American Forest & Paper Association

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Managed Forests and Climate Change

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) is the national trade association of the forest products industry and advances public policies that promote a strong and sustainable U.S. forest products industry in the global marketplace. The industry is an integral part of our nation's green job base and generates approximately 6 percent of the total annual U.S. manufacturing GDP.

AF&PA's member companies make pulp, paper, packaging and wood products, and own forest land. Our companies make essential products from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. Nationwide, the U.S. forest products industry:

- *Employs approximately one million workers — on par with the nation's automotive and plastics industries.*
- *Provides green jobs that reduce greenhouse gases by sustaining the forests that absorb carbon dioxide; making the paper and wood products that store it indefinitely; generating and using more renewable energy than anyone else—28.5 million megawatt hours annually, enough to power 2.7 million homes; and recycling paper to avoid methane emissions and reduce waste.*
- *Is among the top ten manufacturing sector employers in 48 states.*
- *Is a significant taxpayer, paying approximately $7 billion annually in federal, state, and local taxes.*

Managed forests make contributions to society by removing CO_2 from the air while supplying vital economic and environmental benefits. Managed forests provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers, a strong and viable tax base for local communities, recreational opportunities for Americans and numerous wood and paper products.

Managed Forests Play An Important Role In Addressing Climate Change

- Managed forests, just like all forests, absorb CO_2 from the air and store it as carbon.
- In the U.S., forests and forest products store enough carbon each year to offset approximately 10 percent of U.S. CO_2 emissions.
- Private landowners in the U.S. plant about 4 million trees each day, which equals five trees each year for every man, woman and child in America.
- Young trees in managed forests grow quickly, significantly absorbing CO_2 and storing a great amount of carbon in the process. This increased growth and storage, combined with less susceptibility to catastrophic fire and disease, can make managed forests more effective than unmanaged forests in removing CO_2 from the atmosphere.

Managed Forests Provide Many Benefits to Society

- Forest management provides hundreds of thousands of jobs to local communities, essential building and paper products and a viable tax base.
- Well managed forests provide clean air and water, beautiful scenery, places for recreation and essential building and paper products. Poorly managed forests can become unhealthy, disease and insect-ridden, and more susceptible to catastrophic fires, which release enormous amounts of CO_2 into the atmosphere.
- More than half of the forestland in the United States is privately owned. Economically viable forestlands are important buffers to urban sprawl and other land use changes, which contribute to global climate change.
- Private forestlands contribute greatly to reducing CO_2 in the atmosphere. Managed forests and wood products should be eligible for offset credits and incentives to continue managing them for environmental benefits.
- Climate change policies will define how forest carbon sequestration is measured over a reference baseline. Measurements of additional carbon stocks should be based on a baseline year, with change measured on a periodic basis. An alternative approach, business-as-usual (BAU), relies on uncertain future management and market assumptions and does not encourage the maintenance of current carbon stock levels.