CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE

523 W. 6th Street, Suite 428 • Los Angeles, CA 90014
T: (213) 891 1444 • F: (213) 623 6716
www.climateactionreserve.org

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MARCH 4, 2011 - ACCOUNT HOLDER ANNOUCEMENT

The Climate Action Reserve has determined that until standardized guidance for accounting of optional carbon pools is developed, we are unable to give credit for preserving or enhancing any optional carbon pool as part of any forest carbon project. In late 2009, we commissioned white papers addressing soil and lying dead wood carbon accounting for forest projects. These white papers are now available on the Reserve's website, and will be used to inform a public process for deciding on a standardized methodology for these carbon pools. Once such a standardized methodology is adopted, the Reserve should be able to register projects that involve substantial preservation or enhancement of optional carbon pools.

Projects with potential optional carbon pool benefits may be submitted at any time, but may only account for carbon in required pools identified in the protocol. The Reserve will provide guidance for adjusting carbon accounting once the standardized accounting for optional carbon pools is developed. Projects submitted to the Reserve with the intent to account for any optional carbon pool should indicate this interest on the project submission form.

It should be noted that the *Compliance Offset Protocol for U.S. Forest Projects* adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) does not allow inclusion of optional carbon pools in forest projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Garcia at kgarcia@climateactionreserve.org or 213-542-0288.