

California: We import wood products and export bad forest policy

Bill Stewart

Director , Center for Forestry
University of California Berkeley
WFE May 11, 2011

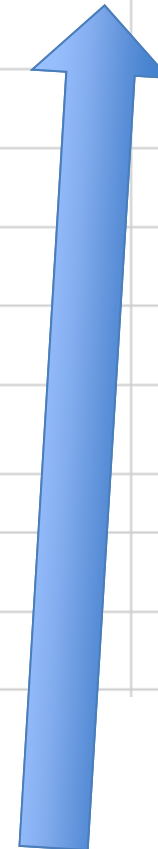


Just one more regulation

- Even before latest requirements, \$60/mbf in California v \$8/mbf in Oregon just for document preparation and filing
- As part of UC's 422 page timber harvest plan on an 800 harvest on a research forest, 19 pages of Qs and our climate calculator was initially rejected
- Our revised calculator estimated the full life cycle benefits – not just the instantaneous tree death from steel poisoning

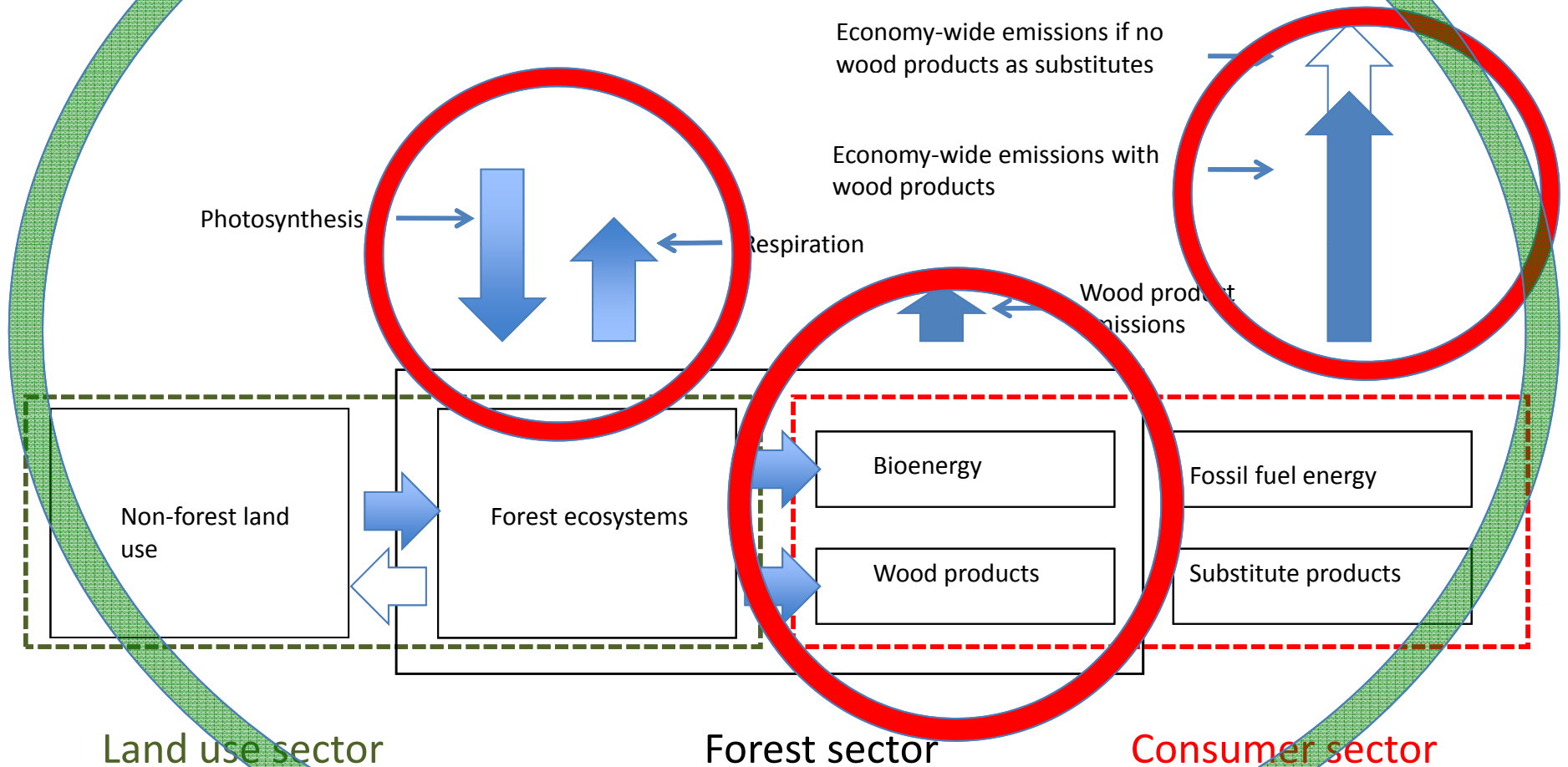
Calfire's GHG emission calculator – initially designed for forester who does carbon credits

Summary			Years until Carbon Stocks are Recouped from Initial Harvest (Includes Carbon in Live Trees, Harvested Wood Products, and Landfill)
	Beginning Stocks	Ending Stocks	
Emissions Source/Sink/Reservoir	Metric Tonnes CO2 Equivalent Per Acre Basis		16 Years
Live Trees (Conifers and Hardwoods)	269.29	248.03	
Wood Products		175.25	
Site Preparation Emissions		-2.49	
Non-biological emissions associated with harvesting		-6.31	
Non-biological emissions associated with milling		-2.25	
Sum of Net Emissions/Sequestration over Identified Harvest Cycles (CO2 metric tonnes)		142.94	
Project Summary			
Project Acres	Step 17- Insert the acres that are part of the harvest area.	300	
Total Project Sequestration over defined Harvesting Periods (CO2 metric tonnes)		42,883	

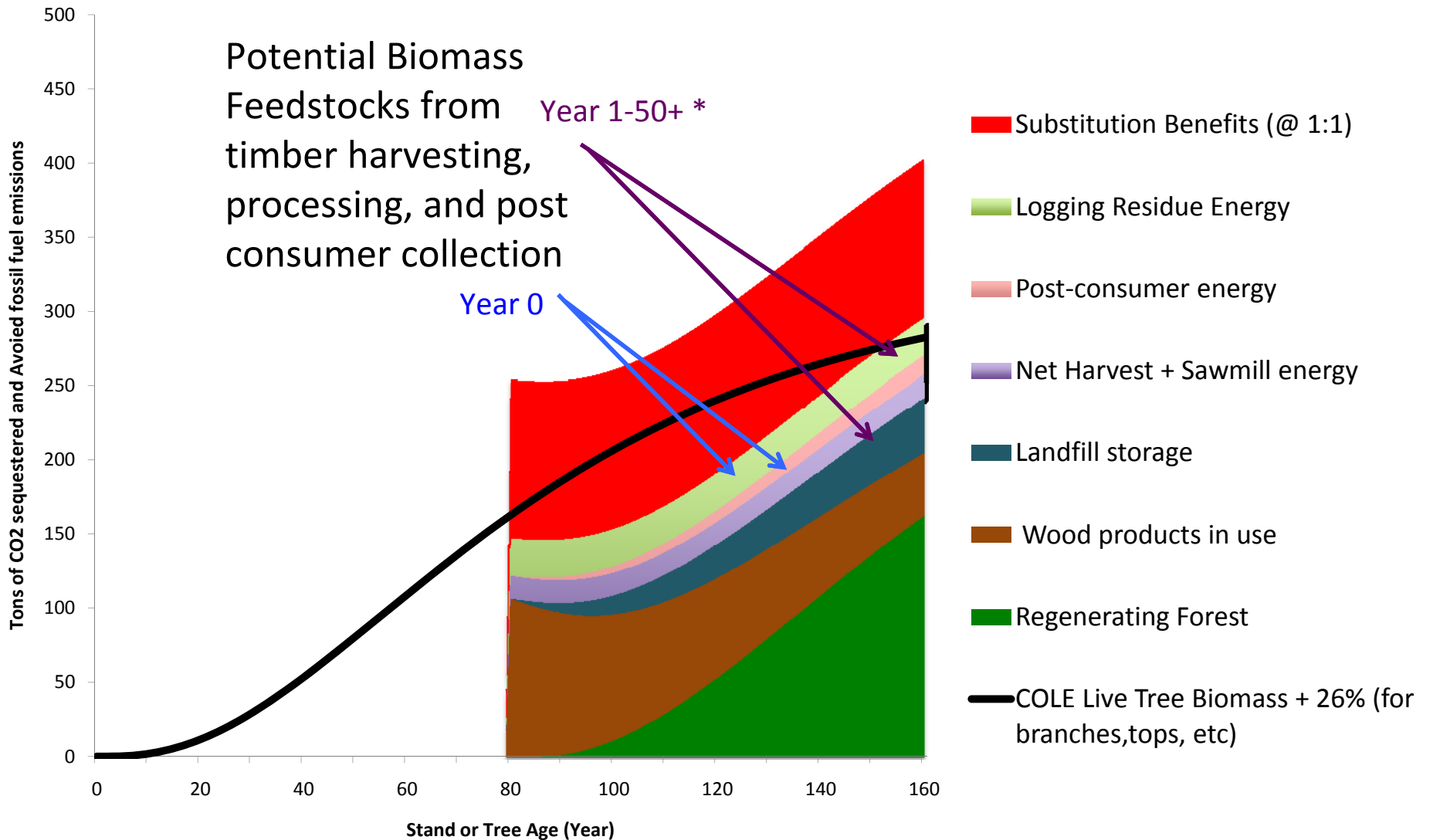


- Count 'wood for energy' as pollution
- Declare yourself a 'polluter' for X years
- Must declare annual growth, harvest, inventory

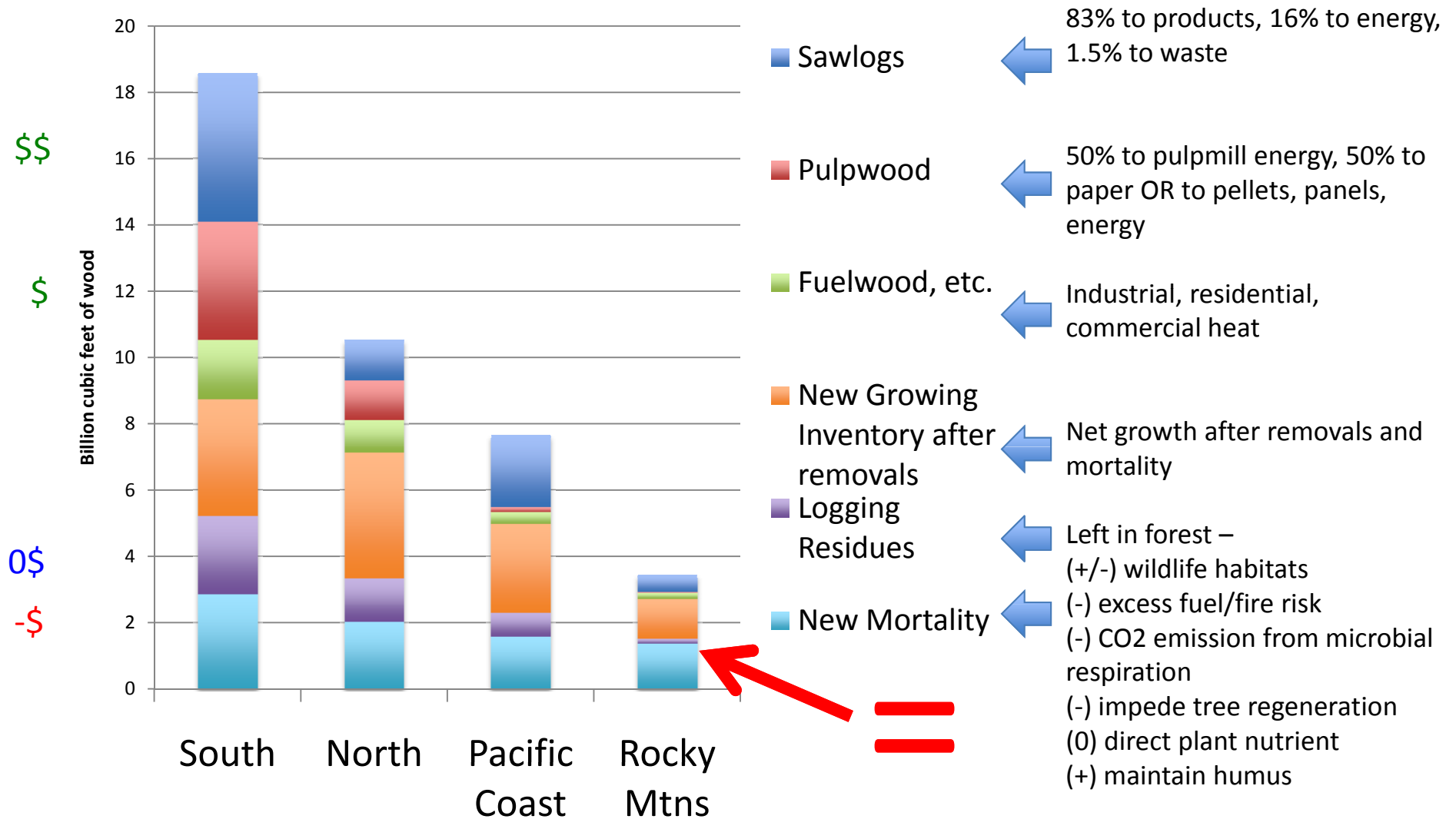
Full cycle assessment of the 3 sectors involved with forest biomass



Estimated Climate Benefits of Mixed Conifer Sawlog Harvest in California

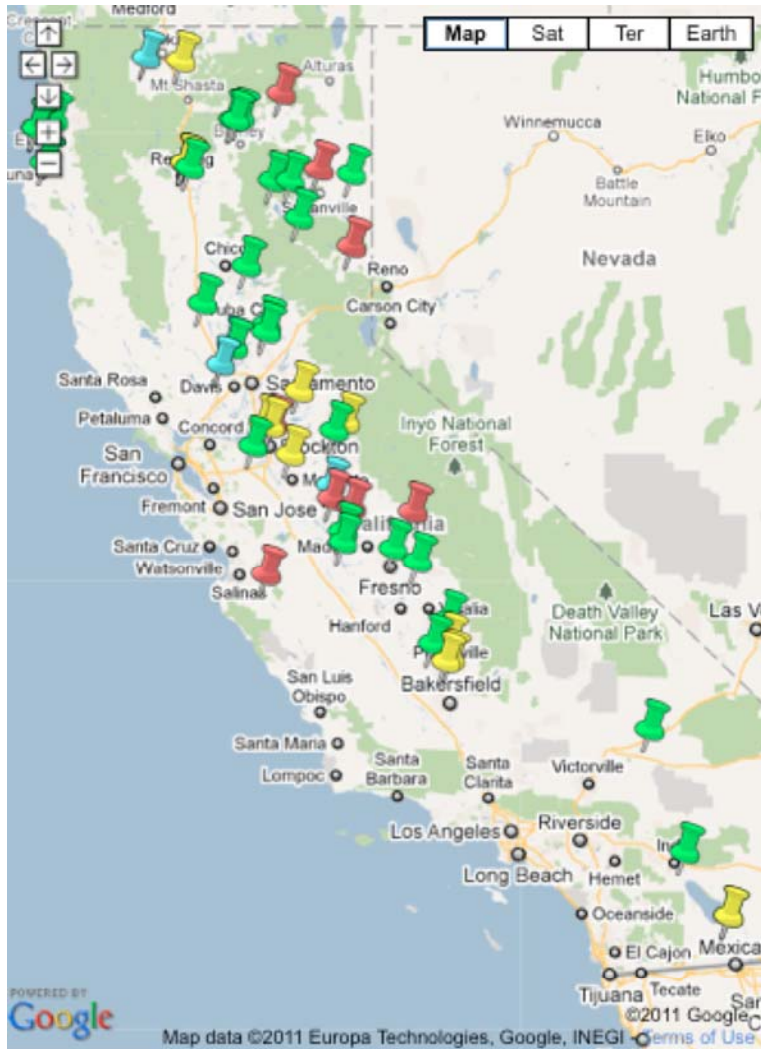


US Forests - 2006 Annual Carbon Flux



Remember: The US imports around 30% of our wood and >50% of our energy

Restarting Wood Biomass Plants

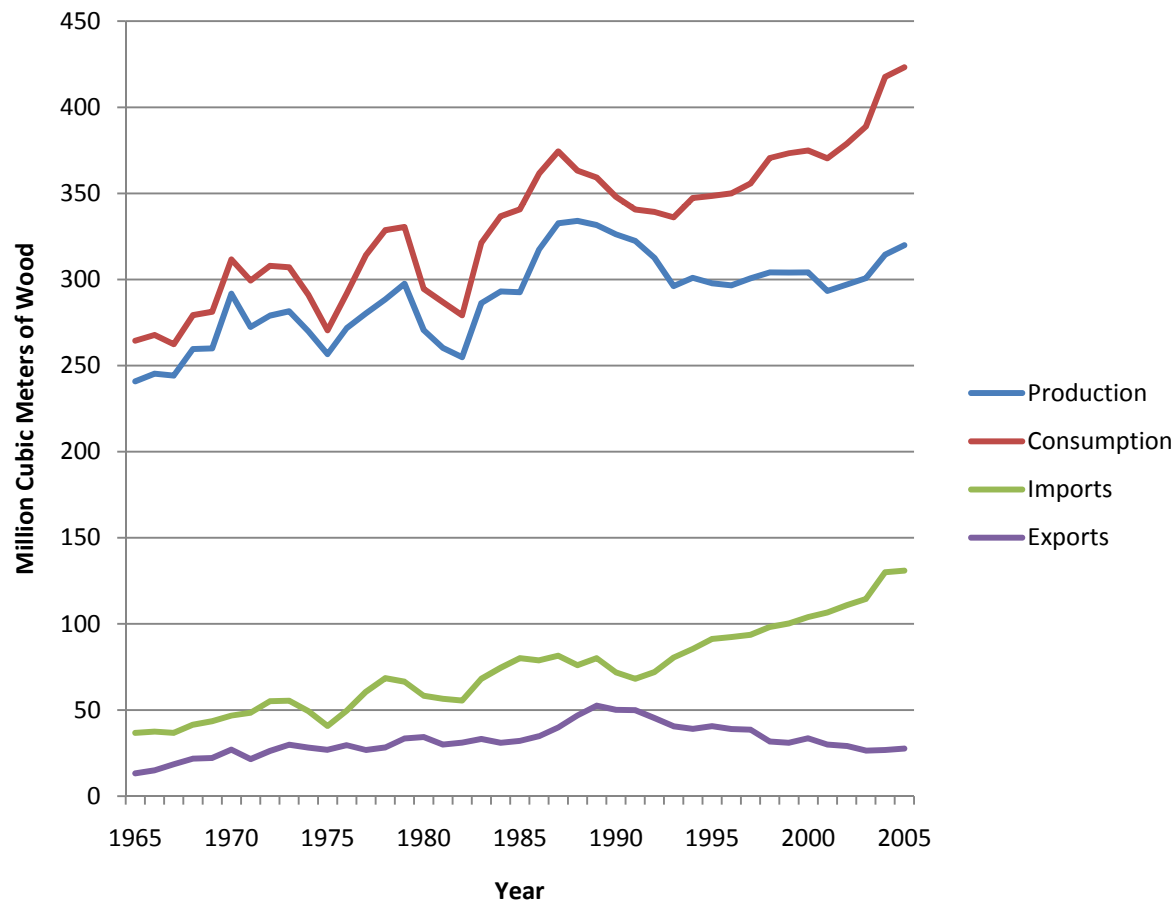


Source: <http://ucanr.org/sites/WoodyBiomass/>

California Air Resources Board

- Going full speed ahead with tradable forest carbon offsets – because polluters want cheap and regulator-backed offsets
- Current protocols define market leakage as 20% even though California has ~ 100% market leakage
- Regulators are planning to approve forest carbon offsets from ‘avoided deforestation’ from Acre, Brazil and Chiapas, Mexico - sight unseen

Under CAR, the US could qualify as one big forest carbon project since ~1992



Will we secede? What about WTO?

- California's politicians still want to outlaw clear cutting inside the state but regulations increasingly favor the simplest silviculture
- Shrub management has replaced tree management as the #1 biological product from forests
- Forest carbon offset projects designed like local open space projects are the favorite of regulators and conservation groups – even if the global benefit is impossible to identify