

Clearing the air

6

of California's largest fires on record occurred in 2020.

4.1

million acres have burned in Calif. in 2020 to date

33

million acres of forest in California

58%
FEDERALLY OWNED

3%
STATE OWNED

105M
ACRES TOTAL STATE

50%
OF CALIF.'S WATER COMES FROM ITS FORESTS

30

million acres of forest in Oregon

60%
FEDERALLY OWNED

4%
STATE OWNED

62M
ACRES TOTAL STATE

80%
ORE. FOREST IS TIMBERLAND — CAN GROW COMMERCIAL-GRADE TIMBER

22

million acres of forest in Washington

43%
FEDERALLY OWNED

12%
STATE OWNED

43M
ACRES TOTAL STATE

16
MILLION ACRES ARE UNRESERVED TIMBERLANDS

SINCE APRIL, LUMBER PRICES ROSE

160%

Adding more than **\$6,000** to the price of a new apartment



Millions of acres burned in the Western United States

7
in 2018

8
in 2017

9
in 2016



Congress continues to fiddle while the West burns

I've dedicated much of my career to studying forestry, and I've seen firsthand that scientific, commonsense forest management works.

If we gave land managers more resources to curb pests, thin trees, clear brush and more, **we could begin to mitigate the severity of wildfires.**

I'm proposing we use site-specific management prescriptions that meet the timber stand and landscape criteria.

It's called forest restoration, using tools like thinning from below, where you remove the lower-quality trees and tender and use cyclical, low-intensity fires

to control the underbrush.

It actually makes the residual trees healthier and more resistant to insects, disease and fire. This also results in better wildlife habitats, more plant and animal diversity and cleaner watersheds.


On top of all that, these forests have a distinct, park-like beauty that more closely resembles how Native Americans managed timberland.

Excerpt Fires ravage the U.S. every year. They don't have to by Republican Bruce Westerman of Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.


SOURCE: CAL-FIRE; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOMEBUILDERS; TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST; OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE; WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNMENT; UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Carbon sequestration


The whole story: Trees only store carbon for the life of the tree. Decay and fires dump it right back into the atmosphere, along with other toxins.




TREES ARE THE ULTIMATE RENEWABLE RESOURCE. TREES ABSORB CARBON FROM THE ATMOSPHERE




WOOD STRUCTURES PULL CARBON FROM THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE LIFE OF THE BUILDING —LONGER IF THE WOOD IS RECLAIMED



DECAY AND BURNING TREES RELEASE STORED CARBON BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE



BUILDING LUMBER STORES CARBON THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE EMITTED BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE



IN A FIRE, CARBON RUSHES BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE ALONG WITH DISEASE-CAUSING TOXINS



SUSTAINABLY HARVESTING MATURE TREES INCREASES THE TERM OF CARBON REDUCTION

