Quick Facts on Forest Carbon

- South Dakota has 1.9 million acres of forests and is 4% forested.
- South Dakota forest carbon stocks have decreased by 4% from 1990 to 2019.
- Average carbon density in aboveground trees across South Dakota forests is 11.7 US tons per acre.

- In South Dakota, 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 28 years of all CO₂ emissions produced in the state.

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)