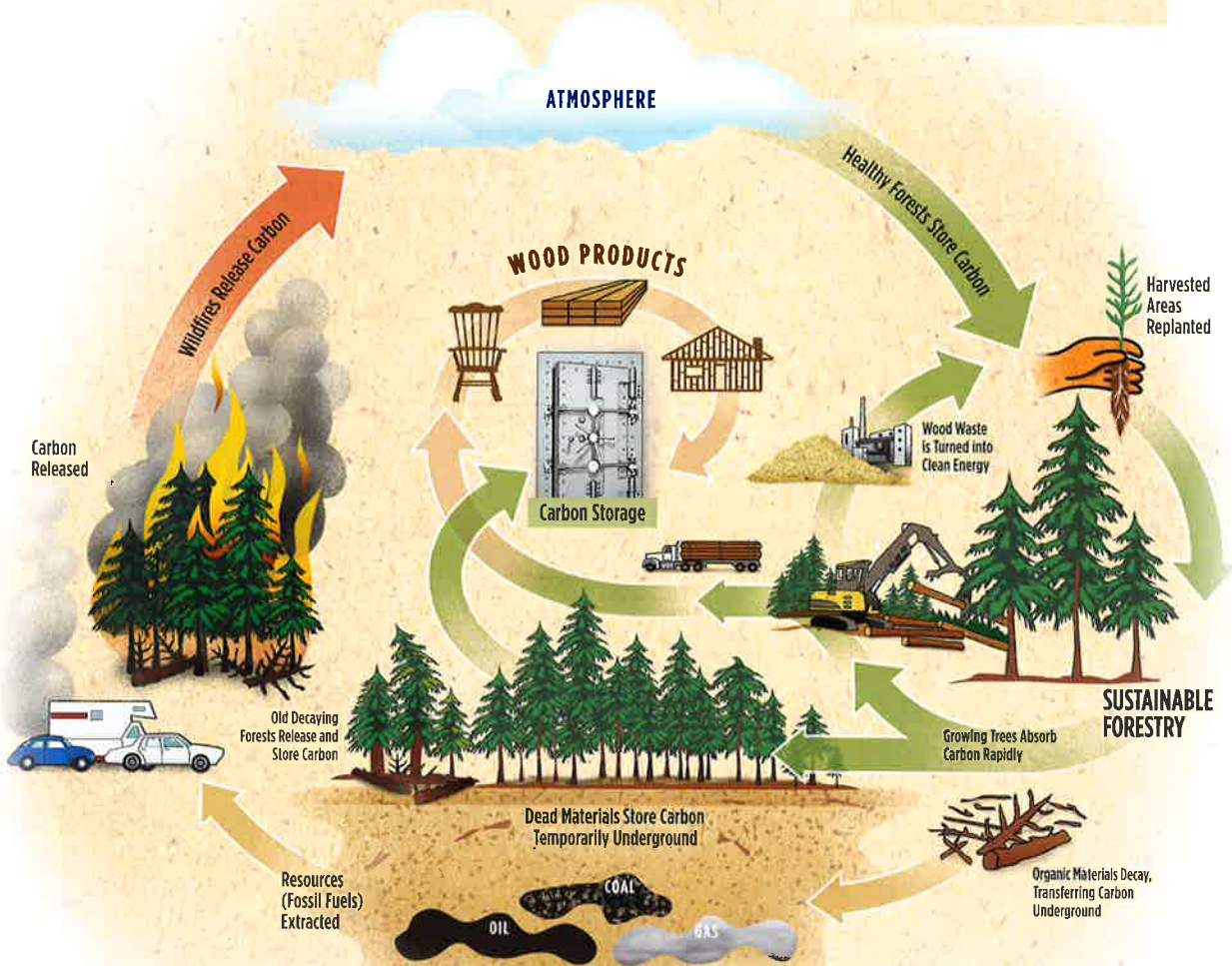


The Carbon Cycle

What Role do Forests Play?



Carbon Released

Catastrophic fires release carbon that has been stored in trees into the atmosphere. Manufacturing and automobiles also contribute carbon to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels. Natural processes like volcanoes and decomposition also release carbon to the atmosphere.



Carbon Absorbed

Young healthy forests absorb carbon more rapidly than older, dense forests. Older forests release carbon at the same rate that they absorb it, neutralizing their effect on global warming. Sustainably managing forests is an effective way to store carbon. Trees also produce oxygen that we all need.



Carbon Stored

As a tree grows, it stores carbon in its trunk, branches and roots. Sustainably managed forests continuously store and absorb carbon. Trees store carbon for a long time. When trees are harvested, the carbon continues to be stored in wood products. Harvested forests are replanted and the cycle begins again.



Courtesy of The Forest Foundation



Learn more at www.idahoforests.org

