



Arcata Forest Key to Governor's Penance

According to a report by Matt Weiser in the Sacramento Bee, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will try to atone for his personal greenhouse gas emissions by buying carbon offsets from a forest near Arcata.

Pacific Forest Trust is reportedly working with the governor's office to make the deal. The group manages the carbon offset program for the 2,100-acre Fred van Eck Forest near Arcata.

The idea is that the forest sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, so paying to help manage the forest helps to offset any carbon one might release into the atmosphere.

The offsets are meant to cancel out the impacts from Schwarzenegger's personal and official airplane travels.

According to a press release from Pacific Forest Trust, California's forest carbon program is important to the fight against global warming because forest loss is the second largest cause of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

Converting forests to other uses accounts for 20 percent to 25 percent of all human-caused carbon dioxide emissions annually, a pollution effect equal to the emissions generated by 1.2 billion cars.

Forests provide climate benefits by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it as carbon in trees for hundreds to thousands of years. California's forests -- which grow the fastest, largest and for the longest period of time -- are especially vital as they are among the most productive forest carbon "sinks" in the world, said the press release.
