## Climate Friendly Forestry: 4 Tests for Durable Wood Products



Bill Keeton, PhD. Professor of Forest Ecology and Forestry Director, UVM Carbon Dynamics Lab. Test # 1. Did the wood products compete with or complement other climate solutions?

- 21 Natural Climate Solutions for natural and agricultural lands
- Max. potential of 1.2 Pg CO2e per year
- Equivalent to 21% of net annual emissions of the United States



Fargione et al. 2019. Science Advances

## Full carbon accounting: optimize the mix of carbon strategies

Passive management, e.g.

- High Conservation Value forests, like old-growth and rare habitats
- Unmanaged inclusions
- Wilderness areas

Reforestation, e.g.

- Riparian buffers
- Urban tree planting
- Soil stabilization

Improved Forest Management, e.g.

- Retention forestry
- Extended rotations
- Improved growth
- Durable wood products
- Fuels treatment and fire restoration



Test #2. Does production of durable wood products contribute to stable or increasing net carbon stocks? Is storage in wood products greater than the long-term opportunity cost?



Management scenario modeled over 160 years

Test # 3. Is the production of durable wood products part of multi-functional forest management?

...e.g Carbon, flood resilience, and exceptionally high-quality stream habitats



### Vermont Forest Carbon:

A Market Opportunity for Forestland Owners

#### https://www.vlt.org/forest-carbonreport-released/

Or Google "Vermont Forest Carbon'

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Carbon Dynamics Lab



### Most eligible parcels for carbon projects in Vermont; greatest co-benefits



Flood mitigation demand data credit:

Watson, K.B., and T. Ricketts, 2017. Flood mitigation demand raster [GIS Dataset]

Test #4. Does production of durable wood products help make forests future adapted? Resilience to fire and other disturbances?

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# The mix of services forests provide will shift as the climate changes...this includes C sequestration

"Services" and biodiversity:

- Relative to forest age
- Relative to one another
- With climate change



Thom...Keeton et al. 2019. Global Change Biology

...increased production of durable wood products could increase or decrease future carbon storage depending on interactions with climate resilience



Thom...Keeton et al. 2019. Global Change Biology

Old-growth hemlockhardwood forest, Adirondack State Park, New York

Thank you