

UPM Blandin Improved Forest Management

Project Description

UPM Blandin Paper Company is conducting improved forest management practices on 187,876 acres of land in northern Minnesota, initiated in part to mitigate climate change. 173,386 acres of this land are forested acres meeting American Carbon Registry (ACR) standard methodology and requirements. The Blandin forest has historically faced various acquisitions resulting in large-scale harvesting. In July of 2010, UPM Blandin signed a perpetual conservation easement of the forest, signaling the start of its forest management practices. Project activities include UPM's Smart Forestry practices maintaining the diversity of natural forest communities and aligning management with ecological regimes, as well as reducing harvesting impacts on the forest and mitigating climate change.



Photo: Richard Hamilton Smith

Project Type	Forest Carbon
Location	70 mile radius of Grand Rapids, MN
Registry/Protocol	American Carbon Registry (ACR): Forest Carbon Project Standard, Version 2.1
Third-Party Verifier	SCS Global Services

Sustainable Development Goals



Additionality

Under ACR standards, a project must establish that the activities are not 'business as usual', or that they are additional, by satisfying the "Three-pronged additionality test." A given project must demonstrate that it: (1) exceeds regulatory/legal requirements; (2) goes beyond common practice; and (3) overcomes at least one of the three implementation barriers: institutional, financial, or technical. In the area, GHG reduction activity is not required by any applicable or enforceable federal, state, or local law, regulation, ordinance, consent decree or other legal arrangement. Therefore, the conservation of native forest in this region is voluntary and this activity exceeds regulatory/legal requirements.

The third party verifier sufficiently demonstrated in the GHG Project Plan and through the verification process that as of the project start date, the project activities exceed enforced laws and regulations, exceed common practice in the geographic region and forest type, and faced a financial implementation barrier.



Co-Benefits

UPM Blandin's project is much more than a generator of credits. By implementing conservation measures and fostering carbon sequestration, it is helping to bend the climate curve, restore species habitat, clean the water, and support the local and global economy. In addition to reducing GHG emissions, the project will provide the following co-benefits:

- Protects forest ecosystems including both land and water in the Northern Minnesota region
- Preserves and conserves timber for future generations
- Provides a critical habitat for rare species such as the northern long-eared bat and the golden winged warbler
- The project area has Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification and a conservation easement demonstrating high quality, sustainable management
- Blandin allows public access for recreational use of property, fostering a space for snow-mobiling, cross-country skiing, bird watching, berry picking, hiking and snow-shoeing
- The addition of hundreds of native trees within the project area will provide more stable water levels in the river, thereby decreasing the number of damaging flood events for downstream cities