### **Rural Solutions to GHG Mitigation:** 2nd Annual *Future of Carbon Policy Forum*

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## 5 minute Agenda

- Carbon offset projects relevant to Rural WA
  - Forest Projects (AFOLU)
  - Grasslands
  - Sustainable Ag
  - Digester Projects
- Co-benefits
- CapEx Capital Expenditures and ROI
  - Funding mechanisms

## **Types of Carbon Projects - 3**

#### Land Use and Forestry (AFOLU) Afforestation, Forestation & Other Land Use



#### **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

Project type : Improved Forest Management (IMP) Size: 450,000 acres Registry: American Carbon Registry Estimate Project Costs: \$500,000 Initial Earnings: \$100 million (over five year purchase) Forest Production: 75 mbf/year (million board feet)



Okanogan and Ferry Counties

- 13.4 million ROCs (registry offset credits) largest single project for the California compliance market
- Carbon pools include above and below ground biomass, standing and lying dead wood (optional), and harvested wood products.
- Credits purchased by BP to meet the company's compliance commitment in CA.
- Educated guess for carbon price approx. \$7.00



## Grasslands

- Improves forage for cattle ranchers
- Relatively minimal development costs
  - Financial challenges remain
- Requires 50 year easement (Land Trusts)
- Requires rotational grazing
- Avoided conversion and soil carbon sequestration
- Projects are already being implemented in the PNW



Courtesy of Native Energy

## **Grassland Projects in PNW**

- Native Energy Montana Improved Grazing Project
  - VCS (VM0032-Sustainable Grasslands)
  - 33,000 acres
- Climate Trust (2 projects)
  - CAR listed (Grassland Protocol v2.0)
    1,327 acres and 4,098 acres
- Voluntary not yet accepted by CARB

# Sustainable Agriculture

- No listed projects yet in the U.S.
  - 2 VCS projects in Africa
- Activities can include
  - Cover cropping
  - No-till
  - Introduction of trees and hedgerows
  - Nutrient management
- Barriers
  - Financial (expensive to implement)
  - Reluctant Farmers
  - Soil Science
  - Permanence

# Types of Carbon Projects - 5 Livestock -

#### methane collection and destruction



# **Dairy Digesters**

- Six Active Climate Action Reserve (CAR) Projects in WA
  - 3 Voluntary, and 3 ARB Eligible, 3 completed\*
  - Approx. 1.5 to 2.5 million USD startup costs
  - 3 to 5 years ROI (dependent on carbon price)
  - Typical 10 year crediting period (w/1 renewal)
- Other registries also support digesters (ACR and VCS)
- Co-benefits
  - Renewable energy generation
  - Cow bedding
  - Nutrient recycle (nitrogen and phosphorus)
  - Odor control, eliminates pathogens and weed seeds
  - Jobs (operations and related services)
  - Reduces fecal coliform reaching streams
  - Food waste can be added (tipping fees from grocery stores)

\*Some project owners are taking advantage of the CA LCFS

## **Co-Benefits**

Carbon projects may meet one or more Sustainable Development Goals



https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300

#### **Grouped Reforestation Project – Northern Andes, Peru**





#### Grouped Reforestation Project – Northern Andes, Peru



# **Project Funding**

- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Conservation Innovation Grants (USDA – NRCS – CIGs)
- Project Developer/Funder pays farmers/ranchers at project start (investment funds)
- Forward Contracts with Carbon credit purchasers
- Other equity guarantee from Emission Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPA) can support other funding

### Thank You!



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