



# Future Forests Reimagined

20 February 2023

Dear FFR friends,

We hope this email finds you well. With 2023 underway, we want to take a moment to wish you all the best in the upcoming months. May the new year bring you happiness, success, and many opportunities for connecting with nature and each other.

As we reflect on the past year, we want to share some highlights:

- We successfully launched the [Future Forests Reimagined initiative](#) with five workshops. These workshops gathered 248 participants, 157 from the United States and 89 from Canada. Twenty-four Indigenous leaders participated across the five days, along with representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations, businesses, and academic institutions.
- A summary on the workshops, [Building Resilience for Ecological Recovery and Community Wellbeing](#), was released in October.
- An advisory committee has been established to help guide the next steps in the initiative. The committee has representation from Indigenous communities and practitioners in Canada and the U.S. Three meetings were held in 2022: July 19, September 29, and November 29. The next one is planned for March 2, 2023. The running minutes of the committee can be found [here](#). If you are interested in joining the advisory group, please contact a member of the planning committee—a list is below.
- A mapping working group has initiated a project to identify old forest stands that are 150 years old or older. The first project is being led by Wildlands Network and is currently focused on Vermont, in collaboration with Vermont Natural Heritage, Northeast Wilderness Trust, and other partners. The group is very interested in expanding its work into other regions. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact a planning committee member.
- On the communications front, the Public News Service interviewed workshop participants for a May 2022 article entitled “[Groups Aim to Protect Old Forest in Northern Appalachian-Acadian Ecoregion](#).”
- A [poster](#) and [short video](#) were presented at the annual meeting of the Planetary Health Alliance, held in October 2022 at Harvard University. An abstract of the project, entitled “Future Forest Reimagined: Building resilience for ecological recovery and community wellbeing, Northern Appalachian-Acadian (NAPA) ecoregion of Canada and the United States,” can be found [here on page 15](#).
- Also in October, some planning team members participated in the [First Light Summit](#), a day devoted to community, music, dialogue, and inspiration around Wabanaki land access, stewardship, and return.
- We have created a [resources document](#) that compiles information on organizations active in this space, relevant publications, media coverage, meetings, conferences, etc. This is a living document, and we welcome additions to it.

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## Future Forests Reimagined

- One of our participant organizations., Cold Hollow to Canada, a regional conservation partnership in the Green Mountains linkage of Vermont, has developed a toolkit called the [Woodlots Program](#) that engages groups of landowners from towns with contiguous or nearly contiguous forested properties, focusing their management activities on a landscape scale. The neighbor-to-neighbor collaboration results in a cumulative impact which is more significant compared to the effect one property owner can have on their own.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited about all the possibilities and opportunities that await us. We are confident that with our hard work and determination, we will continue to achieve great things. Please contact us at [futureforestreimagined@gmail.com](mailto:futureforestreimagined@gmail.com) if you have questions or wish to be more involved.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

All the best,

The Future Forests Reimagined planning team.

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