



The Future of Forestry in the Farm Bill

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and U.S. Nature4Climate (USN4C)

June 7, 2023







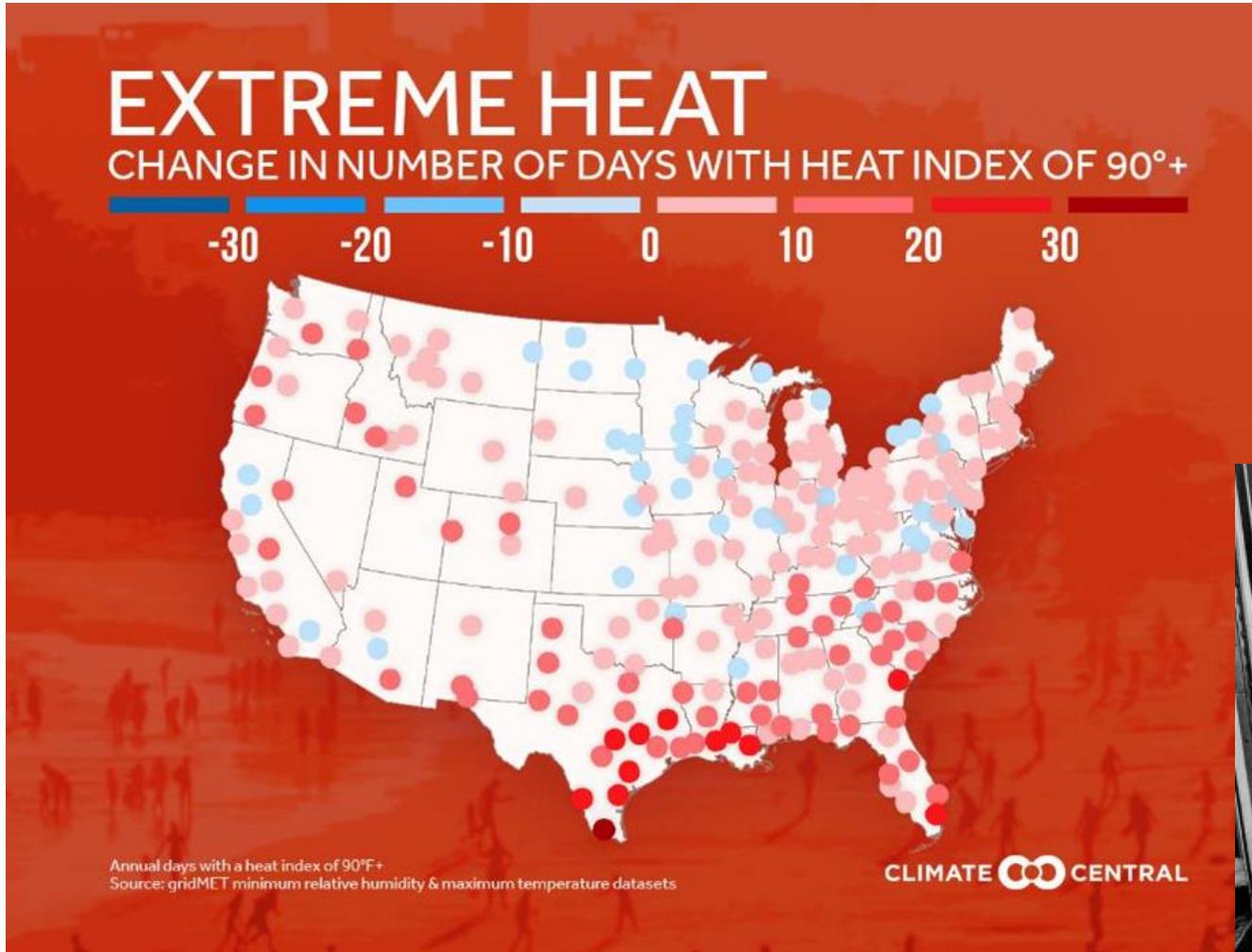








We need shading canopy to combat rising heat.

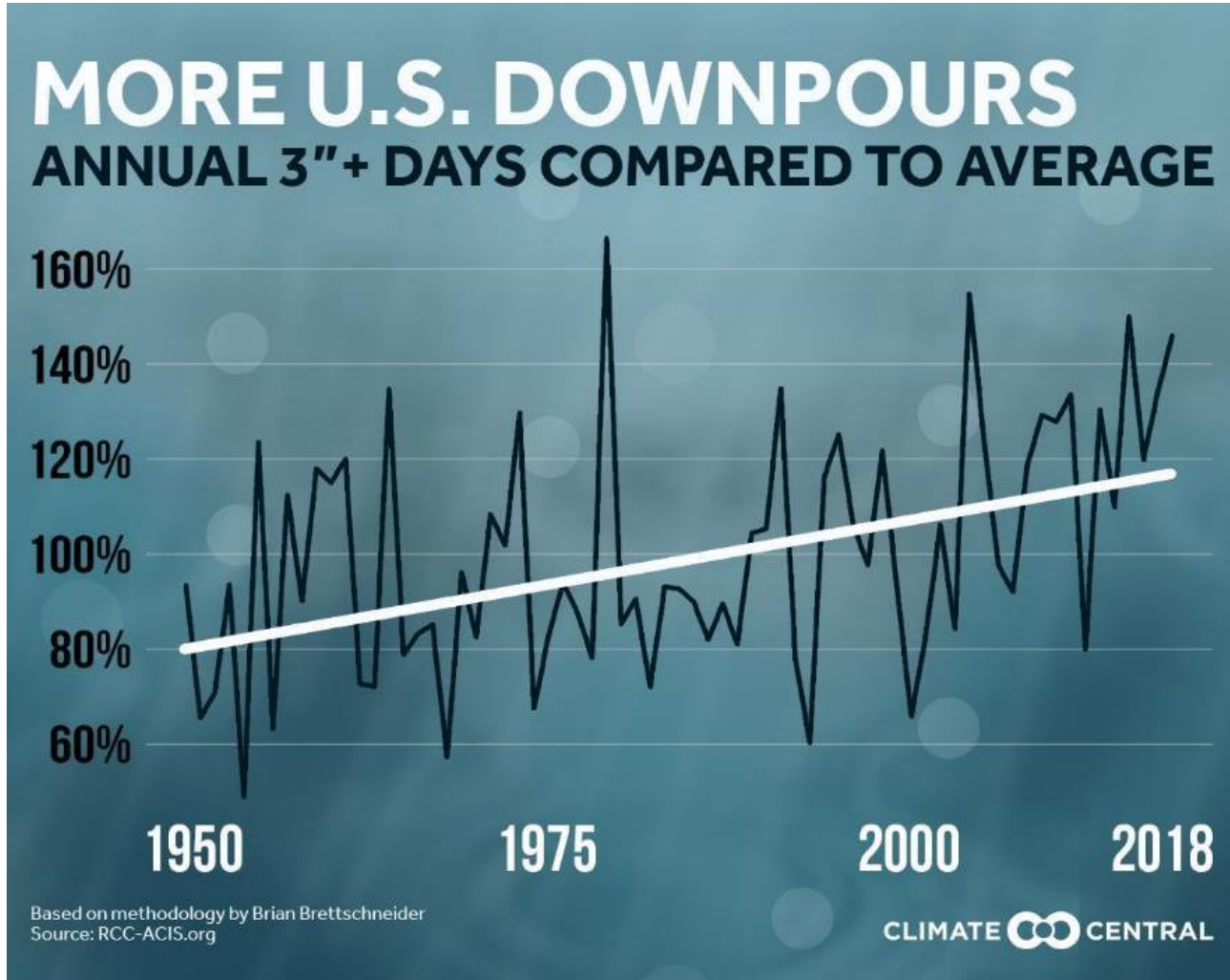


Burlington, VT days above 100 Heat Index

- Zero (Historic 1971-2000)
- 8 (Mid-century 2036-2065)
- 25 (Late century 2070-2099)



We need robust canopy to reduce flood intensity.



Jacksonville

THE POWER OF TREES

2771

MILLION
GALLONS

STORM RUNOFF AVOIDED

22

MILLION
POUNDS

AIR POLLUTION ABSORBED

1.3

MILLION
TONS CO₂e

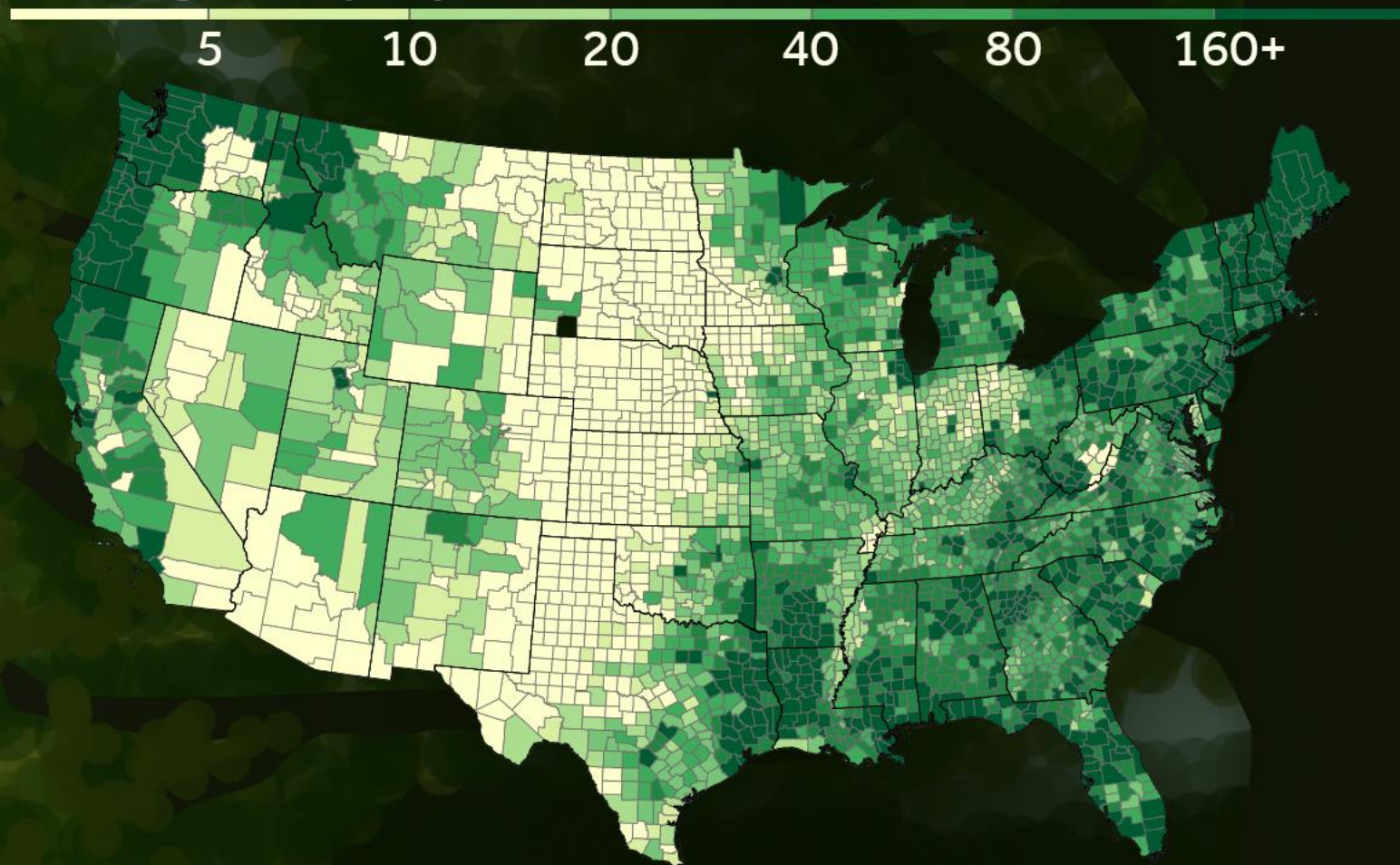
CARBON POLLUTION REMOVED

Estimates for Duval County
Source: U.S. Forest Service i-Tree County Tool

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

RUNOFF AVOIDED BY TREES

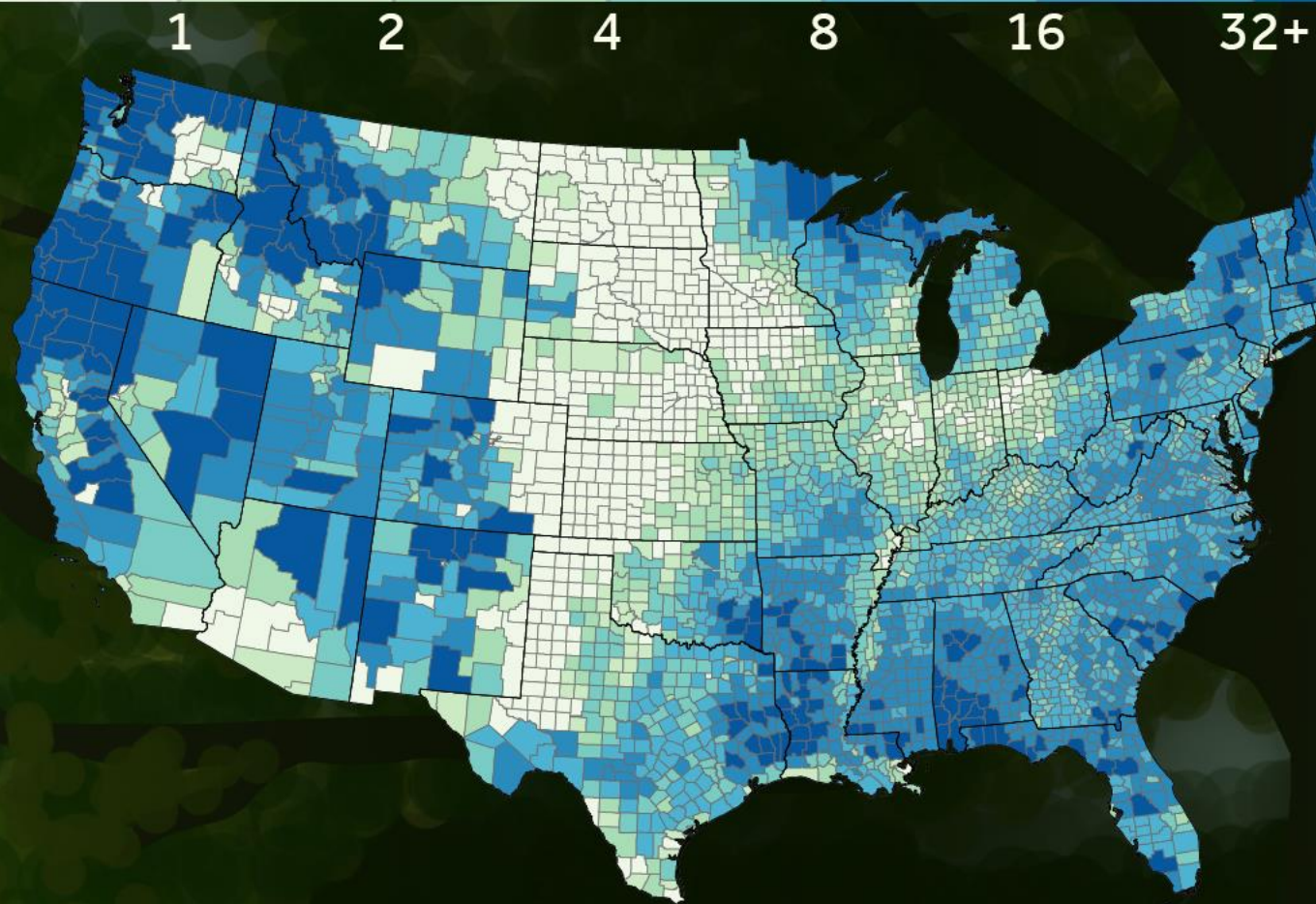
Million gallons per year



Annual county-level estimates based on 2010 census data.
Source: U.S. Forest Service i-Tree County Tool

AIR POLLUTION ABSORBED BY TREES

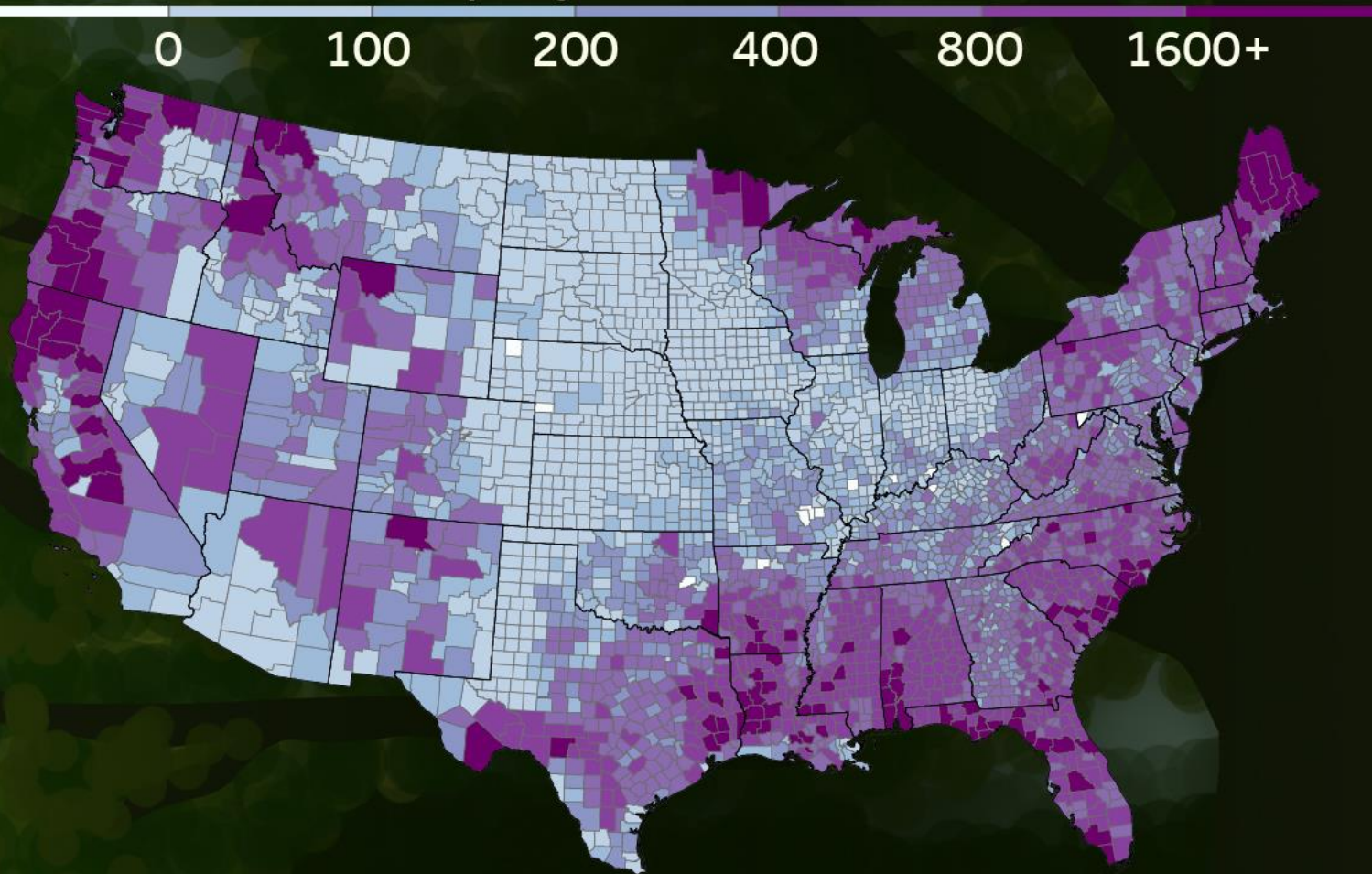
Million pounds per year



Annual county-level estimates based on 2010 census data.
Source: U.S. Forest Service i-Tree County Tool

CARBON POLLUTION REMOVED BY TREES

Thousand tons CO₂e per year



Annual county-level estimates based on 2010 census data.
Source: U.S. Forest Service i-Tree County Tool

CLIMATE  CENTRAL



Trees in communities have a global climate impact.

15% of all forest carbon sequestered in the United States is from trees in settlements (urban and community).



Trees improve public health and equity.

- “Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives” – tree canopy strengthens the body, nourishes the mind, boosts healing, and improves financial health
- Increased canopy can reduce citywide temperatures and decrease illness and death.
- As tree canopy increases, mental health disparities for poor communities decrease.
- How does your tree canopy and access to parks compare? Visit American Forests' [TreeEquityScore.org](https://www.americanforests.org/tree-equity-score) and TPL's [ParkServe.tpl.org](https://www.trustforpublicland.org/parkserve).

Trees increase park usage



PLAYGROUNDS
WITH
MATURE
TREES
HAVE 2X
THE USERS

National Study of Playgrounds (2023) – NIH (NHLBI # R01HL114432)



Critical community tree cover is declining.

- 127 million acres of canopy in urban areas (5.5 billion trees)
- \$18.3 billion value air pollution capture and prevention, water pollution, reduced energy use, carbon capture
- **BUT...**we are losing 175,000 acres (36 million trees) a year
- **AND...**historically redlined “class D” communities have ½ the canopy today of “class A” communities

Moving forward – Policy Recommendations

- **Urban and Community Forestry Program –**
 - Continue historic investment and tools to reach those with greatest need
 - maintain funding levels and waiver of match requirements
- **Community Forest Program –**
 - Remove barriers to entry/participation for Tribes and historically underserved communities
 - reduce match requirements
 - revise forest cover requirement
 - increase flexibility in public access requirements
- **(Proposed) Forest Conservation Easement Program –**
 - Use the Farm Bill to protect private working forests that benefit rural and urban communities:
 - 72 percent of annual carbon sequestration from all U.S. forests
 - filter 30 percent of the nation’s drinking water
 - provide habitat for 60 percent of at-risk species
 - support 2.5 million jobs



Since 1972, TPL has protected 4 million acres of public land; created 5,364 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places; raised \$93 billion in public funding for parks and public lands; and connected nearly 9.4 million people to the outdoors.

To learn more, visit [tpl.org](https://www.tpl.org).

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

BRENDAN SHANE
CLIMATE DIRECTOR
Brendan.shane@tpl.org
202-494-6839

Thanks to EESI and USN4C