HOW WE DO IT: Forest Carbon

Managed forests represent a critical element of carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation policies. It can seem counterintuitive to view harvesting as an

KEY POINTS – *continued*

- A robust market for wood products incentivizes forest managers to prioritize growing trees over other land uses, such as development or agriculture. Switching to other land uses, rather than keeping forests in a cycle of sustainable harvesting (and thus a continual, necessary supply of wood products), contributes to deforestation, not the other way around.
- Active forest management reduces the risk of wildfire and other disturbances that cause catastrophic carbon losses, such as insect infestations and disease.[9] This benefit can't be overstated: The 2019 fires in California released = 68 million tons of CO_2, and the recent fires in British Columbia released 150 million tons. Also, from 1997 to 2015 in the U.S., the equivalent of 48 million tons of CO_2 was lost each year from insect infestations and disease[10]. Managed forests aren't immune from fire risk, but they can play an important role in reducing that risk and preventing catastrophic losses of forest carbon — especially compared to unmanaged forests.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

- To determine the impact of our forest management practices on forest soils — which generally contain about half the total carbon in forests — we partnered with Oregon State University on a study designed to evaluate the impact of harvesting on soil carbon over a 40-year rotation[11]-

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – *continued*

Isn't clearcutting more disruptive to carbon storage than other practices, such as selective harvesting?

We prefer to clearcut because it's the safest and most efficient method. It reduces the need to build more forest roads (sediment reaching streams and rivers is most likely to occur through building roads), minimizes entries into the stand (thereby reducing soil compaction from machinery), and allows for higher survival and growth rates in the forests we replant after a harvest. Some species, such as Douglas-fir and Southern yellow pines, aren't as shade tolerant, so selective harvesting — which can expose regenerating trees to increased shade from mature canopies — could result in slower stand growth overall. So while a clearcut stand may look more disruptive in the short term, it ultimately leads to a faster turnart4.8 (av-21.2 (ea)-1y8-0.031 Td[ima)5 (t)19 (n)0.83b9.8 8 (c)0.6 (l)-5.a[h)l)-28.4 ( )242 (r)-0.6 ((n)0.5 (a)38.7 (r)a)-9 (o)-3.2 (w