Forest Carbon Report: Western Region

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 Western region has 207.2 million acres of forests and is 28% forested.
- Western region forest carbon stocks have increased by 3% from 1990 to 2019.
- Average carbon density in aboveground trees across Western region forests is 21.1 US tons per acre.
- In the Western region, forests, urban trees, and harvested wood products:
  - Remove 5% of all CO₂ emissions across the states. (Across the US, this value is 14%.)
  - Store the equivalent of 65 years of all CO₂ emissions produced across the states.