



**California Forestry Association**

1215 K Street, Suite 1830

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 444-6592 fax (916) 444-0170

[www.foresthealth.org](http://www.foresthealth.org) [cfa@foresthealth.org](mailto:cfa@foresthealth.org)

MEDIA CONTACT: BOB MION

---

## ***California Forestry and Climate Solutions***

California's forestlands have the potential to be the most valuable tool available in the effort to reduce global warming emissions and address climate change. According to the USDA Forest Service, science shows unequivocally that active forest management provides greater climate benefit than leaving resources unmanaged in uncharacteristically dense forests.

Climate change will put ever-greater pressures on California's forests. As our climate warms, vast areas of dense forestland will become more susceptible to wildfire. Fires will burn hotter and spew tons of greenhouse gases into the air while destroying some of the most valuable carbon sinks and wildlife habitat on the planet. We must establish forests that will not only survive climate change but help keep people safe, wildlife thriving and streams flowing in the process.



### **Wildfire**

Wildfire size and severity have been steadily increasing in California, as have taxpayer costs to fight those fires. California wildfires in 2008 spewed an estimated 55 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the air, which is the equivalent of 11,880,000 passenger cars on the road for a year, and cost more than \$1.4 billion to fight. Managing forests can reduce fuel loads, wildfire severity and greenhouse gas emissions from catastrophic wildfire.

### **Carbon Sequestration**

Well managed, resilient forests are perhaps the most efficient scrubbers of greenhouse gases on the planet. Forestry can increase the sequestration capacity of our forestlands by creating ideal growing conditions and accelerating the rate at which carbon is removed from the atmosphere. Transferring carbon fixed in the forest to wood products like lumber for homes can safely store millions of tons of carbon for decades, or even centuries.

### **Renewable Energy**

The same excess forest fuels that feed catastrophic wildfire could be put to use generating efficient renewable energy more reliable than wind. Providing financial incentives in line with what other renewables receive could help reduce wildfire severity and help meet Gov. Schwarzenegger's goals of providing 33 percent of California's energy from renewable sources by 2020.

### **Water Resources**

Climate change is expected to increase drought conditions and place unprecedented demands on California's water resources. Sustainable management can increase the amount of water available from forests, enhance aquatic species habitat, lower the cost of providing clean drinking water and help prepare for peak water flows.

### **Forest Health**

Sierra Nevada forests are already adjusting to climate change, with species like Ponderosa pine moving dramatically upslope. Left unmanaged, California's forestlands will be altered by catastrophic wildfire in ways that may deprive Californians of critical resources.