

I'm Terry Collins from Collins Pine Company up in Chester, CA. I just had a couple of suggestions on the Forestry Greenhouse Gas Accounting Protocols.

Under the section entitled "Estimate Carbon in Wood Products", on page 35, there is a table (5.1) showing tree species weights at 12% moisture content with one column showing pounds per cubic foot and another column showing pounds per thousand board feet (MBF). I assume that the weight per cubic foot is based on the cubic foot by log scale (inside bark) that is harvested or perhaps the projected cubic foot volume by log scale from marking tallies. The column showing pounds per MBF appears to be based on the assumption that a board foot is one-twelfth of a cubic foot.

While a nominal board foot is one-twelfth of a cubic foot, it is not true that every twelve board feet of timber equals a cubic foot of timber. Since cubic feet of logs represent the total volume of wood inside the bark and board feet of logs represents a projection of nominal volume in boards, the relationship on our forest comes out to: 4.78 Board Feet for every Cubic Foot of timber. So when I use the weight per MBF column in Table 5.1 to calculate the Carbon in wood products from a given volume of harvested timber, I come up with a much lower number than I should.

On a more general note, lumber contains eight times more Carbon than is emitted to produce it. If it comes from a well-managed forest, 8 pounds of Carbon is drawn from the atmosphere and back into the forest for every pound that is emitted to produce it. I think that the wood products pool should be mandatory rather than optional because the forest manager has control over whether timber is sold or not from their forest. Our country imports 40% of the softwood lumber that we use and exports less than one-twelfth as much as we import. If we are serious about mitigating climate change, we should be encouraging the production of more locally grown lumber from well-managed forests.