

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS IMPROVED GRAZING CARBON PROJECT OVERVIEW FOR PARTICIPANTS



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Northern Great Plains Improved Grazing Carbon Program (IGCP) pays land managers (ranchers) to implement practices that increase the potential for the soil to sequester additional soil organic carbon.

Carbon is the measure of the energy in the system that drives improved ecosystem functions such as increased water holding capacity of soils, increased water infiltration rates, and better soil structure that can help mitigate drought and increase available forage on rangeland. The program supports ranchers, financially and technically, to deploy these practices and bring them access to carbon markets for twenty years.

The practices include more pasture splits to increase stocking density and livestock movement, reduce days grazed on all pastures, and prioritize rest on all land managed. Native measures, reports, and verifies the carbon sequestered in the soil to develop and transact carbon credits in voluntary markets.

UPFRONT CAPITAL

The project assumes infrastructure is needed to meet the improved grazing goals on your grazed land. The project can bring upfront capital to help cover those costs before carbon sequestration can be measured, bridging a key gap in the development of a carbon project

CARBON MANAGEMENT GOALS

The practices include more pasture splits to increase stocking density and livestock movement, reduced days grazed on all pastures, and prioritizing rest on all land managed

RANCH COMMITMENT

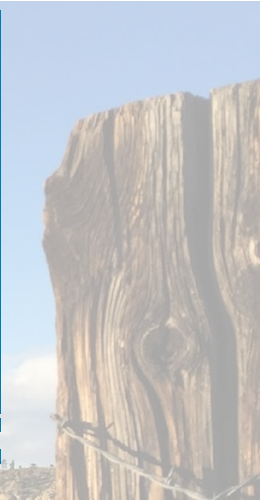
The land operator contracts with Native for 20 years of carbon credits through improved grazing practices on all land managed. Landowners make statement of public intent to manage land for soil health for 30 years. If landowners do not make commitment; discounts are made to total carbon credit volume.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

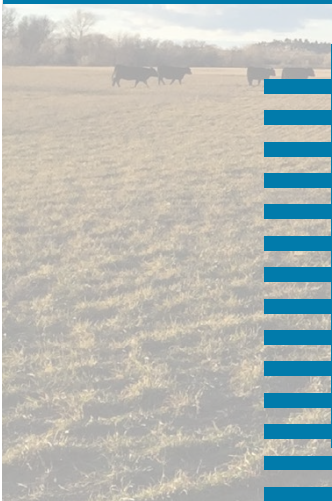


Overview of the Project Structure

Native takes the risk on the carbon sequestration so that the operation can count on the up-front financial assistance to make changes on the ranch. Once the ranch is able to manage their land above the 'baseline' practices (usually after about 3-5 years of what we call "HelpBuild term"), they then can receive year to year payments for their improved management practices based on how much carbon is sequestered in a given year (we call this the "Outcomes-Based term").



HelpBuild Investment: Native has used its Help Build financing structure since we started developing projects for the voluntary carbon market. At its core, HelpBuild acknowledges that there is a disproportionate burden on producers to finance the adoption of new technologies, new management practices, or otherwise facilitate an intervention that results in a climate benefit. Native acknowledges that burden and works with producers and brings capital upfront for the infrastructure or technology improvements needed to achieve project goals. In exchange for the upfront funding, Native secures the rights to a fixed quantity of the Verified Emissions Removals (VERs) (i.e., carbon credits).



Outcome Based Payments: If upfront capital isn't needed for infrastructure to support the transition and long-term commitment to improved grazing, Native pays the rancher per VER issued onto the carbon registry as soon as they are verified. In the case of outcomes-based payments, the rancher likely has grant or capital funds to implement the infrastructure or technology needed to achieve the project goals, but implementation faces other barriers, as the important principle of additionality still is relevant for eligibility across all IGCP participants. Native still manages all carbon asset development activities, including measuring baseline carbon stocks, analyzes and reports the data, and verifies the emission removals with a third party in order to have an issued VER to sell in the marketplace.

Terms of Commitment: Project contracts with the land operator is 20 years. Project commitment for the landowner is done through making public this intent, such as by filing a statement with the county clerk's land records. If project participants are not willing or able to have their lessor sign these documents, a discount in issued carbon credits is made to account for the increased carbon permanence risk. The project participant commits to a commercially reasonable effort to continue long-term management practices consistent with project objectives for improved soil health.

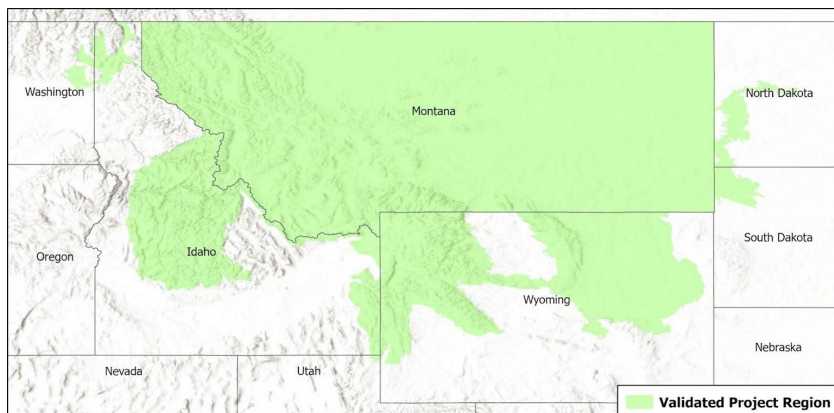
ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for the program depends on both the core requirements from the project methodology (Verra VM0026 currently), as well as Native's own criteria. This includes:

No (or minimal) previous history of regenerative management. This is critical as our belief is that the most degraded land has the most ability to sequester carbon over the next 30-50 years as the baseline carbon stock is low. After a little system jumpstart (and hopefully some rain), regeneration across the landscape can begin to happen in just a few years. Even if the ranch has been working on rotations and more intensive management for years, it is likely still eligible and quite possible there may still be a lot of carbon sequestration potential in the soil.

Validated Project Region.

The project is undergoing validation for the state of Montana and some MLRAs that extend into neighboring states based on where the soil carbon model has been tested. We intend to begin a new program of activities in 2022 with an expanded geographic zone, but ranches will be prioritized based on those that fall within the geographic region illustrated to the right:



Commitment to the land and ranch operations. Native is hoping to sign a 20-year contract with participating ranches and guarantee to pay a minimum fee per mtCO₂e ranchers store in the soil. Native is looking to build long term partnerships.

Greater than 2,500 acres under livestock management. At some point, Native hopes to minimize the ranch data management and carbon verification needs to where it's efficient to include ranches at small marginal costs. However, at this time, we need to include larger ranches to increase the pool of carbon credits available to sell and cover fixed project costs.

Willingness to work and grow in uncertainty. The science behind soil carbon sequestration, the dynamic nature of soil, best land management practices, and carbon markets are a lot of moving variables that mix together to create the challenge and opportunity we have right now. Native hopes to find willing partners to enjoy the ride with us.