



DUCKS UNLIMITED'S CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROGRAM FOR LANDOWNERS





OPPORTUNITIES FOR LANDOWNERS

DUCKS UNLIMITED'S VISION IS OF A WORLD OF WETLANDS SUFFICIENT TO FILL THE SKIES WITH WATERFOWL TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER.

Since 1937, Ducks Unlimited (DU) has worked closely with thousands of landowners and government agencies to restore habitat for North America's waterfowl. DU is now the largest land restoration organization in North America, having conserved more than 11 million acres. These restored acres have multiple benefits to society including improved wildlife habitat, flood control, water quality, and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

The need for additional carbon sequestration has heightened as the rapid build up of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels over the last century

have been scientifically linked to the warming of the planet and climate change. The agricultural and forestry sectors can play an important role in reversing the trend of climate change by restoring marginally productive lands with native vegetation to sequester carbon. DU's carbon sequestration program can help farmers and landowners undertake this important restoration and provide access to the expanding carbon market. Carbon sequestration can provide landowners a low risk way to diversify their income with significant revenue potential based on projected carbon market growth.



Through research, the role of wetlands and grasslands in the carbon cycle and their benefits for helping to mitigate the affects of climate change is better understood.

WHAT IS CARBON SEQUESTRATION?

Carbon sequestration occurs when carbon dioxide is absorbed from the atmosphere and stored in vegetation and soil. Vegetation can convert carbon dioxide into beneficial carbon that improves soil fertility and enhances vegetative growth. The greatest potential for terrestrial sequestration occurs on soils with depleted carbon levels, typically lands that at some point were under agricultural production. Restoring native vegetation such as wetlands, grasslands and bottomland hardwoods on agricultural lands can offset a significant share of greenhouse gas emissions.



Carbon dioxide is the most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Over the last century, atmospheric concentration levels have risen markedly. Carbon intensive industries and others are looking for innovative and cost-effective practices to lessen and decrease this accumulation.

CO-BENEFITS OF CARBON SEQUESTRATION

When perennial vegetation is restored for carbon sequestration many co-benefits are also created for landowners and the region. The immediate co-benefits of sequestration activities are improved soil water retention and filtration causing a reduction in soil erosion and nutrient run-off. The secondary effects of these improvements are lower water filtration costs, reduced flood risks, improved fish and wildlife habitat, and increased recreation opportunities such as hunting or fishing. Overall, municipalities and households benefit by avoiding expenditures that would otherwise have to be spent mitigating these effects.

WHAT IS A CARBON MARKET?

A key component of mandatory greenhouse gas emissions regulations in other nations has been the establishment of carbon markets to help minimize the

economic costs of regulatory compliance for emissions reductions. Carbon markets allow entities that exceed their emission allowances to purchase credits from other entities that have lowered their total emissions. In Europe, mandatory regulations have established a multi-billion dollar a year carbon market. Anticipated regulations in the U.S. are expected to create a market twice as large. Current legislation has opted for fossil fuel intensive industries to voluntarily account for their emissions. Many politicians and experts expect only limited reductions to occur under a voluntary system and strongly support mandatory regulations to cap total emissions in the near future.

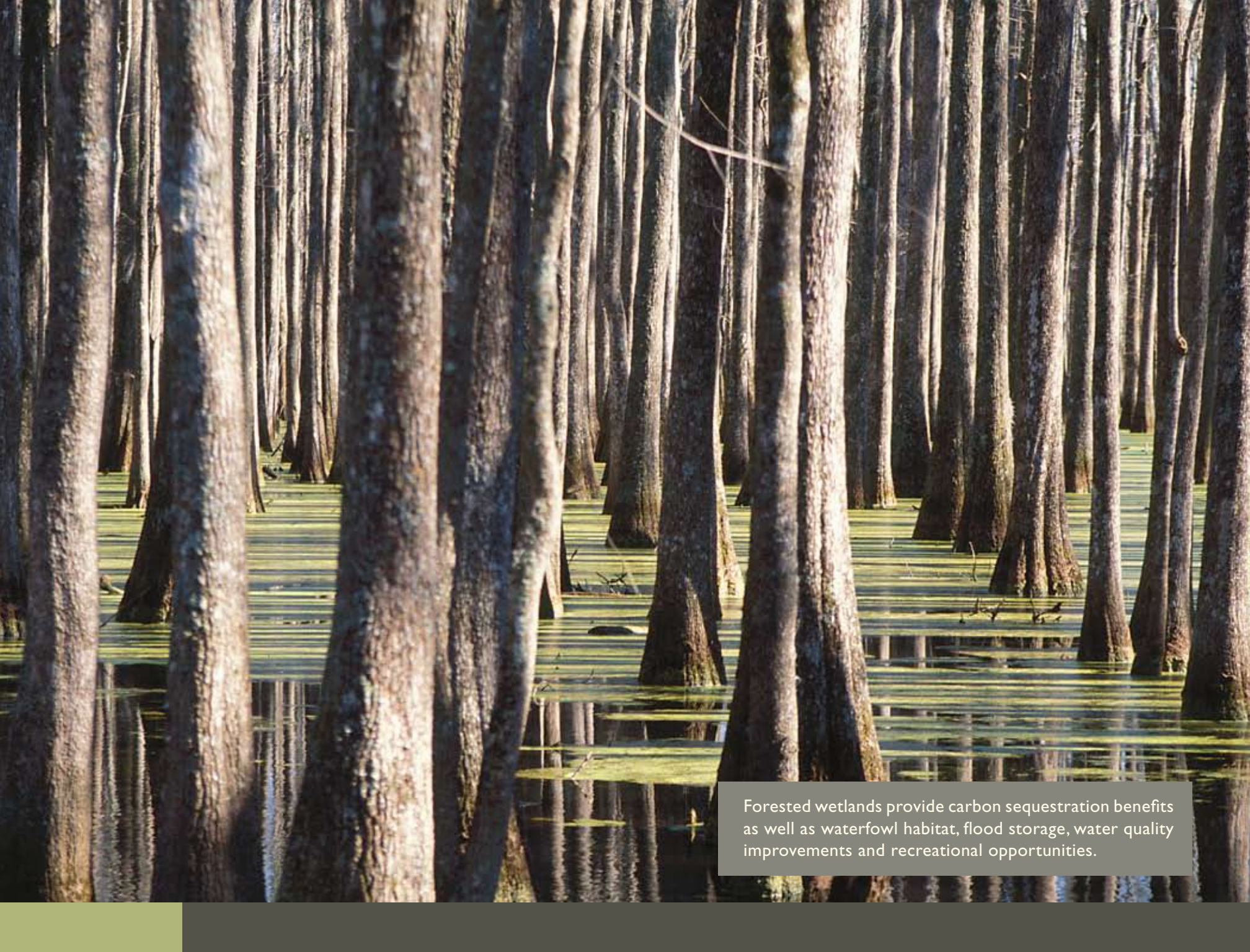
DU'S CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROGRAM

DU's carbon sequestration program assists landowners in taking advantage of this market by assembling carbon offsets associated with ecologically sound grassland, forest and wetland management projects. Landowners or farmers wishing to convert marginal agricultural land to grasslands, forested wetlands, or seasonal wetlands may now have an opportunity to derive substantial income by selling carbon offsets associated with this restoration. There may also be interest for carbon offsets derived from grasslands on expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts. Questions surrounding the eligibility guidelines for carbon sequestration projects will remain until mandatory emission guidelines are implemented.

Geographically, the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) and the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) have tremendous carbon sequestering potential based on historic land use patterns. Today, the LMAV in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana has lost over 80 percent of its original bottomland hardwood forests. The PPR portion of five States has lost 70% of its wetlands and nearly 80% of its native prairies. The magnitude of land change in both regions makes them top priority areas for DU's conservation mission and also provides numerous opportunities for carbon sequestration.

ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH DU

The efforts of DU to insure that our carbon offsets are of the highest quality have attracted the attention of many private investors. These investors recognize the professional expertise that DU has accumulated while becoming North America's largest land restoration agent, helping thousands of private land owners conduct long lasting conservation projects. Our trained staff of surveyors, construction managers, foresters, agronomists, range managers, engineers, biologists, and legal experts can address all aspects of a carbon project in partnership with landowners. Additionally, DU has been researching the methods and science for delivering practical and environmentally sound carbon sequestration projects on private lands as part of the Department of Energy's Plains CO₂ Reduction Partnership (PCOR).



Forested wetlands provide carbon sequestration benefits as well as waterfowl habitat, flood storage, water quality improvements and recreational opportunities.

GETTING STARTED

1. Contact DU to determine the carbon sequestration potential on your land.
2. DU will estimate carbon quantity and eligibility on your land, and if needed make a site assessment.
3. DU will work with investors and strive to offer a competitive price to you for the acquisition of the carbon rights and easement.
4. An easement is negotiated for the property that will preserve conservation and carbon benefits. Recreational activities, such as hunting and fishing are still allowed.
5. A jointly agreed upon restoration and management plan is developed and implemented.
6. DU pays the landowner for the easement and carbon value. In some cases, a revenue share option can be negotiated based on the sale price of carbon.
7. The carbon ownership rights for the property are conveyed to DU in an agreement. The agreement includes terms for periodic access to monitor the easement and measure carbon for the life of the easement.



Terrestrial sequestration from private land restoration provides revenue opportunities for landowners while producing habitat and climate change solutions.



For more information please contact the office nearest to your property:

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