THE ROAD TO HEALTHY, RESILIENT FORESTS

What can we do to secure the future of OUR forests?

Other Considerations…

Public Land Law Review. More than 80 laws govern the national forests. Many of these laws conflict with each other, clouding management goals and contributing to legal challenges and appeals. It’s been nearly 50 years since public land laws and regulations were collectively reviewed to clarify management direction and provide for more efficient project implementation.

Equal Access to Justice…for All. The Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) reimburses attorney fees and other expenses in actions against the federal government, but only to non-profit groups, individuals with a net worth less than $2 million or businesses with less than 500 employees and $7 million in net worth. The Act, which passed in 1980 to help veterans, now creates incentive for legal challenges to Forest Service proposed management activities, but does not provide the same financial opportunity for all forest stakeholders. EAJA payments are made from the Social Security Administration. In the past 5 years, payments for legal challenges to the Forest Service nearly doubled, costing taxpayers $38.1 million in 2015. The Forest Service currently faces a staggering amount of litigation that often halts projects and increases management costs, and redirects staff priorities.

Buy and Invest Locally
Encourage government and private investment in market development and use locally made products. Buying wood and paper products made with timber harvested on national forests can help spur national forest restoration and management by providing income and services FROM the land FOR the land. Restoration alone can cost up to $1,000 per acre. Using local products stimulates the entire process. Developing new markets and uses for wood will be vital to the future.