

# Forests - trees and timber


Millions of trees have been harvested from NSW State forests since the *Forestry Act (1916)* was passed and formal forest management began in NSW. The *Act* was aimed at protecting forests from further unmanaged clearing to ensure long-term sustainable management of the State's timber resource. Today, our forests remain full of trees, are great places to explore and support an intricate web of plants and animals.

Sustainable forest management is the key to managing forests for the long term. It's about maintaining biodiversity and ecological processes, the formation of soils, energy flows and carbon, nutrient and water cycles. It is about meeting our current needs and expectations while retaining opportunities for future generations to meet theirs.

As a community, we need sustainable materials to build our homes and things like bridges, railways and wharves. But at the same time, we want to conserve our unique plants and animals, learn from Aboriginal sites, have clean water to drink, and enjoy camping, bushwalking and other recreational activities in State forests.

As a government business, Forests NSW is faced with the complex task of balancing the sale of forest products with maintaining the many social, environmental and cultural values our State forests provide.

This project sheet is an introduction to sustainable forest management in NSW. More information and pictures can be found on Forests NSW website.

 Cut out forest facts and images for your school projects

Aboriginal people have a special connection with forests. Protecting areas of cultural heritage significance is an important part of forest management. Forests NSW works with local Aboriginal people to identify, protect and manage sites.



Pest animals and environmental invaders like weeds harm forests by causing erosion and species and habitat loss. Forests NSW works in partnership with land managers across the state to combat pest animals and weeds in State forests.



The selective harvesting (or logging) of timber from NSW native State forests isn't the same as deforestation. Native forests grow and regrow naturally after harvesting. The idea is not to cut down more trees than the forest can regrow. This forest has been regrowing for about two years.



Averaging 9cm long and 30 grams, this pygmy possum is one of the species protected in NSW State forests. Ecologists conduct surveys for a range of species and the results of these are used to tailor harvesting operations to protect threatened species.

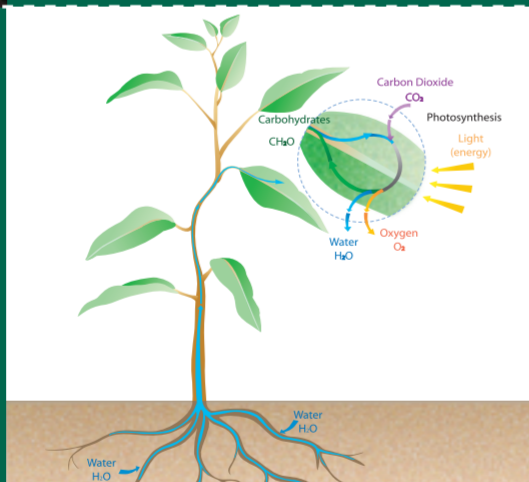


Timber from forests is a natural, renewable material. The carbon stored in trees remains locked up in the wood – even when it is used for building products or furniture.



Native forests are managed to conserve and protect a range of forest values from biodiversity, soil and water and forest productivity to the many recreation and cultural values that they provide. A thorough harvesting plan is prepared for all forest harvests.

Each year around 4.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide is absorbed by trees in NSW State forests – that's the yearly carbon dioxide emission of one million cars. Young growing forests are an important tool in sequestering (absorbing and storing) carbon.



Of the 1.9 million hectares of native forest managed by Forests NSW, about 2% is harvested each year. This timber is used to build homes, wharves, bridges, power poles and furniture.



Forests NSW is the largest Australian producer of the popular plantation species, radiata pine, selling enough timber to construct about a quarter of the houses built in Australia each year.



Four-wheel driving, camping, trail and mountain bike riding, bushwalking and picnicking are just some of the activities people enjoy in State forests.



Forests NSW is responsible for managing almost 2 million hectares of State forest on behalf of the people of NSW. One hectare equals about two football fields.



Products made from timber harvested in NSW State forests include flooring, cladding, framing, windows, furniture, poles, decking, pergolas, newspapers, writing paper, cardboard, bridges and artworks.

Foresters, ecologists, archaeologists, cartographers and engineers to name just a few, work to manage forests by balancing the way people use forests, for things like timber and recreation, with conserving unique forest features like threatened species and Aboriginal sites.



Plantations planted on previously cleared land supply timber, absorb carbon dioxide and provide areas of habitat. Blackbutt and radiata pine are the most common plantation species used in NSW.



The United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. The theme 'Forests for people' celebrates the central roles of people in the sustainable management of our world's forests.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011