Private Working Forests as A Natural Climate Solution

Climate change poses a significant challenge to our environment, our economy and our communities. Carbon sequestration in sustainably managed private forest lands and carbon storage in forest products can provide a natural solution to climate change while also providing a wide variety of additional benefits like clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and good paying jobs.

Forest owners and forest products manufacturers are well positioned to optimize the carbon potential of the private working forest value chain through sustainable forest management and the manufacture of sustainable forest products. Forest owners and managers should be empowered with the tools they need to increase overall forest carbon sequestration using sustainable forest management practices and technologies, and site-appropriate reforestation. Healthy, sustainable forest products markets are essential to optimizing the benefits of forest carbon on private lands and in the materials and products they produce. For example, solid wood construction at scale using new engineered wood technologies, like mass timber produced from sustainably managed forests, presents a significant opportunity to store carbon and reduce energy consumption and related carbon emissions in the built environment.

Private forests are under increasing threat from uncharacteristic wildfire, pests and disease, drought and extreme weather events that can cause significant carbon releases and other environmental damage. In many private forests, addressing these threats requires sustainable management such as thinning, prescribed fire, and other forest management techniques that bolster forest health and resilience.

Public policies should include market and incentive-based approaches that help capture the potential of private forests and forest products to sequester more carbon, while ensuring sustainable forest management to maintain and improve forest health and resilience, boost private sector investment in rural communities, and help keep forests as forests.

Policy is strengthened through advances in science, technologies, techniques, and practices to improve forest carbon inventories and provide better information to landowners, forest managers and the public regarding the contribution and management of forests and forest products for climate mitigation. Such advances also support forest practices that benefit the environment and forest economies.

Maintaining sustainable private working forests at scale to benefit the climate requires investing in the jobs, businesses, and infrastructure necessary to support a strong forest economy. Such investments must help sustain markets that increase the carbon mitigation benefits of forest and wood products, provide additional environmental benefits, and strengthen rural communities.

Leadership and innovation in the private sector play an important role in advancing and informing public policy. Throughout the economy, businesses are seeking natural climate solutions to reduce their carbon footprints. A growing number of partnerships between private companies, the forest sector, and environmental and conservation organizations are driving investment in the significant carbon potential of sustainably managed forests and forest products. The insights and experience gained from such early action provides an important basis for effective policy.
Policy Principles

As leaders of the environmental, conservation and forest business communities, we recognize that private working forests and forest products can play an important role in mitigating climate change. The following principles outline our shared vision for increasing the contribution of forests and forest products to climate mitigation.

▶ Policies should include incentives and market-based mechanisms and should be designed to be accessible and credible to maintain working forests, increase carbon benefits across the working forest value chain, and encourage broad participation from forest owners, forest products manufacturers and potential investors.

▶ Public funding should be directed to improve forest carbon science and data collection and incentivize the development of new technologies, techniques, and practices to improve forest carbon inventories and life cycle analyses for forest products.

▶ Increased public funding and policies should focus on innovative approaches to increase carbon benefits in and from forests and improve the scalability and outcomes of USDA private forest conservation programs, such as the Forest Legacy Program, State and Private Forest Grant Programs, the Healthy Forests Reserve Program.

▶ Policies should encourage, recognize, and reward private sector partnerships that advance the carbon potential of sustainably managed forests and forest products at scale.

▶ Policies should help spur investments in the rural jobs, businesses, and infrastructure necessary to support a strong forest economy.

▶ Policies to reward the carbon benefits of forest products, such as mass timber and other advanced building materials, must be based on scientifically sound life cycle analysis and include safeguards to promote positive outcomes for forests and the climate.

▶ Policies should support updating building and architectural codes to reflect the carbon benefits of advanced wood construction.

▶ Public funding should be invested in training programs for architects, builders, and other professionals who make important decisions about building materials and their sourcing.

▶ Policies should ensure sustainability through practices such as forest certification, use of best management practices and other approaches that support clean air and water, wildlife habitat, the conservation of ecologically sensitive areas, and other environmental benefits.
About the CEO Principles

The CEO Principles are a shared vision for increasing the contribution of forests and forest products to climate mitigation from leaders of the environmental, conservation and forest business communities. The signing CEOs recognize that private working forests and forest products can play an important role in mitigating climate change through thoughtful policy, private sector engagement, and investment in rural communities.

Tom Martin
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

Jad Daley
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
AMERICAN FORESTS

Fred Krupp
PRESIDENT, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

David P. Tenny
PRESIDENT AND CEO,
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FOREST OWNERS

Jennifer Morris
CEO, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

John Cashwell
REPRESENTATIVE, BBC LAND, LLC

Gerrity Lansing
HEAD, BTG PACTUAL TIMBERLAND INVESTMENT GROUP

Dave Rumker
MANAGING DIRECTOR, CIO, CAMPBELL GLOBAL, LLC

Joel Caswell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CASWELL THOMPSON, INC.

Brian Davis
CEO AND PRESIDENT,
CATCHMARK TIMBER TRUST

J. Travis Bryant
PRESIDENT & CEO, COASTAL FOREST RESOURCES COMPANY

Paul Young
FOUNDING MEMBER,
CONSERVATION RESOURCES

Joe Sanderson
MANAGING DIRECTOR, DOMAIN TIMBER ADVISORS

Earl D. Barrs
Wanda T. Barrs
DUE SOUTH INVESTMENTS, 2020
FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
FOREST LANDOWNER OF THE YEAR

Marc Walley
PRESIDENT, FOREST INVESTMENT ASSOCIATES

Mike McFetridge
CIO, GLOBAL FOREST PARTNERS, LP

Douglas Reed
PRESIDENT, GREEN DIAMOND RESOURCE COMPANY

Jeff Nuss
PRESIDENT AND CEO, GREENWOOD RESOURCES, INC.

Peter Sikora
CEO, GIUSTINA RESOURCES

William Peressini
PRESIDENT AND CEO, HANCOCK NATURAL RESOURCE GROUP

Marc Brinkmeyer
OWNER, IDAHO FOREST GROUP

James D. Irving
CO-PRESIDENT, J.D. IRVING, LIMITED

Troy Harris
MANAGING DIRECTOR, JAMESTOWN, LP

Mark Sherman
PRESIDENT, KEWEENAW LAND ASSOCIATION, LIMITED

Toby Luther
PRESIDENT AND CEO, LONE ROCK RESOURCES

Stephen Hicks
PRESIDENT AND CEO, LONGYEAR

Nicole Kimzey
CFO, MERRILL & RING

Bob Lyle
PRESIDENT, MOLPUS WOODLANDS GROUP

David Brand
CEO, NEW FORESTS

Alexander Ingraham
PRESIDENT, PINGREE ASSOCIATES, INC.

René Ancinas
CHAIRMAN & CEO, PORT BLAKELY

Mike Covey
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, POTLATCHDELTIC

David Nunes
PRESIDENT AND CEO, RAYONIER, INC.

Thomas Walker
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR, RED RIVER FORESTS, LLC

Craig Blair
PRESIDENT AND CEO, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE, LLC

Grady Mulbery
PRESIDENT AND CEO, ROSEBURG FOREST PRODUCTS

Mark Emmerson
CHAIRMAN AND CFO, SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

Bob Ratliffe
PRESIDENT, SILVER CREEK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Randy Hereford
PRESIDENT AND CEO, STARKER FORESTS, INC.

Scott Griffin
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SUPERIOR PINE PRODUCTS COMPANY

Blake Stansell
CEO, THE FORESTLAND GROUP, LLC

James Hourdequin
CEO, THE LYME TIMBER COMPANY LP

Mike Claridge
PARTNER, HEAD OF FORESTRY & AGRICULTURE, THE ROHATYN GROUP

Brian Luoma
PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE WESTERVELT COMPANY

Steve Killgore
CEO, TIMBER PRODUCTS COMPANY

Tom Johnson
MANAGING DIRECTOR, TIMBERLAND INVESTMENT RESOURCES, LLC

Tom Colgan
CEO, WAGNER FOREST MANAGEMENT

Devin Stockfish
PRESIDENT AND CEO, WEYERHAEUSER