

# Working Woodlands: Helping Landowners Conserve Their Forests While Generating New Revenues

TNC has helped the Lock Haven City Authority in Pennsylvania protect Keller Reservoir by putting the surrounding forest under easement. © Melissa Farlow

## WHAT IS WORKING WOODLANDS?

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Working Woodlands program offers forest landowners with 2,000+ acres the opportunity to ensure sustainable forest management while generating revenue from improved forest management and from the growing carbon market.

TNC provides a landowner with conservation services to enroll their property in Working Woodlands, will cover all project development costs and will market the carbon to the best buyer in return for a minority share in the carbon revenue. The landowner retains all timber revenues.

## HOW DOES WORKING WOODLANDS WORK?

Trees capture carbon from the carbon dioxide in the air as they produce oxygen. An acre of mature forest can capture more than a metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent every year. Because scientists and economists can quantify the carbon-capturing power of forests, wooded properties enrolled in carbon markets can sell carbon credits to businesses and individuals seeks to offset their carbon dioxide emissions. We are also exploring how businesses can also use Working Woodlands within their supply chains, thereby facilitating carbon emissions reductions and improved management practices within the timber baskets.

## ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH TNC

Through the Working Woodlands program, TNC provides three key services for landowners free of charge:

- 1. Carbon Market Enrollment** – TNC connects the property to high-quality carbon markets, generating new income for the landowner.
- 2. Forest Certification** – TNC develops a forest management plan and enrolls the property in a forest certification program that ensures forest sustainability. In some cases, this enables access to premium wood markets for timber harvested from the property.

- 3. Working Forest Conservation Easement** – TNC applies a working forest conservation easement to the property, ensuring long-term conservation.

Other benefits for landowners include the flexibility in tailoring to program their individual needs, no outlay of money required, additional income from the sale of forest carbon credits, and the ability to keep 100% of all certified wood product revenues. To date, 92,400 acres have been enrolled, with an anticipated 250,000 acres enrolled over the next five years.

Through expansion of the Working Woodlands program, properties enrolled will:

- Sequester 7.1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> through 2030;
- Protect clean drinking water for more than 1,00,000 people;
- Provide up to \$400 per acre over the first ten years through carbon offset sales, diversifying forest landowner revenue options;
- Preserve high conservation value properties; and
- Ensure long-term forest sustainability, productivity and supply of quality forest products.



Josh Parrish, director of TNC's Working Woodlands program, salvages a dying red oak on his property to help promote diverse new growth, near Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. © Melissa Farlow