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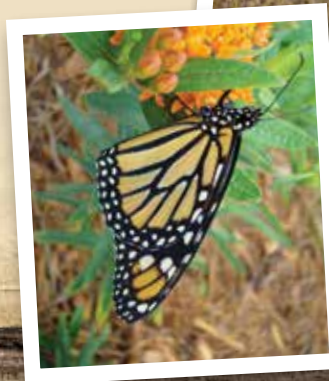
BOTTOM LEFT: ALCOA; MIA SPRANSTON/US FOREST SERVICE; BOTTOM RIGHT: DIANA ROBINSON



AMERICAN FORESTS

Year in Review 2013

AMERICAN FORESTS CELEBRATED ITS 138TH BIRTHDAY in 2013 and it was a year of both focusing and expanding our efforts. Over the past 12 months, we reached an important milestone in our restoration tree planting efforts: planting our 45 millionth tree since 1990. These efforts will result in cleaner air to breathe, cleaner water to drink and expanded habitat for countless animals, from bears to birds to butterflies. We launched a vital new program to help cities evaluate their urban forest needs, and help community tree planting groups expand tree canopies. We expanded our community of concerned citizens, hosting volunteer events across the country and engaging tens of thousands of people through social media.



Above: Grizzly bear;
Left: Monarch butterfly

And while we are proud of our accomplishments, we are ever more focused on our mission and aiming even higher in our goals for the year ahead. The urgency to protect and restore forests has never been greater. In the last decade alone, the world has lost hundreds of millions of acres of forests, and here in the U.S., millions of acres are being lost each year to wildfires and other natural disasters, disease and insects and nearly constant development pressures.

Here is just a sample of the work we are doing to stem the tide — and the work we plan to do in the coming year:



Above: Young Sumatran orangutan;
Left: Black-throated green warbler

Forest Restoration

- ▶ American Forests planted its 45 millionth tree, funding a total of 900 projects since 1990 and planting more than 2 million trees this year in 20 states and 14 countries. We have now funded forest restoration projects in a total of 44 countries and in all 50 states.
- ▶ Through our Endangered Western Forests initiative, we planted more than 17,000 whitebark pine trees in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and with the application of pheromone patches, protected more than 4,000 critical cone-bearing trees from beetle infestation.
- ▶ Work continued on restoring wildlife habitats in places such as: the Lower Rio Grande in Texas for the endangered ocelot and jaguarondi (33,350 trees); Michigan, for the threatened Kirtland's warbler (two projects, with a total of 93,000 trees); Minnesota, for the osprey and bald eagle (600,000 trees); Florida for the threatened gopher tortoise (429,000 trees); Mexico, for migratory birds (40,000 trees); and Indonesia, for the endangered orangutan (35,460 trees).
- ▶ We restored areas damaged or destroyed by wildfires in Arkansas (61,200 trees); California (75,000 trees); Florida (429,000 trees); New Mexico (45,000 trees); Montana (two projects — 186,300 trees); and Texas (54,252 trees).

Urban Forests/Community ReLeaf

- ▶ We launched our new Urban Forest initiative, Community ReLeaf, conducting assessments and restoration projects in five U.S. cities.
- ▶ Our team produced an online Urban Forest Assessments Resource Guide to provide the tools and technologies for practitioners interested in urban forest ecosystem assessments.
- ▶ Working with a blue ribbon panel of experts, American Forests surveyed the 50 most populous U.S. cities on the health and maintenance of their urban forests and identified the 10 Best Cities for Urban Forests in the U.S.

Community ReLeaf tree
planting in Pasadena



National Big Tree Program

- ▶ Published the *National Register of Big Trees* in spring and fall as well as convening Big Tree Working Groups to assist the National Big Tree Program with updating the taxonomy and nomenclature of the eligible species list and presenting new measuring techniques.
- ▶ American Forests developed a Tree Protection Toolkit to provide the public with the necessary tools and resources to protect trees of all sizes in their communities.



National
champion plains
cottonwood

LORE PALM



The Land and Water Conservation Fund
has protected land in every U.S. state.

Public Policy

Through our new online Action Center, American Forests advocates across the country and internationally sent thousands of letters to House and Senate members and senior level agency leaders supporting urban tree planting and recreation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program and proactively addressing threats to western forests.

Community Engagement

- ▶ American Forests sponsored volunteer events in each of the five Community ReLeaf cities, bringing together employees from our corporate partners, community tree planting groups and others to work together to improve these communities.
- ▶ In our rural projects, volunteers came together to help plant trees in 31 of our forest restoration projects.
- ▶ We invited American Forests members to join us on free urban forest Walkabout events and also to participate in multi-day Forestscapes.
- ▶ We grew our Facebook friend circle to 64,000 and our Twitter followers to more than 4,700.



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Whitebark pine seedling

Plans for 2014

- ▶ Matching or exceeding our 2013 goal, we will plant more than 2 million trees in 20 or more forest restoration projects, addressing high-impact issues including water resources, fire restoration, wildlife habitat, threats due to insects and disease, climate change and public recreation.
- ▶ In the Greater Yellowstone Area, we will work with our partners to plant at least 25,000 whitebark pine trees. We will also engage volunteers to distribute pheromone patches, protecting disease-resistant whitebark pines from the damage of bark beetles.
- ▶ We will complete strategic urban forest restoration in the five cities we assessed in 2013 and add at least three additional cities to the Community ReLeaf program.
- ▶ We will publish the Big Tree Handbook, implementing the results of the Big Tree Working Groups in establishing clear measuring guidelines for public and state programs and groups.
- ▶ We will encourage and assist our members and concerned citizens in sending thousands of letters to Congress and federal agencies on critical forest protection and restoration issues and to advocate for sufficient funding to support forests. We will engage communities across the U.S. to advocate for their urban forests and educate elected officials on the importance of trees.

You can learn more about our work in 2014 through the following tools:

- ▶ Our website: www.americanforests.org
- ▶ Our magazine: **American Forests**
- ▶ Our monthly e-newsletter: **Forest Files**
- ▶ Our daily blog: **Loose Leaf**
- ▶ Our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.

Forests provide
clean water.



Urban forest in Sacramento

