



Healthy communities rely on a healthy forest. The AFA's **2020 Vision** is based on the use of **Sustainable Forest Management** to improve **forest health** and **Community Health**.

How are forest and community health connected? A healthy forest produces a continuous supply of timber for harvest, which results in:

- ◆ A healthy age class distribution and openings for tree regeneration
- ◆ A sustainable timber inventory for the future
- ◆ Revenues for host communities to maintain roads and support local schools
- ◆ Revenues for recreation projects, resulting in tourism dollars
- ◆ Jobs for local residents in the timber, lumber and wood products industries
- ◆ Businesses that serve those workers and their families
- ◆ Income taxes paid by businesses and workers

The ANF is currently suffering from decades of drastically reduced prescribed treatments and, particularly, timber harvests. The result is an age class imbalance and multiple pests and diseases attacking the aging and susceptible forest, and drastic decreases in funding for our communities.

**What is the solution?** How can we reverse the effects of deferred forest management? With the AFA's **2020 Vision**: using the sound science of Sustainable Forestry, as prescribed by the USFS.

These are the strategies the AFA advocates for:

- ◆ Return balance to the forest's age-class distribution through prescribed harvests
- ◆ Create openings for tree regeneration and wildlife habitat
- ◆ Create late structural linkages to ensure future species diversity
- ◆ Promptly salvage damaged timber resulting from weather events, pests and diseases
- ◆ Limit damage from pests and diseases by harvesting the trees they feed on
- ◆ Limit Wilderness designations to areas not suitable for timber harvest and utilize National Recreation or Remote Recreation designations instead
- ◆ Maintain Multiple Use Management

Forest Management is headed in the right direction on the ANF, but there is still a strong push by those who want to see the ANF become a 500,000-acre Wilderness with limited recreation and no management of the forest. This would mean the demise of the ANF's host communities, the best hardwood forest in the U.S., and this exceptional recreation and economic asset as we know it.

**Do you share our 2020 Vision for forest and community health? Become a member or renew your membership today and add your voice to ours as we advocate for Sustainable Forest and Multiple-Use Management on the Allegheny National Forest. It's the only path to a healthy forest and healthy communities!**



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