FORESTS AND CARBON 101

- Remaining mature and old growth forests in Alaska and in Oregon, Washington, and Northern California offer critical near-term climate benefits and can rival tropical rain forests for carbon density and quantity of stores.
- Temperate moist forest types can have higher biomass carbon density than both boreal and tropical forests.
- Of the anthropogenic contribution to atmospheric CO2 since 1870, 26 percent is due to emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
- Older, mature forests have the greatest potential to sequester and store significant amounts of carbon, and to recover carbon that has been released to the atmosphere over the last 200 years.
- Moist, temperate forests in the western United States that have medium to high potential carbon sequestration and low future climate vulnerability could account for approximately 8 years of regional fossil fuel emissions.
- The process of creating wood products results in net carbon emissions, not net carbon storage. A credible forest carbon strategy must be focused on mature and old growth forest protections, as this is where the true carbon and climate benefits are.