

## **BENDING THE CURVE**



## NWL Solutions to Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>

"Natural climate solutions (conservation, restoration, and improved land management actions) can provide 37% of cost-effective  $CO_2$  mitigation needed through 2030 for a >66% chance of holding warming to below 2° C."

--Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, October 2017









## LARGEST, SAFEST, MOST EXPANDABLE CARBON SINK.



# **Healthy Watersheds California**



## Five Key Watersheds



# Natural and Working Lands and Carbon Neutrality

Emily McGlynn, University of California Davis

Agriculture and Resource Economics

efmcglynn@ucdavis.edu

May 17, 2019

## Priorities

- Get the basics right
  - State-level LULUCF GHG inventory
  - Carbon accounting at project level science-based
  - Predictability, stability, scalability of any policy Without this, nothing will happen
- Innovation
  - Research, proof of concept effectiveness of various fire treatments
  - Individual project carbon payments predictable, long term
  - Price support schemes for agriculture "loan rate premium"
  - Reverse auctions





Financial Innovation for Sustainable Solutions

## Introduction to the Forest Resilience Bond (FRB)

Prepared for CA Air Resources Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **USFS:** Rising Cost of Fire Suppression







## Goals of the Forest Resilience Bond





## **Opportunity for Private Capital**



## **Connecting Investor Capital to Conservation**





## **Financial Structuring**







## Increasing Carbon Capture on California's Working Lands



## Carbon Cycle Institute

Our mission is to stop and reverse climate change by advancing natural, science-based solutions that remove atmospheric carbon while promoting environmental stewardship, social equity and economic sustainability.

# Carbon Farming Network







### Organic Valley's top 10 farming practices that remove excess carbon dioxide from the air, where it causes harm, and sinks it into plants and soil where it is a benefit.

#### COVER CROP

Grasses, legumes, forts and other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover and conservation (prevent erosion, increase organic matter etc).



### Limiting soll disturbance to manage the amount and distribution of crop/plant residue on the soll surface.

**REDUCED TILLAGE** 

#### **RIPARIAN BUFFER** Streamside plantings of trees, shrubs and

grasses that prevent prosion, protect water quality and enhance wicife habitat.



### SILVOPASTURE

Combining trees and pesture together. The trees are managed for wood, fruit, or nuts, while providing shade and shelter for livestock.



RANGE PLANTINGS

### HEDGEROWS

Establishment of shrubs and tall grasses to reduce wind speed and provide wildBfe/ pollicator habitat. Hedgerows are at lower plant. heights than windbreaks (3-12 ft, tail).

Powering the Good

REANIC VALLEY SUSTAINABILITY



### ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Frequent moving livestock between sub-divided pastures (called paddocks) on a planned basis to prevent overgrazing and optimize pasture growth.



COULS CROPP Cooperative | 18-30018

### WINDBREAKS

One or more rows of trees and/or shrubs planted in a linear configuration that reduce wind speed, theraby protecting crops, livestock and soli.



COMPOST APPLICATION Compost application to cropland or grazed land.



### CROP ROTATION

A planned sequence of crops grown on the same field over a period of time (usually 3-5 years).



### CARBON FARM PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION



"I like to think of the carbon farming and the climate beneficial work that we're doing now as a change of thought; so instead of doing things normally –obviously, we're raising sheep the same way that it's been done for hundreds of years– we also think about the soil and the land when we're making decisions."



### Forest restoration: a water-resources perspective



**Fire suppression** 

Challenge

### Solution

Reduce biomass density: drought resiliency, lower wildfire, better water quality, more runoff, carbon sequestration, health, jobs ...

More biomass in forest

Warmer climate

Rain instead of snow & earlier snowmelt

More wildfire More water use by forest

Less water storage in headwater forests

Less seasonal storage behind dams

Develop financing & implementation pathways

Enhance groundwater recharge & storage

Roger Bales, UC Merced, May 17, 2019

Photo: Margot Wholey, Dec 2015

Reduce biomass density: drought resiliency, lower wildfire, better water quality, more runoff, carbon sequestration, health, jobs ...

Solution

financing &

Develop financing & implementation pathways

Enhance groundwater

recharge & storage

Verify water-balance & carbon-balance outcomes, establish other benefits

rtivities

Communicate & engage, forge partnerships, develop risk-sharing mechanisms

Empower trusted brokers & champions

State (SNC, DWR), NGO (TNC), finance (BFC), local (RCD), UC

Thinned unit w/ control in background

E. Knapp photo, Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest, Sept 2011

Tying water-fire-carbon together in new multi-campus SGC Innovation Center

Projects

### Water-sector partners

Association of California Water agencies (2015):

"... managing California's headwaters is integral to optimizing ... water supplies ... Increasing water yield & quality, reducing the risk & impacts of catastrophic wildfire, enhancing natural features & functions ... Enhancing the resiliency & adaptability of headwaters is overdue."

Greyhorse Valley, Oct 2018

Need collaborative financing: Watershed fees, local bonds, public goods charges, water bonds ...