

# Pacific Forest Trust *News*

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*Pacific Forest Trust Comments on Clean Energy, Jobs and American Power Act of 2009*

## **Federal Climate and Energy Bill Needs Stronger Provisions Ensuring Climate Benefits of Forest, Ranch and Agricultural Land**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) today released its recommendations for U.S. lawmakers to ensure the nation's forest, ranch and agricultural land continues to serve as an essential defense against climate change.

The non-profit conservation organization praised S.1733, the Clean Energy, Jobs and American Power Act of 2009, for recognizing the climate benefits of forests with allocations that fund international forest conservation and incentives for U.S. landowners to create forest-based emissions reduction projects.

"The Boxer-Kerry Bill recognizes some of the important roles that our forests and farms can play in the fight against climate change. We commend them for including funding to prevent international deforestation and incentives for U.S. landowners to enhance the climate benefits of our forests here at home," PFT President Laurie Wayburn said. "But as the bill stands now, we need stronger and more specific provisions to safeguard our domestic forest, farms and ranch lands. Otherwise we risk losing the natural infrastructure we need to deliver credible, durable climate results."

"These provisions are critically important," Wayburn added. "We need to get them right at the legislative level."

Global forest loss and degradation is the second leading cause of the greenhouse gas pollution that warms our atmosphere. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts anywhere from 50 to 70 million acres of U.S. forest, ranch and farmland will be lost to conversion and development in the next 50 years. Our current economic woes and tough times for the timber industry and other private landowners are fueling this trend.

PFT has identified three key components needed to ensure these threatened landscapes are effectively managed to mitigate climate change. These are:

- \* The establishment of a carbon accounting system that reflects the actual impacts of land use or forest-based activity on the atmosphere;
- \* The provision of effective incentives to stem domestic deforestation and land loss; and
- \* The establishment of a quality emissions reduction program, which provides rules to ensure the credibility of emission reductions from the carbon offset program.

To read the details of PFT's recommendations for stronger land provisions in the Boxer-Kerry bill, read our recommendation letter: <http://bit.ly/PFTProposedRevisionsS1733>.

PFT President Laurie Wayburn is available to comment; call Communications Director Chris Harrison at 415-320-3813 or email [charrison@pacificforest.org](mailto:charrison@pacificforest.org) to arrange an interview.

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