

Breakout Session of Pipelines for Nature-Based Solutions: Project Opportunities and Engagement Strategies

Moderator: Sacha Spector, Doris Duke Foundation

Student Volunteer Notetaker: Mason Harris

Question 1 – Eligibility

- Sara Ward (USFWS) – Database of federal lands NBS/restoration opportunities
 - Registry of bundled-up and un-funded projects with carbon sequestration potential from data calls and bill-sharing from IRA so outside external/internal partners/developers can assess them as a match to their project specifications
 - They have prioritized the projects that have the greatest carbon impact (reforestation, peatlands) - at spatial or uplift scales that matter (small footprint, huge delta)
 - Can be on federal lands, don't have to be, but willing projects for funding
 - Built registry for fundable projects and outlines all types of info that finance partners would need
 - Ecosystem service flows from project
 - Potential payback – federal programs or carbon/ecosystem services
 - Federal funds could be part of payback moving forward (soil and water fund)
 - Start with the list and mine through it
 - Having shared suite of parameters, becomes market-place for product that meets people's strategy
 - To start – pilot it with known things that have yet been underfunded
 - Get these into something for people to start shopping
- Forest Resilience Bond – could be 10x'd with this funding
- Southern Plains Land Trust
 - USFS carbon mapping database for grassland sequestration potential
 - Avoided sod-busting bridge loans to other large pots of federal and state funding, Colorado State Tax Credit dollars and perhaps carbon
- Land value capture
 - Assess a tax ahead of time on developers. Create a floodway that raises property, you can tax in advance to capture some of that value increase
 - Resilience Improvement Districts – special tax assessments based on the increment of value
- Private land restoration
 - Finite Carbon – folks in private space doing land use/land cover projects that could take advantage of extra pools of capital
 - Private carbon project developers (similar to private community solar developers)
 - They have the pipeline, but don't have credible pitches to landowners right now
 - Regen Ag – implementation at scale

- Accelerated soil building and lower cost of capital
 - Reforestation (Virridy business model mentioned with downstream utilities cost savings from avoided water treatment and emissions reductions)
- Biodiversity Credits - early financing for biodiversity credit development on projects that also generate GHGR
- Urban areas –added value of urban project is the aspect of low-income communities
 - Tree planting – reduces energy use (there is a protocol)
 - American forest – carbon value of tree sequestration
 - Stormwater – more green stormwater, energy reductions (USGS data layer that includes city forests and credit potential)
- Wetlands mitigation banking – could it grow to be additional and more creative advanced credit development
 - Might be need with new regulations impacting credit demand from Zaca decision
- Methane reduction – feed, mechanical, etc.
 - Hub potential is Environmental Solutions
- ESCOs - Energy Service Co's - they'll prefinance efficiency improvements. This funding can capitalize other enterprises like that. It could be private carbon developers who pay a discounted rate for carbon credits up front... that's the way the family forest credit program operates.

Question 2 – Hub Partners

- Land trust community (private land protection, avoided emissions, upfront payments)
- Groups aggregating urban projects
- Methane aggregators
- Role of private project developers outside NGO space (carbon project developers, mitigation banking companies, etc.) and how to partner

Question 3 – Needs to Participate

- Take out projects without market payors
- Time Horizon – similarity to renewable energy projects
 - Mindset for environmental markets – you can do projects on longer time horizon with lower cost of capital and longer repayment periods to open up funding
 - CT GB – can issue bonds for 30+ years for natural infrastructure
 - Here's amount reduction that can be quantified, here's mechanism, here's potential time horizon

General Questions

- Takeaway payments from loans
- Repayment terms and lengths

Wild Ideas

- Beaver re-introductions (and BDAS beaver dam analogs)
 - Huge groundwater recharge and sequestration from wetlands

- Deer exclosures/deer mgmt.
- Sod busting
- Biodiversity credits