



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **California Forests Commit to Improve Local Habitat and Protect Global Climate**

**MONTREAL, Canada** – Two private California forest landowners have joined the California Climate Action Registry announcing their intent to remove over 3 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the annual emissions equivalent of over 500,000 cars. These forestlands will be the first to participate in the Registry. The greenhouse gas benefits from these forests will be achieved through sustainable forest management practices that improve the quality of forest habitat and streams while maintaining wood product production.

The announcement took place during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP11) meeting.

The first site is the Garcia River Forest, established in February 2004 by The Conservation Fund in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, California Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The property is subject to a permanent conservation easement, which ensures that the land will be protected as forest forever. About two-thirds of the land will be managed under a sustainable harvest regime designed to increase carbon stocks over time. The remainder will be managed as an ecological reserve for the reestablishment of old forest habitat.

“This project is creating a model for large-scale forestland conservation for California’s North Coast,” said the Conservation Fund’s California representative, Chris Kelly. “By balancing economic and environmental objectives, we are pioneering a unique approach to forest conservation that combats climate change, preserves wildlife habitat, fosters the local timber economy and ensures the long-term restoration and management of these forests for future generations.”

The second site is a tract of forest in Humboldt County, which is also secured with a permanent conservation easement. The property is owned by the Van Eck Foundation and managed by the Pacific Forest Trust. “We are delighted that forest landowners are showing an increasing interest in joining the California Climate Action Registry. The Registry’s forest protocols provide the critical accounting framework for any future greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs and serve as an incentive to landowners to combat global warming while fostering other, much-needed environmental benefits.” said Laurie Wayburn, President of the Pacific Forest Trust. “With the Van Eck Forest, we are helping to protect private working forestlands and the suite of public benefits they provide. The Registry’s forest protocols give us the guidance and opportunity to quantify the climate benefits of these forests, so that the landowner may receive a financial reward in the future for its stewardship.

The Registry, created by California in 2000, establishes accounting standards and helps organizations to track, publicly report and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The Registry has been widely recognized as a gold standard for public reporting of greenhouse gases. The Registry recently developed ground-breaking new protocols that lay out a rigorous yet practical accounting of carbon emissions and reductions via forest conservation, improved management practices, and reforestation. These are the first forests to make use of the new forestry protocols. “This is an important step forward for California’s forests in playing a role in the fight against climate change,” said Diane Wittenberg,

President of the California Registry. “It’s a great model and I expect other California forest landowners to participate as well.”

**The California Climate Action Registry** is a non-profit public/private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry to protect, encourage, and promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions. Over 60 major companies, cities, government agencies and NGOs measure and publicly report their GHG emissions through the Registry. [www.climateregistry.org](http://www.climateregistry.org)

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