

## **U.S. Natural Climate Solutions Accelerator**

**Round 3 Finalist:** Dovetail Partners

**Initiative:** Leveraging State Trust Forest Lands: Acceleration of Improved Forest Management to Increase Carbon Storage in the US

**NCS Pathway:** Forests: Improved Forest Management

**U.S. Geographic Focus:** Midwest

**15-months Pilot State:** Minnesota

**“Leveraging State Trust Forest Lands: Acceleration of Improved Forest Management to Increase Carbon Storage in the US”** initiative by Dovetail Partners, aims to enhance utilization of Improved Forest Management (IFM) as a natural climate solution on state trust lands in Minnesota, which has the potential to substantially increase carbon sequestration, incentivized through potential offset revenue. The team plans to chart a course for scalability throughout Minnesota and on forested state trust lands across the U.S., by assessing and piloting mechanisms to enter the carbon market, including project development, IFM practices, and a favorable policy environment.

**How it works:** The team plans to quantify carbon sequestration potential of IFM and to identify best opportunity areas on 1.5 million acres of Minnesota state trust lands. To facilitate replicability at a larger scale, the team will prioritize piloting practices and acreages with the highest potential for enhanced sequestration and co-benefits. The initiative will formalize market-ready project(s), and conduct policy analysis to establish enabling conditions for implementation. The team will then make recommendations for sustaining IFM on Minnesota state trust lands, and develop state-specific sequestration estimates and policy guidance for IFM on state trust lands across the U.S..

**Innovative feature:** A successfully executed and communicated project in Minnesota will demonstrate the power of market forces to incentivize accelerated IFM practices on public lands within Minnesota and beyond.

**Scaling/Replication:** The team estimates that the pilot project model could be reasonably applied across over 100,000 acres of Minnesota’s state trust lands, and to state trust lands throughout the country, of which 4 million acres are in the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) alone, composed of AK, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WI, WY. To scale, the initiative will leverage broad networks in Minnesota (e.g., US Climate Alliance Natural Working Lands group, and Minnesota Forest Resources Council), and nationally (e.g., WSLCA, and Society of American Foresters). By making replicability a centerpiece of the proposed model, the team will be able to adapt the Minnesota pilot to export it to other states through their relationship with the WSLCA, and to roll out new IFM projects on forested state trust lands nationally. In addition, the team feels well-positioned to use results from this pilot to catalyze new IFM projects on a variety of land ownerships beyond state trust lands.

**Carbon sequestration:** The team estimates that the initiative can sequester 1,643,940 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e over 10 years of projected landscape scale implementation of extended harvest intervals and natural forest management.

**Co-benefits:** The initiative aims to contribute to water quality and sustained flows, given the importance to local and regional watersheds of the forests where the pilot will be implemented. Biodiversity is another focal area of the program, given the distribution of these forests throughout a network of resilient and connected critical landscapes.