



THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Our Private Forests are Our Public Treasures.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Van Eck Forest Project Verified, CO₂ Emissions Reductions Now Certified under New California Rules

San Francisco, CA — The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) today announced that its *Van Eck Forest Project* has met the California Climate Action Registry's (CCAR) tough emission reductions verification requirements, making it one of the first two privately owned working forests in the nation to generate CO₂ emission reductions of a quality standard considered viable on the voluntary carbon market. The verification was conducted in accordance with CCAR's Forest Protocols, which were recently adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The Forest Protocols are the first governmental standard in the U.S. for emissions reductions projects that include avoided deforestation, forest management and reforestation, and that ensure the climate benefits are real, additional, permanent and independently verified. Emissions reductions generated by the *Van Eck Forest Project* are recognized as voluntary early actions by CARB toward meeting the state's ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals under AB 32.

"This is a milestone for carbon projects generally and for forest projects in particular in the U.S.," said PFT president Laurie Wayburn. "Having achieved CCAR's verification we are demonstrating how working forests help us reduce CO₂ in our atmosphere while meeting the rigorous CCAR standards necessary to ensure entry into the carbon marketplace.

"We want to acknowledge our appreciation to CCAR and CARB for their leadership on behalf of the forest sector, recognizing the critical role forests play in climate policy," added Wayburn. "We also want to thank the Fred M. Van Eck Forest Foundation for their willingness to be the first landowner to register a forest project and be certified."

"This certification ensures the *Van Eck Forest Project* is storing real and verifiable tons of carbon," said Mary Nichols, Chairman of the California Air Resources Board, the lead agency implementing AB32, the pioneering climate change legislation. "This project is a leading

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example of a creative approach to voluntary reductions and clearly demonstrates the important role the forestry sector in California can play in helping the state achieve its ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.”

The Van Eck Forest was the state’s first working forest to register a forest management practices project with the CCAR in July 2006. Owned by the Fred M. van Eck Forest Foundation, the 2,200-acre redwood forest located in Humboldt County, CA is permanently protected by a conservation easement and is managed by PFT to increase CO₂ stores, restore biodiversity and produce sustainable timber supplies.

The Van Eck Forest’s emissions reductions – estimated to be more than 500,000 tons of CO₂ over the next 100 years – are calculated using the greenhouse gas accounting standards of CCAR’s Forest Protocols, which are based on a detailed inventory of the forest and the effects of management parameters secured by the permanent conservation easement. These sequestration activities have been certified by CCAR after independent, third-party verification by SGS (a leading international inspection, verification, testing and certification company) working with Scientific Certification Systems (a leading international forest certification company). The forest is monitored every year for compliance and annual reports to CCAR are similarly independently verified. Project data is available to the public through CCAR’s website at www.climateregistry.org.

Forests like the Van Eck provide climate benefits by absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it as carbon in trees for hundreds of years or longer. As compared to reforestation or afforestation, established working forests are especially effective at storing CO₂ as they grow older, laying down substantially greater volumes of carbon in shorter periods than their younger counterparts. Forests managed to enhance carbon stores provide additional benefits for wildlife habitat, biodiversity, water quality and sustainable economies.

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About the Pacific Forest Trust

The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) is the nation’s leading non-profit organization dedicated to protecting America’s private working forests for their many public benefits, including climate stabilization. Through its *Working Forests, Winning Climate* initiative, PFT is advising state governments and federal leaders about the inclusion of forest conservation and sustainable management in climate policies, markets and best-practices.

To learn more about the Pacific Forest Trust, please visit www.PacificForest.org.