



**Authored by Forest Carbon Works**  
A Chestnut Carbon Company

As the demand for sustainable practices continues to grow, understanding the role of carbon in forestry is essential for both forestry industry professionals and the general public. This first article in a series by our partners at Chestnut Carbon explain the significance of carbon in the forestry industry, its impact on climate change, and the various opportunities for landowners to benefit from this emerging market.

#### Introduction to the Carbon Market and the Opportunity for U.S. Forest Owners

As the demand for environmental sustainability grows, the carbon market presents a valuable and growing opportunity for U.S. forest owners to participate in long-term conservation while benefiting financially. Forest Carbon Works (FCW) and Chestnut Carbon specialize in partnering with landowners across the U.S. to generate income streams through the conservation of forests and biodiverse habitats, as well as through forest restoration projects. Our mission is to maximize the potential of U.S.-based land through long-term, nature-based carbon removal solutions that positively impact the environment.

A program like FCW focuses on privately owned forests, which typically capture and store significant carbon due to their diverse tree species. Landowners with at least 40 acres of forested land can access and benefit from carbon market opportunities through FCW. In addition, FCW's parent company, Chestnut Carbon, is committed to developing new forests nationwide. These efforts restore diverse, natural ecosystems that improve air and water quality and support wildlife unique to each property. Chestnut collaborates with local foresters, landowners, nurseries, and specialists to plant a biodiverse array of hardwood and softwood seedlings, tailored to each region's soil, drainage, native species, and land use.

Chestnut also offers a long-term lease opportunity for landowners with crop or pastureland interested in transitioning to restored forest across the Southeast and Appalachia. To qualify, the land must have been non-forested for over 10 years and cover at least 100 acres.

A key element of our restoration efforts involves a strategic, ongoing partnership with ArborGen, which supplies the hardwoods and pine essential to our projects. This collaboration not only advances our long-term conservation goals but also helps us meet the growing demand for carbon credits. Since 2022, ArborGen has provided us with high-quality pine and hardwood seedlings, enabling the planting of more than 15 different species across 17,000 acres in the Southeast. This collaboration ensures we meet the needs of carbon credit customers while advancing our restoration objectives.

#### Understanding the Carbon Market

The carbon market operates on the principle of carbon credits, each representing the reduction of one metric ton of CO2 emissions. These credits are traded in two main types of markets:

- **Compliance Markets:** Regulated by law, these markets require companies and governments to offset their greenhouse gas emissions. Participants purchase carbon credits to meet legal obligations and emission reduction targets.
- **Voluntary Markets:** In these markets, organizations and individuals buy carbon credits voluntarily to offset their carbon footprint and demonstrate environmental responsibility. These credits often originate from nature-based solutions projects like improved forest management, reforestation or afforestation that actively reduce, remove, or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Carbon Sequestration in Forests

Forests capture and store carbon dioxide through a natural process called carbon sequestration. Trees absorb CO2 from the atmosphere as they grow, converting it into biomass through photosynthesis. This carbon is stored in the tree trunks, branches, leaves, and roots. By expanding and protecting forested areas, we enhance this natural carbon sink, thereby reducing the overall concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere and mitigating climate change.

#### Opportunities for Landowners

For forest landowners, the carbon market offers a unique opportunity to both generate annual income and contribute to long-term conservation:

- **Financial Benefits:** Enrolling in carbon projects allows landowners to monetize their forests' carbon sequestration capabilities. Payments for each ton of CO2 sequestered create a new revenue stream that supports the upkeep and management of their lands.
- **Environmental Impact:** Participation in carbon markets helps mitigate climate change by reducing atmospheric CO2 levels. Forests are essential in this role, as they absorb and store carbon dioxide, which is crucial for climate regulation.
- **Long-Term Legacies:** Carbon projects enable landowners to make a lasting positive impact. They support the preservation and restoration of forest ecosystems, contributing to long-term conservation that can benefit future generations.
- **Program Management:** For landowners who work with FCW and Chestnut Carbon, the team manages all aspects of the program, including project design, measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) tailored to each landowner's property.

#### Let's Connect

Please join us for the ArborGen event in Hattiesburg, MS hosted by Paul Jeffreys with Forest Carbon Work's Southeastern Forester, Jack Blackstock on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

For more information, please visit us at [Forest Carbon Works](#) and [Chestnut Carbon](#).

## Customer Success Story

Scotch Land Manager and Forester Jeff Smith shares why he chooses ArborGen seedlings for his client's property. For over 30 years, Jeff has continued to be impressed with the quality of seedlings ArborGen produces. The high survival rate of ArborGen seedlings and the constant communication with the Reforestation Advisors is why Jeff always recommends ArborGen seedlings to new and seasoned landowners.





## Client Results



MCP® 2.0 at 2 years  
Meridian, MS



MCP® 2.0 at 6 years  
Sylacauga, AL

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