

HOW WE DO IT: Forest Carbon

Managed forests represent a critical element of carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation policies. It can seem counterintuitive to view harvesting as an integral part of a sustainable process, but the trees we harvest for wood products continue storing carbon for decades, and as we plant new trees to take their place — about 130 to 150 million seedlings a year — our young forests immediately begin absorbing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

It's a continuous cycle¹ that makes our operations carbon negative, even when considering the fossil fuels required for harvest and transportation. In fact, industrywide, research has found the life-cycle emissions² for wood production, transport, harvesting and manufacturing comprise only 5 to 10 percent of the total carbon sequestered in wood products and growing trees. Moreover, the emissions associated with the manufacturing and transport of fertilizer comprise less than 5 percent³ of the additional carbon sequestered through increased tree growth.

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KEY POINTS – *continued*

- A robust market for wood products incentivizes forest managers to prioritize growing trees over other land uses, such as development or agriculture. Switching to other land uses, rather than keeping forests in a cycle of sustainable harvesting (and thus a continual, necessary supply of wood products), contributes to deforestation, not the other way around.
- Active forest management reduces the risk of wildfire and other disturbances that cause catastrophic carbon losses, such as insect infestations and disease. This benefit can't be overstated: The 2019 fires in California released = 68 million tons of CO₂, and the recent fires in British Columbia released 150 million tons. Also, from 1997 to 2015 in the U.S., the equivalent of 48 million tons of CO₂ was lost each year from insect

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – *continued*

Isn't clearcutting more disruptive to carbon storage than other practices, such as selective harvesting?

We prefer to clearcut because it's the safest and most efficient method. It reduces the need to build more forest roads (sediment reaching streams and rivers is most likely to occur through building roads), minimizes entries into the stand (thereby reducing soil compaction from machinery), and allows for higher survival of residual trees.