Forest Carbon Definitions

Carbon pool: a component of the forest that can gain or lose carbon over time.

Carbon storage: the amount of carbon retained in a forest and/or carbon pool.

Carbon sequestration: the process by which trees and plants use carbon dioxide and photosynthesis to store carbon as biomass.

Units: Forest carbon is typically expressed in US tons per acre or metric tons (1 metric ton = 1.10 US tons).

Quick Facts on Forest Carbon

- New Mexico has 16.6 million acres of forests and is 21% forested.
- New Mexico forest carbon stocks have decreased by 4% from 1990 to 2019.
- Average carbon density in aboveground trees across New Mexico forests is 7.5 US tons per acre.
- In New Mexico, forests, urban trees, and harvested wood products:
  - Remove a minimal amount of all CO2 emissions in the state after taking into account forest mortality. (Across the US, this value is 14%.)
  - Store the equivalent of 53 years of all CO2 emissions produced in the state.