The movement of carbon through the atmosphere, oceans, vegetation, soil, and lithosphere is described by the carbon cycle.

**Carbon Cycle**
- **Vegetation and Soil**
- **Lithosphere**
- **Ocean**

**Carbon Density**
- Carbon density is an estimate of forest carbon density (tons/acre)
- Forests in the United States are an important carbon sink, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.
- Long-lived wood products, such as lumber and furniture, transfer ecosystem carbon to the harvested wood products (HWP) pool.

**Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program**
- The FIA places hexagonal plots on the ground, and the USFS surveys these plots each year to determine the carbon stock in all regions for 2013.

**Forest Carbon**
- Forest carbon estimates for the United States are over 10 billion metric tons (or one million metric tons is a teragram).
- Forests in the United States are 4.7% of the total net carbon sequestration of the world.
- Forests in the United States are an important carbon sink, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

**Smaller Scales**
- Carbon sequestration rates, effects on forests, and density across the country.

**Teragram**
- Teragrams (Tg) is described by the carbon cycle.
- The movement of carbon through the atmosphere, ocean, vegetation, soil, and lithosphere (Earth's rocky crust and upper mantle) is described by the carbon cycle.

**Carbon Sequestration**
- National Forest System emissions avoided.
- National Forest System sequestration offsets.
- United States Forest Emission Avoidance.

**For More Information on U.S. Forests and Carbon, Check Out the Forest Service CCRC Forest and Carbon Topic Page.**