



USDA Overview of Environmental Markets Efforts From Washington D.C. to California

August 18, 2011

Lucinda Roth
Climate Change Specialist
USDA/NRCS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



USDA Office of Environmental Markets

- ❑ **Works across government in consultation with experts to build a market-based system for:**
 - Quantifying benefits of land management activities
 - Registering credits for ecosystem services provided
 - Verifying environment benefits produced by land management activities
- ❑ **Part of the USDA's Natural Resources and Environment mission area which works to carry out USDA's climate and rural revitalization goals by supporting development of emerging markets for:**
 - Carbon
 - Water Quality
 - Wetlands
 - Biodiversity



Environmental Markets Tech Guide

- ❑ **In Development**
- ❑ **Will outline science based methods to measure environmental services benefits from conservation and land management activities**
- ❑ **Product**
 - Methodology document
 - Guidance document
 - Online interface for estimating GHG and a simplified and automated means of presenting and reporting those estimations
- ❑ **Opportunity for public input**
- ❑ **Anticipated completion in 2013**

Reference: http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/techguide/ and [http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/techguide/TG_Fact%20Sheet_02172011%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/techguide/TG_Fact%20Sheet_02172011%20(3).pdf)



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services

- ❑ **Programs**
 - Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
 - Conservation Planning
 - Conservation Practice Environmental Effects Spreadsheet
 - CarbOn Management Evaluation Tool (COMET-VR2.0)
 - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
 - Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
 - Grazing Reserve Rights Pilot Program
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)


For More Information: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>



Conservation Innovation Grants

- ❑ **Large Scale Agricultural Soil Carbon Transaction System (WA, OR, ID) (2011)**
- ❑ **Educational Producer Workshops on Carbon Markets (IL, OK, MI) (2011)**
- ❑ **Develop and Certify Methodology for Avoided Grassland Conversion (ND, SD) (2011)**
- ❑ **Development of Protocols and Accounting Methods for Carbon Sequestration on US Rangelands (CA, CO, ID, OK, TX) (2010)**
- ❑ **Development of Opportunities for New England Farmers to Participate in Carbon Offset Markets (CT, MA, ME, RI, VT) (2010)**

Reference: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044413.pdf



Collaborative Project: NRCS, OEM, NPOs, and Land Owners

- ❑ **Farms of the Futures**
 - **Big River and Salmon Creek Forest**
 - 11,770 acre Big River property and 4,250 Salmon Creek property
 - 2007-2010 Four Year Average Revenue from ecosystem services market is \$1,029,688
 - Financial compensation received for carbon and watershed ecosystem services
 - **Sacramento River Ranch**
 - 3,960 acre property
 - Financial compensation for salmonid habitat, beetle habitat, Swainson Hawk habitat, and wetland credits

Reference: http://www.usda.gov/oce/environmental_markets/farm.htm

 **Future**

- Partnerships
- Continued Technical Assistance
- Conservation Management Plans
 - New Air Quality Conservation Management Plan





*"If we take care of the land, it will take care of us."
- Hugh Hammond Bennett, first Chief of NRCS*



*For More Information Contact: Lucinda Roth
USDA/NRCS Climate Change Specialist
Lucinda.Roth@ca.usda.gov*

