

Our nation's forests are threatened, and the time for action is **now**.

We are already experiencing devastating losses of forestlands and their many benefits:

Rapid loss to development

Less green space, open space and wildlife habitat; fewer recreation opportunities; less forestland to provide clean air and water.



Sale of industrial forestlands to real estate interests

millions of acres of forestland being chopped up and sold.



Insect and disease outbreaks, large wildfires

loss of property, life and natural resources; enormous public and private firefighting costs; threats to water supplies.



Loss of forest industry

increasing unemployment; damage to the social fabric of rural communities; loss of tax dollars for schools, roads and other services.

Ineffective tax policies and assistance programs

families find it increasingly costly and difficult to keep forestland, and to pass it down to their children.

We can be proud of our nation's past achievements in the stewardship of our forests. But our policies and programs aren't integrated or up to date. They don't reflect the best available scientific knowledge – or today's pressures, values, and patterns of forest ownership and use.

A Sustainable Forests Act for America

Why a national policy for sustainable forests?

Current federal policy does not acknowledge that forests must provide a balanced set of economic, social and environmental values if they are to be sustainable. Instead, we continue to encourage conflict among these values. That's counter-productive to sustainability.

Current federal policy affecting private and publicly owned forests is fractured, with a host of jurisdictions responsible for numerous statutes. Incentives to "keep forests as forests" are generally lacking.

Inadequate coordination among federal, state and local entities keeps us from addressing conflict constructively, managing our forests effectively, and planning a sustainable future for them.



What would a Sustainable Forests Act accomplish?

Adoption of a national policy on sustainable forests to guide stewardship and investment.

National consensus on specific ways to reshape policy and programs to reflect today's challenges, and to ensure a sustainable flow of forest benefits into the future.

Review of today's federal laws, policies and programs, with changes as necessary to ensure that they support sustainable forests.

The Sustainable Forests Act and other background information are available for review at

<http://www.sustainableforests.us>

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