



NORTH CAROLINA FORESTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

18 million acres of forests in North Carolina protect and provide for over 10 million residents. These forests provide critical ecosystem services like cleaning our drinking water, providing habitat for rare species, and protecting our communities from dangerous floods. Yet, these forests are under threat from climate change and from poor industrial forestry practices.



We are clearcutting away one of our best solutions to climate change.

Over 200,000 acres of NC forests are clear cut every year -- that's over 400 football fields per day. This leaves a black hole on the landscape that can take decades to regenerate.

According to the Forest Service, North Carolina lost about 70,000 acres of forests from 2015-2018.

Logging and wood products are third in North Carolina for greenhouse gas emissions, just behind electricity and transportation. Emissions from logging are currently not accounted for in the state's Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

KEEPING OUR FORESTS STANDING WILL HELP ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS THRIVE

- Protecting and restoring natural forests—not plantations—is an important step in mitigating climate change.
- Natural forests provide flood protection and water filtration for much lower cost than man-made solutions - critical in low-lying, low-income rural areas.
- Natural forests promote health, protect cultural identity, and store more carbon than other landscape types, including industrial pine plantations.

Industrial forest practices are part of the problem.

High concentrations of extractive logging are correlated with poorer outcomes in income, education and poverty rates.

The biomass industry relies on millions in tax subsidies from local, state and national governments. Enviva in NC has received over \$7 million in subsidies.

Every single NC biomass facility is in an Environmental Justice community, which is defined as a community at least 25% nonwhite with high poverty rates.

Wood products facilities are a major source of pollution; they decrease the quality of life for residents with constant noise, dust, and road traffic.

TOP PREDICTOR OF A STRONG RURAL ECONOMY? THE PRESENCE OF NATURAL AMENITIES

- There are attractive and growing job markets in outdoor recreation, clean-tech, and small business—which all thrive in a healthy natural environment
- NC Recreation generates 2.4 times more value than forest products, has created over 200,000 more jobs than the forest products industry, and contributes a billion more dollars in annual tax revenue.
- Forests provide more to local government through reducing infrastructure needs (e.g., natural water filtration, no need for road maintenance) than they require in services.
- Wetland forests in NC are worth \$27 billion in ecosystem services, including natural flood protection. Investing in wetland forests could increase value by \$5.1 billion.



OUR FORESTS. OUR STRENGTH.