

Forest Carbon Offsets Help California Achieve Climate Goals

Forest carbon offset projects are delivering real, permanent, and verifiable greenhouse gas reductions. Forest carbon projects around the country have already generated credits equivalent to 35 million metric tons of carbon dioxide¹ - that's equivalent to removing more than ten coal-fired power plants.² These rigorously quantified emissions reduction projects also deliver important gains for water, wildlife, and disadvantaged rural communities. Gains from resilient forests are essential to meeting California's ambitious 2030 climate target.



Photo: Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times





Yurok Tribe Sustainable Forest Project – 21,240 acres in the lower Klamath Watershed, Humboldt County

This project helps the Yurok tribe acquire more of their Ancestral Territory, restore these loggedover forests, improve water quality, and protect critical salmon streams. Managing this mixed conifer and hardwood forest for carbon gains also brings much needed revenue for the Yurok nation.

Usal Redwood Forest – 47,979 acres in the coast range of Mendocino County

Acquired after great effort by a local community group, carbon revenues underwrite the costs of restoring this redwood forest that had been degraded by past management. The project and associated conservation easement ensure this forest and salmon streams provide lasting public benefits while providing needed jobs in a depressed rural community.

Hanes Ranch Forest Carbon Project – 2,456 acres in central Mendocino County

First homesteaded by the Hanes family in the 19th century, this project helps the next generation of the family afford to manage the forest for permanent carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and water quality. The forest is a biodiverse mix of coastal redwood, Douglas-fir, and mixed hardwoods at the headwaters of the Garcia River and Rancheria Creek (Navarro River).

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¹ https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/offsets/issuance/arb_offset_credit_issuance_table.pdf

² https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator