

Chestnut Sustainable Restoration Stakeholder Consultation

DECEMBER 2, 2022

Welcome and Introductions

Who is Chestnut Carbon?

Why this consultation? Our specific aims?

What will make this conversation meaningful, for everyone?

A higher standard for climate security and sustainable development...

Gold Standard for the Global Goals is a standard that sets requirements to design projects for maximum positive impact in climate and development -- and to measure and report outcomes in the most credible and efficient way.





The Gold Standard



FORESTRY PROJECTS

Afforestation/Reforestation projects provide a naturebased solution that not only absorb CO2 from the atmosphere but creates local jobs in forest management and conserves vital ecosystems – protecting local biodiversity at a time when a million species are in threat of extinction.





Project Overview

What's this project really about, anyway?

Restoring native, ecologically diverse and sustainable forests



Why is stakeholder engagement so important?



What does forest restoration look like?

- Diverse, native species selected appropriate for the site
- Involvement of local experts and community engagement in project design
- Monitoring; repeated inventories and verifications
- Long-term plan for project permanence and risk mitigation
- Evaluation of project impacts and multiple scales

Project Overview

Year 1 Pilot - Arkansas and Alabama

- Restoration of 6,500 acres of degraded pasture lands across 8 properties in Arkansas and Alabama
- Land must have been non-forested for 10 years
- Hardwood and softwood mixes, 15+ species
- Chestnut's Restoration Program is available to LOs owning 300+ acres in the SE





Boots on the Ground...

FSC approved chemical and mechanical site preparation in the fall 2022

 Locally sourced, native seedlings will be planted starting in January 2023

Seedling planting parameters are based on soil type and soil drainage class

Who's Involved?

 Local communities of forestry professionals, site prep contractors and planting crews

- Adjoining landowners
- Local experts

How to Maximize Positive Impacts

Expected Positive Impact

- 1. Creation of local jobs
 - Affects local communities
- 2. Increased wildlife habitat & connectivity
 - Affects local communities
- 3. Improved water quality & regulation
 - Affects downstream communities
- 4. Increased access
 - Affects traditional & cultural users
 - Affects general public

Plan to Maximize

- 1. Maintenance and enforcement of policies for partners, vendors and contractors
- 2. Advisory, plantation design and FSC management
- 8. All per FSC: improved stream crossings, eliminate soil disturbance in riparian areas, promote riparian vegetation
- 4. Access policies for traditional and cultural uses, public takeout partners and public benefit easements



How to Minimize Adverse Impacts

- **Potential Adverse Impact**
- 1. Increased land prices
 - Affects ranchers and farmers
- 2. Limited public land use
 - Affects local communities
- 3. Increased wildfire risk
 - Affects neighbors
- 4. Decreased production in historical uses
 - Affects value chain businesses
- 5. Loss of cultural identity
 - Affects local communities

Plan to Minimize

- 1. Limit to degraded lands, market price and land dispersion
- 2. Public partners for takeout and public use easements
- 3. Diversify species, FSC management and maintenance of infrastructure
- 4. Limit to degraded lands, promote local employment and grant funding for technical assistance
- 5. Disperse planting activities and minimize visibility

What's making sense about this project?

Areas that need more explanation & discussion?



Table discussions

- It's late 2023, the project didn't work well tell a quick story about where it went wrong for your community, and why?
- Now flip the script, imagine the project succeeded. What happened to make it so?
- Your personal priorities, and realities that need to be understood by us to get this project right?
- Finally, thinking of future generations what needs are most relevant to them?

- Share a few "project stories" of success and failure discussed at your table.
- Something that jumped out from your conversations?
- Common themes, outstanding issues across tables? (summarized)
- New queries that surfaced?

Key Monitoring Steps - How We'll Really Know What's Happening

What can communities and other stakeholders do to make sure the project happens as intended, and is well-monitored?

- Chestnut Carbon will be seeking to work with public partners like state agencies and local governments and community members to crowdsource tree growth and seedling viability surveys.
- Periodic stakeholder surveys.
- Regular third party verification of the project is required.
- Stakeholder input is always welcomed.
- All stakeholder feedback will be addressed
 during our annual report.
 Chestnut



- Along with stakeholder feedback, we will also regularly monitor important impacts to the project's geographic area.
- Such examples include:
 - o Land prices
 - Planting dispersion
 - Impacts on natural water pattern/flows
 - o Erosion
 - Forest growth and management
 - o HCV (High Conservation Value)/Critical Habitats
 - o Endangered Species





Key Monitoring Steps - How We'll Really Know What's Happening

What can we do if things get off course?

An Advisory Committee of expert stakeholders can be consulted. An expert stakeholder refers to the individuals that hold specific expertise or knowledge about the context and practices to which the project is applied (ex: state conservation agencies, biologist, university department, etc).



What will happen with info gathered from this meeting; and next steps?

How else to be heard and influence the project process going forward?

When and how you'll hear from us next?





Thank You!

Your participation is valued and critical to the success of this project.

Please provide comments and feedback via the website or evaluations forms provided.

