

Woodlands Carbon Company Announces First Sale of Forest Carbon Offsets

Release Date: May 23, 2011

Contact Information: John Barnes, Salem. info@woodlandscarbon.com 971-237-5364

Oregon has long been the nation's mother lode for softwood lumber from its Douglas-fir dominated forests. But if carbon sequestration is the goal, it is recognized by researchers everywhere that there is no better place in the world for absorbing carbon dioxide – the gas linked to global climate change. As plants grow, they absorb carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and store (sequester) part of that carbon in branches, stems or trunks, and roots. A market for this carbon began to emerge as those industries, such as power generation and petroleum refineries, that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere searched for ways to “offset” their ‘carbon footprint’.

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) recognized the potential of this emerging market for its 1,500 family forest landowners. With assistance from the American Forest Foundation, OSWA created a company, Woodlands Carbon Company, to provide access to the carbon offset markets. Woodlands Carbon serves as an “aggregator” of carbon offsets by bringing small landowners under contract, combining those forest acres and the corresponding tons of carbon with other landowners and building a pool of offsets to enter the market. Currently they have 8 landowners under contract representing about 2,000 acres and producing on average 12,000 tons of carbon offset credits each year. However, finding buyers for the Oregon forest carbon offsets proved to be a significant challenge.

Originally intending to utilize a national market registry called the Climate Chicago Exchange, Woodlands Carbon developed and adopted the standards and protocols for that Registry. When the CCX discontinued its forest carbon offsets program, Woodlands Carbon was on its own to complete a project design document to establish standards and implement a marketing campaign to recruit buyers.

On April 21, 2011 an Oregon company was the first to purchase these unique Oregon forest carbon offsets. BendBroadband Vault has agreed to purchase enough carbon offsets each year for the next four years to allow their new data center facility to achieve “carbon neutrality”.

BendBroadband Vault is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BendBroadband; a local, family-owned business that has served Central Oregonians for more than 50 years. Starting out providing cable service in Bend, Sisters and Redmond, the company expanded into the outlying areas of Deschutes County. In 2003 the company name was changed from Bend Cable to BendBroadband, recognizing that their services had expanded beyond cable TV. BendBroadband is a nationally recognized leader in the cable industry due to their progressiveness with technology. They are stalwart corporate citizens and known for quality customer service.

BendBroadband Vault provides data center services to clients, including hosted storage for primary site needs and disaster recovery, equipment collocation and managed services. The BendBroadband Vault captures multiple ‘green’ initiatives including solar power generation and passive cooling. They are also seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification and participate in Pacific Power & Light's Blue Sky Energy program.