

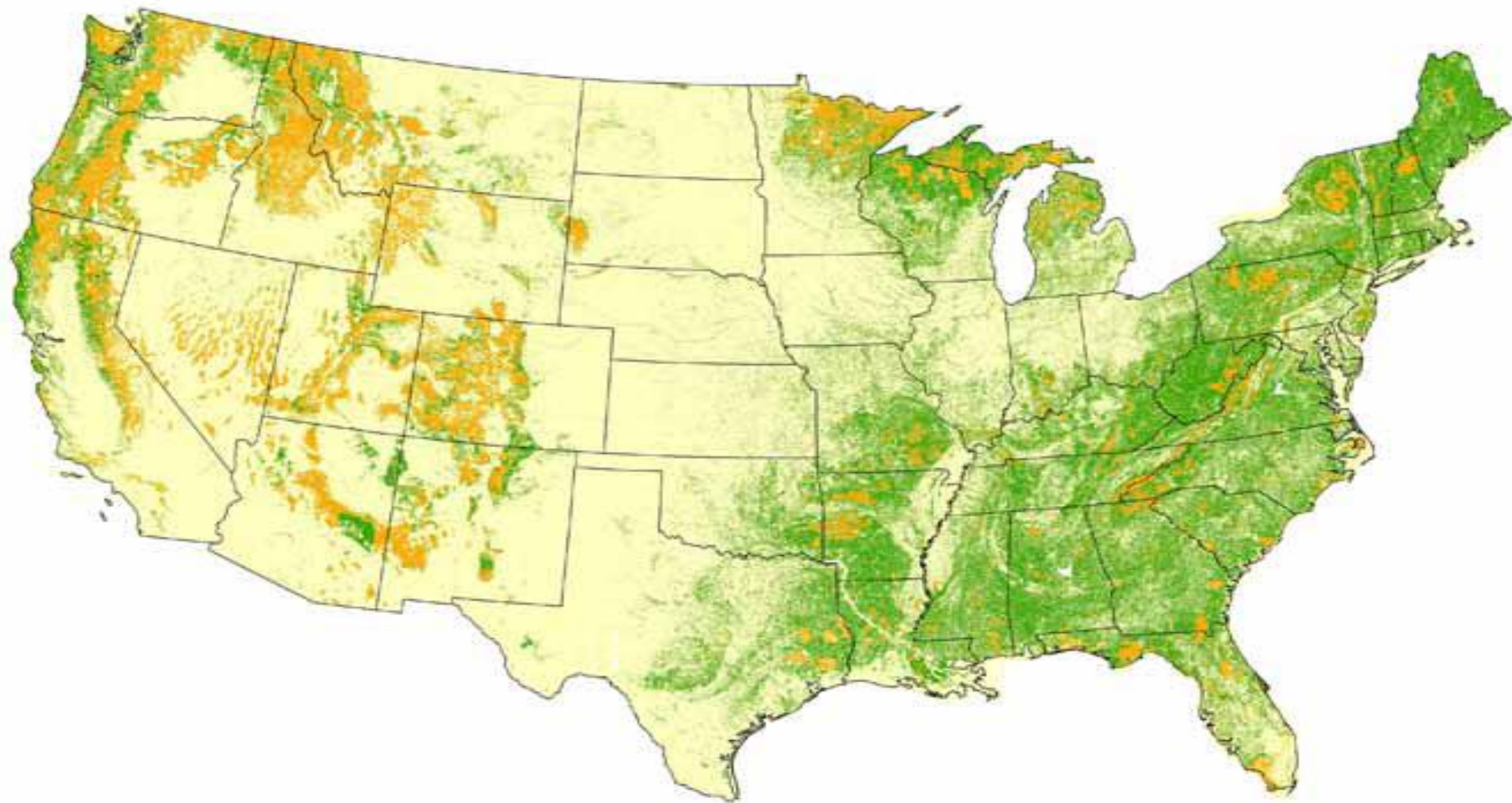
Governance and Stewardship of National Forests

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U.S. Forest Service

MegaFlorestais

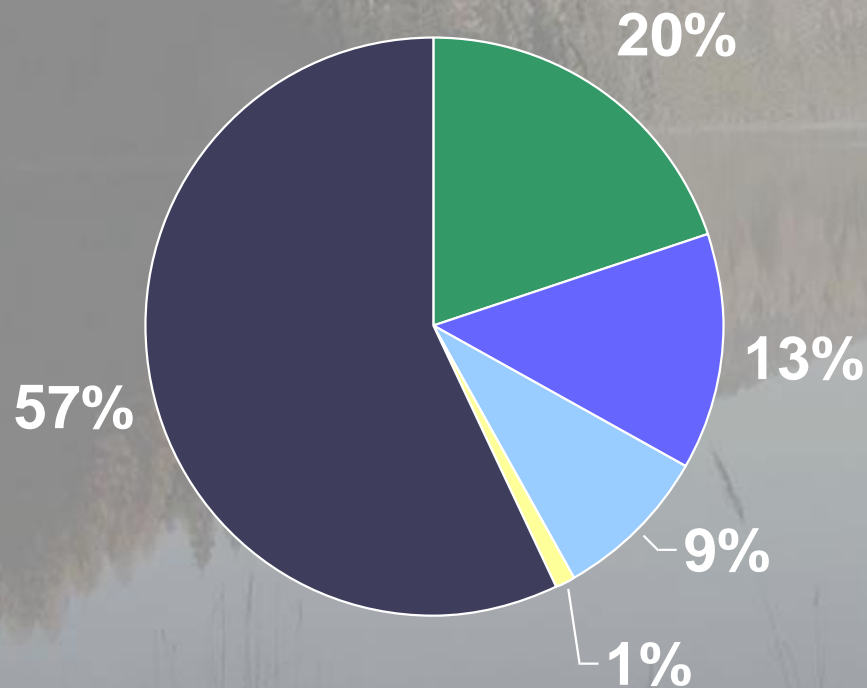







■ Private forest land ■ Public forest land ■ Nonforest



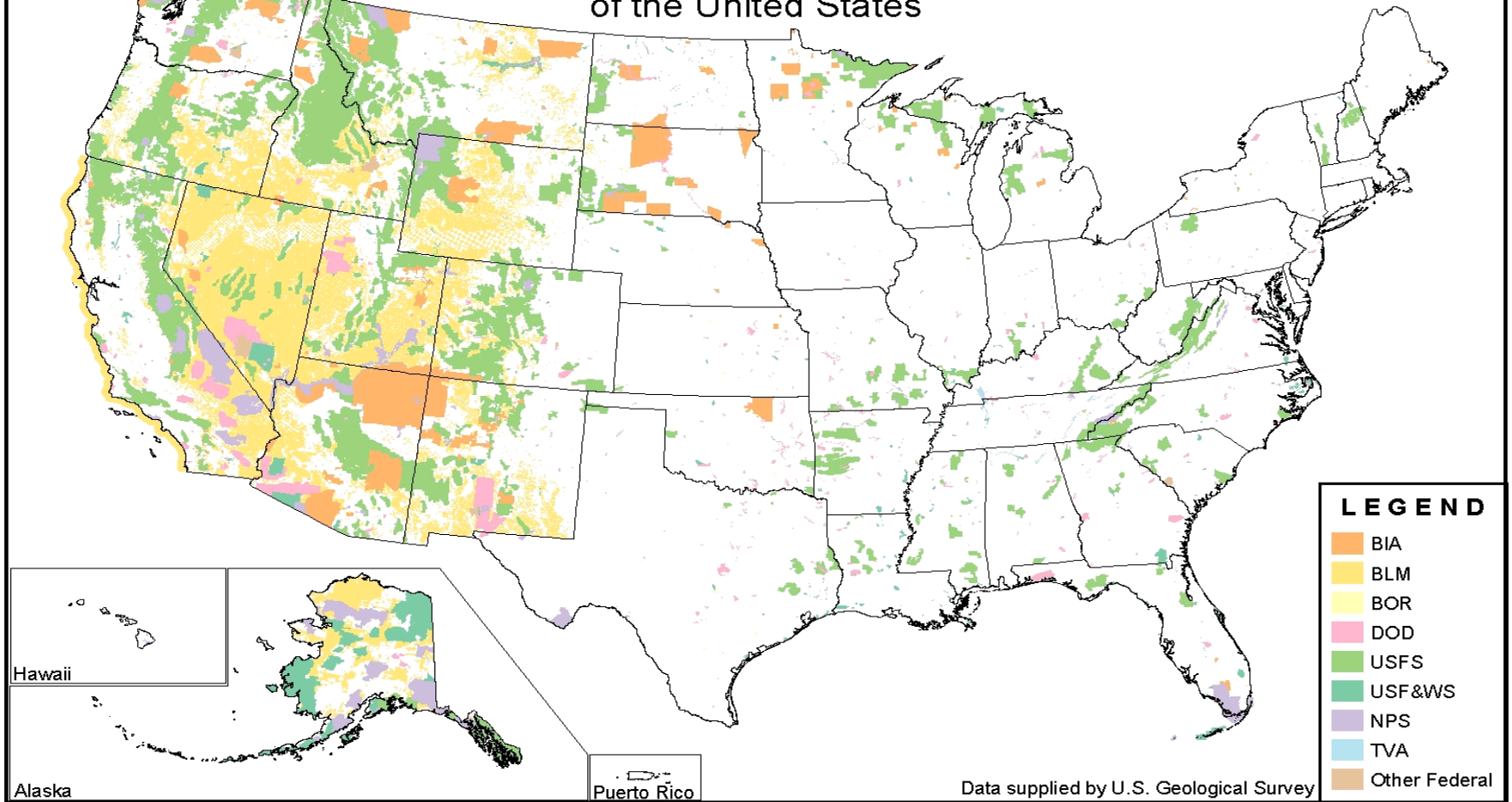
U.S. Forest Estate

~ 300 million hectares



-  National forest
-  Tribal/other federal
-  State govt
-  Local govt
-  Private

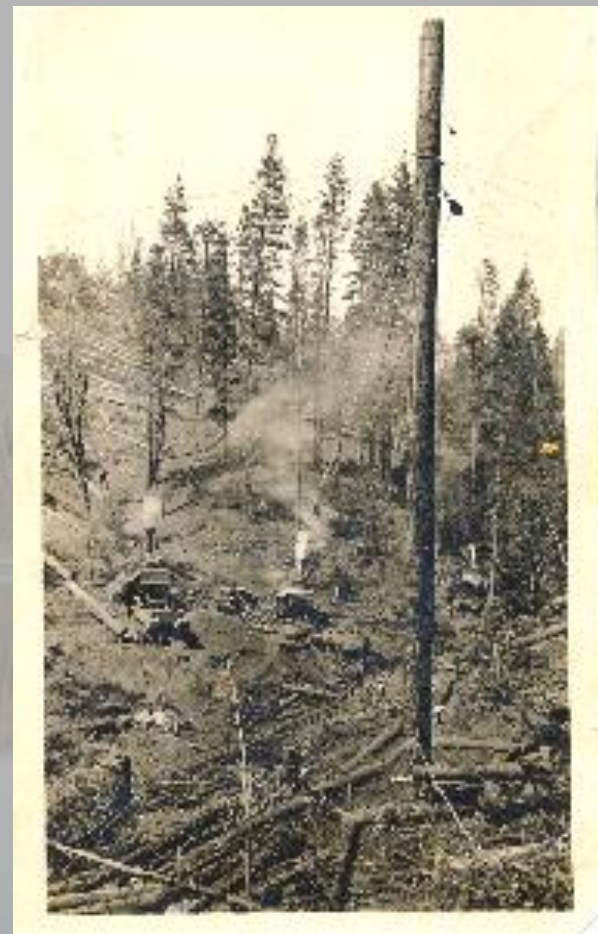
Federal Lands and Indian Reservations of the United States



Early Drivers for Federal Forests

- “The economic boom following the Civil War, the coming of age of steam railroads, and opportunities to purchase large parcels of public and private forest lands in the White Mountains set the stage for intense harvesting and destructive logging (Belcher 1980).”
- Forest Reserve Act of 1891 - The original purposes of what were first known as "forest reserves" were watershed protection and timber production. Put forest lands into the public domain to establish federal governance and protection of forests.
- The Weeks Act finally passed in 1911 and opened the door for beginning the purchases of all national forests east of the Mississippi for better forest protection, chiefly in fire control and water resources. It also provided for continuous production of timber





National Forests Provide

- Water for people, businesses and ecosystems
- Diversity of Forest products
- Fish and Wildlife habitat
- Recreational experiences
- Tribal Treaty Rights
- Support Rural Economy



Challenges in Western National Forests

- Restoring Forest and Watershed Health and creating Resilient Forest Landscapes
 - Insects and diseases expected to spread
 - Wildfires expected to be larger and hotter
 - Using harvesting and wildfire together
- Social and Economic
 - Local jobs and support to forest products industry
 - biomass/bioenergy market development
 - Reducing Risks to Communities from Wildfire
 - Retaining working forests and open space
 - Changing ownership patterns





Key Values to Protect

- **Municipal Watersheds**
- **T&E, Anadromous Fisheries, Wildlife Habitats**
- **Public Values (Recreation and Scenic)**
- **Improvements and Capital Investments**
- **Private lands**



Habitat



Carbon sink or carbon source



Wildfire in Bitterroot National Forest - Montana USA

Restoring Watershed Health

Remnant Road System

- Reduce Erosion
- Improve stream function
- Protect Fisheries
- Resilient Watersheds
- Wildlife Habitat Security







Students help plant forty-three thousand seedlings to restore natural vegetation and improve riparian stability.

