



Forest Project Protocol v3.1

Protocol Summary

CLIMATE
ACTION
RESERVE

Project Definition

There are three project types:

- ✦ Reforestation - restoring forest cover on lands that are not at optimal stocking levels; land must have been out of forest cover for previous 10 years or subjected to significant natural disturbance
- ✦ Avoided Conversion - permanently conserving forests at risk of conversion to other uses
- ✦ Improved Forest Management - modifying management activities on commercial forests to maintain or increase carbon stocks above background management

Includes: Carbon dioxide (CO₂) in on-site and off-site (wood products) forest carbon pools, as well as some non-biological emissions associated with site preparation in certain cases.

Project Eligibility Requirements

Location: Project must be within the U.S.

Start Date: The start date of a project is the date in which an activity is initiated that will lead to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions or removals relative to the forest project's baseline. Projects must be submitted to the Reserve within six months of the project start date.

Performance Standard: Projects must achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions or removals above and beyond "business as usual" activities (determined through analysis with standardized baseline assessments in protocol).

Legal Requirement Test: Project developer attests that there are no federal, state or local laws, statutes, rules, regulations or ordinances, court orders or other legally binding mandates for forest project activities by signing the Attestation of Voluntary Implementation at the end of each reporting period.

Regulatory Compliance: Project must be in compliance with all applicable laws related to forest project activities. Project developer must sign the Attestation of Regulatory Compliance at the end of each reporting period.

Other Eligibility Requirements:

- ✦ Demonstrate clear ownership of the GHG reductions and removals achieved by the project
- ✦ Enter into a contractual agreement (Project Implementation Agreement) with the Climate Action Reserve to adhere to protocols and compensate for any reversals
- ✦ Demonstrate sustainable harvesting practices on all forest landholdings through certification, agency-approved long-term management plan or selection management
- ✦ Demonstrate natural forest management
- ✦ Record a qualified conservation easement (Avoided Conversion projects only)

Crediting Period: Projects are eligible to receive credits for 100 years from start date.

Minimum Time Commitment: Project must be monitored and verified for a period of 100 years following issuance of any Climate Reserve Tonne (CRT) for GHG reductions.

Project Monitoring: A monitoring report must be completed annually for a period of 100 years following the final issuance of credits to a project for quantified GHG reductions or removals.

Verification Schedule: Verifications with site visits must occur as part of the project initiation. Subsequent site verifications must occur every six years for Improved Forest Management and Avoided Conversion projects. Reforestation projects can delay the second site verification indefinitely; although, after the second verification happens, the site must be verified every six years. A forest owner may elect to receive credits between site visits through a desk review of annual monitoring reports by a verification body.

Important Note: This is a summary of the protocol. Please read the full protocol for a complete description of project requirements.