

# WE SEE THE TREES FOR THE FORESTS



## TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE CONSERVES, PROTECTS AND EDUCATES.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) conserves and protects the natural resources of Texas and educates Texans about the value of conservation. Texas has nearly **five billion trees** covering nearly **63.4 million acres**.

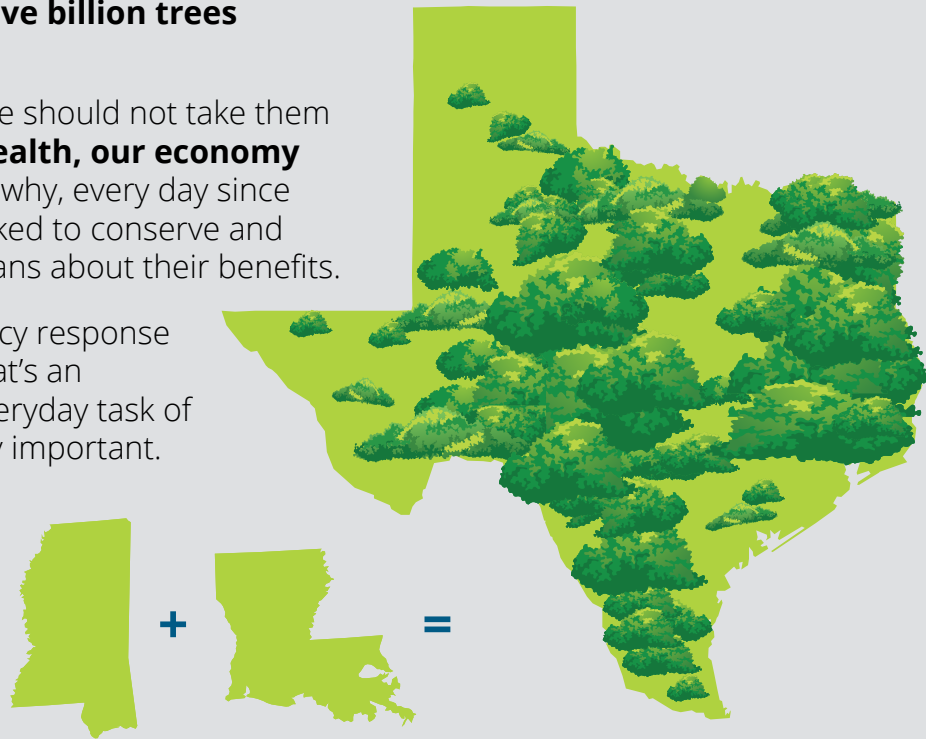
Texas trees deserve our attention, and we should not take them for granted. **Trees contribute to our health, our economy and the character of our state.** That's why, every day since 1915, Texas A&M Forest Service has worked to conserve and protect our rich forests and educate Texans about their benefits.

Most people associate TFS with emergency response to wildfires, hurricanes and droughts. That's an important part of what we do, but the everyday task of keeping our forests sustainable is equally important.

Texas forests cover over

**63 MILLION ACRES**

That's about the size of Louisiana and Mississippi combined.



## FORESTS HELP TEXANS THRIVE

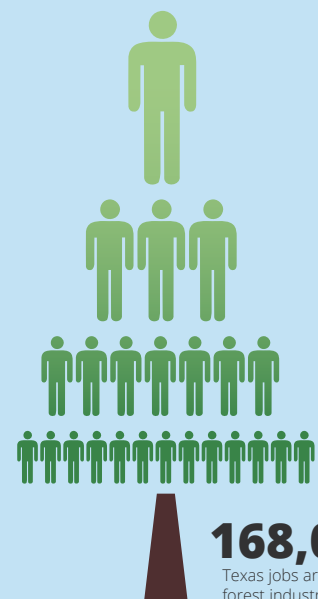
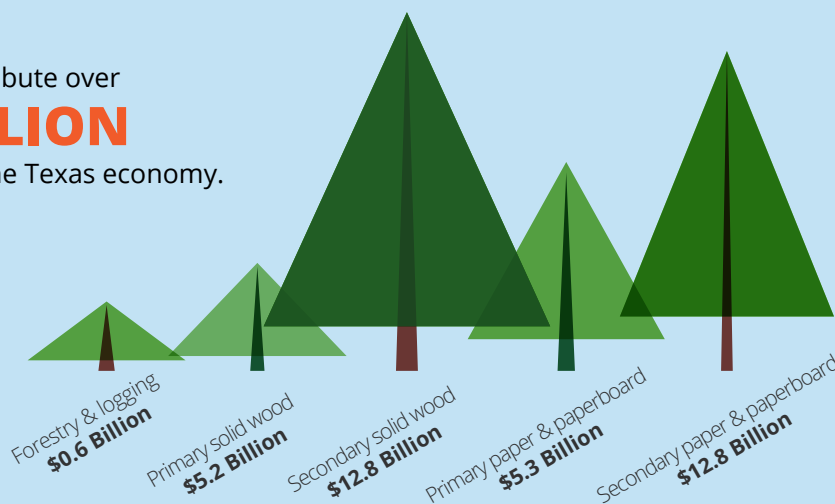
Forests are a natural, renewable resource that help reduce energy costs, produce clean water, and provide habitats for wildlife and recreational opportunities for Texans. They also enable a healthy, vibrant economy.

Forests contribute over

**36 BILLION**

annually to the Texas economy.

### MAJOR INDUSTRIES



**168,000+**  
Texas jobs are a result of the forest industry.

# CARBON STORAGE

ONE OF MANY SERVICES FORESTS PROVIDE

**The carbon cycle** is the natural process in which carbon flows continuously between the atmosphere, oceans and land. Human activities alter the earth's natural carbon cycle by releasing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere. Because CO<sub>2</sub> is a primary greenhouse gas, increased attention is focused on reducing net carbon emissions in the U.S. and around the world.

**Forests mitigate greenhouse gases** by accumulating atmospheric carbon. Forest carbon is stored in above- and below-ground parts of live trees, dead plant material and soil. These pools add up to significant quantities of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere. **Sequestered carbon can be "locked up" for decades, centuries, or even longer when trees are harvested to make wood products.** The 63.4 million acres of forestland in Texas store **2.3 billion tons of carbon**. That's equivalent to the amount of gasoline needed to drive **4.6 million cars** for one year!

A future market system that places costs on emissions of carbon to the atmosphere and financial credit for investing in carbon sequestration could be an important incentive for landowners to engage in management activities that **promote forest health, vigor and resiliency to environmental stressors**, like wildfire, that cause the release of stored carbon. The total economic value of carbon stored by forests in Texas would be valued at approximately \$3.1 billion per year. Carbon storage is one of the many services forests provide to the well-being of Texans!

Reference:  
Texas A&M Forest Service, 2013, Texas statewide assessment of forest ecosystem services.

