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Restoring America's Watersheds through Public/Private Partnerships



2018 Agricultural Outlook Forum

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) engages Americans in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 193-million-acre National Forest System.

The NFF builds collaborative relationships that ensure effective, proactive conservation solutions. We focus our efforts on on-the-ground projects, seeking efficiency and leveraging support whenever possible.

Tree Planting • Volunteer Opportunities • Collaboration • Watershed Restoration • Carbon Offsets • Wildlife Habitat Improvements • Recreational Enhancements • Fisheries Restoration



The Many Values of America's National Forests

Covering **193 million acres** of public lands, America's National Forests and Grasslands provide treasured landscapes and critical resources for the entire nation.

- Our forests **generate fresh water** valued at more than \$3.2 billion annually, supplying this critical resource to more than 123 million Americans.
- National Forests harbor **vital habitat** for 10,000 species of plants and 3,000 species of fish and wildlife.
- National Forests **host more than 160 million visits** by outdoors enthusiasts and tourists annually, which produce \$13.5 billion annually for the U.S. economy.
- Our forests sequester carbon to **help mitigate climate change** and clean pollutants from our air.



A photograph of a forest stream with water flowing over moss-covered rocks. The forest is dense with tall trees and green foliage. The text "OUR FORESTS, OUR WATER" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

OUR FORESTS, OUR WATER



National Forest Foundation

Our Forests, Our Water

The National Forest System is the **largest single source of fresh water in the United States**. To steward this important resources, the NFF:

- Partners with corporations on projects with measurable water benefits.
- Includes watershed health projects in all of our *Treasured Landscapes* campaign sites.
- Makes strategic investments in watershed health when opportunity arises.



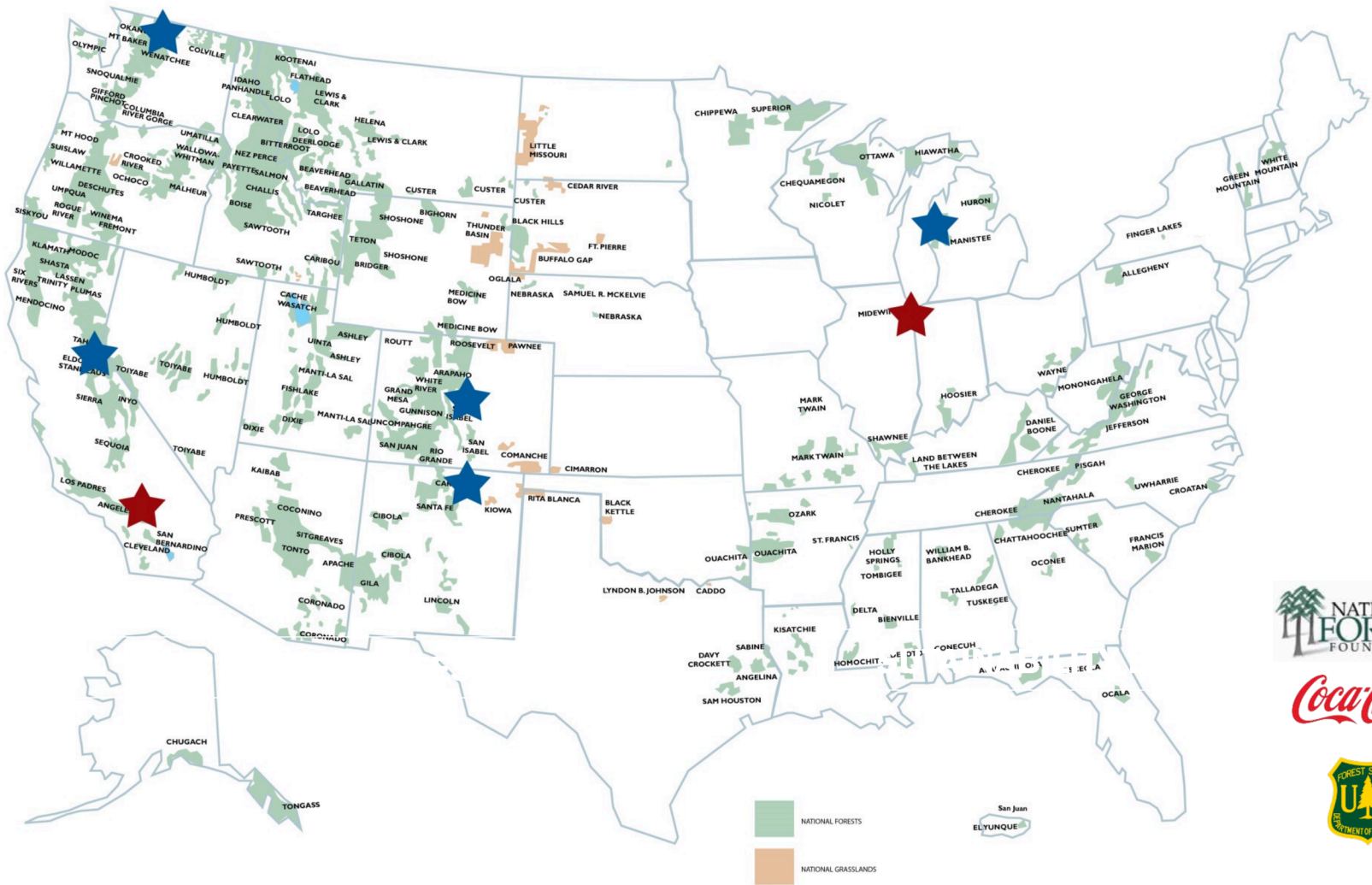
\$13 million
NFF Investments



\$58 million
Conservation Value



National Forest Replenish Projects



\$2.1 million
Coca-Cola Contributions



\$4.5 million
On-the-ground Impact

Arundo Removal Angeles National Forest | California

Problems

- Post-fire weed invasion in riparian areas.
- Invasive weeds restricted natural streamflow.
- Trash from user groups impaired water quality.

Approach

- Multi-year invasive eradication effort.
- Partner with local youth corps and local contractors.
- Leveraged youth corps to remove trash.

Results

211
Acres of
invasive
species
removed

324
Bags of
trash
removed

155
Feet of graffiti
cleaned

22.5
Miles of trails
maintained

Restoration Benefits

**Restored function to riparian areas | Improved and expanded native wildlife habitat
| Youth engagement | Recreation infrastructure benefits**



BEFORE



DURING



DURING



AFTER



Restoring Tallgrass Prairies

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie | Illinois

Problems

- Agricultural and military legacy at Midwin.
- Agricultural drain tiles disconnect natural hydrology.
- Opportunity to restore native tallgrass prairie.

Approach

- Demolish defunct infrastructure.
- Remove agricultural drain tiles.
- Re-plant with native plants and grasses.

Results



Restoration Benefits

Rare wetland habitat re-established | Groundwater infiltration | Improved habitat for wetland and grassland bird species



BEFORE



DURING



DURING



AFTER



THANK YOU!

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