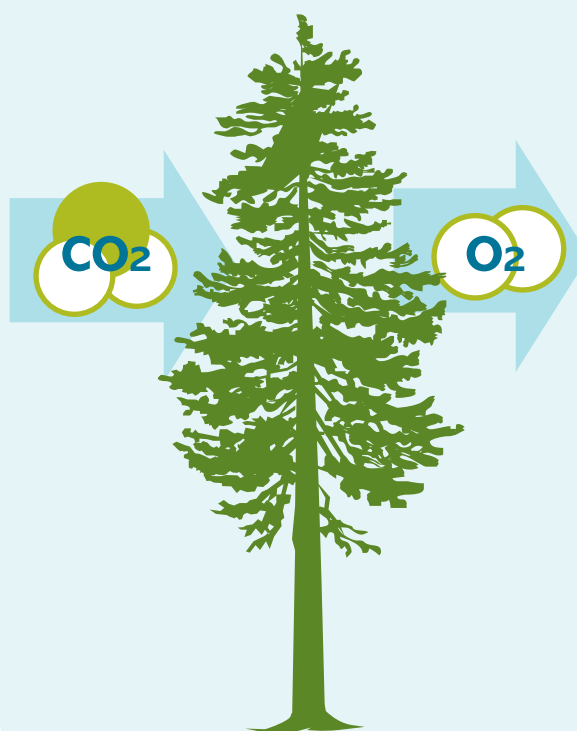


HOW ARE FORESTS, CARBON AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED?

Increased amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere result in warmer temperatures. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is released through natural events such as volcanic eruptions and forest fires, as well as through human activities such as burning fossil fuels. Scientists generally agree that human contributions to global climate change are increasing, and they are concerned about the future.

Trees and wood products store carbon and reduce its presence in the atmosphere.



TREES USE ATMOSPHERIC CARBON TO GROW

Forests absorb carbon dioxide and reduce its presence in the atmosphere. Growing forests turn water, sunlight and atmospheric carbon dioxide into solid carbon and atmospheric oxygen. Forests store significant amounts of carbon, sequestering it from the atmosphere.

WOOD PRODUCTS STORE CARBON LONG TERM

When a tree is harvested and made into a house, cabinetry or furniture, the wood continues to store the carbon that the tree had sequestered. So the carbon continues to be kept from the atmosphere. In contrast, the manufacture of steel, concrete and plastic requires the use of much more fossil fuel.

SOUND FORESTRY CAN REDUCE ATMOSPHERIC CARBON

Thin forests for fire resilience.



Retain forestland by preventing its conversion to residential use.



Use wood products instead of alternatives.



Plant and grow healthy forests.



FOREST FIRES AND CLIMATE

In Oregon, we have a problem with too many dense, overstocked forests. Their vulnerability to catastrophic fires is made even worse by a warming climate. Forest fires release huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

RETAINING FORESTS IS IMPORTANT

The significant worldwide loss of forests to agriculture and urbanization – particularly tropical forests – has also affected our climate. Keeping forestland in forest uses is crucial to capturing and storing atmospheric carbon in the future. Oregon today retains 92 percent of the forest cover present in 1850.

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