### **Forest Carbon Works** Exploring opportunities in carbon for Vermont forest owners



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## About ecoPartners



Expert developers and technical consultants for domestic and international forest carbon projects

# California's Compliance Market

Cap-and-trade system regulated by the CA Air Resources Board

Legislative support recently signed to continue system until 2030

Allowances have price floor, increasing annually

- Long-term demand
- Reliable pricing

Results of system show a decrease in GHG emissions and large economic contributions

# **Compliance vs Voluntary Markets**

## Compliance (CARB)

- Intensive reviews
- Backed by regulation
- Minimum 25 years of crediting and 100 years of monitoring
- Price floor

## Voluntary

- Shorter commitment
- Variability in market
- Lower cost of development

# **Barriers to Small Landowners**

(Traditional Project Development)

#### Inventory

- Different from traditional timber inventories
- Time and cost intensive

#### Development

- Cost intensive
- Requires specialization (modeling, volume/biomass calculations, documentation, knowledge of methodologies/standards, navigating registries/state/marketplaces)

#### Verification

- Comprehensive third party audit
- Due to rigor of program, high costs

## Forest Carbon Works as the Solution!

Helping small forest owners to access the benefits of the carbon market & get paid for their conservation efforts

Innovative smartphone technology



Advanced inventory data processing

... and more!

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# FCW: Creating Better Access

### **Cost Minimization**

- Spread fixed-costs over multiple projects in region
- Reduce inventory, development, and verification costs
- Standardized platform (easy online application)
- No major upfront costs or commitments required

### Remove Complexity

- Paid per acre, per year
- Six-year renewable, concurrent terms
  - FCW handles all heavy lifting
- Automated reporting to state
- Standardized prerequisites

## FCW Prerequisites & Responsibilities

#### Prerequisites

- Minimum 40 acres private land in contiguous USA
- Must own timber rights
- Harvests must be legally allowed but not legally required
- All owners must enroll all forested ownerships

#### Responsibilities

- Long-term commitment (125 year minimum)
- Provide access to FCW team & forest technicians
- Coordinate commercial harvests with FCW
- Annual reporting and periodic re-measurement

# **Our Progress**



- Free inventories services conducted for successful applicants
- Inventory data collected on approx. 9,000 acres

# **Proof of Concept**

### Stewart Family Forest Project: Piloted Success



- 120 acres east of Portland, Oregon
- Fourth generation family forest
- Being paid approx. \$10K annually for first 6 year period
- Project recently passed comprehensive third party audit credits soon to be issued

## **Regional Progress**



### The Northeast

- <u>15 properties</u> inventoried since 2018
- Properties range in size from <u>19 acres to 800 acres</u>

#### Vermont

- **<u>15 landowners</u>** with properties cruised or in the pipeline
- Properties range in size from **<u>73 acres to 800 acres</u>**
- High amount of organic interest

### Looking Forward: FCW in Vermont

#### **Growth & Access**

- Expansion into region already planned
  - Office and full-time dedicated team by end of 2021
  - Targeting 10 regional projects by 2021, additional 10+/year thereafter
- Provide local support for accessing the market
- Educate landowners & forestry professionals about management options
- Become anchor for regional carbon interest

#### Collaboration

- Grow relationships within the community
  - Land trusts, landowner groups, forestry professionals, wood products groups,
  - Help foresters to expand available services for their clientele



## **Thank You!**



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