



Trees are nature's masterpiece.



They take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen.

They sequester carbon, provide shade and shelter, anchor soil, reduce air and water pollution, and provide beauty and recreation for us.

BUT, if trees are so great for the environment,

WHY DO WE CUT SO MANY?

One reason we harvest trees is that the average American uses 18 cubic feet of lumber and structural panel products (plywood and OSB among others) and 750 pounds of paper each year. This is the equivalent of an 18" diameter 100-foot tree each year.

So, are we going to run out of trees?

To get some idea of how many trees we have grown and used since 1900, start with 76 million people living in the United States in the year 1900. By 1990, we had grown to more than 250 million people in the US. So, from 1900 to 1990 we grew and used the equivalent of 14 billion 100-foot trees. And, because of modern forest practices, our beautiful green forests are the envy of the world. We still have about two-thirds of the forest cover that existed in the 1600s. And, we have more forest cover today than existed in 1900.

Even so, if we don't understand how forests work best, it's easy to conclude that to get the environmental benefits, it's better to leave the trees untouched. Nothing could be further from the truth. Healthy growing forests do a better job for our environment than older, decaying ones. And, we get healthy, growing trees when we apply modern forestry knowledge to the forest through tree farming and sustainable forest management practices.

Bottom line: we cut trees to utilize them in our lives today and we replant them to provide for the future.