



AMERICAN FORESTS
- SINCE 1875 -

OUR ROOTS

RUN DEEP

2019 Year In Review



YOUR
VISION

OUR MISSION

OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP here at American Forests. Throughout our 144-year history, we have tackled global challenges with small actions done again and again: like planting trees. Best of all, planting trees and caring for forests has a role for everyone, from cities to rural communities. With your help, American Forests is empowering people to take action and make our country stronger together.

But our work today is more urgent and complex than ever. Thanks to our partners and donors, we're tapping our deep roots in science, forestry, policy and movement leadership to overcome forest threats like drought and fire made worse by climate change. When we take care of our forests, they take care of us by providing water, wildlife, jobs and even the ability to slow climate change through natural carbon capture.

But our challenges go beyond the environment. America has growing inequities across lines of race and income that include urban tree cover. I am proud that our new push for Tree Equity is building a movement to give every person the benefits of city trees for health, wealth and protection from climate change.

With your help, we have stretched in new ways. We have published scientific breakthroughs on forest soil carbon and developed new ways to link underserved communities into urban forestry careers. We are stepping up to plant more trees and innovate climate-resilient planting techniques with new field staff around the country. Our policy proposals are pushing federal and state officials to invest in our forests.

Because of you, our leadership is delivering results. From bringing back the endangered Kirtland's warbler with our ReLeaf plantings in Michigan to introducing new climate legislation that will plant billions of trees on our public lands, American Forests is delivering change at scale.

Your support is deepening our roots and helping us reach for the sky. Thank you for your support in 2019—and beyond!



Jad Daley
President & CEO

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Special thanks to our Lead Corporate Partners for their gifts in 2019



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Thanks to all of our generous partners for their 2019 contributions

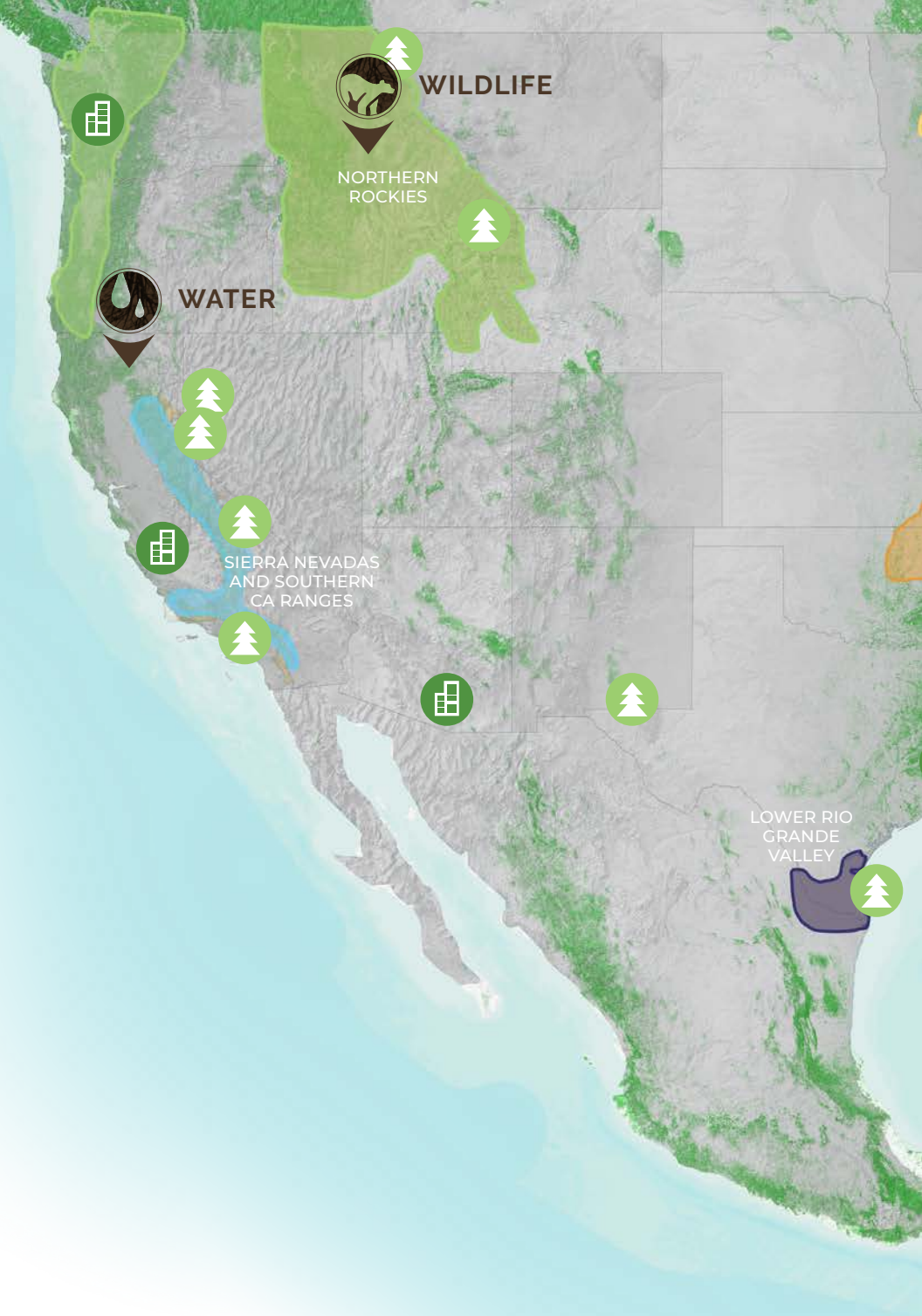
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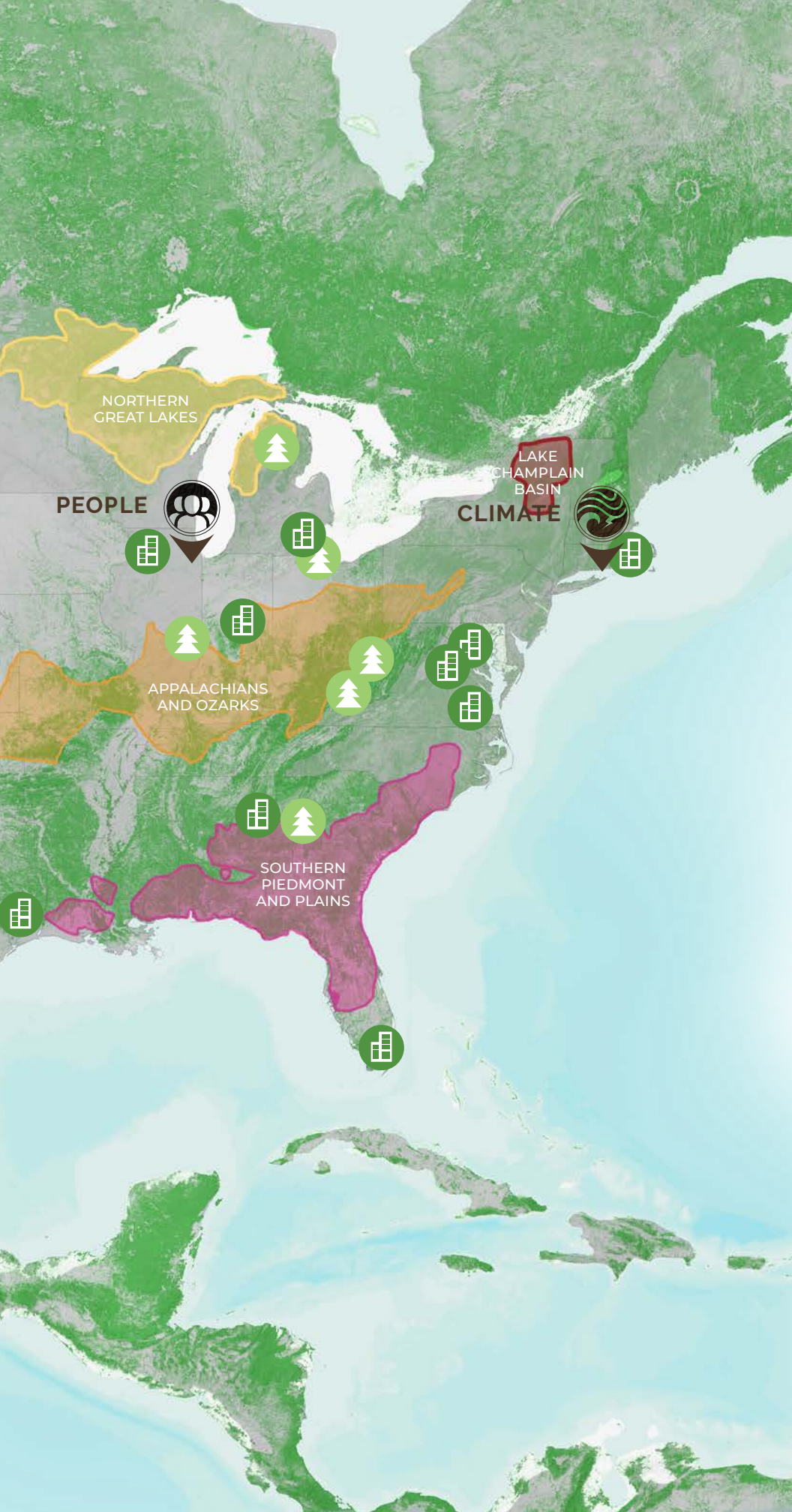
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AMERICAN FORESTS' IMPACT





NORTHERN
GREAT LAKES

PEOPLE



CLIMATE



LAKE
CHAMPLAIN
BASIN

APPALACHIANS
AND OZARKS

SOUTHERN
PIEDMONT
AND PLAINS

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*Special thanks to our Sequoia Circle
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WILDLIFE

Forests are being lost to disease and pests, like **white pine blister rust** and **mountain pine beetle**, and **extreme fire** risks; therefore, our work is even more critical.



American Forests planted **36,500 blister rust-resistant** whitebark pines.

NORTHERN ROCKIES

In 2019, American Forests marked our 20th year working across the Northern Rockies mountain range. Our work there was more critical than ever, given the scale and pace at which these forests are being lost to white pine blister rust and other diseases and pests, as well as extreme fire risks that are due in large part to harmful fire suppression efforts and other activities. Climate change is further fueling these rapidly-growing threats. That's why we planted 36,500 blister rust-resistant whitebark pines in Montana's Flathead and Custer Gallatin National Forests—adding to the half a million whitebark pines we've planted across North America since 1999. The forest ecosystems of the Northern Rockies are an ecological treasure, supporting iconic wildlife like the threatened grizzly bear. When we protect and restore this landscape and others, we are caring for our country's rarest natural treasures, and the wildlife that inhabit them.



WATER

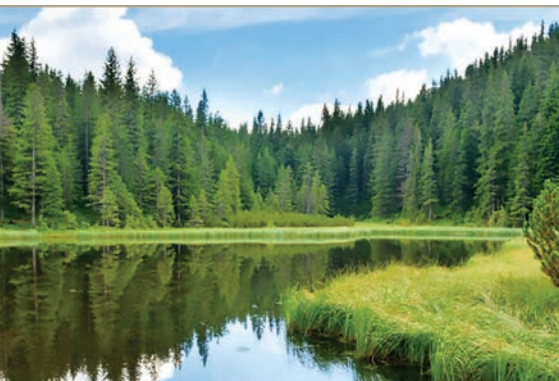
Out of our **19** native forest restoration projects, **seven** were in California.



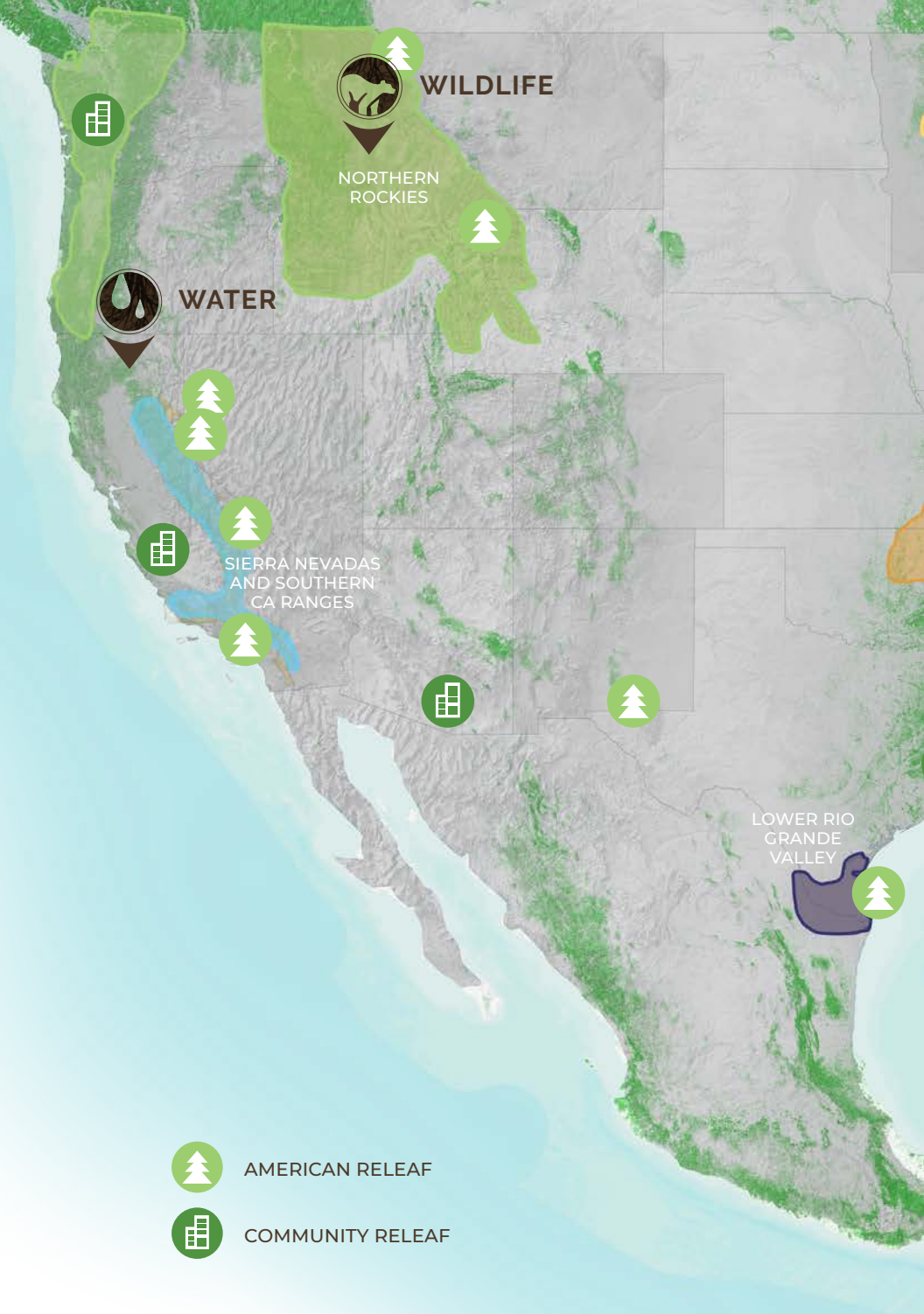
Together, these seven projects planted a total of **466,910 trees** across **1,868 acres**.

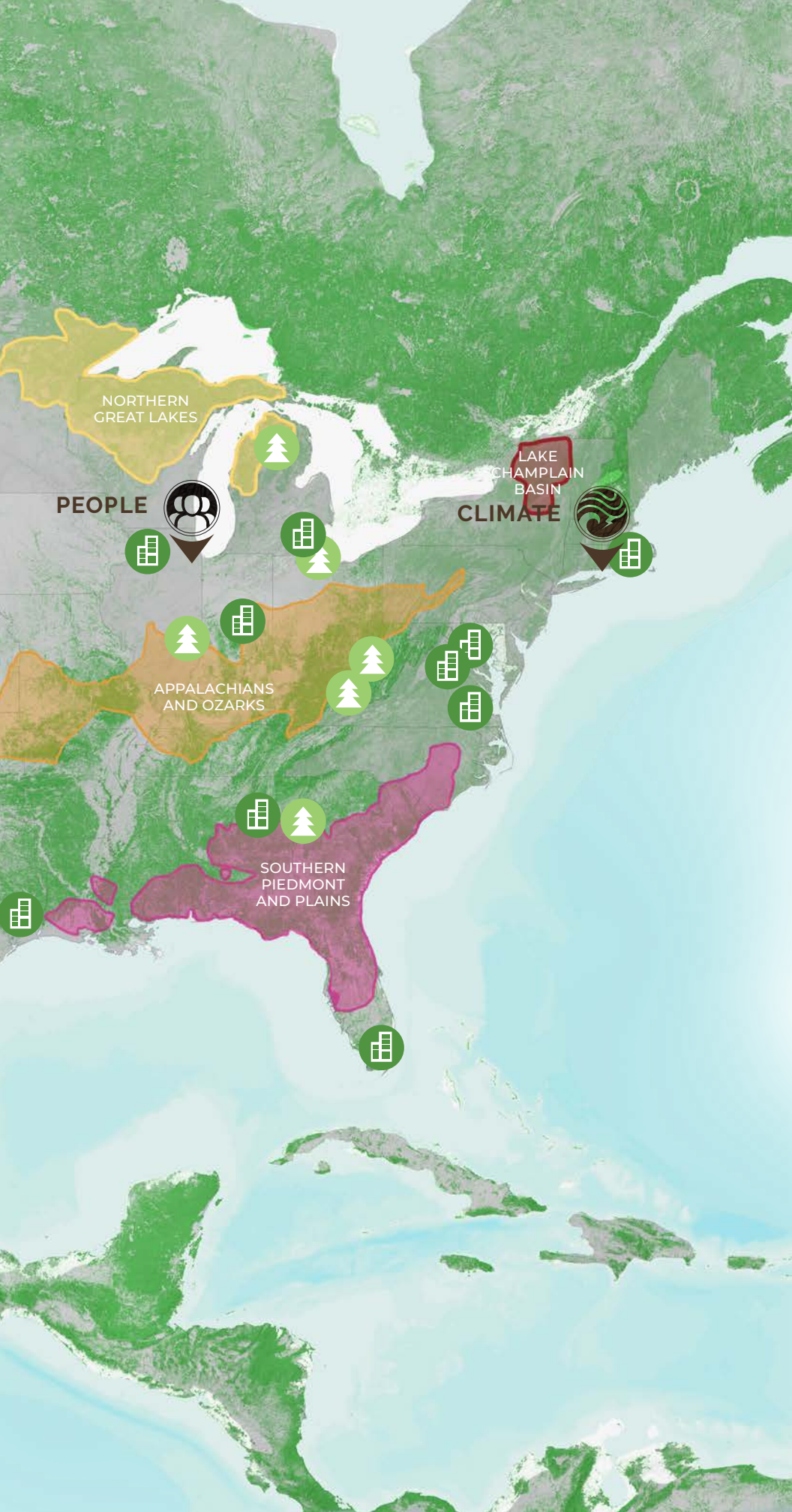
CALIFORNIA

Our American ReLeaf program completed seven native forest restoration projects in California in 2019, which resulted in 466,910 trees planted across 1,868 acres. We planted Jeffrey pines, Douglas firs, blister rust-resistant whitebark pines, ponderosa pines, blister rust-resistant sugar pines, incense cedars and giant sequoias. Most of these projects focused on post-wildfire recovery—including for the Carr, King and Camp fires that made national news—and many employed climate-smart restoration strategies. Without American Forests' active planting efforts this year and over the past few decades, much of the landscape across the Sierra Nevada and southern California ranges would convert to shrub fields, which are highly fire-prone and filter less water than conifer forests.



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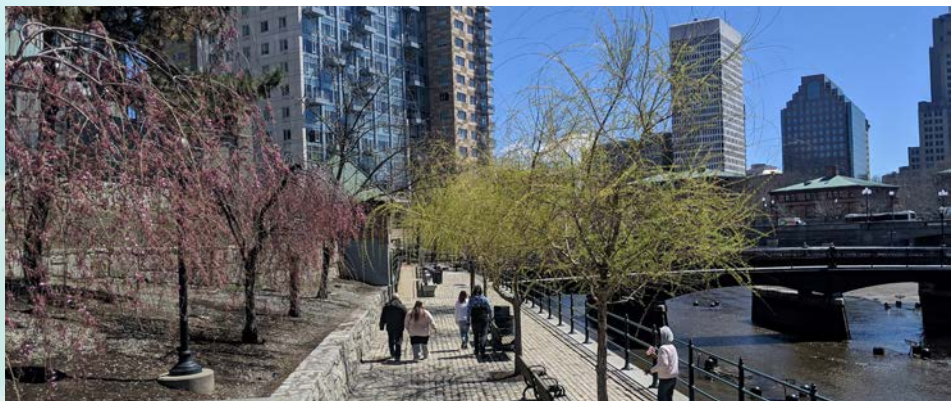
CLIMATE

We created an **online "decision support tool"** to assist with optimizing urban tree planting for environmental and public health benefits.



RHODE ISLAND

In 2019, American Forests officially kicked off the first year of our Natural Climate Solutions initiative, which strives to increase urban forests statewide in Rhode Island. Through direct engagement with municipalities, American Forests and state authorities will support tree planting and tree care activities, strengthen relationships with nursery and landscape associations and develop an online decision support tool to assist with optimizing urban tree planting for environmental and public health benefits. American Forests is piloting this transformative initiative in Rhode Island to more broadly expand U.S. forest sector interest in natural climate solutions, and we seek to replicate this work in other states across the country and improve federal policies that further the potential of natural climate solutions in federal spending and land stewardship. Led by Rhode Island's chief resilience officer, in concert with the governor's Resilient Rhody action plan to drive climate resilience efforts, this initiative is made possible through generous financial support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.





PEOPLE

In **2017** alone, **71,000** landscaping jobs went **unfilled**.

That's why American Forests has launched **Tree Equity: Career Pathways**, an initiative that seeks to address this labor shortage and lack of access.



WORKFORCE

This year, American Forests launched Tree Equity: Career Pathways, an initiative that seeks to address a massive skilled labor shortage in the urban forestry and tree care sectors. A skilled workforce is fundamental to our mission of growing and sustaining healthy urban forests. And it helps address a critical economic and social justice reality, which is that communities with the highest tree canopy needs generally tend to be those with the highest unemployment; yet public agencies, nonprofit groups and tree- and lawn-care companies are facing a massive skilled labor shortage and struggling to attract and retain workers. Our new initiative focuses on connecting unemployed and underemployed communities of color, and other overlooked populations, to green careers. Working with forestry employers, American Forests is cultivating a qualified and inclusive workforce to sustain healthy cities through resilient urban forests for generations to come.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

The upcoming year will be pivotal for forests. In 2020, with your help, American Forests will:

- Drive innovation in applied forest-climate science and urban forest workforce development through new research and demonstration.
- Advance tree planting and forest restoration with new scale and effectiveness through our established place-based partnerships.
- Push for greater, more impactful public funding for forests through legislative advocacy and training policymakers.
- Attract national media attention by engaging and motivating a wide audience to act on forest restoration.

We could not do this important work without our donors and partners. Thank you for your support!



AMERICAN FORESTS

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