



## How we can Help – The Basics

Our target habitat might be healthy and diverse spruce or pine forests, but before we can get there we need to do a few basic things.

Spreading lime on the affected areas is the first step. Lime makes the soil less acidic so metals present there can't be easily taken up by plants. Lower levels of some metals in plants means healthier plants.

Next, we need to add fertilizer to the soil, which has lost much of its fertility and organic matter due to erosion.

After that we apply a grass and legume seed mixture. These plants cover the ground quickly and create a more suitable environment for the tree seedlings that will follow. The grasses and legumes eventually die out when the trees get old enough to shade the area.

Tree seedlings are then introduced. Mostly pines and spruces are planted, along with smaller numbers of various other tree species, like oaks and maples. Birches and poplars come in on their own.

In a few decades, these seedlings grow into stands of trees that begin to look like forests.

This basic process will be followed into the future.