

# COLUMBIA RIVER FORESTRY PROJECT YAKIMA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

7.8

MILES  
PROTECTED RIVER

11,000

ACRES  
CONSERVED

3

TRIBAL  
PARTNERSHIPS

**Project Type:** Improved Forest Management

**Standard:** American Carbon Registry

Nestled in the forests of southwest Washington State, the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) project developed from multiple partnerships and years of planning. The Land Trust recently acquired 4,900 acres of forest along the Klickitat River in Yakima County, the largest single land acquisition in its 30-year history. The land is part of a larger, 11,000-acre Klickitat Canyon Conservation Area that borders the Yakama Indian Reservation. The conservation area brings together a culturally diverse group of stakeholders and benefits forest health, fire and climate resilience, jobs and economic growth and exceptional wildlife habitat.

Carbon credit revenues from the project will be used to establish a Forest Carbon Fund and for organizational support and additional stewardship. The Forest Carbon Fund will be dedicated to investing in forestland for carbon sequestration, climate resiliency, and other ecological benefits. The conservation area includes 7.8 miles of Klickitat River frontage and the river boasts one of the strongest wild steelhead runs as well as one of the only remaining bull trout runs in the lower Columbia River system. Additionally, the area offers public access to recreation including angling, hunting, wildlife watching and birding.

## Sustainable Development Impacts



The Washougal River watershed sits within the project area and provides drinking water downstream to the City of Washougal. Removal of the Kwaneesum Dam will remove approximately 6 to 10 feet of silt that has accumulated over the last 65 years, creating a cleaner drinking water source and restoring habitat for salmon and steelhead.



The project protects 11,000 acres of forest. While some areas of the forest are conserved with no harvesting activities permitted, others are sustainably harvested to support local communities. Some areas are thinned with habitat preservation in mind, facilitating the growth of trees important for the nesting benefit of birds. Across all properties, the project sequesters approximately 49,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.



The diverse landscape of the project area includes pine forest, oak woodlands, basalt cliffs and grasslands, which provide critical habitat for wildlife such as mule deer, black bear, golden eagle, flammulated owl and meandering mountain goats.



The Columbia Land Trust project is the product of many diverse partnerships, including a close partnership with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Other parts of the project are located in usual and accustomed lands of the Chinook Nation, as well as other Columbia tribes and bands of Indian people now assembled in the Chinook, Cowlitz and Yakama tribes.

