



**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**



Enhanced Carbon Easements

Sequestering and capturing ambient carbon does not have to be complicated or difficult.

TPL is seeking to increase carbon storage and sequestration on working forest lands by applying an existing, well tested, and economically viable conservation tool: conservation easements.

With our 50-year Land for People Legacy, TPL is adept at partnering with communities and landowners to protect the lands and waters they value, often through fee simple or conservation easement transactions.

Now, TPL will leverage our expertise in conservation to enhance a traditional easement – the purchase of a partial property right – with longer timber cut cycles. The longer the forestland remains undisturbed, the more carbon it can store, and the more resilient the forest will be to climate change.

Climate Change and Working Forests

Communities across the country are feeling the most pressing challenges caused or exacerbated by climate change. Unprecedented wildfires, mega storms, and devastating floods have disrupted our lives and destroyed entire communities. Extreme heatwaves now kill more people than all other weather-related events combined.

Sustainable forest management could be a powerful tool to mitigate the impact of climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks* found that US forests absorbed enough carbon to offset 12% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, between 1990 and 2018, the EPA's inventory found that total carbon sequestration in forests decreased by seven percent due to forestland conversion and a slowing rate of sequestration. According to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S loses 6,000 acres of open space every day, much of it forestland and working forests. In addition, most of our working forests are managed on short rotation cycles to maximize short term profits, rather than seeking to capture carbon or provide other ecosystem services.

Carbon markets were designed to solve this problem. Yet, in their current iteration their use is marginal at best. Carbon markets struggle with transparency, concerns about double counting, and low valuation. As all sectors of society strive to reduce or offset carbon output, we must explore new opportunities for maintaining healthy, resilient, and productive working forests.

Innovative Conservation

Business-as-usual timber harvesting typically means clear-cuts every 30-40 years. But with an enhanced carbon easement, timber landowners would be fairly compensated for delaying timber harvesting, giving forests decades to retain existing carbon stores and sequester additional carbon as the forest grows. By keeping forestland undisturbed for a longer time with longer timber harvesting cycles, forests can capture and store more carbon.

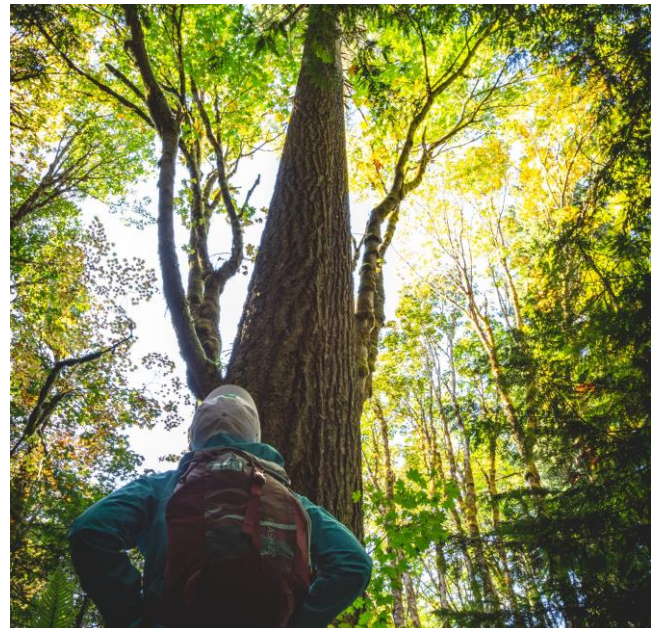
A study by the Northwest Natural Resource Group found that doubling the rotation age increased timber production by 52 percent while sequestering an average of 53 percent more carbon out of the atmosphere. Lengthening harvest cycles also enhances forests' resiliency to future climate change impacts.

Developing Enhanced Carbon Easement

Developing and implementing an enhanced carbon easement will serve as a model for replication across the United States, creating a valuable new tool for entities seeking to address climate change, forest resilience, and carbon emissions. Over the next two years, TPL is developing and testing an enhanced carbon easement as a tool for increasing carbon capture and retention on working forest lands. Our three-step process will:

- Work with subject matter experts to model fair market value for extended harvest rights and evaluating carbon sequestration additionality
- Develop easement language and stewardship requirements
- Provide recommendations for easement adoption for forest types nationwide

The time has come for an evolution in conservation and climate change mitigation. This project aims to unlock the vast potential of working forests to store and sequester carbon. We hope you will join us on this innovative and ambitious project.



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Contact Information

David Patton, National Lands Initiative Director: david.patton@tpl.org

Richard Corff, Special Advisor Land Conservation: Richard.Corff@tpl.org

Myke Bybee, Legislative Director: myke.bybee@tpl.org