

Forestry Project



Garcia River Forest Project

This project uses conservation-based forest management to reduce carbon emissions. The emission reductions have been verified to the Climate Action Reserve (CAR).

Project partner

The Conservation Fund

Country

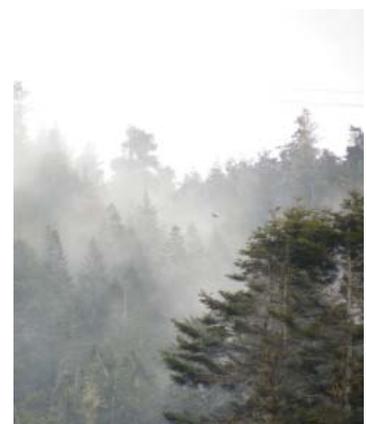
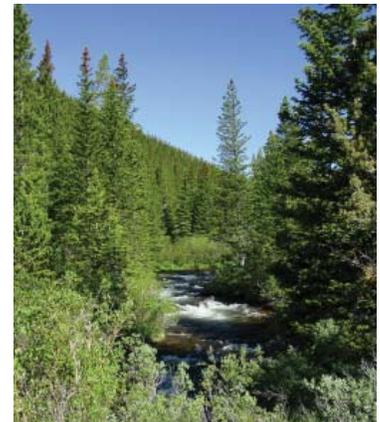
USA

About your project

The Garcia River Forest project is located in the coastal mountain range of Southwestern Mendocino County, California. The project was initiated in early 2004 with the goal of returning a 24,000 acre, under-stocked tract of coastal forest to an ecologically and economically viable state through conservation-based forest management. The Garcia River Forest project will absorb and store carbon emissions by ensuring high forest growth rates and the development of a larger, denser composition of redwood and douglas fir.

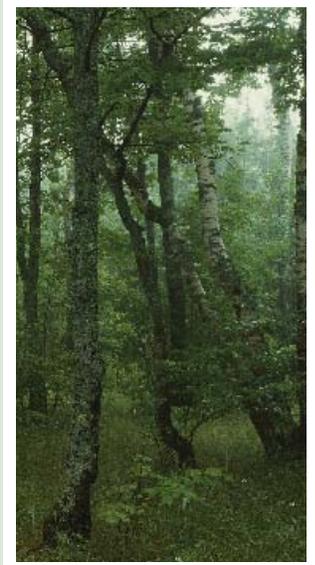
Like many forests in the region, Garcia River has a history of logging, gravel mining and grazing, causing soil erosion and clogging the rivers with sediment. As a result, the deteriorating water quality led to declining numbers of Garcia River's Coho and Steelhead salmon. Coupled with this eroding habitat, the forests could only generate a modest income from timber, exposing it to the risk of being sold off or divided into smaller holdings.

With competing land use interests, conservationists are struggling to finance forestland acquisitions to protect the most sensitive natural areas. The Garcia River Forest is one of the first forests recognized by CAR as a verified source of carbon credits supporting such conservation activities. Conservation-based forest management involves the long-term management of the forests which helps rebuild inventory and store carbon, whilst protecting water quality and restoring wildlife habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species. To maximize the climate and environmental co-benefits, these forests have been secured under a perpetual easement clause within CAR that requires the project land area to be permanently used for forest purposes.



About conservation-based forest management

Forests provide climate benefits by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and storing it as carbon in trees for hundreds of years. Conservation-based forest management is long-term planned intervention using natural forest management practices to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. This enables sustainable management of carbon stocks - the stored carbon in the forest biomass at a particular point in time. The intervention includes tending, thinning out, felling, regeneration/planting and fertilization, resulting in groups of desired species, age and size composition, without impairing the sustainability and productivity of these forests. Forests managed to enhance carbon stocks also improve wildlife habitat, biodiversity, water quality and sustainable economies. These forests are usually covered by a conservation easement on the property, which is a legal guarantee that the project's existing and additional carbon stocks remain protected through the project's life and beyond, by stipulating sustainable forest practices. In the unlikely event that a natural disturbance results in the loss of forest carbon, the easement terms facilitates the restoration of the forest and as a result, carbon stocks.



How carbon offsetting helps the project

It is expensive to conserve and manage forestry projects and that is where carbon finance can play an important role. Conservation-based forestry management projects like this one are not required by law and often have to overcome financial, geographical and biological barriers to realize implementation. Carbon finance provides an additional revenue stream helping to make these projects an attractive and viable option. In this case, the incentives from carbon finance are enabling the rapid recovery and regeneration of these forests and their habitat.

The reductions in CO₂ emissions achieved by this project are incremental to 'business as usual' and measured by an independent verifier to internationally recognized standards. These are bought as 'carbon credits' by clients of The CarbonNeutral Company to 'neutralize' their own emissions.

Verification:

This project is verified to Climate Action Reserve - Forestry Protocol and registered on the Reserve. A copy of documents related to this project can be found within the project registry of CarbonNeutral.com



Project area coordinates:

The Garcia River Forest has geographical coordinates of latitude 38° 54' 35.9994" North and longitude 123° 30' 36" West.