

## **Historic, Archive Document**

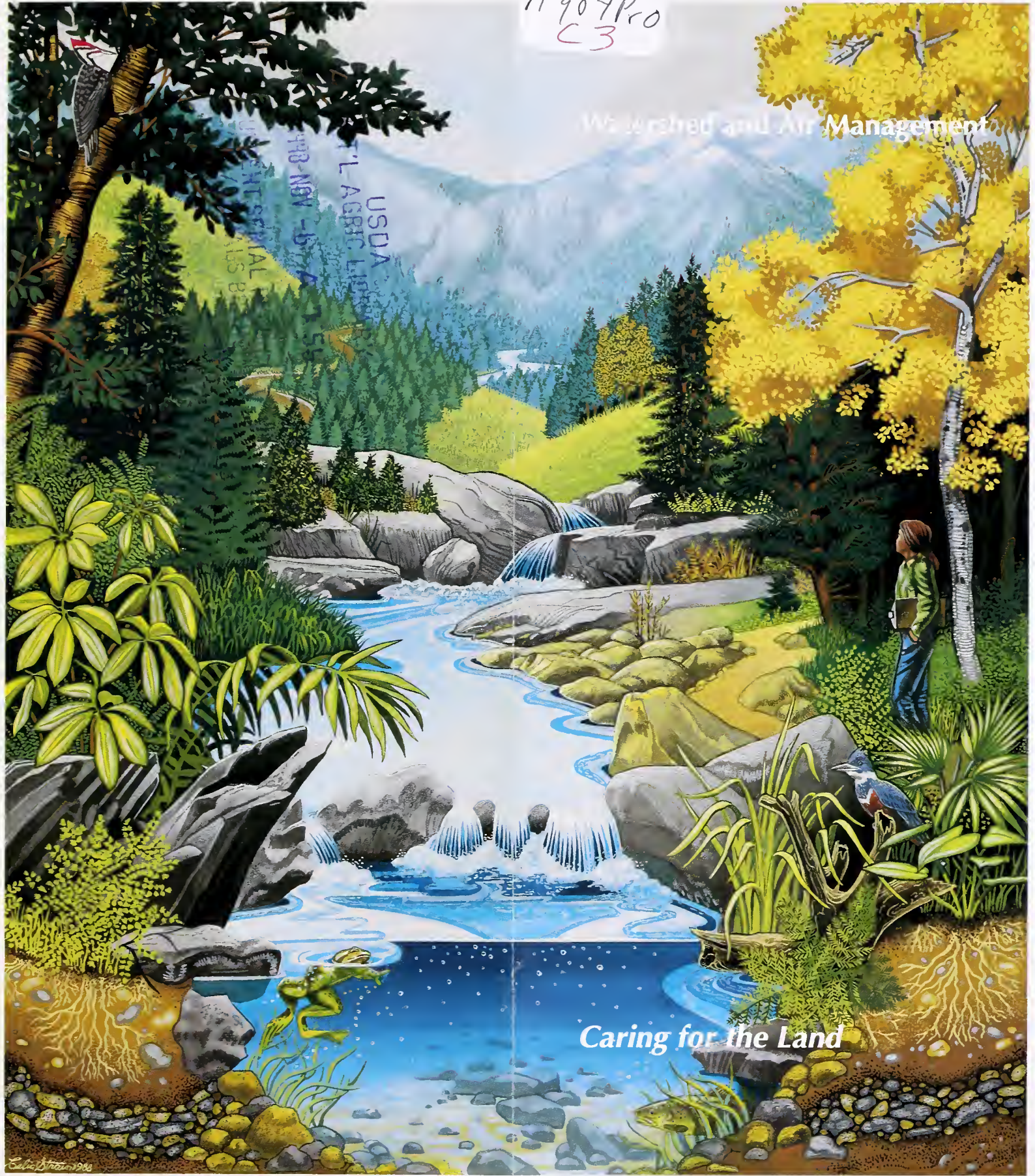
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Watershed and Air Management



*Caring for the Land*



## Watershed and Air Management

The stewardship of water, soil and air resources is a basic requirement for USDA Forest Service land management activities. The Forest Service has a strong tradition in conservation and protection of these resources while providing the goods, services, and opportunities the American public expects. The Watershed and Air Management program supports the diverse management needs of the Forest Service. Some of the major program responsibilities include:

### Project Support



Watershed specialists evaluate proposed land-disturbing activities to ensure that basic soil, water and air resource values are maintained or improved.

### Water Quantity and Quality



Careful administration of land-disturbing activities and application of protective conservation practices ensure the high quality of surface water and ground water from National Forest System lands. Over 50 percent of the surface water supply in the Western United States originates in National Forest System lands.



### Long-Term Soil Productivity



Long-term monitoring and periodic sampling of soils provide information to adjust management practices that ensure the continued productivity of National Forest System lands.

### Soil Inventories



Soil scientists collect, analyze, and map basic soils and landscape information so that they can accurately assess land capability and suitability and evaluate impacts of natural disturbances and planned management activities.

### Air Quality



Monitoring of air pollution effects provides current information essential for protection of forest resources and special management areas.

### Riparian Management



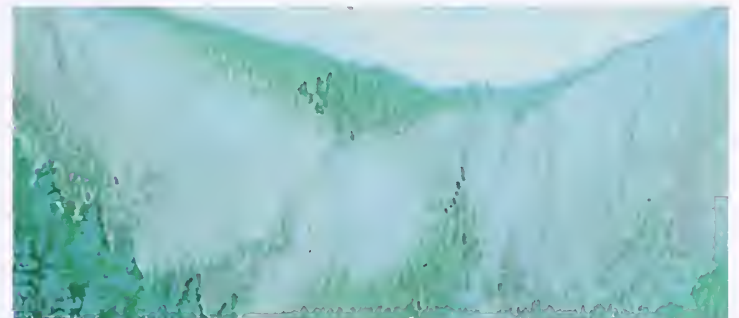
Streams and adjacent uplands are managed to ensure continued benefits to dependent resources—fisheries, wildlife, and water—while providing a broad range of other resource outputs, including grazing, recreation, and timber.

### Watershed Improvement



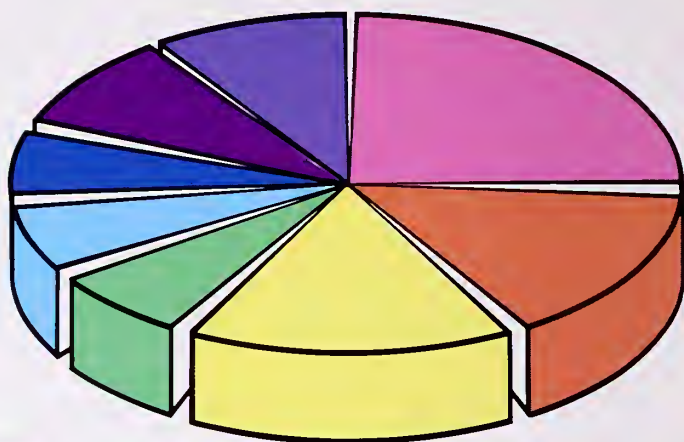
Damaged land surfaces are carefully restored through the application of efficient and timely restorative practices.

### Emergency Fire Rehabilitation



Following wildfire, lands are evaluated for damage, and protective practices are immediately applied to protect fragile soils, sensitive stream channels, and critical downstream uses from further damage.

## Forest Service Watershed Management Essential Components



### Forest Service Watershed Facts

**Watershed**—An area of land draining water toward a single outlet. Watersheds can be small—less than a few acres for small ponds or creeks—or large—a network of streams and lakes, like the entire Mississippi River system.

**Class I Airshed**—The 88 wilderness areas established before August 1977 where extremely limited additions of air pollution are allowed.

Acres of National Forest System land — 191 million

Miles of perennial streams — 300,000

Acres of lakes/reservoirs — 2.2 million

Acres of Class I airsheds — 12 million

Acres of completed inventories — 140 million

Acres of improvements — 12,000 (average annual)

Gallons of water supplied annually — 173 trillion

Acres of municipal watersheds — 42 million

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