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# Reserve Offset Program Manual Overview

November 21, 2019



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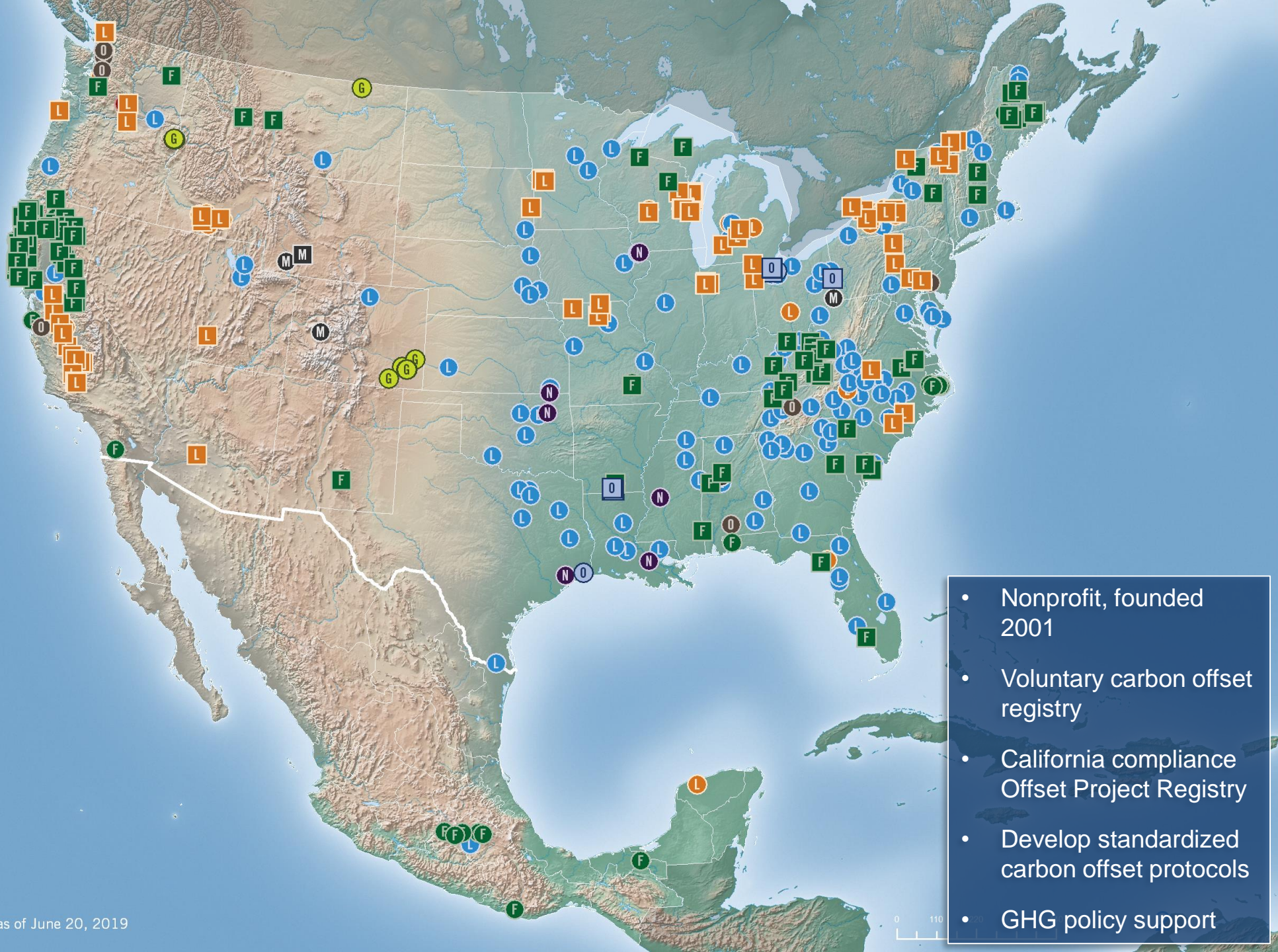
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- F Forest (ARB)
- L Livestock (ARB)
- M Mine Methane (ARB)
- O Ozone Depleting Substances (ARB)
- O Composting
- F Forest
- G Grassland
- L Landfill
- L Livestock
- M Mine Methane
- N Nitric Acid Plants
- N Nitrogen Management
- O Organic Waste Digestion
- O Ozone Depleting Substances

Listed, Registered, Transitioned, & Completed Projects as of June 20, 2019



- Nonprofit, founded 2001
- Voluntary carbon offset registry
- California compliance Offset Project Registry
- Develop standardized carbon offset protocols
- GHG policy support



- The Reserve Offset Program Manual details the program rules and procedures, eligibility criteria, and quantification and verification protocols for our offset program
  - These policies are designed to ensure all offset credits issued are real, additional, permanent, verified, and owned unambiguously
- Provides overarching policies, and details about program implementation, whereas protocols provide specific policies pertaining to projects, and the Verification Program Manual details processes for verification bodies

# Reserve Offset Program Manual Update Process

- Draft version of the Reserve Offset Program Manual released on September 3, 2019
  - Public comment period ended on October 4, 2019
  - No public comments were received
  - Comments and questions can always be sent to [reserve@climateactionreserve.org](mailto:reserve@climateactionreserve.org), even outside a public comment period
- This version will replace the current Program Manual version released September 1, 2015
  - Also incorporates some policy memos, which will be identified throughout the webinar

# Major Changes by Section

- Nomenclature throughout the document
  - We are now referring to the Program Manual as the “Reserve Offset Program Manual”
  - This is to distinguish it from our other program, Climate Forward, which also implements a Program Manual
  - Moving forward, this document should be cited as the Reserve Offset Program Manual

# Major Changes by Section

- Section 2.4.4 – Project Crediting Period
  - Clarified that a non-forest project may end its crediting period early
  - Clarified the timing for renewing a crediting period
    - Project submittal forms must be submitted *no sooner than 6 months before* the end of the project's current crediting period
    - Crediting periods may be renewed after the current crediting period has ended, consistent with the language in the Landfill Project Protocol v5.0

# Major Changes by Section

- Section 2.6.6 – Immediate Crediting for Future Avoided Emissions
  - Clarified the difference between the Reserve’s ex-post offset crediting program, and its Climate Forward program, which recognizes and credits future streams of emission reductions

# Major Changes by Section

- Section 2.8 - Ensuring Permanence of GHG Reductions
  - Updated to reflect the option of “Tonne-Year Accounting” being implemented in certain protocols



# Major Changes by Section

- Section 3.3.2.1 – Types of Accounts
  - Addition of Project Owner (limited), which is designed to be used by aggregate or cooperative participants in cases where the Project Owner is not carrying out project development activities
  - This account type has limited ability to conduct transfer of CRTs, and does not have privileges for retiring CRTs

# Major Changes by Section

- Sections 3.4.3 – Initial Verification and Registration, 3.4.4 – Subsequent Verification, and 3.4.5 – Zero-Credit Reporting Period (ZCRP)
  - Clarified that nitrogen management projects are like forest and urban forest projects, in that they are not eligible for a ZCRP
  - For cases where ZCRPs are allowed, added that ZCRPs may span multiple crediting periods (i.e., if a verification deadline has been missed, a ZCRP may cover time through the end of the first crediting period, and into the beginning of the renewed crediting period)
  - Clarifies that there is no limit to the amount of time a ZCRP may cover
  - Clarifies a project may have consecutive ZCRPs

# Major Changes by Section

- Section 3.4.7 – Verification Deadline Extension Request (previously Section 3.4.4 – Registration Extension Request)
  - Extensions are no longer just applicable to the initial reporting period, so long as the site visit has taken place (or project has provided project documentation to the verifiers, if a site visit is not taking place) and the account has no outstanding invoices
  - Clarified length of extension by project type (incorporating new project types):
    - Forest, grassland, and urban forest projects are eligible to apply for a 12 month extension
    - Livestock, landfill, and nitrogen management are eligible to apply for a 6 month extension
    - All other project types are eligible for a 30 day extension

# New Additions by Section

- Section 2.6.1 – Global Warming Potentials for Quantifying GHG Reductions
  - Replaces the “Global Warming Potential (GWP)” policy memo released May 1, 2018
  - States that the Reserve is currently using the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) values, and may move to AR5 in the future

- Section 2.8.1 Maintenance and Disposition of the Buffer Pool
  - Describes how credits will be retired from the buffer pool in the case of an unavoidable reversal
    - Credits will be retired from the same project type (e.g. forest credits will be retired for reversals from forest projects)
    - A First In First Out approach will be used
  - Describes options for replenishing the buffer pool in the unlikely instance that we do not have sufficient supply in the buffer pool to cover a large reversal
    - Several options are detailed, and we will explore which is the most appropriate option if this situation arises

# New Additions by Section

- Section 2.9 Avoiding Double Counting of Emission Reductions
  - Details the safeguards built into the Reserve’s program to avoid double counting:
    - Screening protocols for project types with low risk of double counting
    - Determining additionality and eligible SSRs during protocol development
    - Reserve staff reviewing other registries for evidence of a project being listed in multiple programs (at the submittal and registration stages)
    - Attestation of Title submitted each time a project is registered
    - Serialized CRTs
  - Additional details will be added to this section at a future date to address the risk of double-counting under the Paris Agreement and CORSIA, once more details are known regarding implementation of those programs

# New Additions by Section

- Section 3.5 – Stakeholder Input for Individual Projects; Section 3.5.1 – Local Stakeholder Consultations; Section 3.5.2 – Feedback and Grievance Process
  - Clarifies the involvement of stakeholder interactions in our protocol development process
  - Provides contact information for stakeholders to provide general or specific project feedback, inquiries, or grievances ([reserve@climateactionreserve.org](mailto:reserve@climateactionreserve.org), (213) 891-1444, or any of the protocol-specific contacts listed on our website)
  - Describes how the Reserve will handle grievances related to over-issuance, ownership disputes, or negative social or environmental impacts

# New Additions by Section

- Section 3.6.6.2 – The California Compliance Offset Program
  - A sub-section of Section 3.6.6 – Transferring Credits from the Reserve
  - Clarifies the process through which Registry Offset Credits (ROCs) are issued by the Reserve through our role as an approved Offset Project Registry (OPR) under the CA Compliance Offset Program
  - Provides details for how these credits can be cancelled and re-issued as ARB Offset Credits (ARBOCs) in CITSS, and how this is noted publicly in our registry



# New Additions by Section

- Section 3.10 – Relationships to Other GHG Programs
  - Includes a sub-section for our interactions with other voluntary carbon offset programs (for example, Verra’s VCS program)
  - Provides details for avoiding double counting for instances in which a project seeks to enroll simultaneously in multiple programs for different SSRs
  - Details our role as an OPR under California’s Compliance Offset Program
  - Details our interactions with the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program, and how we will work with the CA Air Resources Board when a Reserve offset project is seeking LCFS credits
  - Details our involvement in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSI) (e.g. that we have applied for our offset program to be approved for use)
  - Notes that the Reserve’s voluntary offset program has been endorsed by Green-e Climate (a program operated by the Center for Resource Solutions)

# Questions?



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## Any questions or comments?

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