

Sustaining the Nation’s Forest and Rangeland Resources for Future Generations Strategic Plan – Stakeholder Summary

The USDA Renewable Resource Extension Act (RREA) provides funding to enhance and expand forestry and rangeland Cooperative Extension programs at 73 land-grant institutions. These programs translate science into practical information for private owners and managers to use for improving their lives and/or livelihoods.



Since the beginning, RREA has been consistently underfunded.

- The authorized annual funding level is \$30,000,000.
- FY 2018 RREA appropriation was \$4,060,000, or about 13.5% of the authorized level.

Despite this, the program has demonstrated significant positive results. Between 2012 and 2016:

- the annual average return in value of RREA programing was \$53,863,140.
- for every \$1 invested in RREA contributed over \$13 to local economies.

To inform the new strategic plan, a national survey was conducted to identify emerging issues for forest and rangeland owners/managers. Nine critical

If fully funded, imagine what an additional \$25,940,000 could do to expand Extension programming for forest and rangeland owners and managers.

issues were identified, recognizing that all are affected at some level by climate change, restoration, and land conversion and fragmentation. They are:

ecosystem services	landowner engagement	water and wetlands
intergenerational transfer	public awareness	wildfire
invasive species	rural economics	wildlife habitat and management

The 2018–2022 RREA Strategic Plan provides direction for addressing such critical issues threatening the health of forests and rangelands, and the people whose livelihoods depend on them. To ensure ecological sustainability, increased economic opportunities, and the broader societal benefits derived from forest and rangeland resources, the plan calls on expanded support for and collaboration among academic, landowner, and government sectors.



Stakeholders at all levels are called on to advocate for a fully funded RREA program that will enhance and extend the reach of Cooperative Extension throughout the country.

Read the RREA 2018–2022 Strategic Plan:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/rrea-strategic-plan-fy-2018-2022> or <https://globalrangelands.org/rreasp/>