

Editorial Board

Using Forests to Fight Climate Change

California is again leading the way.

By Editorial Board

2017年11月28日 GMT+8 下午10:00

说明

选自2019年考研英语二阅读二。出题人对原文进行了删减。

文章选自 Bloomberg Opinion 彭博观点。

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正文

001 Forests give us shade, quiet and one of the harder challenges in the fight against climate change. Even as we humans count on forests to soak up a good share of the carbon dioxide we produce, we are threatening their ability to do so. The climate change we are hastening could one day leave us with forests that emit more carbon than they absorb.

002 Thankfully, there is a way out of this trap -- but it involves striking a subtle balance. Helping forests flourish as valuable "carbon sinks" long into the future may require reducing their capacity to sequester carbon now. California is leading the way, as it does on so many climate efforts, in figuring out the details.

003 The state's proposed Forest Carbon Plan aims to double efforts to thin out young trees and clear brush in parts of the forest, including by controlled burning. This temporarily lowers carbon-carrying capacity. But the remaining trees draw a greater share of the available moisture, so they grow and thrive, restoring the forest's capacity to pull carbon from the air. Healthy trees are also better able to fend off bark beetles. The landscape is rendered less combustible. Even in the event of a fire, fewer trees are consumed.

004 The need for such planning is increasingly urgent. Already, since 2010, drought and beetles have killed more than 100 million trees in California, most of them in 2016 alone, and wildfires have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres.

005 California's plan ~~envisions treating~~to treat 35,000 acres of forest a year by 2020, and 60,000 by 2030 -- financed from the proceeds of the state's emissions-permit auctions. That's only a small share of the total acreage that could benefit, an estimated half a million acres in all, so it will be important to prioritize areas at greatest risk of fire or drought.

006 The strategy also aims to ensure that carbon in woody material removed from the forests is locked away in the form of solid lumber, burned as biofuel in vehicles that would otherwise run on fossil fuels, or used in compost or animal feed. New research on transportation biofuels is under way, and the state plans to encourage lumber production close to forest lands. In future the state proposes to take an inventory of its forests' carbon-storing capacity every five years.

007 State governments are well accustomed to managing forests, including those owned by the U.S. Forest Service, but traditionally they've focused on wildlife, watersheds and opportunities for recreation. Only recently have they come to see the vital part forests will have to play in storing carbon. California's plan, which is expected to be finalized by the governor early next year, should serve as a model.

思考题

26."one of the harder challenges" implies ____

- A. global climate change may get out of control
- B. forests may become a potential threat
- C. people may misunderstand global warming
- D. extreme weather conditions may arise

27.To maintain forests as valuable "carbon sinks", we may need to _

- A.preserve diversity of species
- B. lower their present carbon-absorbing capacity
- C. accelerate the growth of young trees
- D. strike a balance among different plants

28.California's Forest Carbon Plan endeavors to_

- A.restore its forests quickly after wildfires
- B.cultivate more drought resistant trees
- C.find more effective ways to kill insects
- D.reduce the density of some of its forests

29.what is essential to California's plan according to para. 5?

- A.to obtain enough financial support
- B.to carry it out before 2020
- C.to handle the areas in the serious danger first
- D. to perfect the emission-permit auctions

30.the author's attitude toward California's plan can be best described as _

A.supportive

B.ambiguous

C.tolerant

D.cautious