Forest Carbon Report: United States

**Carbon Definitions**

- **Carbon pool**: a component of the forest that can gain or lose carbon over time.  
- **Carbon storage**: the amount of carbon retained in a forest and/or carbon pool.  
- **Carbon sequestration**: the process by which trees and plants use carbon dioxide and photosynthesis to store carbon as biomass.  
- **Units**: Forest carbon is typically expressed in US tons per acre or metric tons (1 metric ton = 1.10 US tons).  

**Quick Facts on Forest Carbon**

- The lower 48 states in the US have 635.3 million acres of forests and are 34% forested.  
- US forest carbon stocks have increased by 11% from 1990 to 2019.  
- Average carbon density in aboveground trees across US forests is 22.6 US tons per acre.  
- Across the US, forests, urban trees, and harvested wood products:  
  - Remove 14% of all CO₂ emissions.  
  - Store the equivalent of 33 years of all CO₂ emissions produced across the US.  

**Sources**:
- Forest ecosystem carbon stocks obtained from USDA Forest Service Resource Update FS-227.  
- Total forest area and land area for each state obtained from USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-97.  
- Values of carbon by ownership and forest type obtained from USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis Program using the EVALIDator web-application, version 1.8.0.01, years 2007-2019 (Accessed 31 Aug 2020).