



Healthy forests and working lands absorb and store more carbon, produce food and other products, sustain local economies, enhance climate resiliency, and improve the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

Forests, which compose about one-third of the state's land area, perform highly important ecological, economic, and social services, including the protection and improvement of our water, air, and soil, providing habitat to numerous animal species, and helping the economy of our rural and tribal communities through the recreation and forest products industries.

In addition to these services, our forestlands play a crucial role in sequestering and storing carbon. In this capacity, Minnesota's forests provide our state with a potential tool for mitigating emissions and building a comprehensive climate strategy.

Private Land Management & Carbon Sequestration

Forests absorb and store carbon

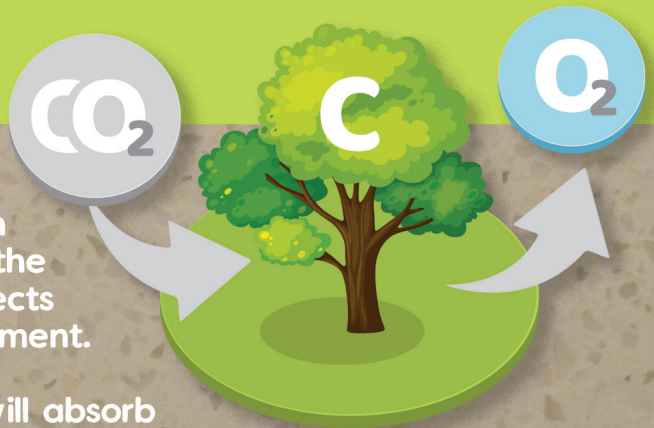
Scan QR code
to learn more
about Forest
Stewardship





Trees absorb carbon footprints

Leaves pull in carbon dioxide and water and use the energy of the sun to convert this into chemical compounds that feed the tree itself. The by-product of this chemical reaction, which is known as photosynthesis, is oxygen. It is suggested that one large tree can release up to a day's supply of oxygen for about four people.



Trees store carbon dioxide in their fibers helping to clean the air and reduce negative effects that CO₂ has on our environment.

In one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange.

Protect standing forests from land conversion.

Protecting does not mean "no cutting". The best forest management plans encourage renewable timber harvests. The protection needs to be from the over-development or conversion from forest to other land use.

Data shows that keeping existing forests standing remains our best hope for carbon sequestration. Old growth forests stores carbon better than new growth forests. This of-course does not mean it isn't still important to plant new trees... planting trees now will sequester carbon in the future. But existing forest stands hold the real carbon absorbing power!





Woodland Management Actions

What can be done?

Your local SWCD, state agencies, and an increasing number of foresters are promoting several land management actions to help reach a carbon-neutral, resilient, and equitable future for Minnesota and its private forest landowners.

Forest management goals for climate-smart working woodlands;

Promote forest, grassland, and wetland restoration and management in a way that increases carbon sequestration and storage.

Restore and expand forest habitat and tree diversity to promote climate resiliency. Plant more trees!

Incentivize and expand climate-resilient forestry practices. Your local SWCD promotes management practices that strengthens private forest lands. Incentive programs are available by first establishing a forest stewardship plan.

Increase water storage, infiltration, and drainage management to reduce runoff and minimize downstream flooding, erosion, and habitat loss.

Invest in new markets and supply chains for wood products that increase carbon storage and are substitute for more fossil-fuel intensive materials.

Avoid grassland forest, and wetland conversion to other land uses that reduce overall carbon storage.

Plant the right trees for the job.

Tree species that are long-lived, grow to large sizes, and have dense wood will store the greatest amounts of carbon. However, proper tree-to-soil selection is also important for maximizing the carbon benefits. Trees that are well-adapted to the soil on site will have higher growth rates and lower mortality rates.

Forming a plan . . .

Conservation management plans

A management plan can help you get the most out of your property and maximize the potential carbon storage capacity of your forest. Your local SWCD can help you develop a property management plan.

For woodland properties, a Forest Stewardship Plan written by a certified plan writer, such as your local SWCD, the DNR or a private forest planner, qualifies landowners to apply for local or state tax-relief and incentive programs. To qualify for one of these programs, a landowner must generally have at least 20 qualifying acres of land.

The DNR's Forest Stewardship Program helps landowners finalize their own goals and prepare a voluntary management plan for their woodland. This Woodland Stewardship Plan, when written by a certified writer, is a non-binding, written document that lists your land's potential, what you want to accomplish, and specific actions you can take to accomplish those goals within a given time-frame.

Contact us to start
on a Conservation Management Plan

Phone: 218-732-0121
www.hubbardswcd.org



HUBBARD COUNTY
Soil & Water Conservation District

