

DARKWOODS FOREST CONSERVATION CANADA

Preserving the abundant natural beauty of
Canada's wild forests



The Darkwoods project sustains and protects almost 55,000 hectares of some the most diverse forests in British Columbia, including rare old-growth inland temperate rainforests. The protected forests form a carbon sink which has prevented the emission of over 3.5 million tCO₂e to date. The area is also habitat for at-risk wildlife, including an endangered herd of mountain caribou.

The Context

Located in southeastern British Columbia, the Darkwoods property is bounded by the town of Creston in the south and Lake Kootenay in the east. The area is extraordinarily biodiverse, yet prior to the project its forests were subject to extensive commercial logging with negative effects on the local water system, soil retention and ecosystem biodiversity.

The Project

Darkwoods Forest Conservation is a carbon sequestration project that achieves emissions reductions by preventing emissions otherwise caused by these logging activities. The project area connects a surrounding network of protected lands into one contiguous conservation area of over 100,000 hectares, preserving habitat for at-risk native wildlife including an endangered herd of mountain caribou. The property also serves as an ecological corridor for roaming keystone species such as grizzly bears, wolverines and elk.

The Benefits

Through its promotion of ecosystem interconnectivity and protection of critical habitat for endangered wildlife, the Darkwoods project boasts an array of exceptional biodiversity benefits. The forest conservation improves local soil quality and contributes to the greater health of freshwater systems throughout the South Selkirk Mountains. By preserving the natural environment, Darkwoods also promotes the wellbeing of surrounding communities who derive high levels of intrinsic and economic value from the area's abundant natural beauty. To date, over 500 public access permits have been issued, creating unique recreation opportunities for visitors from all walks of life.

The Darkwoods conservation area is a 'living laboratory' for scientists who conduct a wide range of research projects, from insect impact studies to conservation strategies



292
full-time jobs

created to date, a number which is growing



146,608
tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually



54,792
ha

of land protected from commercial logging to sequester carbon



6,082+
ha

of deforestation avoided to date, protecting habitat for 3 IUCN Red List species and 15 significant species at risk

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Forest Carbon Project | **Markit link:** https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=1000000000000659, https://s3.amazonaws.com/CCBA/Projects/The_Darkwoods_Forest_Carbon_Project/Validation/Darkwoods+CCBA+PDD+v.1.8.pdf | **UNFCCC/markit/VCS ID:** 1000000000000659