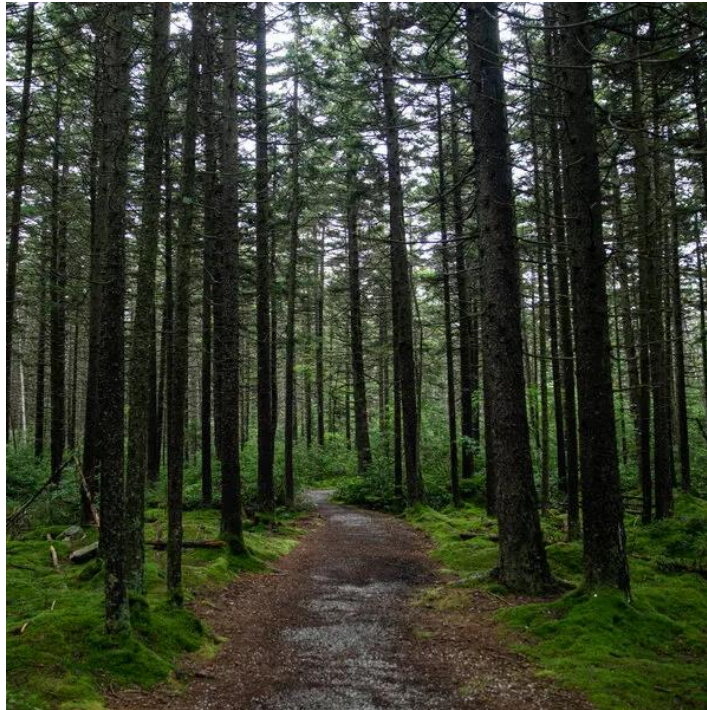


The New York Times

Preserving Forests to Help Fight Climate Change



Maddie McGarvey for The New York Times

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To the Editor:

Managing and conserving the world's forests to restore and maintain their more natural state have the potential to be an extraordinarily powerful climate solution, but it won't happen without investments comparable to those in the renewable energy and green transportation sectors.

World leaders should take a cue from California. This month [a committee advising the state on climate policy](#) called for investing \$10 billion in restoring, conserving and managing the state's forests and other natural and [working lands](#). The proposal would achieve up to 400 million tons of carbon reduction in California alone over the next 10 years.

While newly planted trees take decades of intensive management to capture significant carbon, standing forests can be managed to sequester vast amounts of carbon in just a few years, bringing us much closer to reaching the Paris Agreement goals by 2030.

Investing in our forests and other lands now is the fastest, lowest cost and most effective way to get the planet out of the woods and on our way to a more climate-friendly future.

Laurie Wayburn
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The writer is the chair of the California Natural and Working Lands Expert Advisory Committee and co-founder and president of Pacific Forest Trust.