

TNC Forest Carbon Programs

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Working Woodlands—A Unique Partnership

Opportunity for landowners to generate revenue, address climate change and protect their forest

Forest certification

We help landowner to actively manage their forest in a sustainable way, including updating management plans and providing forest certification.

Forest carbon

More carbon is sequestered and stored, which can be sold as carbon offset credits to generate new revenue for landowner.

Forest protection

We work with landowner to design flexible working forest protection mechanism keep their forest as forest.

Project Development Process

1. Present program overview to landowner
2. Conduct a rapid carbon assessment
3. Complete a carbon feasibility study with revenue projections
4. Finalize easement terms
5. Complete carbon inventory
6. Develop forest management plan
7. Execute easement and forest certification
8. Market and sell carbon credits

Continued Stewardship

- Carbon, Forest, and Easement Monitoring
- Timber Management
- Other Compatible Uses



Carbon Project Revenue

- Revenues are highly project specific depending on size, initial carbon stocking and project constraints
- Total value to landowner from first 10 year period can range from \$150 - \$200+ per acre of land enrolled (e.g. 2,500 acres might net landowner \$375K-\$600K+ over 10 years)
- Majority of revenue comes in years 1-10, but carbon can continue to be sold for project duration if markets are favorable

Moving Forward

- **Forest Carbon Aggregations/Co-ops**—Vermont Land Trust model in northern VT, aggregation projects with multiple landowners
- **Family Forest Carbon Program**—American Forest Foundation in partnership with TNC
- **New Types of Landowners**—Industrial forest owners, tribal lands
- **Leveraging in NY and Beyond**—exporting lessons learned, supporting land trust partners, carbon development partners

The Family Forest Carbon Program

An Opportunity to Achieve Climate Mitigation
and Other Vital Co-Benefits

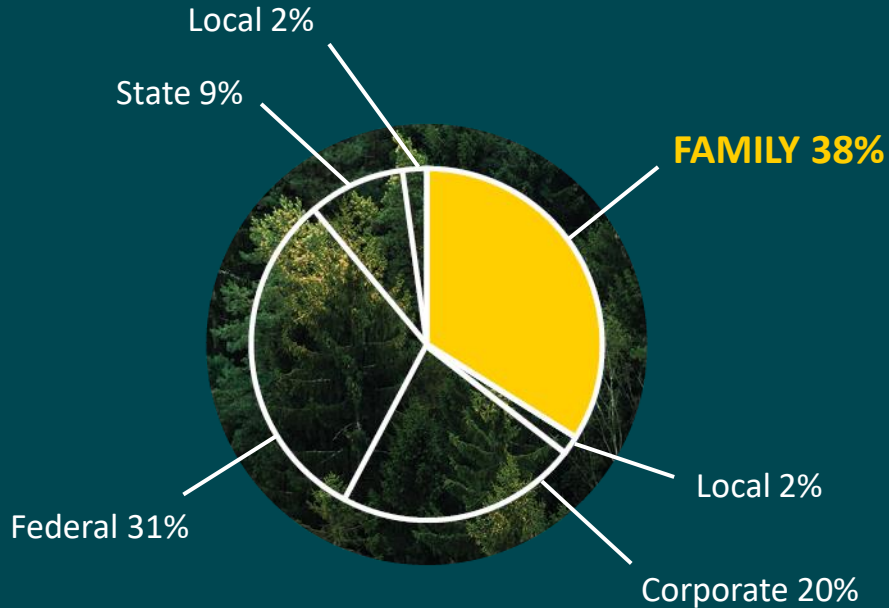
October 19, 2020

The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.



American Forest Foundation

Family-owned forests are critical in the fight against climate change



- Families and individuals own the largest portion of U.S. forests
- BUT, the average acreage of a family woodland is 67 acres, **too small to participate in traditional carbon projects.**

FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM

- Adopts a **PRACTICE-BASED APPROACH** that offers incentives for specific forest management practices which have been scientifically demonstrated to enhance carbon sequestration.
- **ENGAGES FAMILY FOREST OWNERS** with natural resources professionals to provide technical assistance through forest management plans
- Promotes **MULTIPLE BENEFITS** of forest management including timber production, enhancing wildlife habitat, and protecting water resources.
- Built on a **FINANCIAL MODEL** that is scalable and utilizes funding from mostly private sources.



American Forest Foundation



FAMILY FOREST IMPACT
FOUNDATION

The Nature
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Key Innovations that Enable Family Landowners to Participate in Carbon Markets

'TRADITIONAL' CARBON MARKETS	FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM
Pays landowners for carbon sequestered	Pays landowners to implement specific practices
Monitors carbon values on every property	Monitors practice implementation on every property; monitors carbon values on a landscape level using random sampling
High costs for monitoring on a per-property basis	Monitoring costs are high but spread across participating properties
Permanence addressed through 100 year contracts	20 year contracts; permanence addressed on program / landscape scale through long-term monitoring.

Landowner Eligibility

- Non-Industrial Private Landowner owning 30 - 2,400 acres within one of the Learning Pilot Geographies
- Forests originating from natural regeneration (e.g. plantations are ineligible)
- No restrictions on the land that exclude timber harvest activity (local ordinances, conservation easement, designated no harvest areas)
- Additional eligibility criteria tied to the specific practices



How It Works for the Landowner



You express interest through an online platform, WoodsCamp.



An FFIF representative calls you to understand your goals and answer questions.



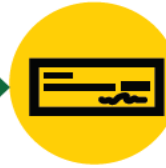
You submit an online form to move forward.



A forester walks your woods with you to collect information and verify eligibility.



The FFIF puts together your agreement. You review, sign, and return it.



The FFIF pays you your first installment, with other payments throughout the agreement period.



You hire a professional to complete the practice.



You complete simple reporting requirements throughout the agreement period.



FAMILY FOREST IMPACT
FOUNDATION



American Forest Foundation

THE AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION GROWS STEWARDSHIP EVERY DAY.

Growing Mature Forests Practice

- 20-year contract
- Practice specifications:
 - Develop two property-wide, 10-year forest management plans
 - Harvests are allowed but restricted:
 - No thinning from above (“high-grading”)
 - No more than 35% of basal area may be removed
- Payment covers part of the opportunity cost



Growing Mature Forests

Payment Rates (total payment)*

Board Feet per Acre	FFCP Per-Acre Payment Rate
2000 – 3500	\$120.00
3501 – 5000	\$180.00
5001 – 7500	\$270.00
7501 +	\$400.00

Payment based on timber volumes (International ¼" inch) at time of contract based on the most recent forest inventory.

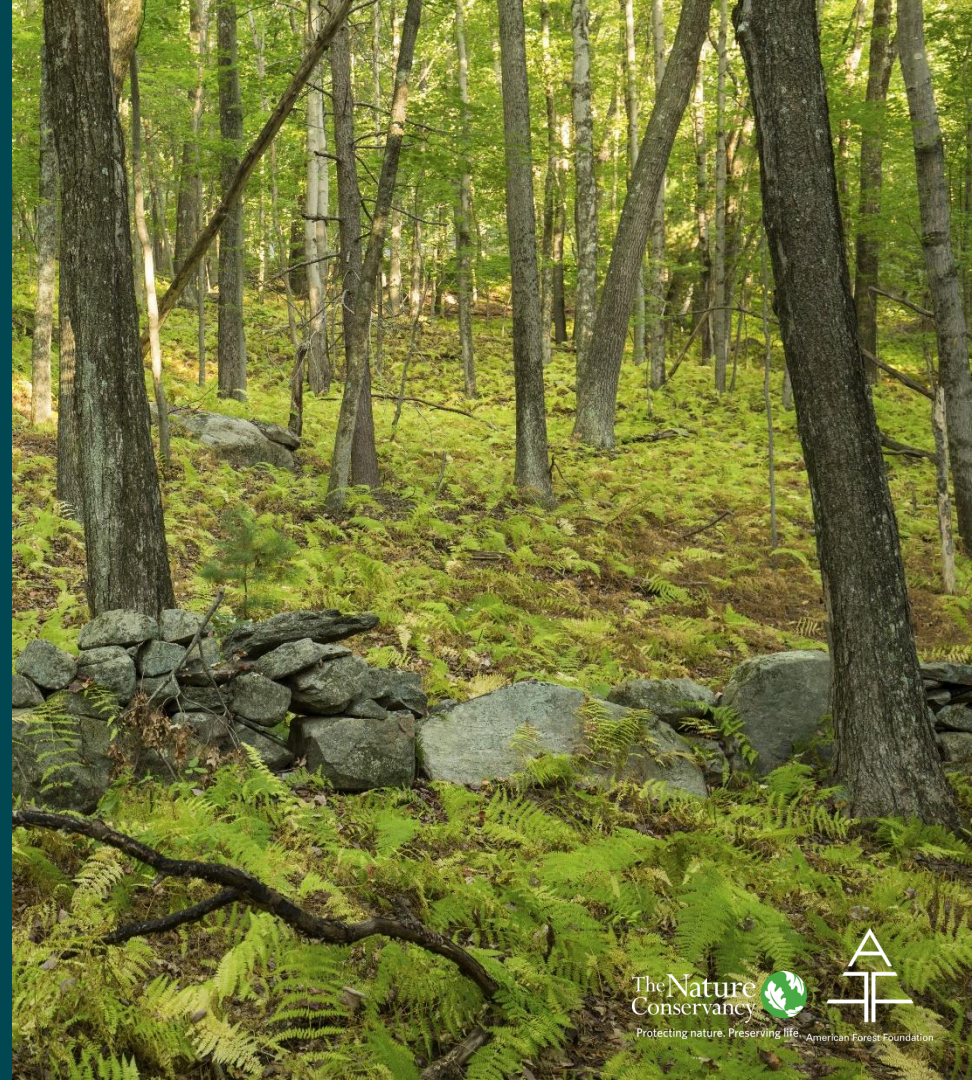
2,000 Board Feet per Acre ≈ 35 12" DBH Trees per Acre

*Subject to change



Enhancing Future Forests Practice

- Former or future regeneration harvest site, where there is significant invasive or other undesirable competing vegetation
- 10-year contract with 30 years of carbon benefit
- Payment helps cover treatment of competing vegetation to encourage successful regeneration
 - \$50/acre - \$245/acre



Enhancing the Future Forest

Payment Rates (total payment)*

Level of Competing Vegetation	% Coverage of Competing Vegetation	Payment Per Acre*
Light	30-49%	\$50
Medium	50 – 100%	\$110
Complex	50-100% AND there is competing vegetation both above and below 15' tall.	\$280



Landowner Outreach

- WoodsCamp
 - Online tool to recruit new landowners
 - Landowners pick their property, receive a basic report on resources, and links to opportunities for technical and financial assistance.
 - Landowners interested in FFCP but not currently working with a forester will be linked to a consultant for a site visit and planning.
- Landowner Networks and Groups
- Existing Clients
- Planned Timber Harvests
- DCNR Service Foresters



Participating and Approved Foresters (Consulting Foresters)

- **FFCP-Participating Foresters**
 - Sent qualified landowners generated from outreach efforts
 - Provides FFCP with areas they are committed to working within
 - Agrees to FFCP’s timeline of landowner follow-up
 - Submits timely landowner and project info through online tool
- **FFCP-Approved Foresters**
 - Can plan FFCP projects for existing clients but will not be sent any new landowners from FFCP outreach efforts.
 - Submits timely landowner and project info through online tool (preferred)



To enroll, email Elizabeth: evranas@familyforestimpact.org

Pennsylvania Pilot Eligible Geographies

FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM PENNSYLVANIA PILOT:
CENTRAL GEOGRAPHY



■ Central geography

State and county data was sourced from the United States Census Bureau in 2020. Central geography was generated from data from The Nature Conservancy and American Forest Foundation in 2020.

Last updated: May 29, 2020, by Lynn Riley, lriley@forestfoundation.org



The Nature Conservancy

FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM PENNSYLVANIA PILOT:
NORTHWEST GEOGRAPHY



■ Northwest geography

State and county data was sourced from the United States Census Bureau in 2020. Northwest geography was generated from data from Audubon Pennsylvania and American Forest Foundation in 2020.

Last updated: May 29, 2020, by Lynn Riley, lriley@forestfoundation.org



The Nature Conservancy



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Learning Pilot Numbers

Goal: 123 Landowners/9,000 Acres Enrolled

Current

- 30 signed contracts totaling 4,593 acres
- More “in the works”
 - 22 contracts being reviewed by the landowner
 - 115 landowners signed up for a forester site visit
- 532 landowners, representing 67,511 acres, have responded to our marketing and signed up to receive more information about the program



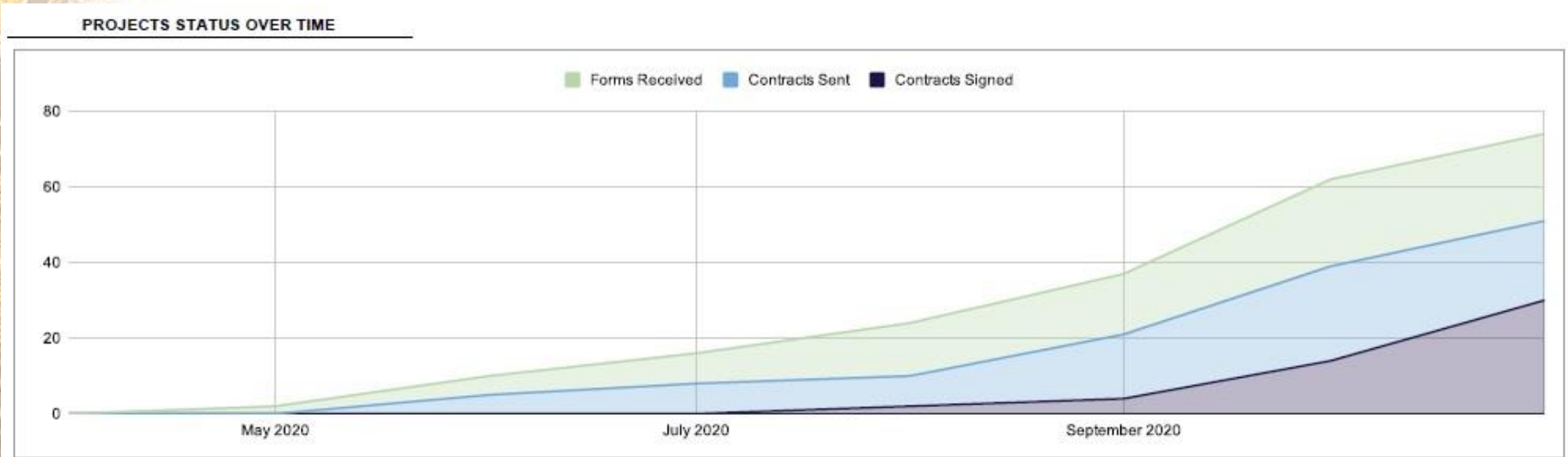
Learning Pilot - Early Findings

- On average larger properties enrolling than expected
 - Average GMF project size is 161 acres. EFF average is 44 acres.
- We have adequate forester capacity, but limited availability. While foresters are signing up to be Participating Foresters, getting timely site visits can be a challenge
- Having too many staff involved can be overwhelming. Consistency in the "point person" for each landowner is important.



Learning Pilot - Early Findings

- There is an initial delay in program success until local trust in the program builds





Thank You

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www.nature.org/workingwoodlands