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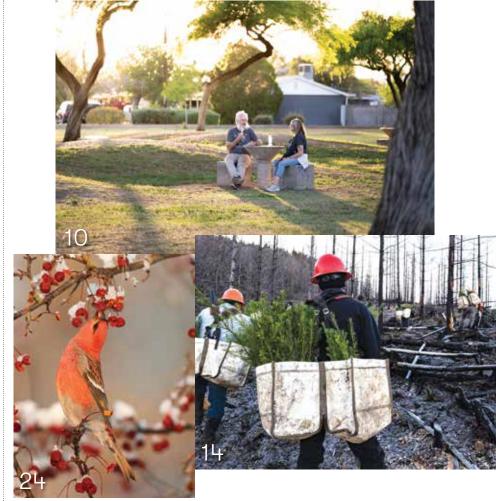
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# offshoots

# Growing climate solutions from the roots

MY ENTRY into climate activism began when I read Bill McKibben's book, "The End of Nature," more than 30 years ago. I felt his message down to my core: Climate change is the first environmental threat that touches every inch of our planet, and even bends nature itself in

a way that could irretrievably break our planet's natural cycles of healing.

My immediate reaction was to sell my gas guzzling car, turn off lights like our planet depends on it, and scour my personal life for every way I was contributing to the greatest environmental threat we

pianet, and even bends nature itself in to the greatest environmental unreat we

People in all walks of life are embracing tree planting as a way for concerned citizens to take action, just like the young girls pictured here planting trees in Phoenix.

have ever faced. I was not alone. Books like "50 Simple Ways to Save the Earth" were popular then, and personal action was treated like a serious piece of the climate action puzzle.

I regret this is not so much the case anymore. In fact, many in the climate action movement seem intent to convince individuals that their own choices are irrelevant, and that our only hope is for government leaders and businesses to implement systems-level changes that will force us to do the right thing. To be sure, systems-level changes are absolutely needed, but are less likely to take root if not fueled by collective individual action. Unfortunately, these strident climate voices embrace fear as their primary mode of persuasion, figuring that if the warnings from scientists grow dire enough, we will suddenly have a wholesale shift in our politics and economy, motivated by a fearful citizenry.

This isn't working. Fear that one cannot personally act on too often inspires paralysis, not mobilization. Far too many people in our country right now are mired in climate despair and feeling a lack of personal agency to do something about it other than "vote and hope" every few years.

Hope comes from feeling the power to be part of a solution. I have seen again and again that the most dedicated and effective advocates for others to take climate action, like a citizen speaking to a member of Congress, are those who can speak from the conviction of living the change themselves.

And the pace of change in our economy will be directly tied to the actions of consumers, not just the choices of corporate CEOs. Those electric cars that must become our new normal, for example, won't drive off the lot on their own. Businesses need us to show that we will hold up our end of the bargain and purchase climate friendly products at the first opportunity. We might eventually



The excitement about using trees and forests as a climate solution is strongly tied to the fact that everyone can relate to trees, and even play a role in planting and caring for them.

force needed changes from the top down with governmental action, but we will lose valuable years of climate action in the process if we can't match government mandates with individual buy-in.

So, what does this mean for the work of American Forests? A whole lot. You see, we are finding that the excitement about using trees and forests as a climate solution is strongly tied to the fact that everyone can relate to trees, and even play a role in planting and caring for them. That's why, for example, youth groups such as the Girl Scouts of the USA and faith-based organizations like EcoSikh, Evangelical Environmental Network and Laudato Tree are all embracing tree planting as a way for concerned citizens to take action.

And this action is not just limited to planting trees one at a time. We are seeing many of the same people who have become involved in community-based tree planting also become passionate advocates for massive government, corporate and nonprofit efforts to plant Tree Equity across whole cities and reforest millions of acres across damaged forest landscapes. Who better

to explain to public officials the power of trees to solve climate change than someone who has personally put in the time and effort to plant one!

As we seek to lead America and the world to embrace trees and forests as a climate solution, American Forests will continue to hold true to the belief that no contribution is too small when you are building a movement, and to create diverse ways for our members to participate in advancing forest solutions. We are also doubling down on our leadership of the 1t.org US Chapter, an unprecedented coalition we created with the World Economic Forum to empower individual and societal action because we understand how deeply they are connected. With hope in our hearts and locked arm-in-arm as one nation under trees, we really can do anything, even conserve, restore and grow 1 trillion trees worldwide to help solve climate change.

Thank you for taking the individual action to be part of American Forests and part of this movement!

Land A. Daley III



#### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Publisher** Jad Daley

Editorial Director Michele Kurtz

Managing Editor Ashlan Bonnell

Contributing Editor

Katherine Gustafson

Contributing Writers
Katherine Gustafson, Rebecca Long,
Lee Poston and Shanita Rasheed

**Art Direction and Design** 

Brad Latham

American Forests' mission is to restore threatened forest ecosystems and inspire people to value and protect urban and wildland forests.

> (202) 737-1944 www.americanforests.org

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PARTNER PROFILE

# For Nespresso, coffee cultivation sparks need to care for forests and communities

NESPRESSO has long been known for more than just coffee; the company is a leader in corporate conservation initiatives and has supported agroforestry work globally for nearly 20 years.

In addition to this, Nespresso has planted over 5.2 million trees since 2014 to capture carbon from the atmosphere while building a regenerative agricultural system. Since coffee berries thrive in shade, it makes sense to invest in forest conservation and tree-planting,

but Nespresso's interest goes far beyond helping cultivate its own crop.

The company aims to make a meaningful contribution to the health of the planet and the communities that produce and consume its coffee, which includes 120,000 farmers in 15 countries and consumers all over the world.

"We think about the communities in which we operate," says Anna Marciano, general counsel and head of sustainability, Nespresso USA. "We're always looking at it from both perspectives: How do we care for people and planet at the same time?"

It's this question that sparked the unique partnership between Nespresso and American Forests in 2021. Nespresso's holistic approach to environmental action — their care for localized community impact in concert with conservation gains — dovetails with American Forests' approach to place-based action.



Nespresso has supported the planting of 5,000 seedlings on Hawaii's Big Island, restoring approximately 15 acres.



"If you stay true to your authentic self and find organizations to collaborate with that align to your values or enhance what you're trying to do, the results in working together are that much stronger."

- ANNA MARCIANO, GENERAL COUNSEL AND HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY, NESPRESSO USA

Together, they are planting over 100,000 seedlings in priority landscapes across the country: Hawaii, Texas, California and New Jersey. From helping create habitat for the threatened ocelot in south Texas to conserving the forest home of endangered songbirds in Hawaii, Nespresso and American Forests are working together on highly targeted and effective conservation priorities.

But Nespresso is doing much more than simply helping plant trees. The company is the inaugural corporate supporter for American Forests' effort to collect native seeds in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. With only 10% of the area's native forests remaining, seed collection is essential for future sustainability. When American Forests approached Nespresso about

addressing this need, the company's support was strong and immediate, and included supporting the collection of 122 pounds of native seed.

# **NESPRESSO**

"Nespresso has long been an innovator in sustainability, helping to advance systems-level solutions," says Jad Daley, American Forests president and chief executive officer. "Through our new partnership, Nespresso is helping promote this kind of lasting change in the reforestation movement by helping American Forests meet the growing demand for seed collection and tree nursery capacity."

Nespresso has also used its marketing reach to help raise awareness about the need to protect ecosystems. A campaign around the company's Kona coffee focused on restoration efforts in Hawaii. and Nespresso used their presence at Art Basel in Miami last year to raise additional funds for American Forests through consumer sampling efforts. More recently, Nespresso urged customers to take a moment on Earth Day to enjoy a coffee break and experience the sights and sounds of forests virtually.

"If you stay true to your authentic self and find organizations to collaborate with that align to your values or enhance what you're trying to do, the results in working together are that much stronger," says Marciano. The Nespresso-American Forests partnership is proof positive. 🍁



MOVEMENT BUILDING

# **Cornell's Center for Conservation Media:** Storytellers on the trail of the whitebark pine

WITH WHITEBARK PINE in peril across much of its range, a team of visionary storytellers is using the power of film to help save this western icon from possible extinction. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Center for Conservation Media consists of 10 filmmakers and strategists with a simple idea: If we're going to influence the specific audiences that are integral to protecting nature, "the eye must see before the mind can believe," quotes Center Director John Bowman.

"We identify the key environmental issues in our world as they relate to habitats or species, find the leaders in those issues like American Forests, and then look to support them with high caliber, blue chip, science-based media to advance their strategies and achieve their outcomes," Bowman says.

By combining compelling visuals, under-represented voices and cuttingedge data visualizations, the center has helped galvanize international support to protect African gray parrots from illegal wildlife trade, worked with communities and governments to save the critically endangered Philippine eagle, and highlighted the urgent need to protect habitat for America's endangered sage grouse.

Left: Cornell Lab of Ornithology Producer and Cinematographer Eric Liner films a U.S. Forest Service crew planting blister rust-resistant whitebark pine seedlings on Flathead National Forest in Montana. Over two years and six field trips, Liner and his team captured stunning and rarely seen footage of wildlife that rely on whitebark pine.



pinecones. Grizzlies and red squirrels rely on seeds from whitebark pine trees, which are disappearing across their range and are the focus of an ambitious restoration plan under development by American Forests and partners.

For the past two and a half years, team members have traversed the western U.S. to produce a documentary film and other content that will build awareness and support for

restoring whitebark pine, which is imperiled by the deadly blister rust fungus. The star of the show is a plucky bird known as Clark's nutcracker, which has developed a unique relationship with whitebark pine that is central to the survival of both species and to others such as grizzly bears and red squirrels.

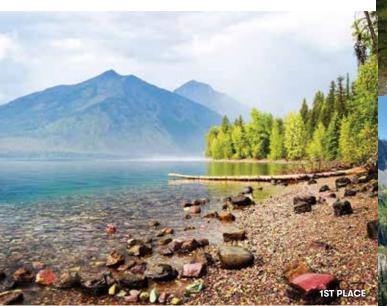
"This beautiful film takes you into the world of whitebark pines, grizzly bears and people, and is a critical part of our work to inspire action to save this ecosystem," says Eric Sprague, American Forests' vice president of forest restoration.



Left: The Clark's nutcracker plays a critical role in the survival of whitebark pine by burying tens of thousands of seeds in the ground to eat during winter. Some of those seeds grow into new trees a mutually beneficial relationship explored in the Center's film.

treelines

# **American Forests'** staff photo contest winners









Each year, millions of Americans grab their cameras and head out to enjoy nature. Our staff is no different. In conjunction with our 2022 Forests in Focus Photo Contest, we hosted an internal competition to give staff members a chance to show off their photography skills. These are the beautiful winners based on voting by our staff.

#### **1ST PLACE:**

#### "Evening on Lake McDonald"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Rebecca Long, senior manager of digital strategy PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE:

"I'm fortunate to have a brother who is a National Park Service Police officer who has worked at a few gorgeous national parks across the country. He spent three summers at Glacier National Park, and I was able to visit him and get a behind-thescenes tour. He took me on a variety of trails, both heavily travelled and backcountry, but a car pull-off along Going-to-the-Sun Road at Lake McDonald produced my favorite photo of the trip."

#### "Foggy Morning at the Capilano **River Hatchery**"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lindsey Putz, senior director of corporate partnerships **PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE:** "I love to extend business trips to explore the area and was very excited to get out of the city and into the natural wonders surrounding Vancouver. I was initially disappointed it was a stereotypical overcast, misting Pacific Northwest day, but that quickly turned into awe as I hiked along the Capilano Pacific Trail. The fog hung heavy on the trees, creating a beautiful mystery to the forest. It's a hike I dream about still four years later."

#### 3RD PLACE:

#### "Blue Lakes under Mt. Rainier"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Geri Rosenberg, senior manager of geospatial development and analysis

PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "I took this photo in July of 2021 near Chinook Pass in Washington. I thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail southbound. I had been hiking around beautiful clear views of Mt. Rainier for days when I saw this intensely blue lake near Chinook Pass and took this photo 20 miles into my day."







# OF URBAN LIFE



#### IN CITY PARKS AND LINING NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS,

trees connect us to the natural world and bear witness to moments big and small — laughter shared between children playing in a garden or a woman's mid-day respite. Silent and strong, they are the backdrop to the hustle and bustle of urban life.

But their quiet belies the powerful ways they help us as we go about our everyday lives. Their branches provide shade when it's hot and block harsh winds in the cold. Their mere presence can lift our mood.

Our connection to city trees takes many forms. On a sweltering summer day in Phoenix, a group of boys play beneath the palo verde trees at a community garden while their parents attend

Left: Two brothers spend quality time together playing soccer in the fields of Mitchell Park in Tempe, Ariz. Below: A woman finds a moment to journal beneath the trees in Philadelphia's Clark Park.

an outdoor yoga class. And across town, college students take a break from shooting a documentary film for which a leafy park sets the stage. Old or young, city dwellers turn to these green, shady spots when they exercise, relax and take the time to breathe.

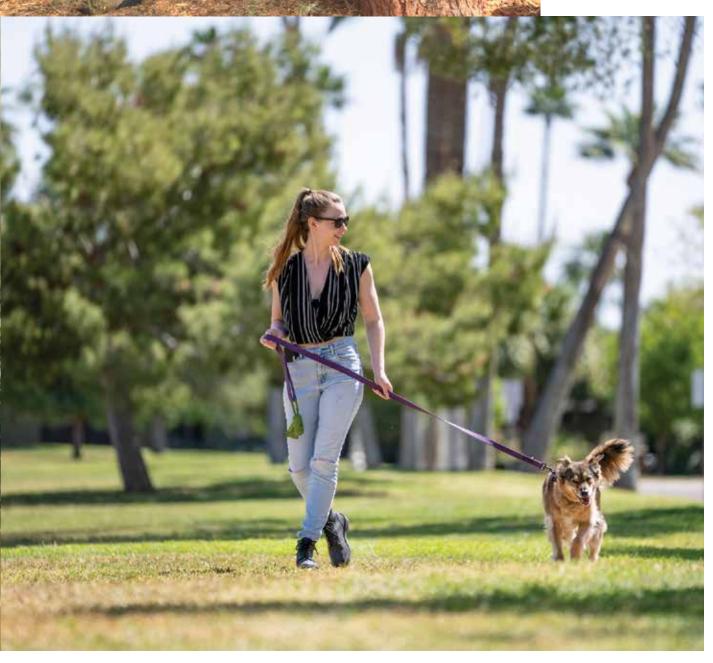
In a very real way, the quality of our health depends on trees. And their health depends on our care. From one corner of the cityscape to another, trees are central to our lives. lacktree

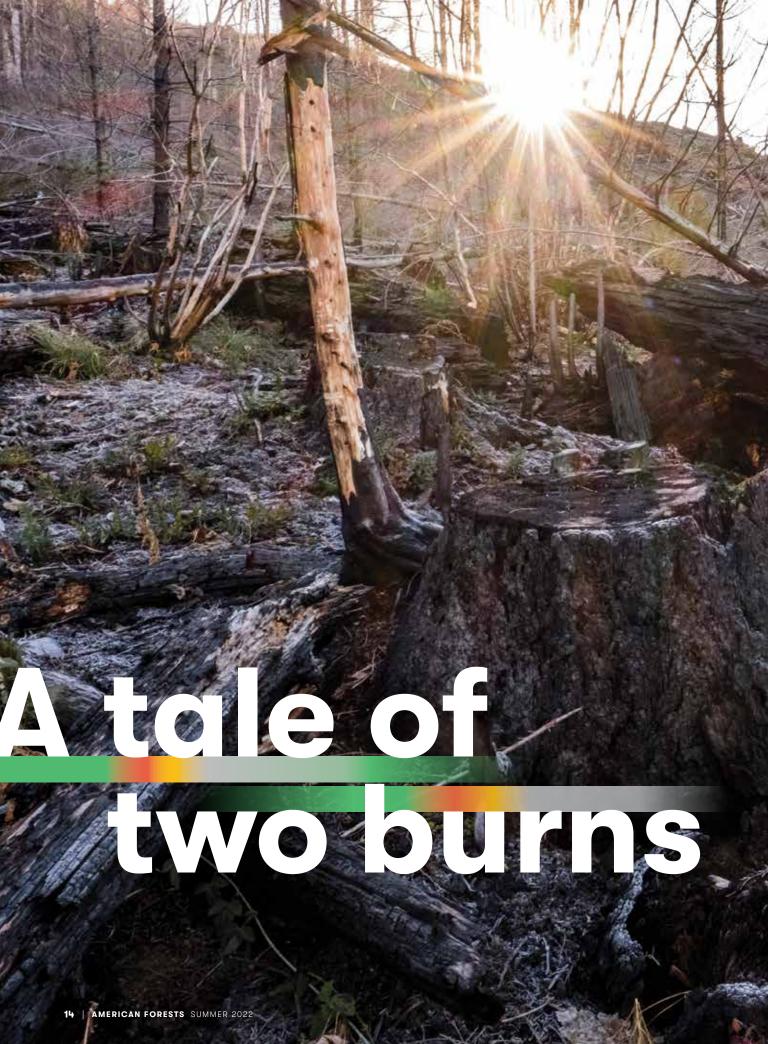














IT IS SEARED INTO THE MEMORY of generations of older Oregonians. The event happened every six years between 1933 and 1951 -and was so iconic that entire families traveled from across the country as volunteers to help out, memorial coins were minted and children's books written.

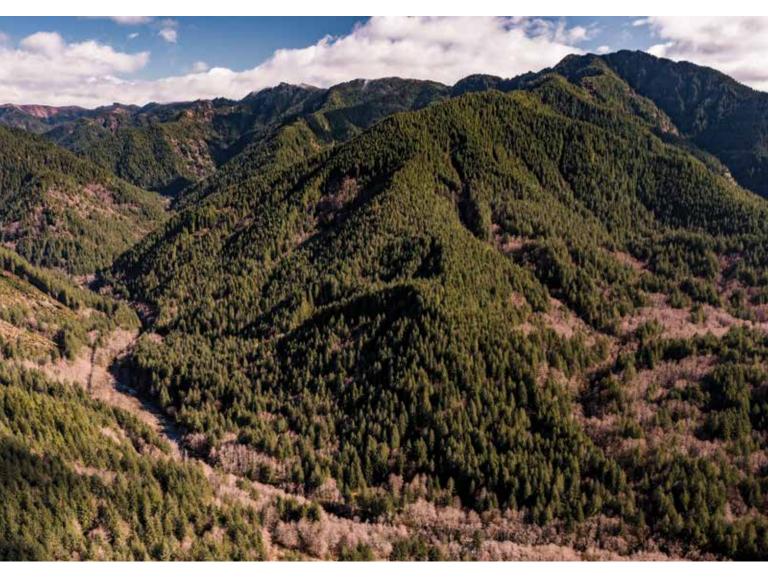
Was it a sporting event? A religious pilgrimage? Nothing of the sort. It was a series of massive wildfires that collectively became known as The Tillamook Burn and destroyed 355,000 acres, resulting in an unprecedented restoration response from the state. The Burn helped usher in the modern era of post-fire reforestation, spawning decades of efforts by foresters and volunteers to restore the forests.

Then, almost 70 years after the last embers died out, another series of fires dwarfed it

and showed that, for all that has been learned over the years, wildfires are still one of the most challenging issues facing Oregon and the entire country. And they've been made worse by climate change. But for those charged with responding to the 2020 Labor Day fires who may feel overwhelmed at the scale of the destruction, they only need look at the lush, green slopes of the restored Tillamook Burn scar for a sense of hope.

Pages 14-15: The sun peaks over a hillside that was heavily damaged in the Labor Day Fires of 2020, which destroyed 16,000 acres in Santiam State Forest and 1 million acres overall.





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#### **LEGACY AND LESSONS FROM "THE BURN"**

Few people know the history of the Tillamook Burn better than Forest Historian Doug Decker. A retired Oregon state forester and 11-year veteran of the Tillamook State Forest, Decker led the development of the Tillamook Forest Center, which details the rich history of "The Burn."

Decker explains that the fires brought about profound change to the region, from land ownership to transportation corridors — even local climate conditions in The Burn area changed. In 1948 Oregonians narrowly passed a constitutional amendment to sell bonds in order to reforest lands that had passed into state ownership following the fires. In 1949 a massive reforestation plan began, mobilizing inmates, contract crews, volunteers and even school children. More than 72 million seedlings were planted by hand, along with a billion Douglas-

The North Fork area in Tillamook State Forest shows areas replanted after the historic fires. "The forest has recovered, and I believe that will happen in the Santiam as well. but maybe not in our lifetimes," says Historian and former Oregon state forester Doug Decker.



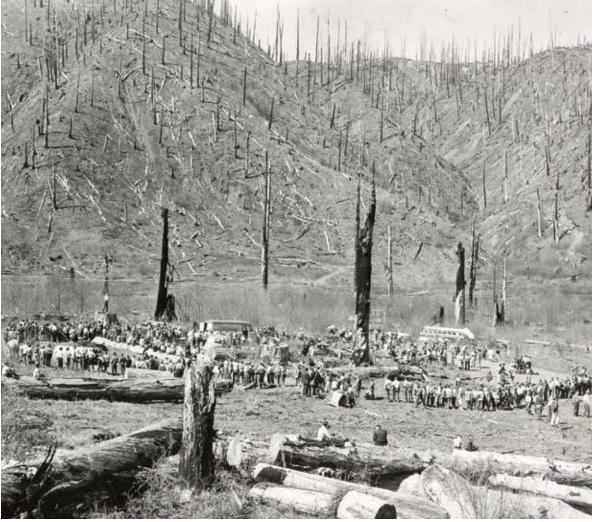
fir trees that were seeded in by helicopter crews. In 1973, Oregon Governor Tom McCall renamed the Tillamook Burn site as the Tillamook State Forest. This pragmatic approach to collectively solving problems for the benefit of all Oregonians is often called "The Oregon Way."

"It's a place where people came together to do something larger than themselves, to do something without an immediate, direct benefit," Decker says.

Looking at the Tillamook today, he sees hope for the Labor Day burn scars.

"Traveling through The Burn today, most people would have no idea it was once a moonscape, that the natural landscape and the human landscape went through such trauma in the mid-20th Century," Decker says. "When they go up there today, I think it's a place that people take for granted. The forest has recovered, and I believe that will happen in the Santiam as well — but maybe not in our lifetimes."

Above: A group of high school boys from Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Timber, Ore., preparing to replant a section of the Tillamook Burn in March 1945. Right: Schoolchildren gather on an old log landing, before helping replant the Tillamook Burn in the 1950s. "The Burn" is a major part of Oregon's history, with the replanting effort involving thousands of volunteers from across the state.





Robbie Lefebvre, Oregon Department of Forestry's Northwest Oregon assistant area director, notes that the lessons and the impact of the Tillamook Burn are seen every day in his reforestation work. "We learned to grow seedlings at a large scale, and [The Tillamook Burn] created an entire profession of seedling nurseries. We started to learn about seed zones and the importance of planting seed that was adapted for that site," he says.

#### **SAVING THE SANTIAM**

It's first light in Lyons, Ore., nestled in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains 10 miles from the Santiam State Forest. Thousands of seedlings currently sit in "The Cooler" at the Oregon Department of Forestry's seed storage facility, and Victor Tenerio is eager to get them up the mountain and into the ground.

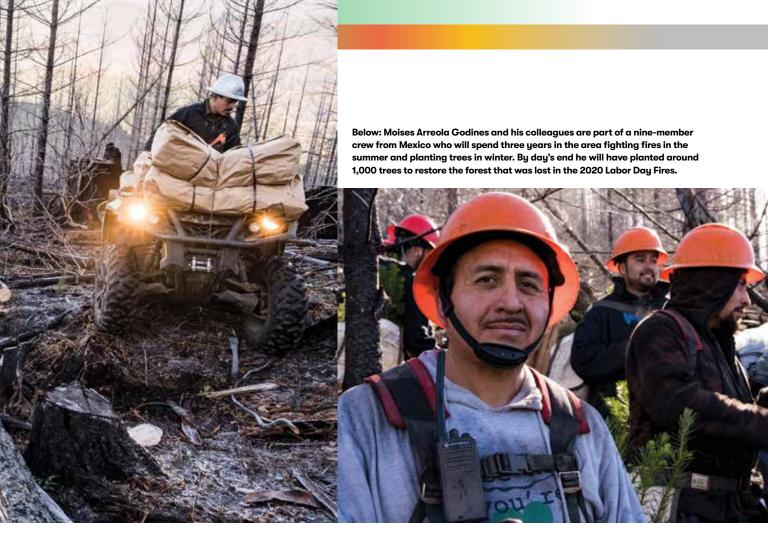
As the leader of a nine-person planting crew, Tenerio has a huge responsibility, because this is no ordinary reforestation job. It is a Herculean effort — planting 2 million seedlings over three years, with most of them being planted in 2022. For comparison, a typical year in the Santiam sees about 250,000 seedlings planted. There will be two or three crews working at any given time.

The extent of the restoration needs is a direct reflection of the catastrophic devastation the area experienced. The Labor Day fires consumed 1 million acres of Oregon forests in under 48 hours, including valuable hunting, fishing and hiking areas for local communities, and commercial logging sites.

Below: Plantina **Crew Lead Victor Tenerio loads** seedlings at "The Cooler" in Lyons, Ore., for the day's planting at a burn site in Santiam State Forest.







Days after the fires, American Forests stepped in with one of its largest grants in history: \$1 million to reforest some of the 16,000 damaged acres of the Santiam State Forest.

The decision was a no-brainer, says Brian Kittler, American Forests' senior director of forest restoration: "There's no place in the Continental United States that stores as much carbon as Western Oregon or Washington, so from that perspective alone, it was a good place for us to be making these investments." It also made sense in terms of protecting drinking water, recreational benefits and wildlife, while supporting overwhelmed state foresters, Kittler adds.

At the planting site, Tenerio's crew loads seedlings before heading up the steep, charred slopes, carefully picking their way among the thousands of standing and fallen dead trees. To avoid going up and down the hill repeatedly, they are re-stocked using a four-wheel ATV.

When the day is done, each crew member will have planted about 1,000 seedlings at 12-foot intervals, often in the shade of the dead trees. Many of these workers fight fires in the summer and plant trees in the winter to send money home to support their families in Mexico.

The goal is to restore the wildlife habitat for

spotted owl, as well as to protect Oregon's water supply and recover recreational opportunities. The forest is extremely popular with Latinx and other underserved communities in this part of the Willamette Valley, including many in the nearby city of Salem who have few other opportunities for outdoor recreation. Hikers, hunters and mushroom foragers use the forest, as well as people with disabilities who appreciate its roads.

The loss of Santiam's recreational elements was "massive," says Lefebvre. "Those 16,000

**Below: The impact** of the Labor Day Fires on recreation has been enormous. This popular campground north of Lyons, Ore., has been closed since the fires and will likely be moved because of dangerous trees killed by the fire.



acres will take a long time to recover; however, those impacts will be felt throughout the entire 47,000-acre forest, changing the experience for a generation." Some areas have been re-opened recently, but many are still too dangerous for public recreation.

The reforestation uses the latest science, with special attention to the changing climate. By planting diverse species using seeds adapted to this location, the team aims to build resiliency into the forest and capture more carbon. They are also hedging their bets, conducting an assisted migration study to test whether seed from other locations may do well here in the future.

The effort also represents a larger ambition for American Forests in the Pacific Northwest. This includes post-fire restoration on 565,000 acres of public and private land in and around Oregon's portion of the Klamath Basin.

Working with partners, such as the U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, tribal groups, conservation organizations and timber companies, American Forests is developing holistic, multi-year funding, workforce development, prioritization and reforestation strategies that are driven by climate science.

American Forests is also working on innovative carbon finance mechanisms that will fund upfront reforestation costs following a burn based on how much carbon revenue the forest will produce in the future.

Kittler and Lefebvre both agree that while much of the work is still in the early stages, it's the beginning of a long relationship between American Forests and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The challenge is massive, but looking at how the Tillamook has risen from the ashes, and

using many of the lessons learned from The Burn, Lefebvre sees a bright future for Oregon's forests.

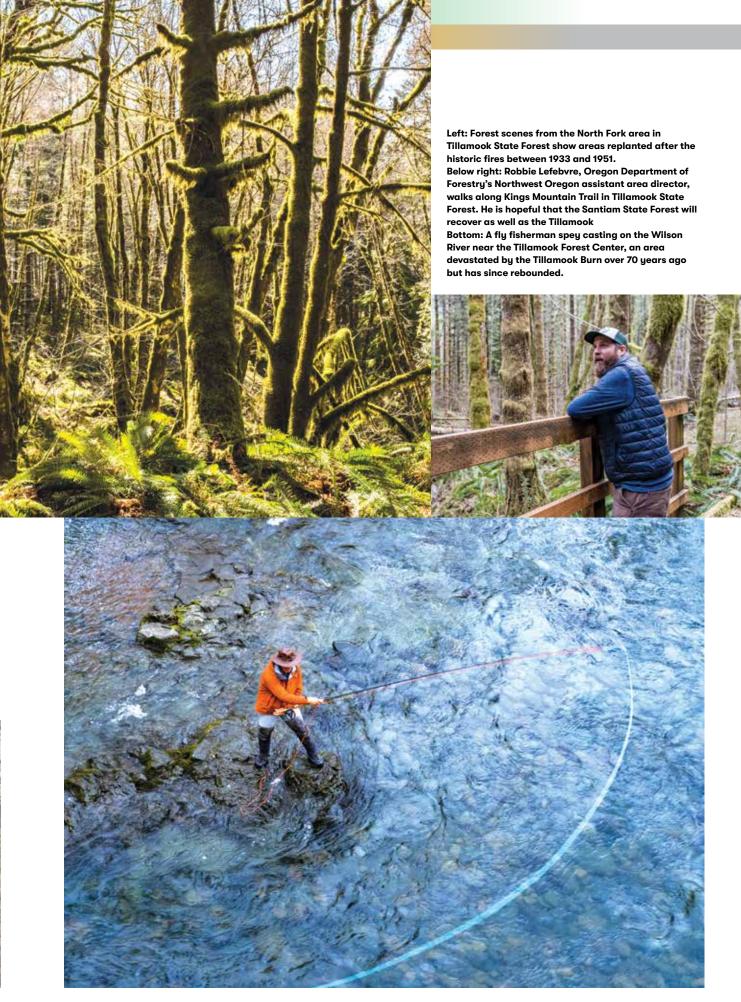
"The one thing I always tell people, at least with the Labor Day fires is: not all is lost. We still have a lot of green trees out there. Sure, we lost a lot, but we still have a forest. There's still places you can go recreate and see green trees. And it's not going to look like the forest you remember. But there is hope in what remains."

with the Oregon Department of Forestry, talks with American Forests' Senior Director of **Forest Restoration** Brian Kittler at the burn site. Kittler says: "I have a personal love for this landscape and mu state, and knowing that they were going to be financially challenged, we were in a position to help." Below right: **Shellburg Falls** north of Lyons, Ore., is a popular natural attraction and sacred site for local tribes that has been closed since the fires.

**Below left: John** 

Walter (left).







Forests in Focus Photo Contest Winners



AMERICAN FORESTS' ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST is an opportunity to showcase a wide array of forest scenes — from large natural landscapes to city parks — that are just as beautiful and diverse as the people who live among, enjoy and depend on them. This winter, American Forests received over 1,500 submissions. A panel of six judges, including professional photographers, adventure seekers and individuals with an eye for nature, assessed a selection of these photos on the criteria of originality, technical quality and artistic merit. These are the incredible photos that took home the top honors.



#### **GRAND PRIZE WINNER:**

# "Lover of Light"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Rachel Feinberg (Calif.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "I was walking along a swamp in Lakeland, Fla., surrounded on either side by a thick blanket of moss and vines

draped upon tangled branches. Then, like a scene on stage, the curtains of glowing Spanish moss opened to reveal a lone anhinga, basking in the spotlight of the setting sun."

**ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:** Feinberg is a photo enthusiast whose work can be viewed at www.shutterberg.com.







#### WINNER, FOREST WILDLIFE:

# "Sunrise Feast"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shaffer (Wis.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "It was a cold February morning. We had a snowstorm the day before, but I was greeted with a glorious backyard sunrise. I was delighted to see one of my crabapple trees was filled with hungry pine grosbeaks. Quickly, I grabbed my camera. The warm glow of the morning sun was wonderful as this male enjoyed his feast."

**ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER: Shaffer is a** wildlife photographer whose work can be viewed at www.bearwitnessimages.com.

#### **WINNER, FOREST CLOSE-UPS:**

# "Those Who Inhale the Dew"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ellie Fornshell (Ohio) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "I had been wandering the woods of Canada Creek Ranch, Mich., for hours, my camera in hand. I stooped to lift a tattered leaf, and the glimmer of morning dew on its vibrant skin caught my eye. I held it against the gloom of the distant trees to snap a picture." **ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:** Fornshell enjoys taking photographs of nature and her work can be viewed at www.facebook.com/mirco.america.

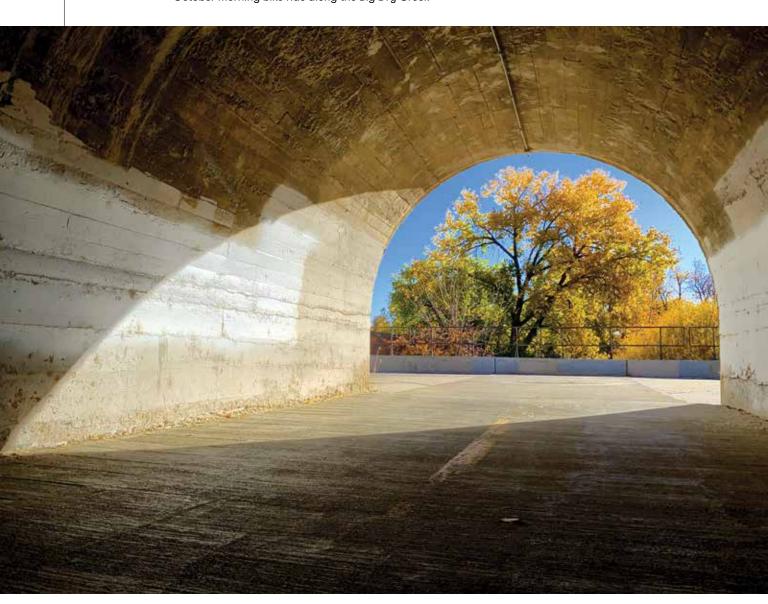


#### WINNER, CITYSCAPES SPLENDOR:

### "Autumn Tunnel"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ed Neville (Colo.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "On an early October morning bike ride along the Big Dry Creek trail in Westminster, Colo., the sunlight backlit this ash tree in full yellow display."

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER: Neville is an awardwinning nature photographer whose work can be viewed at www.edneville.com.



#### **WINNER, FORESTS AND PEOPLE:**

## "One with the Trees"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Jamie Ball (Mich.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "On a venture to explore all the state parks in Michigan, we find ourselves on a lot of hikes, such as this one in Hartwick Pine State Park. My son Greyson likes to explore all the trees along the way and found this one particularly interesting."

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER: Ball is a Michigan State Park photo ambassador whose work can be viewed at www.mittenfilms.com.









#### **WINNER, BIG, BEAUTIFUL TREES:**

# "Redwood Light"

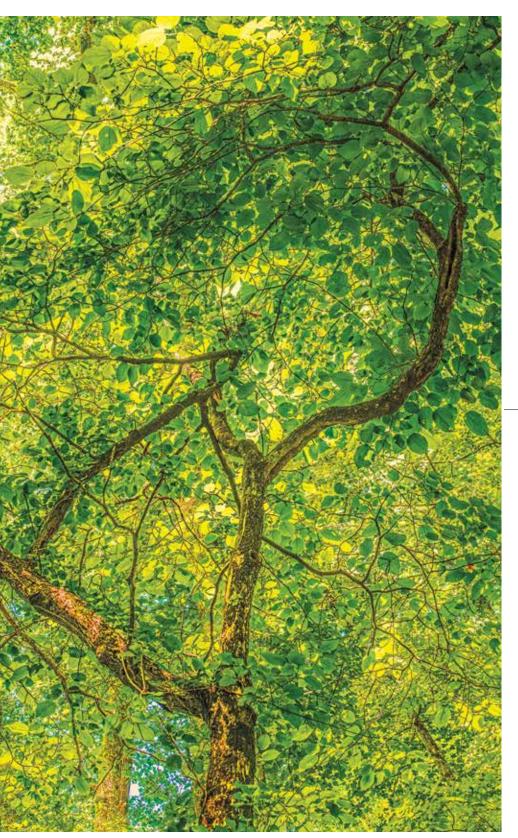
PHOTOGRAPHER: Michelle McAfee (Ore.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "Just south of Crescent City, Calif., cars lined Highway 101, parked willy-nilly by excited, mesmerized drivers. Golden sunbeams exploded through the fog-enshrouded grove of giant redwood trees, as dozens of people stood in the lanes. I laid on the grainy, southbound asphalt and shot my Nikon at the light that stopped traffic." **ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:** McAfee is a photographer/writer whose work can be viewed at www.michellemcafeephoto.com.

#### **WINNER, FOREST LANDSCAPES:**

## "Shades of Winter"

PHOTOGRAPHER: Kinley Bollinger (Wyo.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE: "Thigh deep in snow, I attempted to steady my tripod legs. My hands fumbled in the sub-zero temperatures, and my eyes and ears stung from the cold. However, the beauty of the moment brought peace to my heart." ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bollinger is an 18-year-old nature photographer who loves to share the beauty of her home state. Bollinger's work can be viewed at www.wyophotos.com.





**WINNER, NATURE AS ART:** 

# "Abstraction **Created by** Southern **Appalachian Understory**"

#### PHOTOGRAPHER: Neil Jacobs (N.C.) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE:

"I made a similar photo the previous year, which inspired this image I took last fall in Ashville, N.C., as the leaves began changing color. This photo is part of a series of forest abstractions I created when I moved to the area."

#### ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:

Jacobs is a still photographer for television and film whose work can be viewed at www.neiljacobsphotographer.com.

#### WINNER, ASPIRING **PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

# "Lensball -Reflection"

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Kaiden Deck (Ohio) PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE:

"I took this photo one evening on a mountaintop in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. The sun shined through the tall trees and illuminated the moss. I set up my lensball and was able to capture the bokeh in the background."

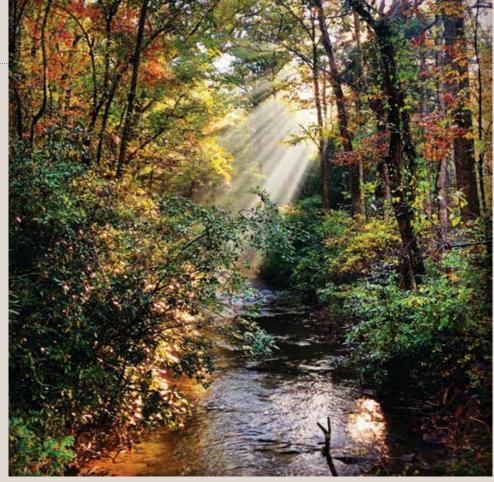
#### **ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Deck is a high school sophomore with aspirations to pursue photography as a career and whose work can be viewed on his Instagram @kaideck\_photography.





# Honorable Mentions



"Here Comes the Sun" by Ken Vesey

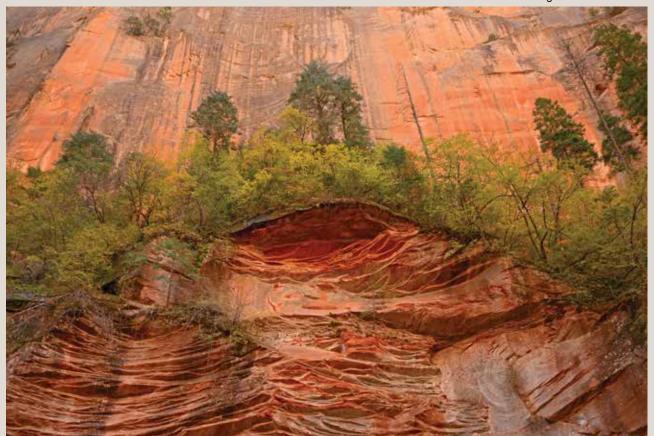
"Castle Lake" by Chris Manfield





**"Trillium Lake"** by David Griffith

"Forest Shelf" by Peter Guttmacher



# last look



2022 FORESTS IN FOCUS PEOPLE'S CHOICE





Check out what our social media followers had to say about this year's Forests in Focus People's Choice nominees and winner!

"Ready to Bounce" by Thomas Cluderay "This photo encapsulates the way the trees - alive or dead - in the forests are essential to life, showing the fungi growing on the tree, the tree sheltering the owl, and the green leaves of live trees muted in the background, which sustain us all with essential oxygen." - @lilroaringmouse, Twitter

"Beary Tired" by Jennifer Kardiak "There is something extra unique and special about a bear sleeping high in the tree branches — that isn't seen as often and makes for my favorite forest picture." — Gloria M., Facebook

"Portrait of a Maple Leaf" by Peggy Yaeger "I love focusing on and seeing the small details that make a forest." - @aspeelman3, Instagram

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Kinley Bollinger "Captures the breadth, beauty and abundance of our forested landscape." — @RogueLoonWoman7, Twitter

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