



## Carbon Offset Program

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# Improving Michigan Forests

**LAND OWNERS: EARN ADDITIONAL ANNUAL INCOME**

**FROM THE CO<sub>2</sub> OFF-SET CREDITS PRODUCED BY YOUR TIMBERLAND**

Michigan Timber Conservation, LLC leads the timber industry with innovative timberland programs for landowners. We offer a unique way for Michigan property owners to maximize the financial gains from their forested land, through the capture and sequestration of carbon, and utilizing long lived wood products. You can now receive **annual royalty payments** simply by implementing and utilizing the management practices set forth through our Carbon Off-Set Program.

For a duration of 15 years our company measures the amount of carbon, and sequestration rates that your forest captures. This allows us to more **adequately manage** a forest, and obtain a better perspective of harvest cycles, and individual tree selections. Using scientific forestry methods, we will determine the amount of offsets your woodland provides, present it to market, and distribute royalty payments to forests owners, annually, as they mature.

This ongoing management provides consistent, accurate documentation of your forest, and its expected growth rates.

Occasionally, Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) harvests take place to insure new growth and the proper timber rotation. During these improvement cycles, your timber is presented to a network of producers. These producers are recognized by Michigan Timber Conservation, LLC as being known for their outstanding commitment to Forest Stewardship. Insuring that your timber is exposed to the best market conditions available at the time in which a harvest takes place.

All field work is professionally executed without any out of pocket expense to timber landowners. Our goal is to maintain Michigan's Forests in a responsible, ethical manner that promotes positive growth, including capture and sequestration of carbon in wood products. This is the best approach known to reduce the greenhouse gas effects of environmental CO2.

After they have been verified and approved for our program, participating landowners will receive annual royalties for their carbon off-sets.

To apply for these off-set credits and membership in this program...

["Click Here"](#)

**To learn more about our program**

["Click Here"](#)

View This Website As A PDF Click On The Report Below



[MiTimberConservationLLC.PDF](#)

Size : 48 Kb

Type : PDF

**How To Get Started ["Click Here"](#)**

You must own a minimum of 8 acres\* of Wooded Land to be considered for enrollment. Upon approval, this program will...

- Sustainably manage and improve your forest's health.
- Improve the long term carbon sequestration capabilities of your woodland.
- Pay all start up and forest inventory costs.

Have all work 3rd party verified and sustainably certified for your protection.

- Pay you carbon sequestration royalties annually.
- Pay you additional revenue from sustainable logging operations as needed.

We manage your property **with you and your management goals** for the health of your forest. This will be performed using a comprehensive long term sustainable management approach to your wooded lands.

If your forest has harvestable, merchantable timber; you will still be able to use your timberland for wood production, as long as it's done using a sustainable, planned, measured, long term approach.

You have our commitment that by using our years of experience working in the forest we will properly manage your woodland so that **you will experience both annual royalties for CO2 sequestration and periodic payments** from any possible timber sales. Our goal is to increase your overall bottom line by improving your woodland over time.

**Need Help Getting Started? ["Click Here"](#)**

## **The Importance of Forest Carbon Credits**

Climate stabilization cannot be achieved this century without forests.

Within the next 25 years in the US 44.2 million acres will be at risk of conversion to developed areas.

Forestry has the greatest potential to reduce the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide over the next 25 years.

Forests provide food and fuel, purify fresh water, reduce erosion and control

desertification.

Illegal logging is stimulated by the absence of alternative value and a global shortage of sustainably managed timber.

About 53% of the Nation's water supply originates on forest land.



**For more information about carbon off-sets in other states,  
please view the links below...**

Saturday, February 21, 2009

**Pennsylvania program:**

**Want free money? Sell carbon credits**

**[Save the Planet: Sell Carbon](#)**

Author

David Pearce



SALEM, Ohio — It'll be one of the easiest ways you'll ever make money off your farmland.

That's what's being said about carbon credit trading, and farmers in eight Pennsylvania counties have the chance to be among the first in the Keystone State to get involved and profit from doing, well, nothing.

For more information on the pilot program or informational meeting schedule, call:

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

717-761-2740

[Carbon Credit Trading program](#)

[Minnesota landowners can sell 'carbon crop'](#)

By Gary Wyatt and Diomy Zamora, University of Minnesota Extension

[Farmland Converted To Forest To Sell Carbon Credits](#)

10 May 2007 - 6:00am

With hopes of generating income by selling carbon credits to polluters, Native Americans in Idaho are converting their farmland back to forests. But carbon sequestration is not required in the U.S., lowering the amount of revenue they can generate.

"The market for carbon credits promises to be a boon for some land-rich but cash-poor tribes. Selling carbon sequestration credits early in the

## Abstract

This article examines the political economy of agreements on global greenhouse emissions reduction. The author explains the complex emissions trading mechanisms and considers the likely size and structure of a future market for emissions credits.

## [Forest Carbon Initiative](#)

Forest conservation and reforestation are strategies the world could implement at a global scale both cost-effectively and almost immediately.

## PDF Book lettes:

[Forests: Taking Root in the Voluntary Carbon Markets](#)

[Meridian Institute. 2009. "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation \(REDD\): An Options Assessment Report."](#)

## Market Commentary

On Tuesday Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives released a draft cap-and-trade bill to cut GHG emissions 3% below 2005 levels by 2012, 20% below 2005 levels by 2020, 42% below 2005 levels in 2030, and 83% below 2005 levels by 2050. Released by House energy and commerce committee chair Henry Waxman and subcommittee chair Ed Markey, proposes a cap-and-trade system covering 85% of US emissions.

Key elements of the 648-page "discussion draft" include:

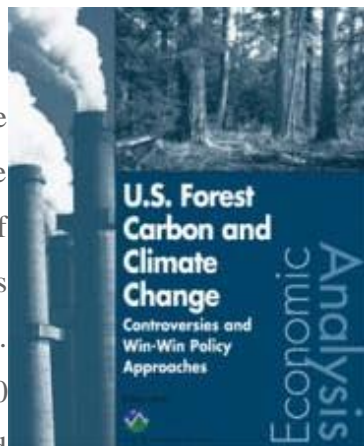
growth of a forest lets the tribe realize some money more quickly, rather than waiting for decades for the harvest."

"Carbon dioxide credits now sell for about \$4 a metric ton. Mandatory restrictions, experts say, could increase the price to \$12 or higher. In Europe, the cost of a credit sold for sequestering carbon dioxide has reached \$20, and even \$30, a ton."

## [U.S. Forest Carbon and Climate Change: Controversies and Win-Win Policy Approaches](#)

July 15, 2007

As consensus grows about the serious impacts of global climate change, the important role of forests in carbon storage is increasingly recognized. U.S. forests currently capture about 10 percent of the carbon released



from our country's use of fossil fuels. They do this by accumulating (or sequestering) a growing "bank account" of forest carbon stores, but the rate of growth of this account has begun to slow in recent years. Reforestation of former cropland and restoration of depleted timberland were responsible for much of the growth in the U.S. forest carbon pool during the twentieth century. As this process reaches limits and development sprawls into more rural forested areas, the sequestration services provided by our forests are now in jeopardy. U.S. forests have the potential to capture an even higher portion of our industrial emissions, but only if we prevent forest conversion and development and manage our forests to maximize carbon stores.

**Emissions Cap:** 4.87 billion tonnes in 2020.

**Who is Capped:** Sources that emit more than 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases. Upstream sources of oil and gas production would have caps. Coal would face a downstream cap. The bill would phase in industry sectors from its start in 2012 and 2016, when the 85% would be covered.

**Reduction Targets:** 3% below 2005 levels by 2012, 20% below 2005 levels by 2020, 42% below 2005 levels in 2030, and 83% below 2005 levels by 2050.

**Offset Use:** The draft allows for the use of up to 2 billion tonnes of offsets per year, evenly split between domestic and international sources. It calls for a government committee to determine eligible project types within 2 years of passage, **but allows for state-recognized offsets until that time.** Offsets are discounted to a ratio of 1.25:1 under the plan. This is a critical issue for companies concerned about the affordability of compliance.

**Implications for RGGI and California Cap & Trade Programs:** The bill proposes to allow states to implement their own GHG cap and trade programs and regulations.

However, state caps would not be allowed until 2018 to give the national program the opportunity to prove its effectiveness.

RGGI and potential California allowances issued prior to 2012 will be allowed to be traded in for national allowances using a dollar for dollar ratio in order to ensure a revenue-neutral exchange using average state-auction prices each year as a guide. The value of the state allowances would be based on the average auction price for the year in which the state allowance was issued. The Chicago Climate Futures Exchange saw a heavy volume today of 1.45 million RGGI allowances on the news of the discussion draft release, but with relatively little change in price.

**Cost Containment and "Safety Valves:"** To contain costs, the draft directs the EPA to create a "strategic reserve" of 2.5 billion allowances which can be made available when prices reach unexpectedly high levels. The draft also allows "unlimited banking" of allowances for companies to borrow

allowances for use during future compliance years. The draft also establishes a rolling two-year compliance period, effectively allowing covered companies to borrow from one year ahead without penalty. Allowances from two to five years in the future can be borrowed under limited circumstances.

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# Program Overview

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## Carbon Off-Set Program

This program was designed to reward landowners for their forested lands that contribute to the capture and preservation of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>). **MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC CARBON OFF-SET PROGRAM** offers forest owners a way to profit annually, through royalties they receive during the program period. The amount a forest owner will receive is based on the amount of forested acreage managed. To qualify, your land must have a Sustainable Management Plan for a duration of 15 years.

**Scientific analysis shall be collected and documented annually to record carbon sequestration rates.** This enables us to accurately manage a woodlot and determine the best harvest cycles for each woodland individually. If a parcel is determined in need of any timber harvesting, after consultation with the landowner, forestry best management practices will be adhered to. The amount of carbon captured as long lived wood products will be documented and added to the forest owner's account.

These carbon credits, also called offsets, allow companies to purchase carbon credits to **offset greenhouse gas emissions**. This market is creating a new revenue



opportunity for landowners with a managed, working forest plan.

Sequestering, or “holding,” carbon helps reduce carbon dioxide, one of several greenhouse gases contributing to the warming of the atmosphere. Research shows that trees are very good at taking atmospheric carbon and converting it to a sequestered, stable form within the tree. By implementing appropriate practices and technologies according to specific protocols, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can be monitored, documented, independently verified, then registered to an account as certified, tradable carbon credits.

We understand the complexities involved in measuring, monitoring and reporting forest carbon stocks. We can provide you with a means for integrating voluntary legally binding emissions reductions with emissions trading and offsets. MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC also has access to the direct sale marketplace, having the capability of bringing credible and verifiable carbon offset projects to a growing list of interested purchasers, ranging from private individuals, to large corporations. Our focus is on Michigan, we give the local marketplace first opportunity to use our credits for offsets.

## Background on Forest Carbon Trading and Marketing

Market-based mechanisms are emerging as a more efficient means for addressing climate change. With market-based mechanisms come opportunities for increasing return on investments available to managed forests, as well as afforestation/reforestation projects. Voluntary and mandatory forest carbon markets are evolving in the United States for evaluating, registering, verifying, and trading carbon credits for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturers and utilities. As markets for ecosystem services like sequestered carbon develop globally, managed forests and reforestation projects will play an increasingly important role for addressing climate change.

The significant concern over global warming has sparked the development of many initiatives here in the states. Across the country, the federal government, state or local governments, NGO's, not-for-profit organizations, and private enterprises have worked to develop various greenhouse gas registries, cap and trade programs, and other market mechanisms. Without over-arching requirements such

as the UN Kyoto protocol or federal regulation, most of these initiatives have been developed independently of one another, resulting in differing ideologies, policies, and program requirements.

## Video's on Global Warming- ["Click Here"](#)

Some of the more prevalent of these initiatives include the U.S. DOE 1605b program (registry), the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). Registries provide entities with the means by which to calculate, track, and report changes in GHG emissions or increases in carbon storage over time. These bodies establish the technical accounting rules that standardize GHG and carbon accounting and ensure consistency in all participant accounting systems. Carbon markets are a combination of the rules set from a registry and the platform on which carbon offset credits (usually metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent or "MtCO<sub>2</sub>e") are traded.

## Innovative Revenue Potential

Landowners now have access to an entirely new and innovative program for generating **revenue** from the sale of the hidden value produced by their forests. The hidden value forest landowners will sell is referred to as a carbon credit and is the same carbon stored inside their trees. A market designed specifically for trading carbon credits already exists and is fully functional.

As the landowner's representative in this newly emerging market, **MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC's** goals are driven by advocacy for sustainable forestry and the long-term, multiple benefits it provides. Using basic tools and thoughtful stewardship will enable landowners to develop working forests capable of producing revenue derived from wood products and carbon credits. **MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC CARBON OFF-SET PROGRAM** will provide assistance, forestry consultation and educational outreach to landowners enrolled in the program.

To be considered for enrollment, landowners may help us to develop a

stewardship plan, arrange for a forest inventory as necessary and be willing to become a certified forest. They must also sign an agreement to abide by the program's rules. For every forest property enrolled in its program, MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC will:

- **measure its change in wood volume over time;**
- **convert its wood volume to volume of carbon credits;**
- **sell the credits based on their value in the marketplace.**
- **annually pay royalties to all enrolled landowners.**

**In exchange for providing its services, MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC CARBON OFF-SET PROGRAM will deduct a management fee from each landowner's gross carbon payment. This enables all upfront inventory, stewardship, and certification costs to be included as part of our program as well as ensuring the continuing professional sustainable management of your woodland. We believe that this program offers landowners the most transparency, with the lowest overall fees, and best services in the industry.**

**To learn more about Forests and CO2**

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## Carbon Sequestration -Overview

CO<sub>2</sub> is a gas that occurs **naturally** in the atmosphere and is always present at some level. As long as the level isn't excessive, CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is a good thing. In fact, life on earth couldn't exist without it.

But, too much CO<sub>2</sub> from human activities is a reality that threatens the health of our climate and every person on earth. **There are many solutions to this problem.** One answer lies with trees.

Among the many other benefits they provide, trees act like a giant magnet by pulling CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere and storing it as **carbon in wood**. This process takes place as trees make food out of CO<sub>2</sub> through the process of photosynthesis. This food is used by the tree to make its roots, leaves, trunk, stems and fruit.

Today, landowners have **access** and **opportunity** to be paid for the proper management of their forested land by maximizing carbon sequestration. As a renewable resource, forests have the ability to adapt to a range of demanding,

naturally occurring conditions.

But forests cannot withstand the effects of continual, human-caused abuse without suffering a marked decrease in diversity and value. The MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC CARBON OFF-SET PROGRAM can help landowners restore the health of degraded forests while providing a **new source of revenue** and a lasting legacy for future generations.

**MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION** defines Sustainable Forestry as the management of forest to meet the needs of the present, without compromising future generations to meet their own needs. By practicing a land stewardship ethic, one demonstrates the commitment of reforestation, through managing, nurturing, and harvesting trees for useful products, with the conservation of wildlife, plants, soil, air and water quality, without jeopardizing the integrity of the forest.

Sustainable forestry can be practiced **effectively** using basic tools and concepts. A forward thinking landowner needs a stewardship plan, a forest inventory and certification, all complete by a credible, third-party organizations.

When buyers look for **reliable carbon offset programs** they make sure their programs have been validated by a third-party. Independent external validation provides the market with assurances that this project meets high-quality environmental and social standards.

A stewardship plan serves much the same purpose for a forest landowner as a road map does for a traveler. Plans can be written in ways that emphasize a wide range of management options such as preservation of wildlife habitat, conservation of soil and water quality of development of working forests.

A landowner's stewardship plan helps guide management decisions by indicating a reasonable way forward. Environmental conservation doesn't have to be an economic sacrifice. By incorporating strategic planning, landowners can improve their forest health and wildlife habitat - all of which can **increase land value** and the rate of return on your property.

Benefits provided by a forest inventory have critical importance for landowners. Without an inventory, landowners can do little more than guess how much timber they have, or what its **value** is in the market. They also can't know what their forest's potential for future growth actually is, or whether it's capable of producing revenue from the sale of carbon credits.

**In the long term, an accurate inventory will be one of the best, most responsible contributions a forest landowner will ever make towards improving their woodland.**

Forest certification is further acknowledgment that landowners have committed to managing their property as they would any other asset with long-term value. Landowners who certify their forests tend to be **respected** for their vision in combining tradition with innovation.

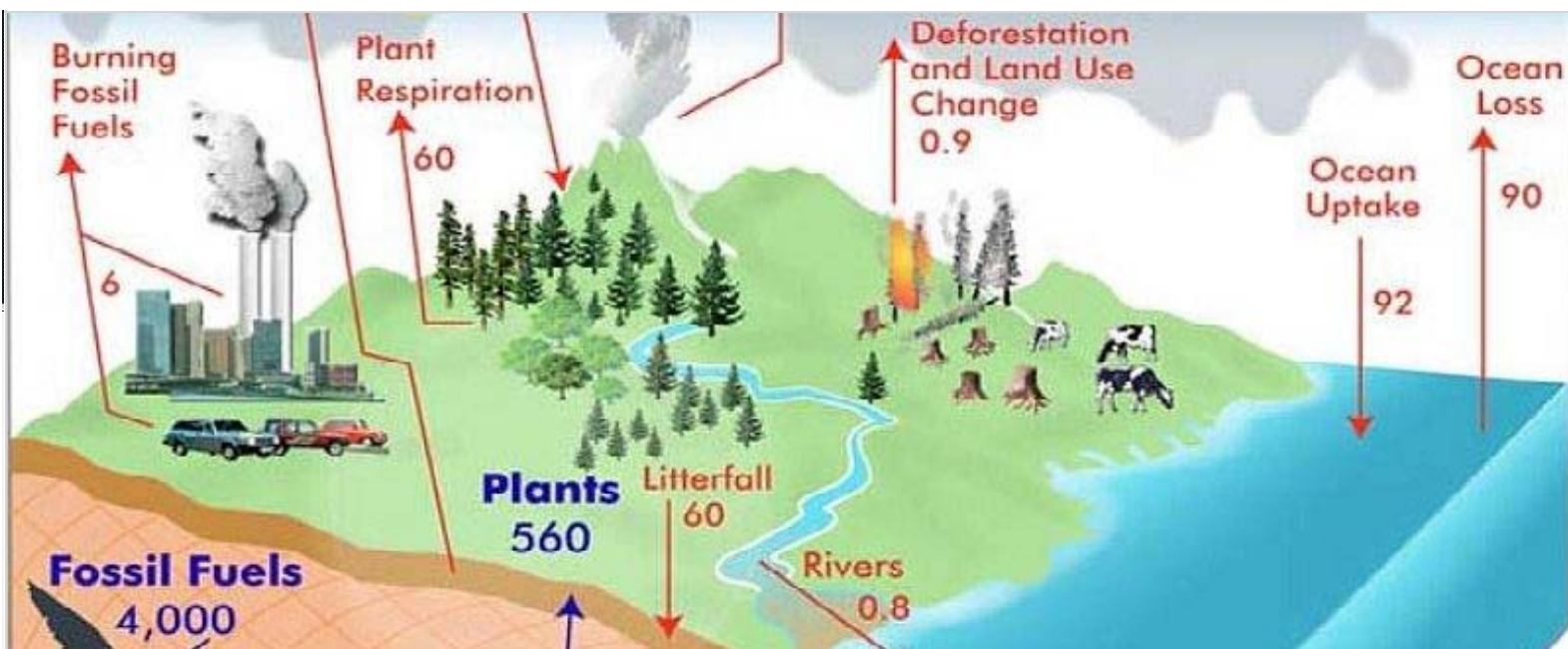
Stewardship plan, forest inventory, and certification are all recommended practices. Together they represent a sensible prescription for helping improve forest health, timber value and environmental balance.

Recommended practices help forest landowners develop sustainably managed, working forests. A working forest delivers multiple benefits. In addition to producing wood products, working forests also filter water run-off, control erosion, create recreational opportunity, and improve air quality.

**Thinning and Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)** are practices used to help develop multiple-age stands, another feature that often characterizes working forests.

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## Forests And CO2

Forest management directed at carbon sequestration could make a significant difference in global carbon sequestration over the near and medium terms. Traditionally, forest management has involved managing woodlands for the production of a single output—**timber**. Yet forests have always also been a means of sequestering carbon. In the past this ecosystem benefit went unnoticed and landowners were not compensated for this service. Forest managers would have ignored any carbon considerations in their management actions. Suppose now, however, that annual payments were made for both the carbon sequestration and the timber extracted.

Under this arrangement, **timber** and **carbon sequestration** could be viewed as joint products, and the timberland owner would have two market outputs to consider. As the forest matures, the timber stands become more valuable, as does the value of its carbon sequestration services. Landowners must contract with an aggregated organization to have their lands included in a larger pool so that they can accumulate enough carbon units to be eligible to trade on the open market.

Forests operate both as vehicles for capturing additional carbon and as carbon reservoirs. A young forest, when growing rapidly, can sequester relatively large volumes of additional carbon roughly proportional to the forest's growth in biomass. An old-growth forest acts as



a reservoir, holding large volumes of carbon even if it is not experiencing net growth. Thus, a young forest will hold less carbon, but it is sequestering additional carbon over time. **An old forest may not be capturing any additional new carbon, but can continue to hold large volumes of carbon as biomass over long periods of time.** Managed forests offer the opportunity for influencing forest growth rates and providing for full stocking, both of which allow for **more** carbon sequestration.

To achieve this result, [there must be a net increase in forests](#) so that the total forest biomass increases—or that it decreases less than would be the case in the absence of such management. Sometimes, no overall net forest growth needs to occur. Ideally, the net growth of the forest system is harvested annually by harvesting the tree in the oldest age class. The age of the harvested class is defined as the harvest rotation age. Once mature, such a forest experiences no net increase (or decrease) in timber stock or harvest volumes over time.

For any such system to work, there must be a way to monitor the trees (and carbon) to determine when certificates are valid and when they are not. Without updated information the system would be destroyed by fraud. Thus, a necessary prerequisite for this system to work is that everyone must know when the carbon is released from the forest, and at that point, the offset certificate no longer represents any sequestered carbon. **A long term management plan needs to be in place.**

Finally, harvested wood that is converted into long-lived wood products adds an additional stock of captive carbon. Wood products do not last forever. However, the global inventory of wood products increases when more products are added to the inventory than are removed from the destruction and dissipation of some products. As the wood products' inventory stock increases, more carbon is held captive, i.e., sequestered, in that stock.

**For more Carbon Facts- ["Click Here"](#)**

Additional sources for information can be found at:

**United States Environmental Protection Agency- [Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture](#)**

**United States Forest Service- [Forestry and Carbon Sequestration](#)**

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# Getting Started

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## Getting started is easy.

Just provide us with your contact information, and details about your property in the areas provided in the application...

**We will take care of the rest.**

**["Click Here"](#) to view application**

1. Forest certification is required. As a member, your forest will be recognized as a certified Tree Farm through an endorsed system such as [American Tree Farm.](#) Certification may also be through the [Forest Stewardship Council.](#)

MICHIGAN TIMBER CONSERVATION LLC CARBON OFF-SET PROGRAM will assist you to meet the standards for forest certification, including the development and implementation of a long-term forest management plan.

2. **Proof of Property Ownership is required.** This includes deeds, tax maps

and other documentation as necessary to demonstrate clear title to the property being enrolled.

## No Out Of Pocket Fees Or Costs For Forest Owners...

3. A forest inventory must be completed by a [Consulting Forester](#), dependent on the amount of acreage involved, a landowner could reasonably expect to pay \$8 - \$14 per acre for their forest inventory, however these fees will be avoided by landowners that enroll in the program now.

4. Landowners must sign an agreement to abide by the program's rules to sustainably manage their Forests. To apply for this program, ["Click Here"](#) and provide the necessary property ownership information.

To learn more about our program, ["Click Here"](#)

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