

Chestnut Sustainable Restoration Stakeholder Consultation

December 10, 2024

Welcome!

1. Sign-in and make a name tag for yourself
2. Grab some refreshments and a seat
3. Prepare to actively listen and participate

Workshop Purpose

- **Share project details**, including where the project stands today, its expected impacts and opportunities
- **Work with stakeholders** to shape project design moving forward in ways that can bring added value to nearby communities.



Chestnut Sustainable Restoration Stakeholder Consultation

DECEMBER 10, 2024

Morrilton, Arkansas

Today's Agenda

- Introductions - 15 mins
- Presentation - 30 mins
- Q + A - 15 minutes

BREAK (10 mins)

- Group Discussions - 20 mins
 - Report out - 10 mins
- Key Monitoring - 10 mins
- Next Steps - 10 mins

Introductions

Introduce yourself and let us know in 30 seconds:

What would you like to hear from us?

What would you like to discuss?

Who is Chestnut Carbon?

The Gold Standard

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.



Gold Standard[®]
for the **Global Goals**



Project Overview

- Restoring native, ecologically diverse and sustainable forests
- Delivering high quality carbon credits and mitigating climate change
- Years 1-3 (2022-2025) targeting ~50k acres for restoration in the Southeast & Appalachia

What does successful forest restoration look like?

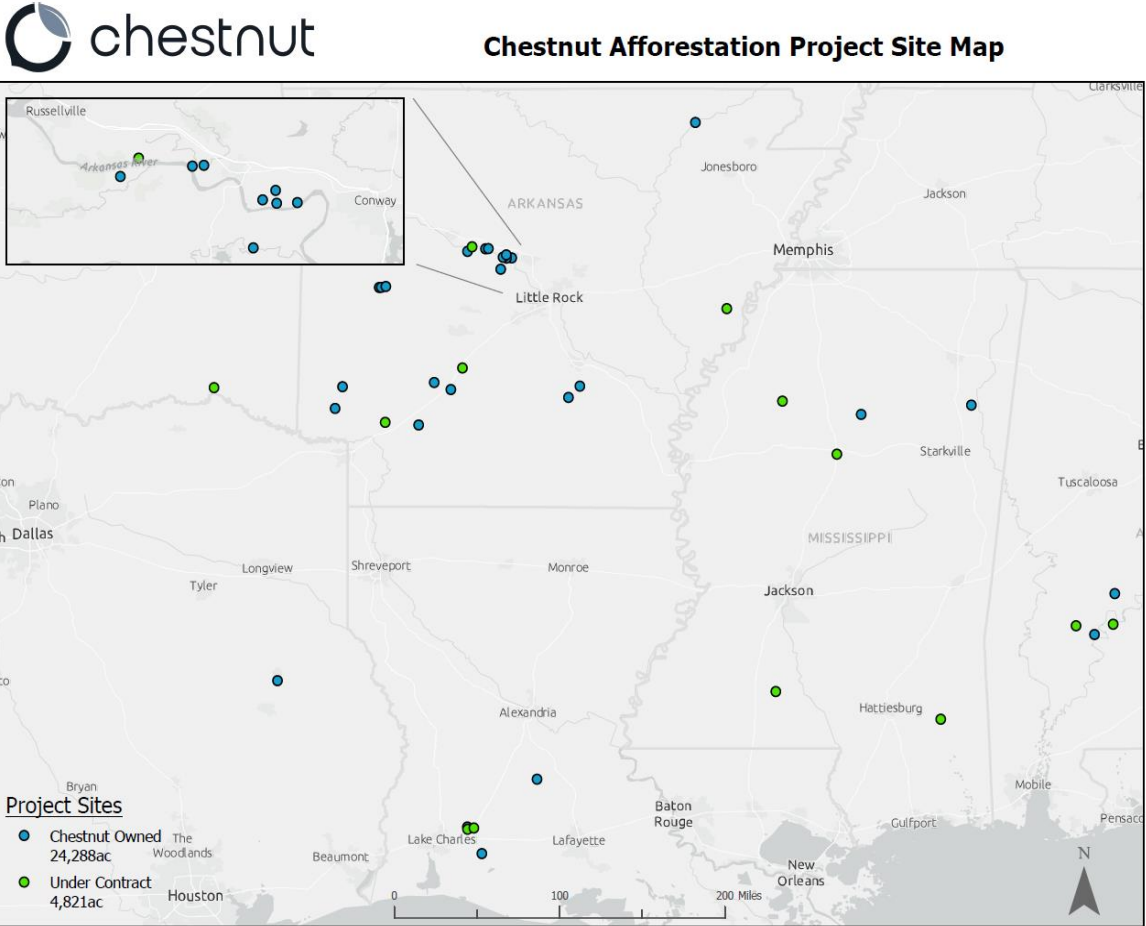
- ✓ Diverse, native species selected appropriate for the site
- ✓ Involvement of local experts and community engagement in project design
- ✓ Monitoring; repeated inventories and verifications
- ✓ Long-term plan for project permanence and risk mitigation
- ✓ Evaluation of project impacts and multiple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



Current Portfolio and Phase 3 Updates (2024-2025)

In Phases one and two, we restored ~18,000 acres across Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. For Phase 3, we're targeting 25,000 acres and have expanded our operations into Texas and Oklahoma.

- Chestnut has planted over 10 million native seedlings throughout Arkansas and the Southeast US.
- Actively seeking lease program participants in the Southeast



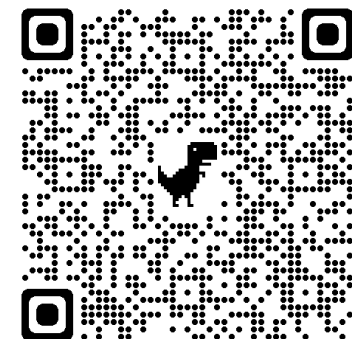
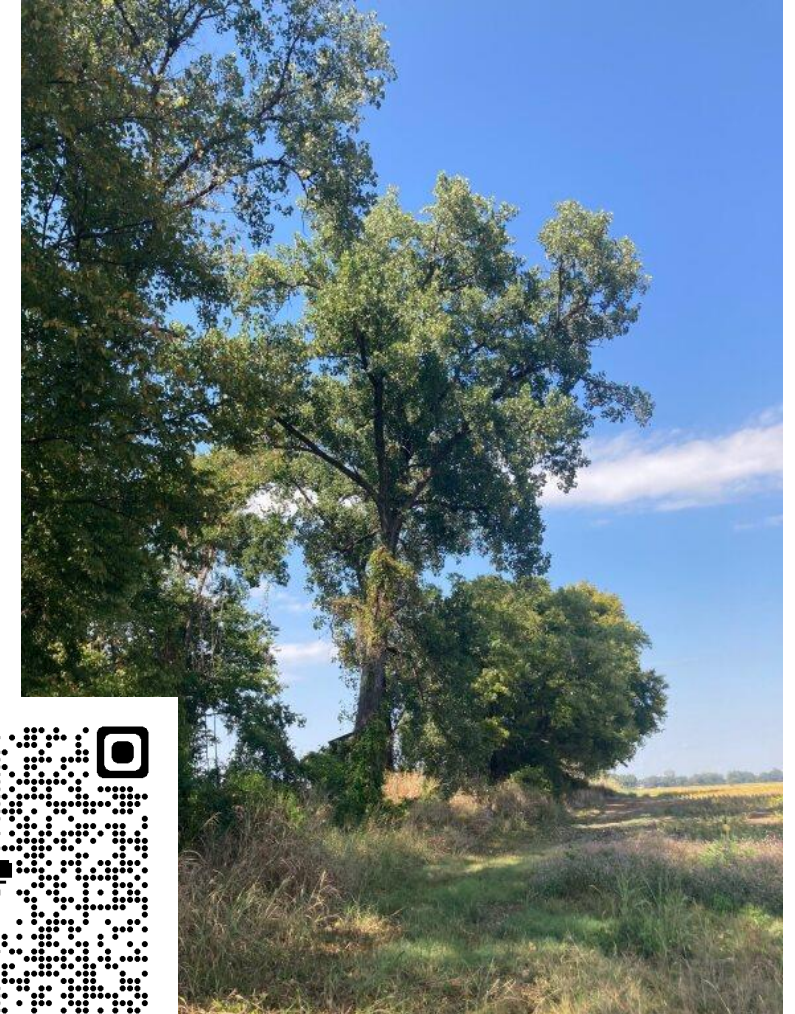
Getting trees in the ground...

- Seedling procurement
- Planting plan design & mapping
- Site preparation
- Forest Stewardship Council Certification
- Tree planting operations
- Stocking and survival surveys
- Ongoing monitoring
- Repeated inventories and verifications



Chestnut Conserve – The Partner Project to Chestnut Restore

- What happens to portions of property that are already forested?
 - They are enrolled in Chestnut Conserve which seeks to protect existing forested areas.
- Currently, this grouped project includes eight project areas in the states of Arkansas and Alabama.
- We welcome any and all feedback on this project to submit a comment please do so at: <https://chestnutcarbon.com/stakeholder-consultation-feedback-forest-carbon-works/#submit-a-comment>



How to Maximize Positive Impacts

Expected Positive Impact

1. Creation of local jobs
 - Affects local communities
 - Creation of hardwood seedling industry
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
 - Education activities

Plan to Maximize

1. Maintenance and enforcement of policies for partners, vendors and contractors
2. Advisory, plantation design and FSC management
3. 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, availability to conduct educational activities if community desires

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
6. Livelihood displacement

Plan to Minimize

1. Limit to marginal use 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 marginal use lands, promote local employment and grant funding.
5. Disperse planting activities and minimize visibility
6. Track potential displacement, track economic benefits for communities

Checking In

What resonates?

What doesn't?

Are there areas that need more explanation & discussion?



BREAK

Breakout Group Discussion

Community Engagement

- *Spend ~20 minutes discussing the guiding questions (Facilitator will keep time)*
- *A Chestnut project team member will take notes and report out*

Expectations

- Introduce yourself
- Speak respectfully
- Think creatively
- Listen actively

How can we ensure that community engagement efforts are proactive, culturally relevant, and considerate of the needs and aspirations of Chestnut Restoration project site neighbors?

Discussion Report Out + Summary

- *What is something new you learned from your discussion?*
- *Did definitions of success overlap?*
- *What were common themes, issues, and solutions?*
- *Were any questions left unanswered?*

Key Monitoring Steps - How We 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 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.



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

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



Key Monitoring Steps - Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee of expert stakeholders are consulted on a regular and ad hoc basis. 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).



ArborGen

— THE —
CONSERVATION FUND



What's Next

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?

Who will you share with when you go home, back to the field, or back to the office today?

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.