If America’s private landowners can’t make money as tree farmers, many will turn to other income sources for the land. The U.S. could lose 44 million acres of forest to development in the next 30 years. What can be done?

Sources: The Abundant Forests Alliance (abundantforests.org/renew.html); Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (www.fao.org/forestry); United States Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us); American Forest and Paper Association (www.afandpa.org)

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It is time we focused on keeping working forests as forests, "We are in danger of losing the magnificent working forests growing trees outweigh the financial rewards privately owned, it is imperative that both the environmentally friendly is by growing trees. Because 70 percent of U.S. timberland is sacrificing forests to development. Because 70 percent of U.S. timberland is environmentally friendly is by growing trees. It can generate revenue for landowners and keep forests growing. The future of our forests depends on slowing the conversion of these precious resources and by maintaining productive sustainable private, protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat, provide recreation for outdoor enthusiasts and create jobs for nearly 6 million Americans. According to International Paper, we understand that if it makes sense for landowners to plant, grow and harvest forests, the cycle carries on. With no economic incentive, tree farmers are increasingly finding it more profitable to sell these valuable resources for development. The demand for wood-based products helps to maintain forests and ensure that trees are managed responsibly.

As the population in the U.S. increases, the demand for paper will continue to grow. It’s true. In the next 30 years the U.S. could lose 44 million acres of forest to development. In 2019, the U.S. consumed 100 million tons of wood fiber in the form of paper and paperboard. International Paper has been part of this cycle for more than 110 years. We understand that if it makes sense for landowners to plant, grow and harvest forests, the cycle carries on. With no economic incentive, tree farmers are increasingly finding it more profitable to sell these valuable resources for development. The demand for wood-based products helps to maintain forests and ensure that trees are managed responsibly.

“When people use more paper, suppliers plant more trees. If we want bigger commercial forests, then we should use more paper not less. Our policies should directly protect important wildlife habitats, not try to reduce our demand for paper.”

Edward L. Glasser
Professor of Economics, Harvard University

FIND OUT MORE
For more information about responsible forestry visit these websites:
ipsustainability.com
abundantforests.org
pfc.org
sfiprogram.org

“Who owns the American forests? (356 million acres)
PRIVATELY-OWNED
70%
(146 million acres)
GOVERNMENT-OWNED
30%
150 million acres
Who owns the American forests?

THE TREES

LAWRENCE SELZER
President and CEO, The Conservation Fund
It is time we focused on keeping working forests as forests, "We are in danger of losing the magnificent working forests of sacrificing forests to development. Because 70 percent of U.S. timberland is privately owned, it is imperative that both the social and economic incentives to continue growing trees outweigh the financial rewards of sacrificing forests to development."

"We are in danger of losing the magnificent working forests in America as properties continue to change hands according to economic and environmental pressures. It is time we focused on keeping working forests as forests, because of the role they play in preserving the green infrastructure of the nation."

LAWRENCE SELZER  PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE CONSERVATION FUND

H ave you heard someone suggest that by using less paper you can “save a tree”? The fact is, that when the demand for paper declines, tree farming also declines, taking all of the important ecological impacts like clean water and wildlife habitat right along with it. So if you decide to decrease your use of paper, don’t think you’re going to “save a tree”. The reality is that decreasing paper use may well cause a forest somewhere to be replaced by development. The future of our forests depends on slowing the conversion of these precious resources and by decreasing tree use. Ask these questions about paper:

- Is paper from a renewable resource? Yes. Wood is a renewable resource.
- Does the resource used for paper have a beneficial effect on climate change? Yes. Many climate experts believe that a sustainably managed forest can help offset at least one of the most pressing issues our planet faces.
- Do forests have social, economic and environmental benefits? Yes. Forests, both public and private, protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat, provide recreation for outdoors enthusiasts and create jobs for nearly 6 million Americans.
- Is paper recycled? Yes. Today, 37.4 percent of paper in the U.S. is recovered, and goals are in place to increase this number to 60 percent by 2012.
- Are renewable energy sources used in manufacturing paper? Yes. The pulp and paper industry is the single largest industrial user of carbon-neutral biomass fuels and has invested heavily in technology to reduce energy consumption.
- Does my paper come from a company committed to sustainable forestry? Yes. International Paper is proud of the products we make and the way we make them. It is our passion and commitment to deliver the products our customers want and ensure responsible stewardship of natural resources for development. The demand for wood-based products helps to maintain forests and ensure that trees are managed responsibly.

W OOD IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE, IT PROVIDES USEFUL PRODUCTS WHILE preserving the environment and maintaining the social and cultural values attached to forests. Consider these facts:

- Every year the forest produces many more trees than 1.7 million trees in the U.S.
- Today, there are 12 million more acres of forests in the U.S. than in 1987.
- Forests are renewable, capture carbon and help stabilize global climate and provide other environmental and recreational services. According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, planted forests are increasingly important sources for forest products produced within sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly contexts. A healthy demand for wood-based products helps to keep forests forever, provide our nation’s energy needs and ensure that trees are managed responsibly.

"When people use more paper, suppliers plant more trees. If we want bigger commercial forests, then we should use more paper not less. Our policies should directly protect important wildlife habitats, not try to reduce our demand for paper."

Share our vision

G ROWING TREES IS A NOT A SHORT-TERM VENTURE, LIKE THE TREE FARMERS, FOREST products companies exist because of the perpetual growing, harvesting and replanting of trees. Our financial future requires continual renewal of the forests. In fact, International Paper has been part of this cycle for more than 110 years. We understand that it if makes sense for landowners to plant, grow and harvest forests, the cycle carries on. With no economic incentive, tree farmers are increasingly finding it more profitable to sell these valuable resources for development. The demand for wood-based products helps to keep forests growing and ensure that trees are managed responsibly.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER IS PROUD OF THE PRODUCTS WE MAKE AND THE WAY WE MAKE THEM. IT IS OUR PASSION AND COMMITMENT TO DELIVER THE PRODUCTS OUR CUSTOMERS WANT AND ENSURE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES TODAY AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, OURS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD.

“According to tree growth estimates.”

DOWNS TO EARTH INSIGHT

Since the 1940s, annual growth of new trees has always exceeded the number cut down. By 1992, tree growth outpaced harvest by 34 percent and the volume of wood in the forest was 360 percent more than in 1920.

INSIGHT

I n today’s increasingly environmentally conscious world, there are many questions we ask ourselves each day, such as “Paper or plastic?” “Am I sacrificing a tree when I print out a document?” “What can I do to fight climate change?” Too often, we make decisions based on the popular rhetoric of the day. If we really want to contribute to the environment, our questions need to change. Ask these questions about paper:

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FIND OUT MORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY VISIT THESE WEBSITES:

- ipsustainability.com
- abundantforests.org
- pefc.org
- sfiprogram.org

UNDERSTAND FOREST OWNERSHIP

Land provides social, recreational and financial benefits. It can generate revenue for owners in many ways — one of the most environmentally friendly is by growing trees. Because 70 percent of U.S. timberland is privately owned, it is imperative that both the social and economic incentives to continue growing trees outweigh the financial rewards of sacrificing forests to development."

SEE THE FOREST AND THE TREES

H ow do you determine who owns the American forests? (356 million acres)

PRIVATELY-OWNED

70%

146 million acres

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WE ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING THE MAGNIFICENT WORKING FORESTS IN AMERICA AS PROPERTIES CONTINUE TO CHANGE HANDS ACCORDING TO ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES." "IT IS TIME WE FOCUSED ON KEEPING WORKING FORESTS AS FORESTS, BECAUSE OF THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN PRESERVING THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE NATION."

LAWRENCE SELZER  PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE CONSERVATION FUND
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“I’ve heard someone suggest that by using less paper you can “save a tree”?

The fact is, that when the demand for paper declines, tree farming also declines, taking all of the important ecological impacts like clean water and wildlife habitat right along with it. So if you decide to decrease your use of paper, don’t think you’re going to “save a tree.” The reality is that decreasing paper use may well cause a forest somewhere to be replaced by development.

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Wood is a renewable resource, it provides useful products while preserving the environment and maintaining the social and cultural values attached to forests. Consider these facts:

- Every day the forest products industry plants more than 1.7 million trees in the U.S.
- Today, there are 12 million more acres of forests in the U.S. than in 1897.

Forests are renewable, capture carbon and help stabilize global climate and provide other environmental and recreational services. According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, planted forests are increasingly important sources for forest products produced within sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly contexts. A healthy demand for wood-based products helps tree farmers conserve our natural resources, earn a healthy return on their investment, receive tax benefits and leave a lasting legacy.

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