant impact.
- Most plantings occur in the West, partly due to the fact that most National Forests are in the West, but also because of limited restoration need in the East. Wildfires are fewer and the climate is wetter, which allows for more natural regeneration within eastern forests.

Why does the Forest Service need extra money to plant trees?

- The scale of the need is tremendous: the Forest Service estimates that nearly 2 million acres of National Forests are in urgent need of reforestation.
- The Forest Service is not obligated by law to plant trees in areas that have suffered from natural disasters.
- More than 50% of the Forest Service's annual budget has gone to fighting wildfires in recent years, leaving little funds for other important programs, such as tree planting.

What does my money actually support?

The costs for tree planting can include the procurement of seedlings, planting expenses, maintenance and seedling protection costs.

Where does the Forest Service get its trees?

The Forest Service operates six tree nurseries where native trees are grown for planting on National Forests. These trees are grown from locally sourced seeds, and the nurseries serve as research centers for the agency to develop disease-resistant strains of trees. Occasionally, the Forest Service contracts with local nurseries that specialize in providing large numbers of trees for large-scale planting projects.

How do I know that my trees were actually planted?

As a Congressionally chartered nonprofit, the NFF adheres to strict auditing procedures. At the completion of each tree planting project, the NFF generates detailed reports for partners and donors to document and disseminate results.

Can I visit my trees?

If desired, the NFF will work to provide locations for specific tree planting projects. However, many of these locations are steep, rugged, remote, and difficult to access.

Is there a minimum donation?

It is challenging for the Forest Service to plant small numbers of trees in specific locations. The NFF will typically pool small donations (under \$5,000 annually) and apply them to an area of the greatest restoration need, unless a smaller-scale project can be identified. Larger gifts enable a donor more freedom in selecting tree planting locations. At any level, donations will be tracked, donors will receive thorough reports, and the trees will make a measurable difference.

How will my business be recognized?

While recognition is dependent on your business' contribution level, the NFF will work with our corporate partners to provide as much recognition opportunities as possible. At \$5,000 and above, your company will be featured in our annual report and will be listed on our corporate partners webpage with a link to your business. Questions regarding recognition can be directed to Wes Swaffar.

To find out more about how your company can help replant our National Forests, please contact Wes Swaffar at wswaffar@nationalforests.org or 406-830-3356.