

1990, scientists located the gene associated with NF1 and have been working since to decipher its faulty message—a task that is crucial to finding a cure. Similarly, scientists are drawing closer to locating the gene associated with NF2 and, with each step, hope to design better detection and treatment strategies. Investigators are also exploring the possibility that the genes responsible for neurofibromatosis may play an important role in several common forms of cancer, and scientists hope to study the anatomical and biological characteristics of the disease in a newly identified animal model.

The biomedical research community has taken significant strides toward solving the mystery of neurofibromatosis, and the 1990s, which I have proclaimed as the “Decade of the Brain,” hold the promise of even greater advances in the near future. Achieving them is a goal shared by private voluntary health organizations such as the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation and Neurofibromatosis, Incorporated, and by the Federal Government’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, as well as other components of the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

In order to enhance public awareness of neurofibromatosis, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 422, has designated the month of November 1992 as “National Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month” and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 1992 as National Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month. I invite all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6496 of October 20, 1992

National Forest Products Week, 1992

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

From our magnificent National Forests, which cover some 212 million acres of land in the United States, to our thriving State and local parks, industrial timberlands, and privately owned woodlots, America’s forests constitute one of this country’s greatest treasures. All Americans share a responsibility to protect our Nation’s forests, and during National Forest Products Week, we renew our commitment to responsible management of these precious tracts of land.

As a vital part of our planet’s ecosystem, our forests provide food and habitat for a wide range of plants and animals. These rich tracts of land also provide essential raw materials for building and other uses, and

hundreds of thousands of Americans depend on them for their livelihood. Countless other citizens enjoy our forests as a beautiful setting for family camp-outs and other forms of recreation, which encourage children and adults alike to appreciate more fully the importance of conservation.

Today the United States boasts a strong and growing tradition of forest conservation. Annual forest growth now exceeds timber harvests by more than 35 percent, and the total national volume of wood is 25 percent larger than it was in 1952. Yet, recognizing continued challenges to forest preservation—from disease and drought to wildfires, which destroyed almost 2 million acres of forest and rangeland this summer alone—we are working hard to promote environmental stewardship in both the public and private sectors.

The major Federal forest management agencies have adopted an “ecosystem approach” to conservation, and by law our National Forests must now be managed on a sustained yield basis. As part of our Forests for the Future Initiative, the United States Government is also helping to lead the way toward a twofold increase in worldwide forest conservation assistance, as a first step toward halting the net loss of forests over the next decade. Here at home, millions of volunteers are working together with private organizations and with State and local agencies in support of our America the Beautiful Initiative, our ambitious program to plant 1 billion new trees in urban and rural areas each year.

The benefits that we derive from our forests are as varied as the species of trees and wildlife that they contain. As demand for traditional forest commodities continues, and as we continue to develop new products and uses each year, it is imperative that we join together in promoting sustainable use and conservation of our forests and timberlands.

The Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 162), designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as “National Forest Products Week” and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 18, 1992, as National Forest Products Week. I encourage all Americans to observe that week with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH