



What are the benefits of forest carbon offset projects?

The key tenet of a forest carbon offset project is that the forest must store more carbon than it would without the carbon offset project. This additional carbon stored in the forest allows another entity to compensate for GHG emissions made elsewhere. In this way, selling carbon offsets allows for the private sector to provide financial support for forests. The revenue earned by a landowner from selling forest carbon could be used for other goals, like land conservation, trail maintenance, timber stand improvement, climate-adaptive management, invasive species control, or wildlife habitat improvements. Additionally, it is feasible that the landowner could use the generated carbon offsets to compensate for their emissions.

Enrolling forestland in a long-term carbon agreement can provide more benefits than landowner revenue. The long-term commitment of forest carbon project helps to keep the forest intact, which protects the other vital ecosystem services that forests provide, like water cycling, wildlife habitat, and flood resilience.

It should be noted that some forest carbon offset projects can be controversial depending on the landowner type and the offset project claims.