

# WORKING FORESTS: MAXIMIZING THE POTENTIAL OF A NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTION



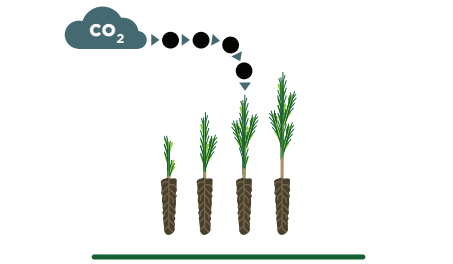
**GROW**  
CAPTURE & CONVERT

Growing trees capture carbon dioxide from the air and convert it into carbon within usable solid wood.



**HARVEST**  
STORE

Harvested trees made into wood products continue to store the carbon they captured as growing trees.



**REPLANT**  
RENEW & CAPTURE

Forest owners plant millions of tree seedlings each year, renewing the cycle with vigorous young growth.

## WORKING FORESTS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL CLEAN-AIR TECHNOLOGY ON EARTH

By providing a continuing cycle of planting, growing and harvesting, active forest management optimizes a forest's ability to sequester and store carbon and improves resiliency, maintaining the ability to sequester carbon in the future.

At a landscape scale, managed forests are considered carbon sinks, meaning they reduce the net amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere as they grow.

## WHEN A FOREST IS MANAGED, IT IS HEALTHY AND THRIVING

### WORKING FORESTS MAXIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

- + Working forests increase carbon capture and carbon storage – Carbon is captured from the atmosphere and stored in the trees and wood products they produce.
- + Working forests are often healthier, more resilient, and able to adapt to a changing climate.
- + Productive forests and strong markets for wood products create economic incentive to keep forests as forests, protecting their power to capture carbon.
- + Productive working forests deliver an abundant supply of wood to meet increasing demand for renewable products – products that continue to store carbon throughout their lives.
- + Working forests are able to reduce our reliance on products that are more fossil-fuel intensive than wood.

## WOOD PRODUCTS ARE FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE 50% OF THE DRY WEIGHT OF A TREE IS CARBON

What is one step you can take to combat climate change? Buying and using forest products that store carbon and support continued investment in our nation's sustainably managed working forests.



# WORKING FORESTS ARE A POWERFUL TOOL IN MEETING CLIMATE GOALS

Forests in the United States offset 12-15% of our emissions each year. **With good policy, there is potential to do even more.** As stewards of one of our most dependable emissions reduction technologies, we encourage policy leaders to integrate the following working forest principles into their climate mitigation strategies.

## 1. PRIVATE WORKING FORESTS ARE A KEY COMPONENT OF ANY CLIMATE MITIGATION STRATEGY.

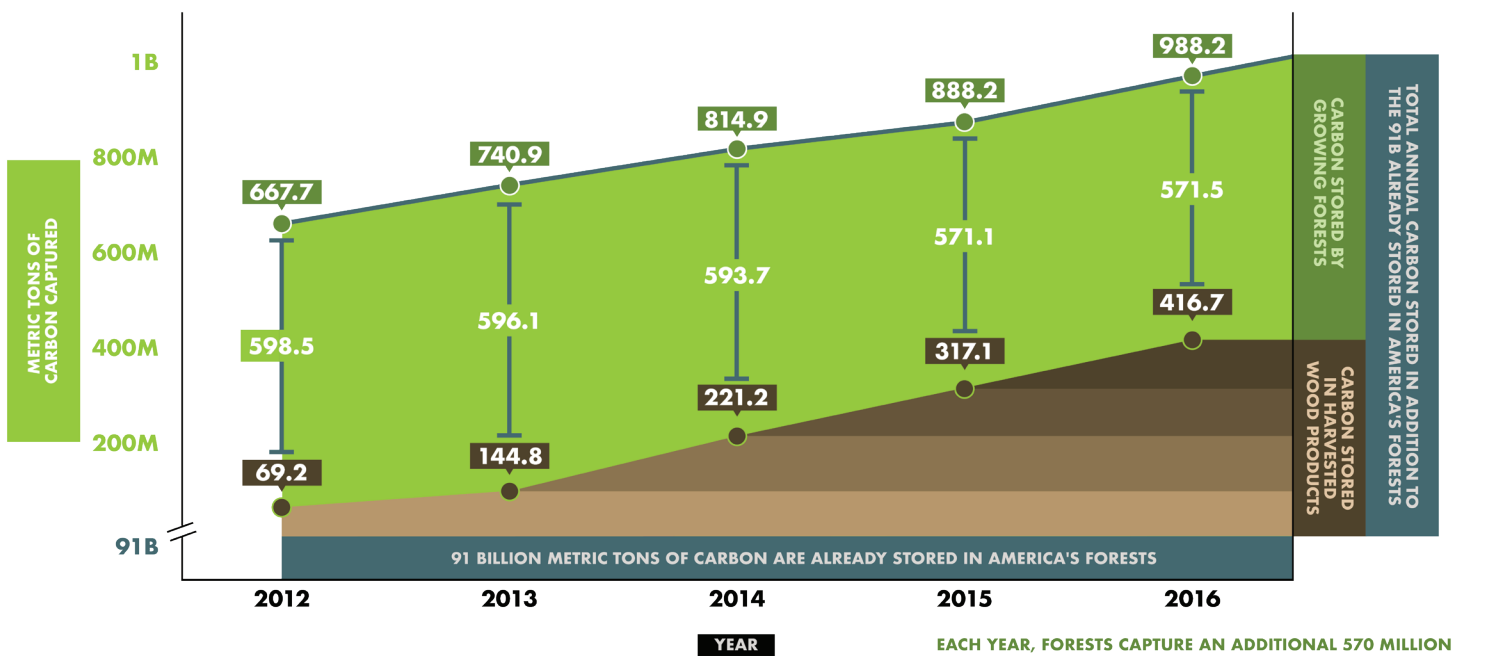
Carbon mitigation strategies that include forest owners, and encourage their participation are more likely to deliver the maximum emissions capture and storage potential of working forests. **Sustainable forest management should be incentivized to encourage the sector to realize its full carbon potential.**

## 2. CARBON MITIGATION STRATEGIES SHOULD RECOGNIZE CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND STORAGE.

Working forests must be recognized for providing two critical climate mitigation benefits: carbon sequestration as trees grow and continued carbon storage in the wood products they become.

### THE CUMULATIVE CARBON BENEFIT: CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

#### TOTAL ANNUAL CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE FROM U.S. FORESTS AND HARVESTED WOOD PRODUCTS



## 3. FOREST OWNERS NEED CLARITY & SIMPLICITY TO PARTICIPATE.

**Forest owner participation can deliver real carbon benefits at scale.** For forest owners to participate, carbon mitigation policy needs to be clear and simple:

- ✓ outlining clear rules of engagement from the outset, including how forests will be measured or counted
- ✓ establishing streamlined procedures for reviewing and approving participating projects
- ✓ removing or addressing cost burdens that can act as a barrier for participation by a responsible business

## 4. NAFO MEMBERS UNDERSTAND AND EMBRACE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND.

We rely on well-established data, proven methods and third-party certification to ensure the sustainable management of our forests and the wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits they provide.