

The Van Eck Forest Project

The Pacific Forest Trust's *Van Eck Forest Project* ensures significant climate benefits are achieved from the sustainable management of roughly 2,200 acres of working redwood forest in Humboldt County, California. Initiated in 2004, the *Van Eck Forest Project* is the first emissions reductions project registered and independently certified under California's Forest Protocol – the rigorous accounting standards adopted by the California Air Resources Board to help meet the state's ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The *Van Eck Forest Project* is permanently reducing more than 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions over a 100-year period by ensuring the use of sustainable forestry practices that sequester more carbon than could be attained through conventional forest management. The Pacific Forest Trust holds a working forest conservation easement on Van Eck that ensures the forest (and its increased carbon stores) will never be lost to development, converted to other uses or logged in an unsustainable manner.

The Van Eck Forest provides these climate benefits by absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it as carbon in its trees for hundreds of years or longer. By ensuring harvest practices always remove less timber volume than is grown, carbon stores in the Van Eck Forest will permanently increase. Established working forests like Van Eck are especially effective at storing carbon as they grow older due to the fact they store substantially greater volumes of carbon over a shorter time than do recently planted trees.

Owned by the Fred M. van Eck Forest Foundation and managed by the Pacific Forest Trust, the *Van Eck Forest Project* is registered with The Climate Action Reserve (CAR). The CAR's Forest Protocol – developed over a four-year period with the participation of scientists, foresters and climate experts – is the first exacting governmental accounting standard in the U.S. for climate projects that embrace forest management and avoided deforestation.

The Forest Protocol sets the rules for projects to produce emissions reductions that are real, permanent, additional and verifiable. They require that project activities are additional to what the forest would normally provide under “business as usual” forestry. They also secure durable emissions reductions with a 100-year conservation agreement and verify compliance via a third-party, state-licensed certification process.

In addition to helping cool the climate, the *Van Eck Forest Project* helps protect wildlife habitat and safeguards clean water supplies while restoring biodiversity and old-growth qualities. Select, sustainable timber harvests are conducted on Van Eck providing the building industry and consumers with eco-friendly wood products and the local community with dependable jobs.

To learn more about the Pacific Forest Trust's *Van Eck Forest Project*, please visit:
<http://www.pacificforest.org/stewardship/vaneck/index.html>