

Nine Forestry Myths You May Have Heard

Myth 1: Young trees sequester more carbon at a faster rate than older trees.

Trees capture and store more and more carbon at an increasing rate as they age and grow, and can continue to do so for centuries.

Myth 2: “Durable wood products” are a good carbon storage solution.

Living forests last much longer than products. Just a tiny fraction of harvested wood ends up in a durable product. Once harvested, wood can no longer capture additional carbon.

Myth 3: Logged forests are better able to clean water and reduce flooding.

No form of management can improve the way a natural forest captures, holds and purifies water, and prevents erosion and flooding.

Myth 4: Logging boosts forest resistance to pests and pathogens.

Preemptive logging does not make forests more resistant. Dead trees can't pass on any genes that could boost resistance.

Myth 5: Logged forests are more resilient and better able to withstand fires and wind.

Fully protected forests are more resilient to natural disasters and climate change impacts. Logging opens wind corridors, which increases wind damage and helps fire spread.

Myth 6: Logging is necessary to maintain biological diversity.

Forests are the most biologically diverse terrestrial ecosystems on Earth. Logging harms far more species than it benefits, including some of our most vulnerable.

...But we hear that there is a shortage of early successional habitat (ESH)?

There is plenty of space for species that prefer ESH, including 40,500+ miles of power line corridors, areas of natural disturbance, agricultural clearings and other open spaces.

Myth 7: Logging enhances outdoor recreation of many kinds.

While it may facilitate hunting, logging damages the beauty and integrity of the natural spaces we go outdoors to enjoy. Nine out of ten forest bathers prefer old growth 😊 !

Myth 8: Our forests are broken and only foresters can fix them.

Forests are complex, adaptive systems that heal themselves. Our northeastern forests thrive when left alone, as shown in New York's Forest Preserve, more than three million acres of constitutionally protected, “forever wild” forest.

Myth 9: Only “working” forests are safe from development.

Public forestlands are already protected from development; private land use decisions are discretionary. If tax incentives existed for landowners to keep their forests wild, we believe many would make that choice.

We strongly encourage you to read the science!

Detailed information and sources available upon request to wendellstateforest@gmail.com. Find us at wendellforest.org

