

# Verification Report

## **Pierce Conservation District Reforestation Program – 2022 Project South Prairie Creek Preserve – North Floodplain Planting Project**

City Forest Credits Project Number 017

November 13, 2022

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Matthew Lee (a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) acting as a third-party verifier) was engaged to verify the **2022 South Prairie Creek Preserve – North Floodplain Planting Projects** (Project) Pierce County, Washington, for the period of October 1st, 2021 – March 31st, 2022. The goal of the verification is to ensure that the GHG assertion is materially correct, and that the assertions made by the project are well documented.

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Project restored native vegetation to 12.16 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along South Prairie Creek, a tributary to the Carbon River in the Puyallup-White River watershed. The Project used the cluster planting design and quantification method, planting 5,842 trees with a spacing of 10' apart on center in floodplain and riparian areas between a newly constructed half-mile side channel and Silver Springs Creek, a tributary to South Prairie Creek. All Project plantings took place between October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## 1.2 CONTACT INFORMATION

### Project Operator

Organization/Entity: Pierce Conservation District  
Address: PO Box 1057  
City: Puyallup  
State: WA  
Zip: 98371

### Primary Contact

Contact(s): Ryan Bird, Habitat Restoration Manager  
Phone: 253-845-9770 ext. 133  
Email: ryanb@pierced.org

### Verification Body

Matthew Lee  
982 Rock Creek Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903  
Email: leemattthew82@gmail.com  
Phone number: 434-426-2448

## 1.3 OBJECTIVE

The goal of this GHG emission removal verification is to ensure that the GHG assertion made by the Project is materially correct, that the assertions and assumptions used in the offset calculations are appropriate, that the offset calculations conform to the City Forest Credits (CFC) Protocol, and that the Project is in compliance with all CFC requirements relating to eligibility, accounting, and documentation.

## 2 VERIFICATION CRITERIA

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### 2.1 GENERAL

The Registry will accredit VVBs to act as third-party verifiers who meet the Registry's qualifications and complete training. Those accredited VVBs can then act to verify compliance with this Tree Planting Protocol per International Standards Organization 14064-3. Specifically, the Registry adopts and utilizes the following standards from ISO 14064-3:

- Upon receiving a Project Design Document with data on eligibility, quantification of carbon and co-benefits, and a request for credits, the Registry will conduct a validation. If it validates the project at that stage, the Registry will retain a VVB to act as third-party verifier to verify compliance with this Protocol.
- The Registry requires a reasonable level of assurance in the accuracy the asserted GHG removals to a reasonable level.
- The verification items identified in Tables 1 and 2 are all material elements, and any asserted GHG removals must be free of errors, misstatements, or omissions regarding those elements.
- The Registry will record, store, and track all quantification and verification data and either display it for public review or make it available for public review upon request.

### 2.2 PROTOCOL

The verification was conducted to the City Forest Credits Tree Planting Protocol, version 9, dated February 7, 2021. This matches the Tree Planting Protocol identified in the Project Implementation Agreement dated on March 11, 2022.

### 2.3 LEVEL OF ASSURANCE

This verification was conducted to a reasonable level of assurance. The Verification Report accurately reflects the documentation contained in the Project Design Document and supporting documents.

## 3 SCOPE OF VERIFICATION

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- The Project is located in Pierce County, Washington with the reference address of 13518 Pioneer Way East, Orting WA 98360., specifically described in the Project Design Document.
- Period is October 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022.
- The verification includes review of documents, data, imagery, and other evidence provided by the Project Operator; independent checking of selected data; checking of calculations for accuracy and conformance with the Protocol.

## 4 VERIFICATION PROCESS

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### 4.1 VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES

The verification process consisted of the following activities:

- Verifier checked all requirements in the Protocol, confirmed that documentation satisfies the requirements of the Protocol, and that values extracted from the documents and conclusions drawn from the document are accurate and appropriate
- Verifier checked project maps, shapefiles of planting locations, signed attestations, cross-checked geotagged photos in Google Earth with project maps and shapefiles.
- Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the carbon quantification and City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credit calculations. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that the Project results in total GHG emissions mitigation of 5,953 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e over the 25-year Project Duration. Verifier reviewed the Project Operator's assertion that the Project results in GHG emissions mitigation of 595 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e after initial tree planting.
- Verifier did not submit any requests to the Project Operator for additional clarification; however, the verifier did alert City Forest Credits that the planting design and quantification method in the project application was different than what the Project Operator ended up using for the initial project design document. This change was due to the project design the Project Operator anticipated using. This did not affect the ability to verify the credits and methodology since the Project Operator was in full compliance with the project design document protocol requirements. The Project Operator was asked to update the application to conform with the final planting design and quantification methodology selected for the project.

### 4.2 CITY FOREST CREDITS TREE PLANTING PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS

Verifier reviewed the Project against all CFC Tree Planting Protocol requirements and confirmed the following:

- Project Operator Identity (Section 1.1): Verifier confirmed identity by reviewing Project Operator website.
- Project Design Document (Section 13, Appendix A): Verifier reviewed and confirmed Project Design Document is complete and accurate.
- Project Implementation Agreement (Section 1.2, Appendix A): Verifier confirmed fully executed Project Implementation Agreement on file.

- Location (Section 1.3): Verifier reviewed mapping and location data and confirmed it meets the urban area location criteria by being within an “Urban Area” boundary defined by the most recent publication of the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Land Ownership or Right to Receive Credits (Section 2): Verifier confirmed the Attestation of Land Ownership document signed by the Project Operator and the signed Use of Real Property and Carbon Credit Agreement between Pierce County and the Project Operator.
- Commencement (Appendix A): Verifier reviewed Approval of Application Letter. Verifier reviewed the Attestation of Planting and confirmed the date the last project tree was planted.
- Project Documentation (Appendix A and Appendix C): Verifier confirmed all required project documentation present.
- Additionality (Section 4): Verifier reviewed for additionality as follows:
  - Legal requirements test – no law or ordinance for Project Operator to plant trees. (Section 4.1)
  - Performance Standards Baseline (Appendix D) – per the program wide performance standard baseline showing net tree loss, these trees are additional. The performance standard baseline is attached to the Project Design Document.
  - The Project did not plant trees on sites that were forested and then cleared of healthy trees (Section 4.2)
  - Project Operator signed a Project Implementation Agreement with City Forest Credits for 25 years. (Section 1.2, Appendix A)
  - The 25-year Project Duration commitment is additional to and longer than any commitment the Project Operator makes to non-carbon project tree plantings.
  - While not required in the protocol, the Project Operator completed and signed the Attestation of Additionality
- Permanence (Section 1.2, 5, and 10): Verifier confirmed Project Implementation Agreement imposes a legal obligation to Project Operator to conduct this project for 25 years, including a reversal obligation.
- Quantification (Section 12 and Appendix B):
  - Verifier confirmed Project Operator utilized the clustered planting design and CFC quantification methodology described in Appendix B.
  - Verifier reviewed the accuracy of the data integrity in the quantification methodology.
  - Verifier reviewed geotagged photos submitted matched the required photo documentation protocol and cross-checked their location in Google Earth against the

submitted shapefiles and maps of the project site location. The verifier doublechecked that the cluster quantification calculation tool numbers matched the tables in the initial project document.

- Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of Planting and Attestation of Planting Affirmation.
- Co-Benefits (Appendix B): Verifier confirmed the calculation of ecosystem co-benefits as set forth in the City Forest Credits quantification tool.
- Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm
  - Verifier reviewed the completed and signed Attestation of No Double Counting of Credits and No Net Harm.

## 5 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

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All issues raised by Verifier were clarified or corrected by the Project Operator and all issues were closed by appropriate responses by the Pierce Conservation District. The Project Operator updated their Project Application with the correct planting design and quantification methodology.

## 6 VERIFICATION RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

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This verification of the **2022 South Prairie Creek Preserve – North Floodplain Planting Projects** for the period of October 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022 was completed in a manner consistent with ISO 14064-3 and in conformance with relevant CFC standards and guidelines.

The table below is a summary of the verified GHG emissions removals for the Project for initial credit issuance. These City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits are ex-ante credits based on forecasted removals and subject to multiple safeguards, including sampling and which convert to ex-post after Year 25.

**Table 1. Project GHG Removals**

Project Name	GHG Removals Attributed to the Project (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	GHG Removals After Deductions for Mortality (20 %) (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	GHG Removals After Deductions for Reversal Pool Account (5%) (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	City Forest Carbon Forward Removal Credits to be Issued to Project (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)
2022 South Prairie Creek Preserve –	7,833	6,266	5,953	595

North Floodplain Planting Project				
Cumulative	7,833	6,266	5,953	595

**Table 2. Ecosystem Co-Benefits per Year after 25 Years**

<i>Ecosystem Services</i>	<i>Resource Units</i>	<i>Value</i>
Rainfall Interception (m3/yr)	24,376.06	\$178,953.04
Air Quality (t/yr)	-0.9294	\$1,810.74
Cooling – Electricity (kWh/yr)	51,069.28	\$2,614.75
Heating – Natural Gas (kBtu/yr)	156,015.66	\$1,776.03
<b>Grand Total (\$/yr)</b>		<b>\$185,154.56</b>

**Verifier Signature**




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**Matthew Lee**