



AFOGNAK FOREST CARBON UNITED STATES

Permanent protection for Afognak Island's dense, old growth Sitka spruce forests



This carbon sequestration project reduces emissions and ensures the permanent protection of 8,219 acres of formerly logged, old-growth Sitka Spruce forests on the north coast of Afognak Island, Alaska. The use of federal and state conservation easements ensures that this land will be managed for conservation in perpetuity, even after the project's 30-year crediting period elapses.

The Context

Afognak, the second-largest island on the Kodiak Archipelago off Alaska's southern coast, is home to wildlife such as the huge Kodiak brown bear and many fish, including rainbow trout, Arctic char, and five species of Pacific salmon. However evidence of a pervasive timber industry scars Afognak, marring its otherwise pristine wilderness landscape.

The Project

On North Afognak Island, 40 miles from Kodiak City, the Afognak Forest Carbon project area comprises 8,219 acres of low elevation, coastal temperate rainforests. The project prevents carbon emissions by protecting these forests from logging in the baseline scenario. From 2005-2009 the American Land Conservancy (ALC) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) acquired the project properties – previously managed for timber production – for conservation in perpetuity. 15% of productive land in the area, subjected to clear-cut logging since the 1980s, had been left to regenerate naturally, with little success. The remaining unlogged areas remain covered by native, old-growth 200-year-old Sitka Spruce forests, lakes, wetlands and small streams.

The Benefits

The Afognak Forest Carbon project enhances biodiversity, water, and all attributes of the local environment by retaining and protecting the existing forest as an intact, fully-functioning ecosystem. Project management is also low impact, focusing on salvage, restoration and preventative management on small areas annually. Moreover, while the project has a 30-year crediting period, its ancient forests will be protected forever.

The 200-year-old Sitka Spruce forests within the project area will be permanently protected, managed for conservation in perpetuity by US federal and state conservation easements.



40,451
tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually throughout the project's 30 year crediting period



8,219
acres

managed for conservation in perpetuity, through use of federal and state conservation easements

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Afognak Forest Carbon Project | VCS link: http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/872 | VCS ID: 872