



# THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

*Working Forests Work Wonders For Us All.*

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## Pacific Forest Trust Statement on Revised CAR Forest Protocols

### **Pacific Forest Trust Conditionally Supports Adoption of California's Forest Protocols '3.0' as a 'Timely Step'**

*More Work Needed to Ensure New Standards Don't Discourage Conservation of Mature Forests*

SAN FRANCISCO – California's Climate Action Reserve (CAR) today is poised to adopt a "3.0" revision of its landmark Forest Protocols, the state's voluntary standard used to measure and monitor forest activities designed to remove additional greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. The standard is important, as a way to quantify the carbon emissions reductions (ERs) from forests. Also called carbon "offsets" or "credits," these emissions reductions can be sold in a growing carbon market and are increasingly sought after as more governments address climate change.

Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) staff led the development of the original CAR Forest Protocols and were part of the Working Group tapped to revise them. As the CAR board moves to adopt the new "3.0" Protocols, PFT is calling for key "3.1" revisions to preserve the offset standards' original intent – to conserve and restore mature forests for their climate benefits while rewarding landowners for doing the right thing.

"The Pacific Forest Trust appreciates the effort that has gone into the revision of the CAR Forest Protocols and believes that they are a significant step towards increasing accessibility and reducing expense for those who are considering these projects," says PFT Managing Director Connie Best, a working group member. "However, we also believe that some of the proposed changes to the Forest Protocols inappropriately disadvantage landowners who have been doing a good job of stewarding their mature forests. The revised Forest Protocols actually reduce incentives for retaining these mature forests. This sends the wrong message to responsible landowners whose management is part of the reason California's forests absorb and store as much carbon as they currently do."

CAR can remedy this problem by changing the way they set a new "baseline" that landowners use to calculate how much credit they receive for conserving older, carbon-rich forests. To learn more about it and our other recommendations for refining a "3.1" version of the CAR Forest Protocols, read our public comments on the revision going to the CAR board at: <http://bit.ly/13ApuN>.

"This year major decisions are being made about how international forests will be conserved and managed to safeguard our atmosphere," Best says. "Incentives for avoided deforestation and reduction in stocks of carbon-rich forests have been included in climate legislation moving through Congress. Here in the U.S. the CAR Forest Protocols have set a national and international standard for others to follow

as they include forests in their own efforts to address climate change. This is why it's so important to get these revisions right and ensure the CAR standard continues to recognize the invaluable climate contributions of mature, carbon-rich forests."

**MEDIA:** Managing Director Connie Best and California Policy Director Paul Mason are available to comment on the revised Forest Protocols. Call Chris Harrison at 415-561-0700 ext. 13 or e-mail [charrison@pacificforest.org](mailto:charrison@pacificforest.org) to arrange an interview.

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