



PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Private Forests. Public Treasures.

Key points for Press Briefing: NCS vs. CCS and DCA

- 1) NCS, especially California's forests, offer the most affordable, effective and immediate sequestration opportunity. It is proven, scalable and among the two least expensive mitigation opportunities now deployable. Natural sequestration also provides the essential multiple climate benefits the IPCC now calls for: carbon sequestration, climate adaptation, increased resilience, water supplies, habitat and sustained rural employment. CCS provides only one potential benefit, as yet not deployable, CO₂ sequestration. NCS is the "Leatherman tool"; CCS and DAC are knives yet to be developed.
- 2) NCS is "freeware", immediately deployable, immensely scalable, openly available technology that anyone can take advantage of across all lands; CCS/DCA will be proprietary technology limited to certain industrial entities.
- 3) Forest sequestration is the single biggest opportunity we have, complementing agricultural soils and rangeland soils opportunities. 85% of CA terrestrial carbon is stored in forests today, but these forests are only storing 10-50% (at best) of what they naturally can hold. So, significant capacity to increase those stores by managing to restore more natural levels of carbon.
- 4) Restoring our forests' carbon sequestration to more natural levels can double, triple and more the carbon stored in the next decades, by extending out the average age of forests (see graphs). This is eminently doable, by shifting the average age of harvest across the landscape progressively back over time.
- 5) This would also benefit fire resilience and watershed function by reducing the number of tree stems to the acre while increasing the carbon in the remaining stand (note: over half the carbon in any natural stand is in the largest trees—these are also the fire resilient and drought tolerant trees).
- 6) Increasing NCS does require a transformation of our land management systems and approaches to focus on climate benefits as the primary output. This will continue to yield forest and agricultural products, but in a less industrialised way. In forests, this actually leads to a greater yield of good wood over time.
- 7) It also means reducing forest and agricultural land loss and degradation by focusing on more natural forest management and organic/holistic farming and range management methods. Industrial/intensive timber management leads to loss of 2/3rds carbon in first 5 years post-harvest. (Forest fires, by comparison, reduce forest carbon by 2-10%.) Forest loss and degradation are responsible for over 40% of excess, human caused CO₂ in the atmosphere today, so this is a direct emissions reduction.
- 8) A focus on NCS will be essential to meeting California's Climate Smart Land Strategy, 30x30, water security fire risk reduction and the upcoming Scoping Plan targets for carbon neutrality and then reaching "carbon negative. CCS/DCA will help, potentially, with only one of these, and is unlikely to be available by the 2030 target dates, but may be for 2045.

Contact: Laurie Wayburn: lwayburn@pacificforest.org; 415-561-0700, ext.14