

Planetary Wellbeing

- Cut Pollution & Toxicity
- Ensure Animal Wellness
- Ocean Awareness

Protect Biodiversity

- Biodiversity in Your Backyard
- Endangered Species
- **Forest Protection**

- Reduce Resource Consumption
- Save Energy & Climate

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Plant Trees to Reforest Habitats

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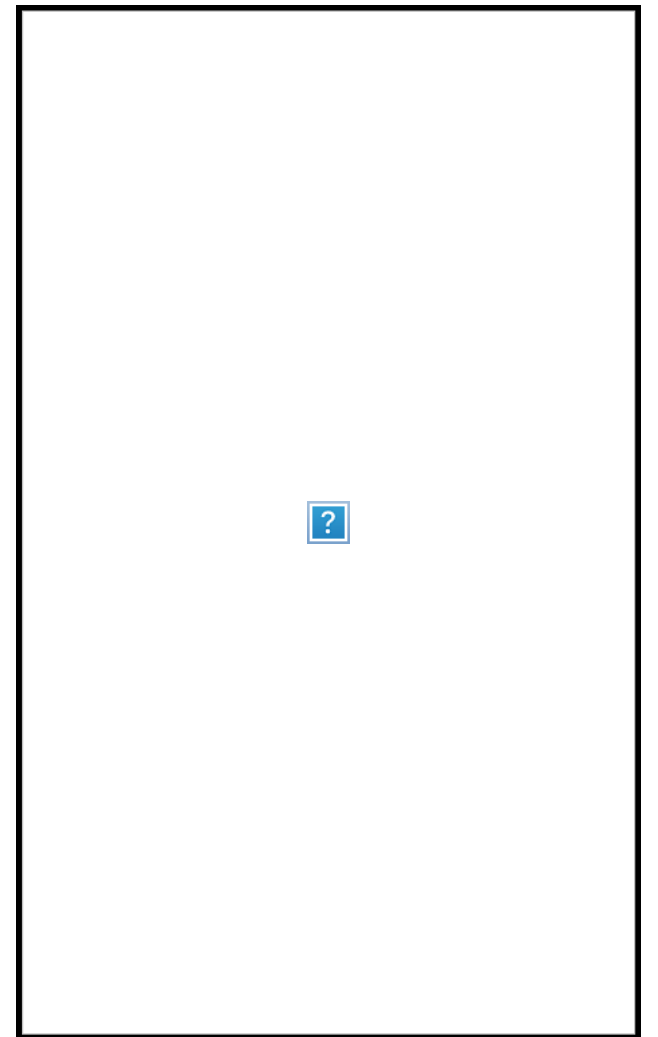
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US forests are not the picture of health today, having been shrunk substantially over the decades since industrialization. Yet there are plenty of things we can do through our everyday lives to help revitalize them! We've got tons of great ideas for how you can contribute to the regrowth of American forests that are both fun and rewarding. You (and your children's children) will breathe easier for your efforts!

Quick Guide: How US Forests Have Shrunk

- **Pre-colonial American forested areas:** Before European settlement began, the estimated forest area in America was at 423 million hectares, comprising 46% of the entire land area.^[i]
- **21st century American forested areas:** Today the forest area in the US is at 302 million hectares and comprising 33% of all US land.^[ii]
- **3,500 hectares of US forest clearcut monthly:** Clearcutting is the process of cutting down most or all of the trees and plants in a particular forest area, destroying the ecosystem for many decades.^[iii] In the US, 3,500 hectares are clearcut every month.^[iv]
- **74% of US American forests are unprotected:** Protected forest areas are managed through legislation to maintain biological diversity and natural resources.^[v] However, of the 302 million hectares of forest in the US, only 222 million hectares are unprotected.^[vi]
- **Big benefits from urban farms:** Vibrant, thriving forests aren't just for the wilderness. Urban forests clean city air, lower urban temperatures, help reduce rainwater runoff, reduce crime, and provide healthy spaces in which people can play and relax close to home.



Take Action! Reforest America – And Your Own Backyard!

1. **Plant trees on your property:** Start by reforesting your own property – every tree counts! First, use the [USDA Hardiness Zone Finder](#) to determine what climate you're in. Then use their [Plant Finder](#) database to search to trees that will grow well in your region (choose "Moisture requirements > Dry" to find species that require little to no [irrigation](#)). The USDA has a handy [How to Plant a Tree](#) video and [Friends of the Urban Forest](#) (FUF) have a [Planting on your Own guide](#) to give you expert guidance.
2. **Have an urban forest planting neighborhood party:** Encourage your family, friends, and neighborhood to get involved in planting urban forests. FUF has a great [Organize a Planting video](#) to get you started.
3. **Volunteer with a tree-planting organization:** Volunteer your time with a tree planting organization like [Arbor Day Foundation](#) to get your hands dirty in the fight against deforestation within your community.
4. **Encourage your city to expand urban forests:** Get involved with the [Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition](#) or [ACTrees](#) to get an urban forestry initiative going in your community.
5. **Support tree planting internationally:** If you want to help even more, join our [iHeart campaign](#) which supports [The Eden Projects](#), an international tree planting program that's transforming lives and the environment around the world.

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Dig Deeper: Deforestation at Home and Worldwide

- Learn more about the importance of the 58.5 million acres of roadless forests that are free of roads, mining, and any other form of development. In these forests there are good sources of pure water and homes for threatened wildlife species in

Conserving roadless areas.

- Find out how 1.3 million hectares of forest worldwide are clearcut every month in [Global deforestation](#).

Images By: [NRCS SD](#)

References

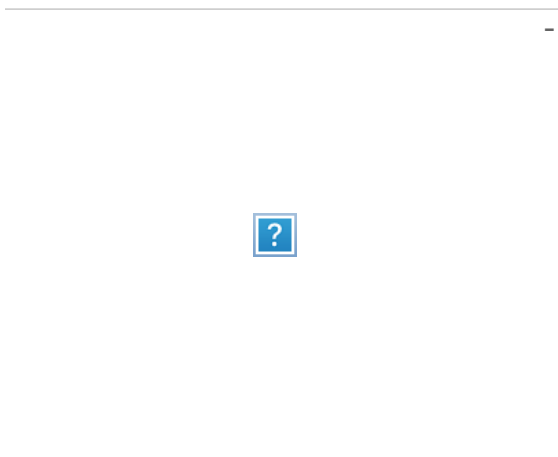
References

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