

GEORGIA CARBON SEQUESTRATION REGISTRY PUBLIC HEARING

February 5, 2007 - Athens, Georgia

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

What Do You Like Most about the Registry and Why?

- Source of income for tree farmers
- It is recorded at the office of Clerk of Superior Court, and it places a hold on title, and this discourages the potential buyer of the land

- Possibility of reduction of carbon gases.
- More clean air space.
- Accountability of involvement.

- The registry program appears to be a new way in which Georgia landowners can benefit from continued forest business as well as a way to promote more sustainable land use.
- What will the landowner size limit be?

- It encourages conservation and land stewardship and forest management plans.
- Developing quantifiable protocol
- Means of private and public landowners to generate income
- Georgia Forestry Commission and forest resources have developed a method that can be easily implemented by public (not too technical)
- Supports their "conservation" efforts such as green developments, production of biofuels, etc.
- Standards for monitoring - % projects that will be monitored, audited
- Internet based

- Forward thinking – will put Georgia landowners at forefront of carbon trading as opportunities arise
- Links forestry with environmental concerns; should help promote forest landowners/forestry as environmentally helping the environment.
- May help lead to the assessment and capturing of other ecological services
- Potential \$ to landowners to help keep working forest in forests

- New markets for landowners will encourage more landowners to grow trees, thus enhancing the environmental, recreational and economic benefits that result from a forested landscape
- I like the fact that Georgia is a leader in something
- Gives an alternative way for possible income or tax breaks/credits to forest landowners.
- Encouraged by the fact that urban forests are being considered for future inclusion. Would require inventories to be conducted which would in turn theoretically lead to better management of urban and community forests.
- Glad to see Georgia involved early in the process.
- Registry will provide means of measuring actual carbon potential and could facilitate new markets.
- Visionary and transparent.
- Will allow Georgia landowners to be on the cutting edge of a developing market which will be a global market.
- This is another value – added product in addition to wood products which can be quantified economically.

Are There Aspects of the Registry Do You Disagree With and Why?

- What drives the \$ value change in the CCX if no trading is occurring?
- Any chance that the European market will trade/purchase credits off of Georgia Registry.
- Understand Transparency and permanence. Please further explain additionally?
- Is there any projected break even point: i.e. – number of acres/cost to cruise and annual report – per \$/ton.
- Are planted pines prior to 1990 eligible for the registry?
- Permanence? Is the agreement for 50 years?
- Recorded at County office of Superior Court?
- Can a landowner apply now for Georgia Carbon Registry?
- Not knowing the cost to the landowner. Is this taxable?

- Will the government be involved and to what extent?
 - When can the landowner opt out? Is it transferable?
 - Ownership – Carbon Registry
 - Carbon storage in trees – where does it go... does it go back to the atmosphere when burnt?
 - Is there a start-up cost? Is there an annual cost? From landowner
-

No, but:

- Is the current law establishing the registry sufficient or are changes needed to remove obstacles that were not known initially?
- Question: will this program eventually limit in any way the amount of wood and fiber available to Georgia's traditional forest product industries?
- Unclear whether this program will only apply to NIPF and to corporate landowners or whether government entities will also qualify.
- Might there be some non-native species that could be included (e.g. Pavlora)?
- What about landscape nurseries or even Christmas trees farms, which take 6-10 years depending on species. Obviously, they are severed early. Those trees are relocated but continue to sequester carbon.
- Concerns: adequate marketing to all Georgia landowners – making sure that everyone knows about the program.
- Initial cost (\$10 per plot) for the landowner.
- What occurs upon sale of land – that is already in the carbon sequestration program?
- Security (i.e. risks) – too much responsibility on purchaser.
- Forest products and amount of CO₂ sequestered is a bit questionable
- Permanency of easements
- More clarity on use of reference. Could there be wiggle room for abusing the system?
- Need hypothetical project or two
- Somewhat concerned that the certification program may be limited to registered foresters or soil scientists.

Do You Have Suggestions On How The Registry Can Be Improved?

- Facilitate a simple, effective enrollment process for both sellers and buyers.
- Public website to trade the registry.
- Maybe provide some sort of incentive for those in demand (buyers) to more actively enroll since it is proposed as voluntary. Example. Recognition designating them a carbon sequestering establishment.

- Establish standard sampling procedures (i.e. # sample pts/acre) rather than requiring certain % error.
- Consider allowing individuals with experience equivalent to that of certified forester (i.e. PhD Forest Ecology) to report data.

- Add hypothetical projects to registry (or elsewhere and where public can access). This may help the public understand how registry works in practice.

- Those of us who advocate for carbon trading must develop 'simplistic' ways to demonstrate to the non-science community how it works (in practice).

- Consider inclusion of non-natives that can be managed as a forest product.
- Develop guidelines for urban/community forests.

- What can the forestry community do to make this registry and trading a reality and successful.
- Keep it as simple and ----- as possible – keep costs down or what it takes to get registered and -----

- Find a way to involve the SFI / State Implementation Committee as you have tree forum