

CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

What is Climate Smart Forestry?

Climate-Smart Forestry is a dynamic approach within sustainable forest management that optimizes climate adaptation and mitigation outcomes. Climate-Smart Forestry is guided by science and can adapt to different regions, forest types, and conditions. Modern, sustainable forest management is Climate-Smart Forestry. It is a proven tool that ensures private working forests provide the economic and environmental outcomes society needs.



THE U.S. STANDS APART AS A GLOBAL LEADER IN CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY.

The U.S. is a global leader in modern forestry. NAFO members practice some of the highest standards for sustainable forest management in the world. Because of the sustainable practices NAFO members and other forest owners use, the U.S. enjoys some of the most abundant and productive forest resources in the world.

Prioritizing Outcomes Over Prescriptive Approaches

Prioritizing outcomes over specific practices is essential, especially when making policy decisions. While certain practices can be beneficial, it's the end results that truly matter.

There are multiple ways to achieve climate smart results. A rigid, one-size-fits-all approach won't work for every forest in every part of the country. Flexibility to use methods best suited to forest types, conditions, and geographies will drive smarter action, investment and innovation, and produce more positive results.

By focusing on such outcomes as opposed to prescriptive practices, we can more effectively harness data and science, quickly adjust to innovations and changing conditions, and better ensure the long-term sustainability and health of our forests.



CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

Climate Smart Outcomes for Working Forests



Stable or Increasing
Carbon Stocks at a
Landscape Scale



Keeping Forests on
the Landscape



Healthy and
Resilient Forests



Forest Adaptation to a
Changing Climate



Mitigation of Severe
Wildfire Risks



Production of Sustainable,
Renewable, Carbon-Beneficial
Products



Aligning Climate Benefits
with the Needs of Rural
Communities

47%

Private working
forests comprise
47% of U.S. forests.

80%

They also provide nearly 80% of the
annual net sequestration and 51% of
all carbon stored in all U.S. forests.

90%

They are producing 90% of
renewable, carbon-conscious
forest products in the U.S.

Ensuring Sustainable Forest Management Is Climate Smart

U.S. forests owners and managers ensure their forests are sustainably managed and climate smart through a mosaic of overlapping and mutually reinforcing local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations, state-approved forestry best management practices (BMPs), and third-party forest management and wood fiber sourcing certification programs.

By prioritizing outcomes over specific forest management practices, climate smart forestry can be a powerful climate mitigation tool.

Overall, sustainable forest management embraces a dynamic and adaptable approach that is climate smart. Climate smart forestry is guided by science, recognizes diverse regional contexts and changing conditions, and optimizes carbon sequestration, storage, resiliency, and the various other benefits that forests can provide.

