

PROJECT	CREATING MARKETABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CREDITS ON RANGE AND PASTURE LANDS		CARBON FARMING		GRASSLAND PROJECT PROTOCOL	
PARTICIPANTS	PROJECT LEAD Terra Global Capital	PROJECT PARTNERS		PROJECT LEAD Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI)	PROJECT PARTNERS	
		Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture University of California-Davis - Plant Sciences Five Dot Land and Cattle Company California Rangeland Trust	Farmer Veteran Coalition The Nature Conservancy Climate Action Reserve Carbon Cycle Institute Terra Global Capital Farmland Fund		Marin Carbon Project, Fibershed Resource Conservation Districts (e.g., Marin, Tehama, Cachuma, Alameda) Soil Health Network	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Colorado State University California Rangeland Trust
					Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) The Climate Trust Coalition on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases	SCS Global Services KCoe Isom California Rangeland Trust
DESCRIPTION	Incentivize the implementation of NRCS conservation practices* by providing access to GHG markets to sell carbon credits and, wherever possible, sell additional credits for water quality and conservation banking. Project partners are engaging a diverse group of range and pasture land managers to participate.		Promote the use of the carbon farm planning framework emphasizing the importance of carbon as the organizing principle for the management of agricultural and natural landscapes. A comprehensive "carbon farm plan" is developed with assistance from NRCS or a local Resource Conservation District. The plan identifies NRCS practices*, which can include application of compost, that increase carbon storage in rangeland vegetation and soils. GHG and other environmental benefits are quantified.		Reward landowners for the protection of grasslands under conservation easements that prohibit conversion to cultivated agriculture. Conserving grasslands keeps soil carbon in the ground, which generates revenue through the sale of carbon offset credits. Grasslands must be at least 10 years old. An analyst from EDF will work with landowners to determine if their grasslands are eligible.	
GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a protocol that includes a full suite of NRCS practices relevant to range and pasture lands that will be used to demonstrate the viability of GHG markets for an aggregated group of ranches.</li> <li>Secure Climate Action Reserve (CAR - a carbon offset registry) approval of a rangeland protocol for the voluntary GHG credit market that works for ranchers.</li> <li>Verified GHG and environmental credits on select farms and ranches under the new CAR protocol.</li> </ul>		Create a statewide network using Resource Conservation Districts and local partners to provide financial and technical support to private and public landowners to engage them in carbon farming as a means to reverse climate change by advancing the adoption of agricultural practices proven to sequester soil carbon with significant co-benefits.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reward producers and landowners for implementing long-term measures to conserve grasslands.</li> <li>Provide a new revenue source to producers and landowners through carbon credits while still maintaining livestock production.</li> <li>Conserve important grassland habitats.</li> </ul>	
IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING FOR LANDOWNERS	Implementation funding for management practices will come from NRCS programs such as EQIP or provided by landowners.		Implementation funding for management practices that increase carbon comes from NRCS programs such as EQIP; state funding from Healthy Soils Initiative, Climate Ready, GHG mitigation funds, and other regional and local sources.		For landowners who get involved before March 2017, grant funds are available to cover most project development and verification costs. After that, project developers and landowners bear the costs of developing the project for the sale of carbon credits.	
POTENTIAL LANDOWNER BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New incentives to implement NRCS conservation practices and the associated on-farm benefits as well as climate benefits.</li> <li>New revenue sources from the sale of carbon with other environmental credits.</li> <li>This project is also exploring the use of "climate friendly" branding as potential marketing tool for a value added product.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased soil health and associated benefits; on-farm productivity, water holding capacity, drought resilience, and enhanced habitat and ecosystem function, mitigation and adaptation to impacts of climate change and drought.</li> <li>Future access to funding from federal, state and local sources, markets and foundations.</li> <li>CCI is also working with retailers to create markets for climate-beneficial products coming from farms (i.e., wool, milk, beef) with carbon farm plans.</li> <li>Improved public perception of the benefits of working landscapes.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer an additional source of revenue (approximately \$2-6 per acre per year) for ranchers to support long-term management of ranches protected by conservation easements.</li> <li>Maintain normal grazing and livestock production activities.</li> <li>Receive support and have many expenses covered for projects that enroll before March 2017.</li> </ul>	
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\*The NRCS has developed a list of conservation practices that sequester carbon. These practices can be reviewed at <http://bit.ly/2o0KWHs>.