Forest Project Protocol, Version 3.1
ERRATA AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Climate Action Reserve ("Reserve") published its Forest Project Protocol, Version 3.1 ("FPP V3.1") in October 2009. While the Reserve intends for the FPP V3.1 to be a complete, transparent document, it recognizes that correction of errors and clarifications will be necessary as the protocol is implemented and issues are identified. This document is an official record of all errata and clarifications applicable to the FPP V3.1.[1]

Both errata and clarifications are considered effective on the date they are first posted on the Reserve website. The effective date of each erratum or clarification is clearly designated below. All listed and registered FPP projects must incorporate and adhere to these errata and clarifications when they undergo verification. The Reserve will incorporate both errata and clarifications into future versions of the FPP Protocol.

All project developers and verification bodies must refer to this document to ensure that the most current guidance is adhered to in project design and verification. Verification bodies shall refer to this document immediately prior to uploading any Verification Opinion to assure all issues are properly addressed and incorporated into verification activities.

If you have any questions about the updates or clarifications in this document, please contact Policy at: policy@climateactionreserve.org or (213) 891-1444 x4.

[1] See Section 4.3.4 of the Climate Action Reserve Program Manual (March 2010) for an explanation of the Reserve's policies on protocol errata and clarifications. "Errata" are issued to correct typographical errors. "Clarifications" are issued to ensure consistent interpretation and application of the protocol. For document management and program implementation purposes, both errata and clarifications to the FPP V3.1protocol are contained in this single document.

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Clarifications

1. Actions Denoting an Improved Forest Management Project Start Date

Effective Date: June 8, 2010
Section: 3.2 (Project Start Date)

Context: In defining actions that identify the project start date for each project type, Section 3.2 (page 8) states: *"For an Improved Forest Management Project, the action is initiating forest management activities that increase sequestration and/or decrease emissions relative to the baseline."* While the protocol does not explicitly identify what such an action might be, the intention of the protocol is to require a discrete, verifiable action that is an indicator of a change in practice.

Clarification: An Improved Forest Management project's start date must be linked to a discrete, verifiable action that delineates a change in practice relative to the project's baseline. Possible actions include:

- Recordation of a conservation easement on the Project Area. The project start date is the date the easement was recorded.
- Transferring of property ownership (to a public or private entity). The project start date is the date of property transfer.
- Submitting the project to the Reserve.[2] The project start date is the date of submittal, provided that the project completes verification within 30 months of being submitted. If the project does not meet this deadline, it must be resubmitted under the latest version of the protocol; it will not retain the initial submittal date and will be subject to any new project start date requirements.

For pre-existing projects submitted by the April 30, 2010 deadline, possible actions denoting the start date, in addition to those described above, include:

- Implementation of a verifiable forest management plan that leads to the increased carbon stocks.
- Engaging in consulting services for the purposes of implementing a carbon project.

Forest Owners must affirm the action denoting the project start date by providing documentation. Adequate documentation could include deeds of trust, title reports, conservation easement documentation, dated forest management plans, and/or contracts or agreements.

2. Conservation Easements

Effective Date: June 8, 2010

[2] Submitting a project to the Reserve is considered an initiation of a commitment to employ practices that will maintain or grow net carbon stocks for the duration of the FPP's commitment period, per the requirements of the FPP (Section 3.4) and signing the Project Implementation Agreement (PIA).

Section: 3.6 (Use of Qualified Conservation Easements or Qualified Deed Restrictions)

Context: Section 3.6 (page10) states that *"Qualified Conservation Easements and Qualified Deed Restrictions must be recorded no earlier than one year before a project's start date".* The intent is to allow time for new projects to undergo the project submittal process after they record a conservation easement. It was not intended to allow pre-existing projects to (arbitrarily) choose a start date within one year of easement recordation.

Clarification: As indicated in Section 3.2 (page 8 and clarified above), project start dates must always be linked to a discrete, verifiable action. For pre-existing projects, the recordation of a conservation easement may be used to denote the start date of a project. A subsequent start date may only be used if a subsequent verifiable action can be identified denoting the start date. If a subsequent start date is identified, any previously recorded conservation easement may only be considered a Qualified Conservation Easement if it was recorded within one year prior to the identified project start date. New projects must be submitted to the Reserve within a year of recordation of a conservation easement or else the conservation easement will be considered a legal requirement for the purposes of baseline modeling (Section 6.2.1.1, page 48).

3. Baseline Modeling for Improved Forest Management Projects

Effective Date: June 8, 2010
Section: 6.2.1 (Estimating Baseline Onsite Carbon Stocks – Private Lands)

Context: Determining the baseline of onsite carbon stocks for Improved Forest Management projects requires comparing the project's initial standing live carbon stocks to the Common Practice statistic. The Common Practice statistic value displayed in Appendix F (located at http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/adopted/forest/resources/#appendix-f-documents) is metric tonnes of carbon per acre in the above ground portion (bole, bark, top and branches) of the standing live trees. FPP V3.1 defines standing live trees to include *"the stem, branches, roots, and leaves or needles of all above ground live biomass."* This has lead to confusion as to what portion of the project's standing live carbon stocks should be compared to Common Practice. The intent of the protocol is to include only the Above-Ground (AG) standing live stocks to allow for an accurate comparison.

Clarification: To determine if a project's initial standing live carbon stocks are above or below Common Practice, the metric tonnes of carbon associated with the Above-Ground (AG) standing live carbon stocks should be compared to the Common Practice statistic found in Appendix F. Additionally, all reference to "standing live carbon stocks" in Step 3 of Section 6.2.1 (page 44) should be changed to "Above-Ground standing live carbon stocks". Below-ground standing live carbon stocks must be added to baseline carbon stock estimates in Step 4 of Section 6.2.1 (page 47).