



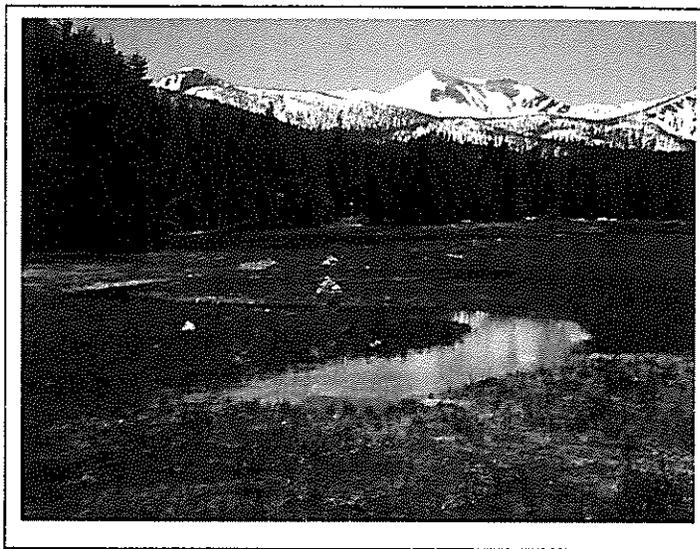
**Ecological Restoration:
Engaging Partners in an All Lands Approach**
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Region 5 Ecological Restoration Leadership Intent

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. It is our intent to establish a regional vision and corresponding goals for Ecological Restoration consistent with this mission and the laws, regulations and policies that guide National Forest management.

Our goal for the Pacific Southwest Region¹ is to retain and restore ecological resilience of the National Forest lands to achieve sustainable ecosystems that provide a broad range of services to humans and other organisms. Ecologically healthy and resilient landscapes, rich in biodiversity, will have greater capacity to adapt and thrive in the face of natural disturbances and large scale threats to sustainability, especially under changing and uncertain future environmental conditions such as those driven by climate change and increasing human use. Our goal is based on a commitment to land and resource management that is infused by the principles of Ecological Restoration and driven by policies and practices that are dedicated to make land and water ecosystems more sustainable, more resilient, and healthier under current and future conditions.

Ecosystem services are the goods and services that flow from wildlands and forests that are valued and used by people, and that directly or indirectly support human well-being. Wildlands and forests are valued for basic goods, such as wood, fiber, and water, but these ecosystems also deliver important services that are perceived to be free or limitless such as air and water purification, flood and climate regulation, biodiversity, scenic landscapes, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration and storage. The National Forests are important providers of ecosystem services to



Meadow restoration in Sierra Nevada high country retains water and extends the benefits it provides. Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

humans and to other inhabitants of our wildlands as well. Our commitment to restoration-based management includes a commitment to a renewed focus on the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services.

In the 21st century, three major drivers of change define restoration needs on the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region: climate change and shifting hydrologic patterns; increasingly dense and unhealthy forests; and rapidly growing human populations. These synergistic sources of change are resulting in increasingly over-allocated and undervalued ecosystem services (especially water); a dramatic increase in disturbance events such as uncharacteristic large-scale wildfires, floods, and insect and disease outbreaks; new and growing threats from terrestrial and aquatic invasive species; and a growing need to revitalize rural economies in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

¹ The Pacific Southwest Region (also known as Region 5) includes California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. It also includes small portions of the state of Nevada, managed by the Inyo National Forest, and the state of Oregon, managed by the Klamath National Forest.