
FLA and the “30 by 30” Commitment: America’s Working Forests Are Conserved Lands

In Executive Order 14008, the Biden administration announced its commitment to conserve 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by the year 2030. Forest Landowners Association believes working lands and working forests can play a critical role in reaching this bold goal. Across the continuum of conservation, there are many ways to conserve forestland resources to benefit society today and for future generations. Working forests that are owned and managed by America’s family and private forest landowners significantly contribute to conservation of natural resources throughout the United States and provide one of the best opportunities for the Biden Administration’s “30x30” initiative to achieve conservation at scale.

Stewardship. America’s family and private forest owners take a great deal of pride in stewardship of the land. This tradition of stewardship has been passed on from generation to generation and is deeply rooted in the culture of forest ownership in America. The high percentage of compliance with voluntary silvicultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality is just one example of this commitment to stewardship.

Management. America’s family and private forest owners actively manage their forests to provide a sustainable suite of ecosystem services that benefit society, from wood products to carbon storage to recreational opportunities. A recent survey of FLA’s members shows that 90 percent have long term forest management plans and that 99 percent of those have taken actions to implement their plan. The vast majority consult professional foresters in planning and executing management of their lands. These landowners are knowledgeable, well-informed, and deeply invested in long-term management of these precious resources.

Legacy. True conservation of our working forests occurs when family-owned forests are successfully passed to the next generation. Passing on this tradition ensures that future generations are committed to continuing the legacy of stewardship and management.

Markets. Strong markets for wood and fiber products provide an active incentive for landowners to keep forests as forests and to continue managing their lands for all the benefits that working forests provide. When forest landowners are economically viable, they can continue to produce ecological and economic benefits for society.

Equity. America’s family and private forest owners are diverse and hold a broad range of motivations, concerns, and needs. FLA believes that all forest landowners – regardless of size, income, background, form of ownership, or status – should be eligible to participate in conservation and restoration programs. Broadening access to programs increases the ability of forest landowners to contribute to management, certainty, and conservation that will make positive impacts on a landscape scale.