



Reforestation Forecast Methodology Version 1.1 ERRATA AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Climate Action Reserve (Reserve) published its Reforestation Forecast Methodology Version 1.1 in May 2020. While the Reserve intends for the methodology to be a complete, transparent document, it recognizes that correction of errors and clarifications will be necessary as the methodology is implemented and issues are identified. This document is an official record of all errata and clarifications applicable to the Reforestation Forecast Methodology Version 1.1.¹

Per the Climate Forward Program Manual, both errata and clarifications are considered effective on the date they are first posted on the Climate Forward website. The effective date of each erratum or clarification is clearly designated below. All listed reforestation projects must incorporate and adhere to these errata and clarifications when they undergo confirmation, including those undergoing confirmation at the time any new errata or clarifications are issued. The Reserve will incorporate both errata and clarifications into future versions of the methodology.

All project proponents and confirmation bodies must refer to this document to ensure that the most current guidance is adhered to in project design and confirmation. Confirmation bodies shall refer to this document immediately prior to uploading any Confirmation Statement to assure all issues are properly addressed and incorporated into confirmation activities.

If you have any questions about the updates or clarifications in this document, please contact the Reserve team at info@climateforward.org or (213) 891-1444 x4.

¹ See the policy memo dated June 6, 2023, or the Climate Forward Program Manual for an explanation of the Reserve's policies on methodology errata and clarifications. For document management and program implementation purposes, both errata and clarifications are contained in this single document.

Please ensure that you are using the latest version of this document

Errata and Clarifications (arranged by protocol section)

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Section 3.8.1

1. Projects on Government-Owned Lands and Tonne-Tonne Accounting (CLARIFICATION – June 22, 2023)

Section: 3.8.1 (Ensuring Permanence – Tonne-Tonne Accounting)

Context: Section 3.8.1 identifies landowner and management conditions under which the Reserve is willing to issue credits based on tonne-tonne accounting (1 tonne of CO₂ projected to be sequestered = 1 FMU). One condition indicated is locating a project on government-owned lands where the project proponent is able to demonstrate the management of the project area can be reasonably expected to result in each of two conditions. First, management will lead to forest carbon stocking levels on the project area that meet or exceed the levels associated with the year in which the culmination of mean annual increment (CMAI) is projected to occur (or 100 years after the start of the project if CMAI is not projected to occur prior to then). Second, management will maintain such stocking levels consistent with a 100-year permanence assumption. Project proponents must provide information supporting the assertion that both conditions will be met, including descriptions of management history, stated management objectives, and the likelihood of current management plans changing in the future in ways that are inconsistent with either required condition.

The Reserve recognizes that tribal trust lands, defined as land held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (US Department of Interior) or by a state for the benefit of a tribe, have sufficiently similar governance structures that underpin the recognition of other government owned lands for tonne-tonne accounting purposes. As such, the Reserve wishes to clarify that tribal trust lands are similarly eligible for the application of tonne-tonne accounting under the landowner class “government (secured),” as long as both conditions described above are demonstrated by the project proponent.

Clarification: The second paragraph of Section 3.8.1, beginning with the fourth sentence, shall now read as follows (bold text indicating new text):

“Projects on government-owned lands **or on tribal trust lands**² also meet the permanence requirement using tonne-tonne accounting under certain conditions To be eligible to use tonne-tonne accounting, projects on public **or tribal trust** lands must be able to demonstrate that management is expected to lead to increases in carbon stocks that: 1) meet or exceed those stocks projected for the project area for the lesser of either 100 years or the year at which the Culmination of Mean Annual Increment (CMAI) occurs, and 2) are maintained at or above such projected stocking levels. CMAI is a benchmark for measuring forest maturity which can be determined from the growth projections. Forest stands at CMAI are at a high risk of regeneration harvest. Although forests on public **or tribal trust** lands may very well grow beyond CMAI, considering the accumulation of carbon only to the point of CMAI is a conservative approach to quantification. To demonstrate consistency of management with the 100-year permanency of projected stock increases on a project area on public **or tribal trust** lands, the project proponent must provide a description of the following:

² Land held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (US Department of Interior) or by a state for the benefit of a tribe.

- Management history
- Management objectives
- Likelihood of management plan changing in the future in a way that will prevent projected increases in carbon stocks from being achieved.”

The first sentence of the subsequent paragraph is similarly modified to read as follows (bold text indicating new text):

“In the case of a project either with a perpetual conservation easement including the Required RM Terms or on public **or tribal trust** lands capable of demonstrating management consistency with the long-term maintenance of projected carbon stock increases (hereafter referred to under the landowner class “government (secured)”), FMU issuance would be based on the tonne-tonne value projected for the crediting period, net of the resiliency discount (see Section 5.3).”

Appendix A

2. Sample area delineation (CLARIFICATION – October 30, 2024)

Section: Appendix A (Confirmation of Site Stocking)

Context: Step 1 of Appendix A describes how confirmation bodies are to determine the sample area within each sampling division based on where the “likely least stocked 40 acres is found.” Although this is explained as being determined via reconnaissance of the sampling division during the site visit, there are potential efficiencies that can be gained by conducting an exercise prior to the site visit to identify on a preliminary basis where the least stocked areas are likely to be found based on known risks to the survival of planted trees. Additional guidance has been added describing the conditions for identifying the likely location of sample area(s) prior to the site visit and for their potential use to confirm the stocking of a sampling division.

Clarification: Step 1 of Appendix A is modified as follows (bold text indicating new text):

“Confirmation body shall perform visual reconnaissance throughout each sampling division and determine where the likely least stocked 40 acres is found. This shall be referred to as the sample area. **Sample areas shall be contiguous (allowing for breaks such as roads or streams) and shall have a reasonable shape (e.g., not winding along a stream corridor or along the edge of a ridgetop). The intent of the sample area is to serve as a representation of the rest of the sampling division, albeit with the lowest stocking.** If the sampling division is less than 40 acres, the sample area includes the entire project area. **Confirmation bodies shall identify sample areas on a preliminary basis on a map prior to the site visit based on relevant risks to successful tree establishment (e.g., ridge exposure, unstable soils, periodic flooding) and include the map and a brief description of the basis for the delineation of the sample areas in the confirmation plan. The final sample area for a given sampling division should be adjusted if reconnaissance during the site visit indicates the preliminary sample area delineation does not capture the least stocked part of the associated sampling division.**”

3. Plot exclusions during sampling (ERRATUM – October 30, 2024)

Section: Appendix A (Confirmation of Site Stocking)

Context: Step 3.f of Appendix A explains that plots may be excluded from the field sampling if the plot center falls on areas not conducive to seedling establishment. However, the intent of the methodology is that at least 40 sample plots must be the basis for assessing whether the sampling division is sufficiently stocked. Excluding plots leads to an impractical situation if the confirmation body has not identified more than 40 potential plot locations, per Step 2 in Appendix A, and additional sample plot locations need to be incorporated so that at least 40 plots are the basis for the assessment. New language directs the confirmation body to offset plots rather than to exclude them. The method to be used to offset a plot is provided and confirmation bodies are instructed to follow this process for plots that fall on areas not conducive to tree establishment due to cover type (e.g., road, watercourse, wetlands).

Correction: Step 3.f of Appendix A is modified as follows (bold text indicating new text, strikethrough text indicating text being removed):

~~“A plot location may be excluded by the confirmation body only~~ If the plot center is located on a site not conducive to seedling establishment, such as a road, landing, watercourse, rocky area, bog, wetland, or other such site **the confirmation body shall offset the plot location by one chain (66 feet) to the north of the original plot center. If the offset plot center still falls on a non-conductive site, the confirmation body shall proceed attempting to offset the plot location one chain to the east, south, and finally to the west of the original plot center to find a suitable location. In such cases, where plot offsetting is applied, the confirmation body shall confirm the site is less than 1000 square feet or 1 percent of the project area in size and consistent with the requirements specified in Section 3.1.** ~~Confirmation body shall proceed to the next plot in such a case.”~~

4. Confirmation of Site Stocking (CLARIFICATION – October 30, 2024)

Section: Appendix A (Confirmation of Site Stocking)

Context: Step 4 of Appendix A describes the approach required of project experts to confirm via sampling that the project area meets the minimum stocking threshold of 70% within each sampling division at the time of the site visit. The Appendix specifies that the project area is to be divided into sampling divisions based on acreage and strata and, under step 1, instructs project experts to identify a perceived ‘least stocked’ sample area within each sampling division. The Appendix also describes how project experts are to conduct field sampling within each sample area, and how they are to determine whether each sample area meets the required minimum stocking level of 70% of sampled plots.

Given that 70% is specified as a minimum threshold for passing the stocking assessment, a sample area (and associated sampling division) is considered sufficiently stocked under the methodology once sampling indicates more than 70% of the potential plot locations (identified under step 2 of the Appendix) are found to be stocked. Thus, once the 70% minimum of the plot locations to be sampled is reached, sampling of any remaining plot locations would not impact the determination that the sample area has passed. For example, if a confirmation body identifies 40 plot locations to be sampled within a sample

area and, after the 30th plot is sampled, a total of 28 plots have been found to be stocked, the sample area would be considered sufficiently stocked regardless of the stocking determination made for any remaining plots to be sampled. Therefore, clarifying text is being added to indicate that project experts may conclude their field sampling within a sample area once the 70% minimum stocking threshold is achieved.

Clarification: The text under step 4 of Appendix A is modified as follows (bold text indicating new text, strikethrough text indicating text being removed):

“The assessment of the stocking of a sample area must be based on a minimum of 40 plots. In cases where sample areas are identified on a preliminary basis prior to the site visit, if the grid is established in a GIS with more plot locations falling in the sample area than the confirmation body intends to sample in the field, the confirmation body shall determine prior to the site visit which plot locations are to be sampled. During the site visit, the [c]onfirmation body shall tally each sampled plot as being ‘stocked’ or ‘unstocked.’ A stocked plot percentage shall be calculated ~~once all the plots located within the sample area have been sampled~~ relative to the total number of plot locations identified by the confirmation body for sampling (i.e., a minimum of 40 plots). The confirmation body is to stop sampling within a sample area once either a 70% stocked plot percentage has been achieved or once all plot locations identified for sampling have been sampled. If the stocked plot percentage ~~is~~ represents 70 percent or more of all plots sampled, the sampling division is determined to meet the stocking requirement. If the stocked plot percentage falls below the 70 percent threshold, the sampling division is determined not to meet the stocking requirement and cannot be issued FMUs. The determination of stocking of each sampling division is made independent of other sampling divisions.”