

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago... The second-best time is now."*  
— Anonymous

# Seas of Trees

## DEMONSTRATION FOREST



**NOW IS HERE!** Planet Bluegrass is excited to partner with Seas of Trees, a local nonprofit tree planting organization, to create a large demonstration forest in Telluride this summer. Seas of Trees was founded in 2020 by a local high school junior, Ayla Kanow, and her family with the mission to educate youth planters about climate change, environmental stewardship, and carbon sequestration. Already the organization has planted 2,000 sapling trees locally, another 1,500 abroad, and is branching out to take on their largest project yet.

The 2,000 tree demonstration forest consists of local species including native quaking aspen, blue spruce, douglas fir, lodgepole, and ponderosa pine. The forest will be taking root on private property on the sunny side of Aldasoro adjacent to the airport where it will have access to water and a fence system to keep the resident elk from grazing on the tender saplings in their first few years.

Planet Bluegrass, the Town of Telluride, San Miguel County, and the Telluride Foundation have all contributed to the purchase of the trees and supplies as well as a long-term maintenance plan to ensure the forest's success.

"We don't see the project as just about tree planting. We see it as tree-growing," notes Natalie Fijalkowski, Co-owner of Telluride Arborist, who is donating the creation of a permaculture design to nurture the forest until it is established.

"Forests everywhere are in jeopardy and here in Telluride sudden aspen decline (SAD), the invasive bark beetle, wildfires, and drought significantly threaten our forests," said Ayla's mom and Board President, Joanna Kanow. "Even though it looks like you are surrounded by trees everywhere, if you look closer, the forests need our help."

Planting has begun and Seas of Trees is looking for volunteers. If you want to take climate action and learn about reforestation, Planet Bluegrass will be taking a group up to the forest to get their hands in the dirt and plant some trees during the festival. Find out more by visiting the Seas of Trees table in the Planet Bluegrass Tent in Harmony Greene.

At maturity, a single tree will remove 48lbs of carbon dioxide per year from the air. This means that the fully grown 2,000 tree forest could sequester up to 48 tons of carbon dioxide each year. It is more important than ever to invest in the now, and in 20 years, at the 69th Telluride Bluegrass Festival, we will be grateful we did!

As Festivarians, you can support Seas of Trees with your tips at the beer booth. So drink up, knowing your donation will continue to grow and grow. 🍷



**YOU CAN ALSO DONATE DIRECTLY TO SEAS OF TREES AT [WWW.SEASOFTREES.ORG](http://WWW.SEASOFTREES.ORG) OR VENMO @PLANTTREES**