



# McCloud Forestry Project

**9.2K+**

Forested acres

**1M+**

mtCO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
reductions over the  
project's first 25 years

**LOCATION**

Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, California

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**PROJECT TYPE**

Improved Forest Management

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**REGISTRY/PROTOCOL**

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## Additionality

The McCloud River Project encompasses 9,202 acres of forest in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties in California, just southeast of Mount Shasta. The project is within the ecologically significant southern portion of the Cascade Range and a watershed crucial for California's drinking and agricultural water sources. The forestland is comprised of a diverse group of western conifer species, including ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir, and Douglas-fir with secondary components of Shasta red fir, incense cedar, lodgepole pine, and knobcone pine. Common hardwood species include black oak, alder, aspen, willow, and dogwood.

The project area is owned by Bascom Pacific, LLC, which is administered by Campbell Global, a global forestland investment manager. Prior to Bascom Pacific's 18-year ownership, portions of the forest passed through the hands of various industrial landowners who actively managed the land for timber production, and this persists across the region today. Most of the region's old-growth timber was harvested as industrial management began around the start of the 20th century. This industrial management approach persists across the region today.

Now, thanks to the McCloud River Project, the McCloud forest is charting a different course – to a structurally complex, multistory native forest that stores additional carbon while supporting local economies. The project area is further protected by perpetual conservation easements administered by Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and certification by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The project aims to create a structurally complex, multistory forest comprised of a mix of native species and age classes, including mature stands that can approach old-growth conditions. These diverse, older forests are rare for the region considering the intensity and frequency of timber harvesting and are important for climate resilience.

To achieve these desired forest conditions and store additional carbon, the McCloud River Project facilitates a decrease in timber harvests from business-as-usual management, with a goal of increasing average forest stocking to at least 25,000 board feet per acre, while maintaining a sustainable working forest. This approach promotes large trees sequestering carbon at a high rate and provides significant ecological benefits. The conservation easements ensure that sustainable management is continued beyond the life of the carbon project, even if the property's ownership changes. The easements place additional ecological protections on the forest, such as requiring operations to retain at least 10 trees per acre in even-aged cuts, creating age class diversity and resilience in future stands. The easements also protect streams and rivers by enforcing buffers that exceed the minimum stream buffer widths required by the state of California, mandating minimum thresholds for canopy cover retention, and limiting the use of certain types of damaging equipment—all beneficial steps in maintaining soil integrity and ecological function in this valuable watershed. Finally, the easements prohibit the intentional introduction of non-native species, ensuring that this ecologically significant area remains representative of the native species of the region.

The project area protects significant water resources, including eight miles of the famed Wild and Scenic McCloud River, Bear Creek, tributary watercourses, wetlands, and springs, all of which contribute to California's agricultural and drinking water supply. In addition to its benefits to local water quality, the McCloud River Project and its associated forest management practices promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, including several federally classified rare, threatened, or endangered species, such as the Northern spotted owl and gray wolf. The property provides habitat for the McCloud River Redband trout, a species of concern, as well as the Roosevelt Elk, cougar and black bear, all species of importance. These species have varying forest habitat needs, such as species and age of trees they prefer, which have been factored into the management plan.

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## **Additionality (cont'd)**

Management of the McCloud River Project, enabled by the revenue stemming from the carbon project and supported by the permanence of the conservation easements, supports the development of a complex multistory forest ecosystem that provides refuge habitat for these rare and endangered species—a stark contrast to the financially-optimized management typical within the region, which causes a loss of diversity and damaging effects on wildlife range and abundance. In addition to benefiting the climate, regional ecosystem, and watersheds, the project will continue to maintain the long-term sustainable production of high-quality forest products with the associated local, family-wage jobs generated from a robust, mixed-age working forest.

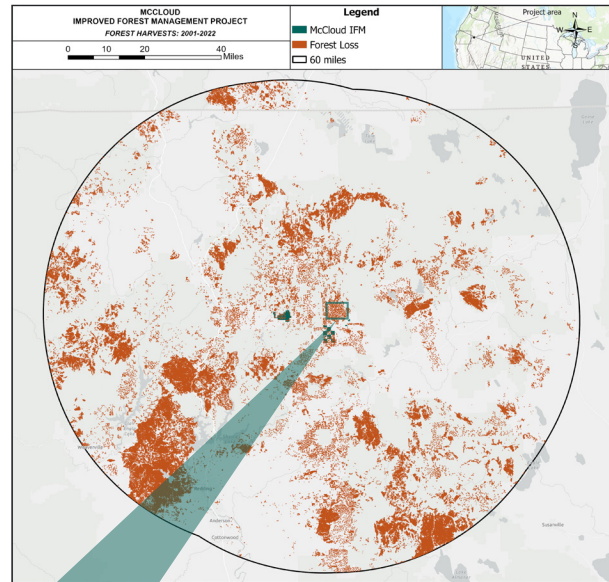
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## **Baseline Description**

The project's baseline is characteristic of typical forest management in the region, which is financially motivated and primarily comprised of even-aged management. These practices were observed on nearby lands at the start of the project and represent a likely alternative for property management. In the baseline scenario, upslope stands are managed through a 60-year rotation with precommercial thinnings at year 7 and intermediate commercial thinnings at year 50, reducing the basal area of the stand to 75 square feet per acre prior to the final cut at year 60. The rotation and final clearcuts of each stand are distributed in the baseline scenario to provide a continuous, even flow of timber and revenue in each year of the 100-year model. The baseline scenario reflects regional forestry practices and abides by silvicultural standards of the California Forest Practice Rules (CFPR), which limit even-age harvests to 40 acres or less and on stands adjacent to those which have been clear-cut within the previous five years.

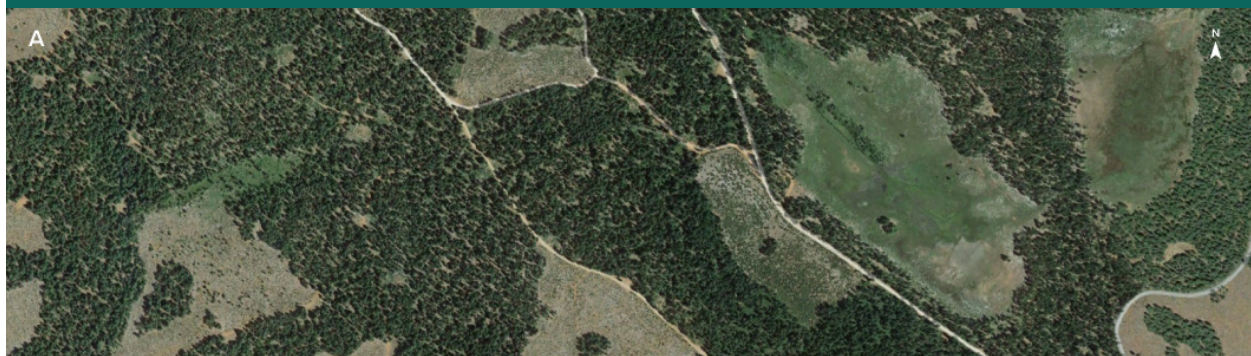
## Regional Harvest Activities

A conservative baseline scenario considers not only what a landowner could do, but what a landowner plausibly would do in the absence of the harvest limitations associated with a carbon project. In the following map, Anew demonstrates actual recent harvests in the project area's region. This data speaks to the strength of local timber markets and common management practices on forested properties of comparable size and ownership type—an integral piece to inform the accuracy and viability of assumptions in the baseline scenario.



### Harvest Comparison

All harvests/forest losses larger than 5 acres that happened between 2001 and 2022 within a 60 mile radius from the project area are depicted in orange, showing the very real pressures on forests in the area. The carbon project ensures sustainable management on the project area for 40 years, twice as long as the period depicted above.



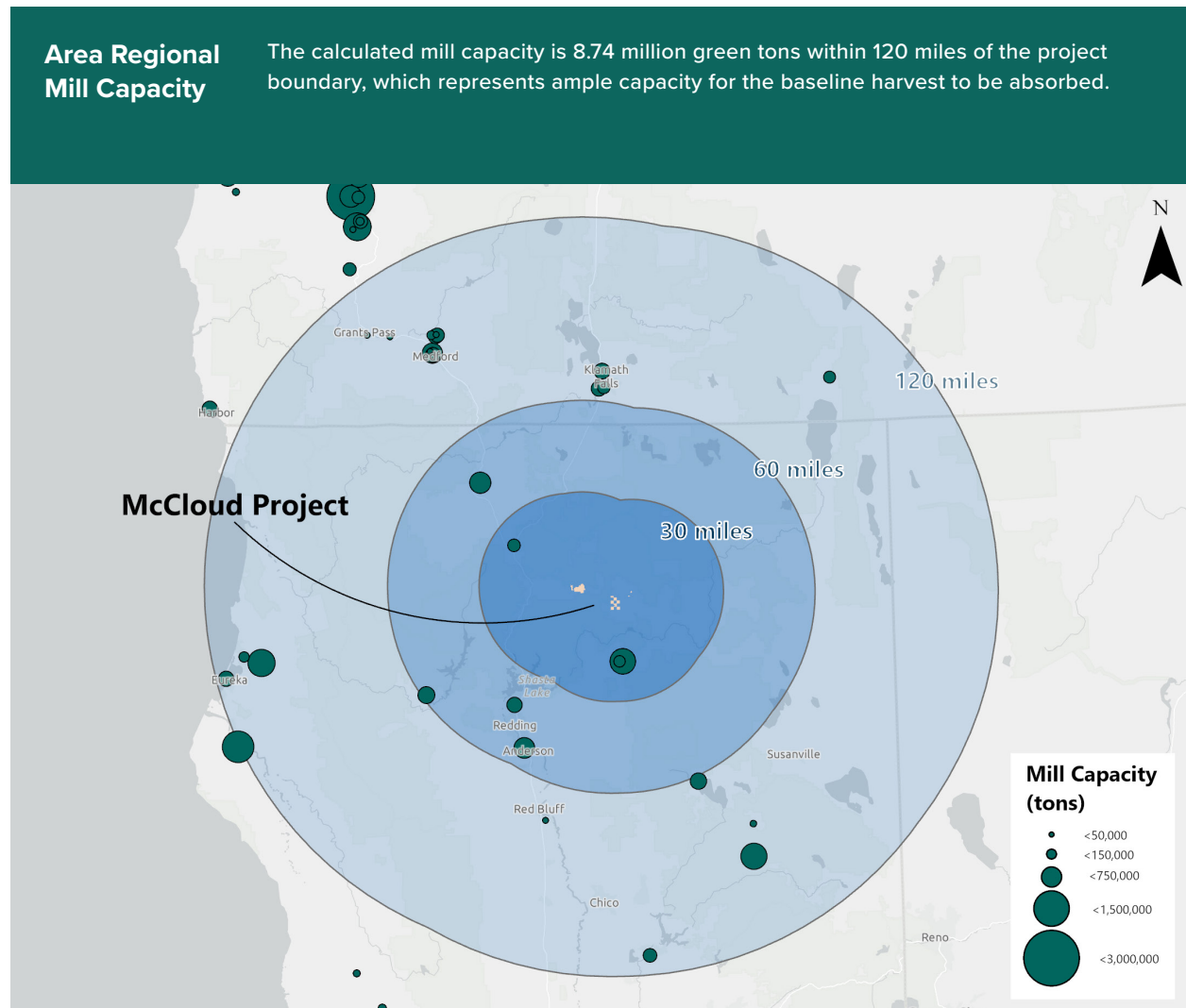
Actual high-resolution satellite imagery of harvest events. Before (A) and after (B)

Hansen, M. C et al. "High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change." *Science* 342 (15 November 2013 & updates): 850–53. <https://glad.earthengine.app/view/global-forest-change>

## Regional Mill Map

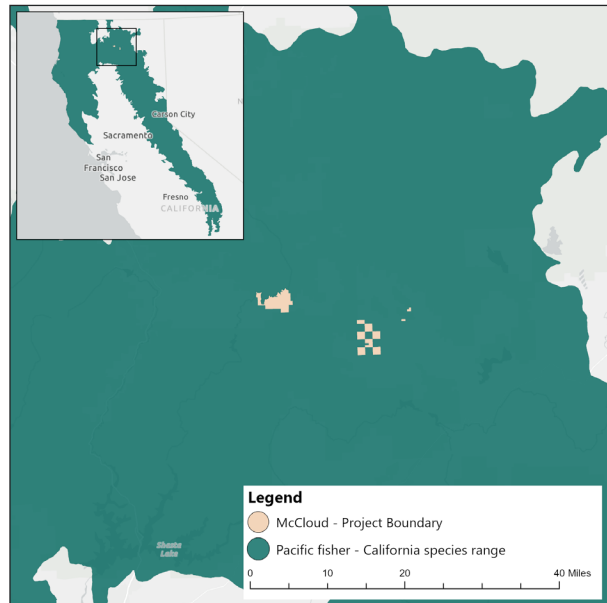
A strong understanding of local forest products infrastructure is key to building a realistic and conservative baseline scenario. To carry out harvests modeled in the baseline, a forest property must be within a feasible travel distance to active processing facilities. This map presents mills that are drivable from the project area along with their relative

processing capacity, delineating a framework for a current or future landowner to move timber, thereby providing acritical piece of direct evidence to the credibility and additionality of the carbon credits resulting from the project’s activities.



## Ecological Highlight

The McCloud project is located in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties in northern California, within the range of the Pacific fisher (*Pekania pennanti*). Once spread throughout much of the Pacific Northwest, the fisher is now restricted to several small, discrete population segments—one of which is contained mostly within northern California. The fisher relies on lower-elevation, closed canopy forests with large trees, preferably Douglas fir, which it uses for den sites and rest. These rest sites can occur across large home ranges spanning 50-150 square miles. This species has been considerably affected by varying factors, including fur trapping, illegal pesticide usage, and past timber harvesting. In particular, past timber harvesting has reduced mature forest habitat that the fishers used for denning. The McCloud River Project includes maintenance and development of forests that include Pacific fisher habitat, including hollowed cavities in down logs and larger trees, which are important for the successful rearing of fisher young.



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## Sustainable Development Goals Alignment



### Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

The owner and the easement holder, Pacific Forest Trust, worked together to craft two Working Forest Conservation Easements (WFCE) that protect the conservation values of the project area. The WFCEs aim to protect the project's significant water resources, which includes eight miles of the famed Wild and Scenic McCloud River as well as wetlands, springs, and watercourses which all contribute to California's agricultural and drinking water supply. Bear Creek and McCloud River, and their tributaries, flow through the project area and drain into the Pit River and other world-class native trout fisheries, providing key spawning grounds—some of which were previously impacted by sedimentation largely caused by intensive forest management in the region.



### Goal 13: Climate Action

Upon initiation of and in conjunction with the carbon project, the project area represented the largest WFCE west of the Rockies and the first in California on lands owned by a commercial timber manager. The carbon project and easement ensure that 15 square miles of forestland will remain forested and productive in perpetuity, with the increased capacity for retention, growth, and maintenance of carbon stocks over time. By reducing harvest volumes and increasing residual stocks, expanding riparian buffers, and establishing habitat protection zones relative to typical practices in the region, the project will enhance the forest's resilience in the face of climate change, while continuing to produce sustainable wood products. Management practices may increase water retention within the project and downstream, allowing for a more diverse species distribution while providing refugia for flora and fauna.

## Sustainable Development Goals Alignment



### Goal 15: Life on Land

The project lands provide critical habitat connectivity across 2.1 million acres including the surrounding Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and includes diverse forest, meadow, stream and wetland ecosystems. The project area is home to over 250 species, some of which are threatened, rare, or of special concern. Species of interest found within or near the project include 6 bird, 3 aquatic, and 4 mammalian species such as Northern Spotted Owl, Bald and Golden Eagles, Willow Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk, Tailed Frog, Red band Trout, Rainbow Trout, Pacific Fisher, Pine Marten, Roosevelt Elk, and Black Bear. Special habitat management zones and their goals are defined by the easements. The WFCEs’ objective is to preserve, protect and enhance the conservation values of the property. The forest management plan seeks to achieve a structurally complex multi-story forest canopy, a range of age classes, standing dead trees, downed logs, large woody debris, and a mix of dominant tree species including Ponderosa Pine, Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, and Douglas-fir. Forest management practices are permitted, though restricted, to protect native fish and wildlife habitat, especially riparian forests and habitat for threatened and rare species.

### About Anew Climate

Anew Climate is a global leader of diverse climate solutions built on the principles of transparency and accountability. We bring innovative products and services to the public and private sectors to help reduce or offset their carbon footprint, restore the environment, and ensure our clients’ investments create economic value as well as durable climate impact.

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