



# FOREST-CLIMATE WORKING GROUP

## 2022 Policy Priorities

### Improve Forest Practices for Carbon, Adaptation and Resilience

With the right policies and incentives, private landowners and public land managers can successfully implement forest practices that support strong carbon sequestration, address forest health issues, and build resilience in the face of a changing climate.

#### Did you know?

*Robust tree restoration in the U.S. could remove up to 540 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air each year through 2050 – an amount equal to nearly 10% of U.S. annual net greenhouse gas emissions.*

#### Why do forest practices matter?

Forests have immense carbon sequestration potential with right management practices and policies.

- U.S. forests and forest products annually sequester and store almost 15% of U.S. carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.
- Half the dry weight of wood is carbon that was absorbed from the atmosphere by growing trees.

Catastrophic wildfire, drought and other forest disturbances are increasing in frequency and intensity, making forests less resilient to future disturbances.

Forest conservation keeps carbon out of the atmosphere, stabilizes carbon markets, maintains water quality, and supports working forests, local jobs and rural communities.



*The FCWG reflects the diversity of forest sector leaders dedicated to conserving, protecting and managing America's forests, including: forest sector businesses, conservation nonprofits, academic institutions, carbon markets, government agencies, state foresters and private landowners.*



## 2022 Policy Priorities

# Proposed Solutions to Improve Forest Practices for Carbon, Adaptation and Resilience

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**Increase federal agency funding for conservation programs for forest landowners, such as:**

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)
- USFS Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program

**Expand funding and USFS authorities for federal lands management and restoration activities that benefit both federal land and land across boundaries, including:**

- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Good Neighbor Authority
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Vegetation Management
- Watershed Management

**Introduce a Landowner Tax Credit for Private Forest Carbon Capture and Containment**

- Existing management programs do not properly incentivize forest management for adaptation and resilience on the 58% of all American forest lands that are privately owned. A transferable tax credit would provide equitable support to help forest landowners increase the carbon capturing capacity of America's forests.

**Strengthen the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program**

- Expand a fully funded Forest Inventory and Analysis program by completing a nationwide re-measurement every 5 years and increasing research capacity to produce a higher level of accuracy.

**Establish a forest land restoration grant program for NGOs and federal, state, local, native and tribal entities**

**Incentivize climate-informed active forest management for wildfire prevention and resilience**

- Allocate federal grants to states for updating natural hazard mitigation plans
- Prioritize active management on federal forest lands identified in state plans as being high risk for wildfire