

BETHLEHEM AUTHORITY IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT



Blue Source LLC

Project Title	Bethlehem Authority IFM
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1 PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Summary Description of the Implementation Status of the Project

The Bethlehem Authority Improved Forest Management Project Area (“Project Area”) is a 17,527 acre split-parcel situated in Monroe County and Carbon County, Pennsylvania. The Project Area has been put under a 60-year term conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with the intention of conserving the property and managing its forest resources sustainably into perpetuity. The Project Area has ecological, scientific, educational and aesthetic value in its present state as a natural area that has not been subject to development or severe exploitation.

The Project Area is comprised of primarily native forest types characteristic of the region and surrounds the headwaters of Tunkhannock Creek and Wild Creek that flow into the Delaware Basin. Interspersed with the hardwood forests are significant stands of mixed conifers and special habitat types including wetlands that provided habitat for a multitude of rare species and natural communities.

The project extends the rotation age of the timber resource on the property by approximately 70 years compared to Common Practice, thereby reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon sequestration. The project activity employs a sustainable level of harvesting, as specified in the FSC compliant management plan required by the conservation easement, and facilitates improvement in the overall health of the forest.

While executing this carbon stock enhancing harvest strategy, management practices vary to some degree based on the unique ecological features of the Wild Creek and Tunkhannock tracts.

Within the Wild Creek Tract, management is tailored for species diversity with primary target species of red oak, white oak, chestnut oak, red maple and white pine. The age structure, which is currently over-weighted in the two main age classes (90-120 and 60-75 years), will be better distributed through regeneration in appropriate areas to create vigorous young stands of early successional habitat while other stands are thinned and allowed to mature. The tract's plantations are being managed to optimal stocking for improved health, better growth and extended rotations. The deer herd is being controlled via increased hunting to allow the slow establishment of advanced oak regeneration, creating conditions where shelterwood management will successfully regenerate the oak forests. As healthy stands are allowed to mature and overstocked stands are thinned to control species and spacing, the property should experience forest stocking of increasing volume and value. Once these management goals are achieved, the Authority intends to continue to manage the forest under a long rotation harvest regime designed to sustain the forest's health and promote the ecosystem services it provides.

The Tunkhannock tract is being managed to promote healthy and expanding populations of rare, threatened, and endangered species, while encouraging increased carbon stocks. Black cherry, red maple, sugar maple, red oak, white oak, white pine and red spruce are be targeted species in the upland areas for value growth and regeneration and the percent stocking of beech will be reduced over time. The future forest will have a more diverse age class and species mix where portions of the current northern hardwood forest of 100-120 year old stands will be successfully regenerated. Forest growth in terms of timber value and carbon capture are both being accelerated through (1) thinnings to control species and spacing, and (2) successful regeneration to overcome pressure from deer browse and competing vegetation which currently preclude new age classes of seedling establishment. The minor component of conifer plantations is being managed for growth and carbon capture where they remain healthy, any plantation acres that fail to flourish will be considered for conversion to native forest.

1.2 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

The Project is within sectoral scope 14; Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU). The AFOLU project category is Improved Forest Management, Extended Rotation Age (IFM ERA) and the methodology applied is VM0003 v1.1. The Project is an individual project.

1.3 Project Proponent

Organization name	Bethlehem Authority ("the Authority")
Contact person	Stephen Repasch
Title	Executive Director
Address	10 East Church St., Bethlehem PA 18018
Telephone	610-865-7090
Email	srepasch@bethlehem-pa.gov

1.4 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization name	Blue Source LLC
Role in the project	Project Developer: Blue Source is responsible for the coordination, management, and development of the Bethlehem Authority IFM project. Following the initial validation and verification, Blue Source has assumed responsibility for all forest modeling and carbon calculations pertinent to the project. Throughout the project crediting period, Blue Source has overseen the reporting and upkeep of all project activities on behalf of the Bethlehem Authority.
Contact person	Joshua Strauss
Title	Director – Forest Projects
Address	582 Market St., San Francisco CA 94104
Telephone	949-233-1501
Email	jstrauss@bluesource.com

Organization name	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
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Role in the project	Easement Holder/Forest Advisor: TNC holds and manages the Bethlehem Authority conservation easement, oversaw the drafting of the forest management plan utilized in the execution of the Bethlehem Authority IFM project, and provided FSC certification. Throughout the crediting period TNC, in conjunction with WMS, has supervised the forest management, inventory, and monitoring activities within the project area.
Contact person	Josh Parrish
Title	Director of Land Conservation
Address	2101 North Front Street, Building #1, Suite 200, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Telephone	717-232-6001 ext.210
Email	josh_parrish@tnc.org

Organization name	Woodlands Management Services LLC (WMS)
Role in the project	Forest Advisor: WMS designed the forest inventory process utilized for the Bethlehem Authority IFM project and conducted onsite forest measurements. Throughout the crediting period WMS, in conjunction with TNC, supervised, or directly carried out, all forest management, inventory, and monitoring activities within the project area. WMS also established the network of permanent inventory plots throughout the project area in order to facilitate future project inventory updates.
Contact person	Robin Wildermuth
Title	Proprietor and Lead Forester
Address	308 Egypt Road, Tafton, PA 18464
Telephone	570-470-7441
Email	wms1@hughes.net

Organization name	Special Informatics Group (SIG)
Role in the project	Modeling Consultants: SIG executed all forest carbon modeling for the project and completed the associated carbon calculations.
Contact person	Charles Kerchner
Title	Senior Scientist

Address	802-999-6986
Telephone	3248 Northhampton Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588
Email	ckechner@sig-gis.com

Organization name	Environmental Services Inc.
Role in the project	Verification Entity: Environmental Services Inc. is the VCS approved VVB responsible for verifying the Bethlehem Authority IFM project.
Contact person	Jonathan Pomp
Title	Forestry, Carbon, and GHG Services - Senior Forester
Address	528 Hess Street, Morgantown, West Virginia 26501
Telephone	304-642-1277
Email	jpomp@ESINC.CC

1.5 Project Start Date

The Project Start Date is represented by the conveyance of the term conservation easement on the Project Area. This action occurred on April 14, 2011.

[The conservation easement is provided separately for verification purposes.]

1.6 Project Crediting Period

The project has a 100-year crediting period. This time horizon coincides with both the completion of a full timber rotation under the IFM ERA forest management plan. The crediting period start date took place on May 29, 2012 in conjunction with the official issuance of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The Project crediting period end date is May 29, 2112.

1.7 Project Location

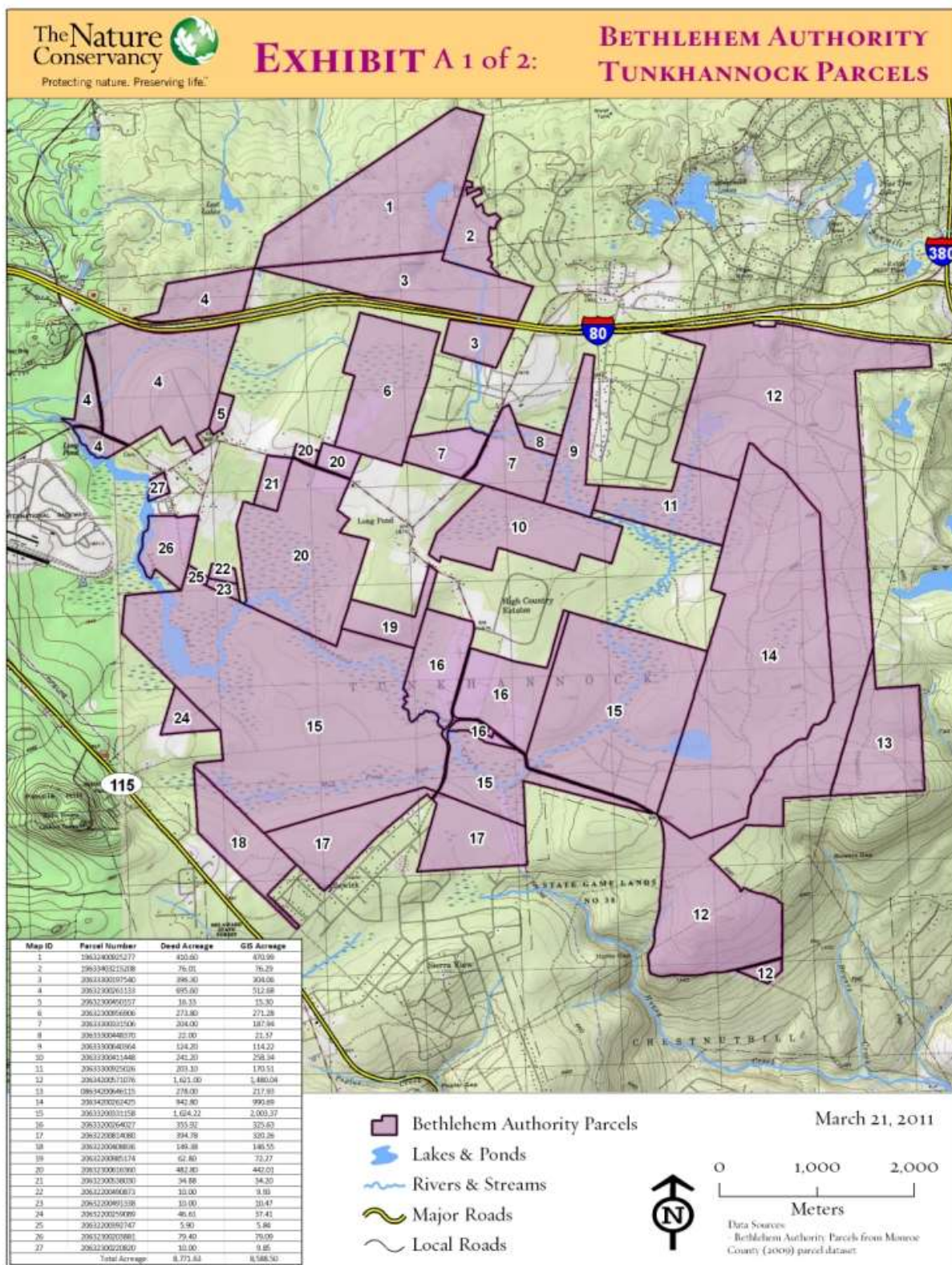
The Project Area is located in Monroe and Carbon County, Pennsylvania and is comprised of two semi-contiguous areas of land parcels. The 'Tunkhannock Parcels' are situated in Monroe County, bordering Interstate 80. These are identified in Exhibit A 1 of 2 with Map ID's 1 through 27. The second is the 'Wild Creek Parcels' which straddle the Monroe and Carbon County borders (See Exhibit A, 2 of 2), bordering Interstate 476. These land parcels are identified as with Map ID's 1 thru 44. Each individual land parcel also has a unique Parcel identification number (PIN).

The Tunkhannock Parcels in the Project area represent a total acreage of approximately 4,965 forested acres and are bisected by the Tunkhannock Creek. The Wild Creek Parcels in the

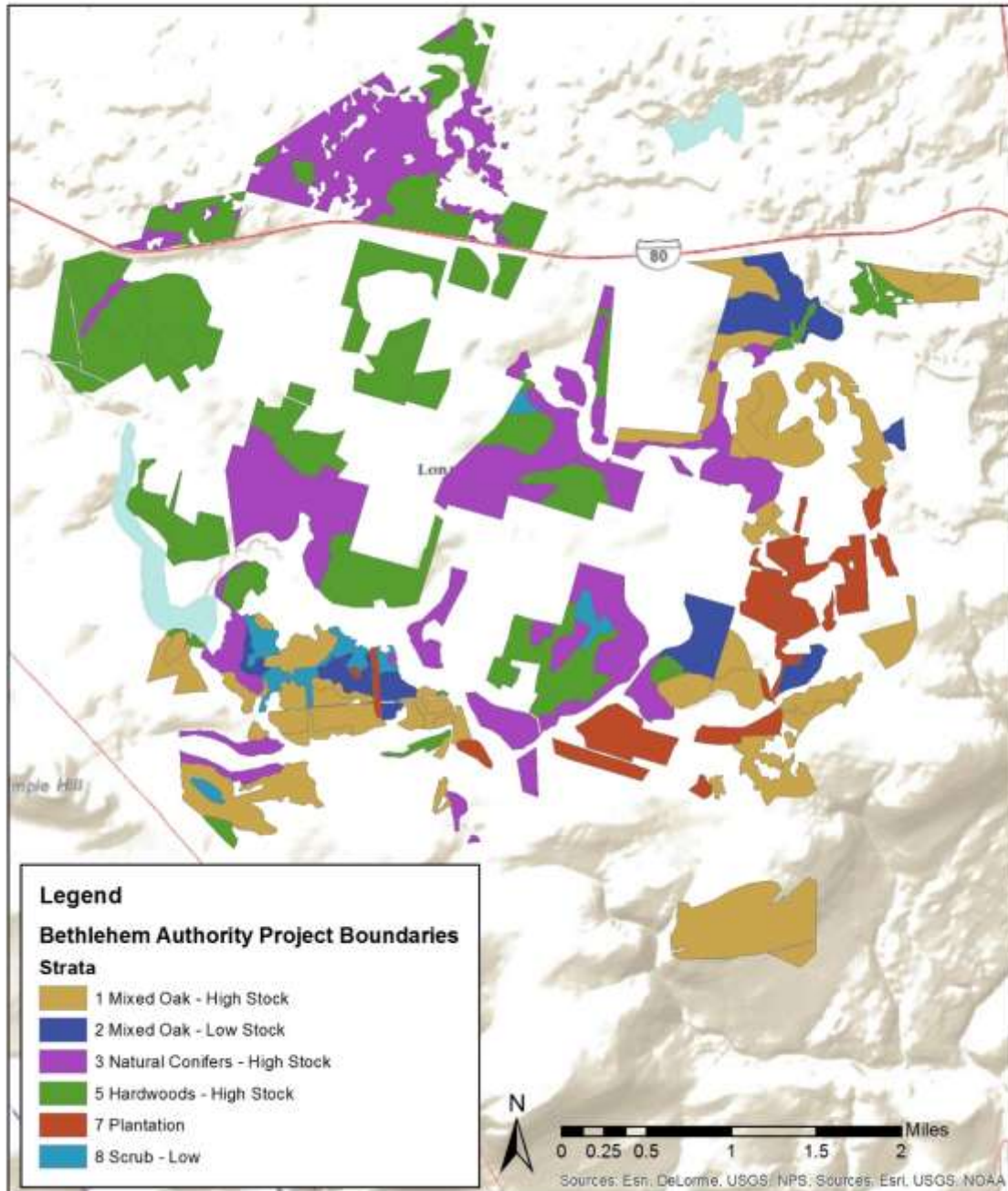
Project area represent a total acreage of approximately 12,562 forested acres and are bisected by the Wild Creek.

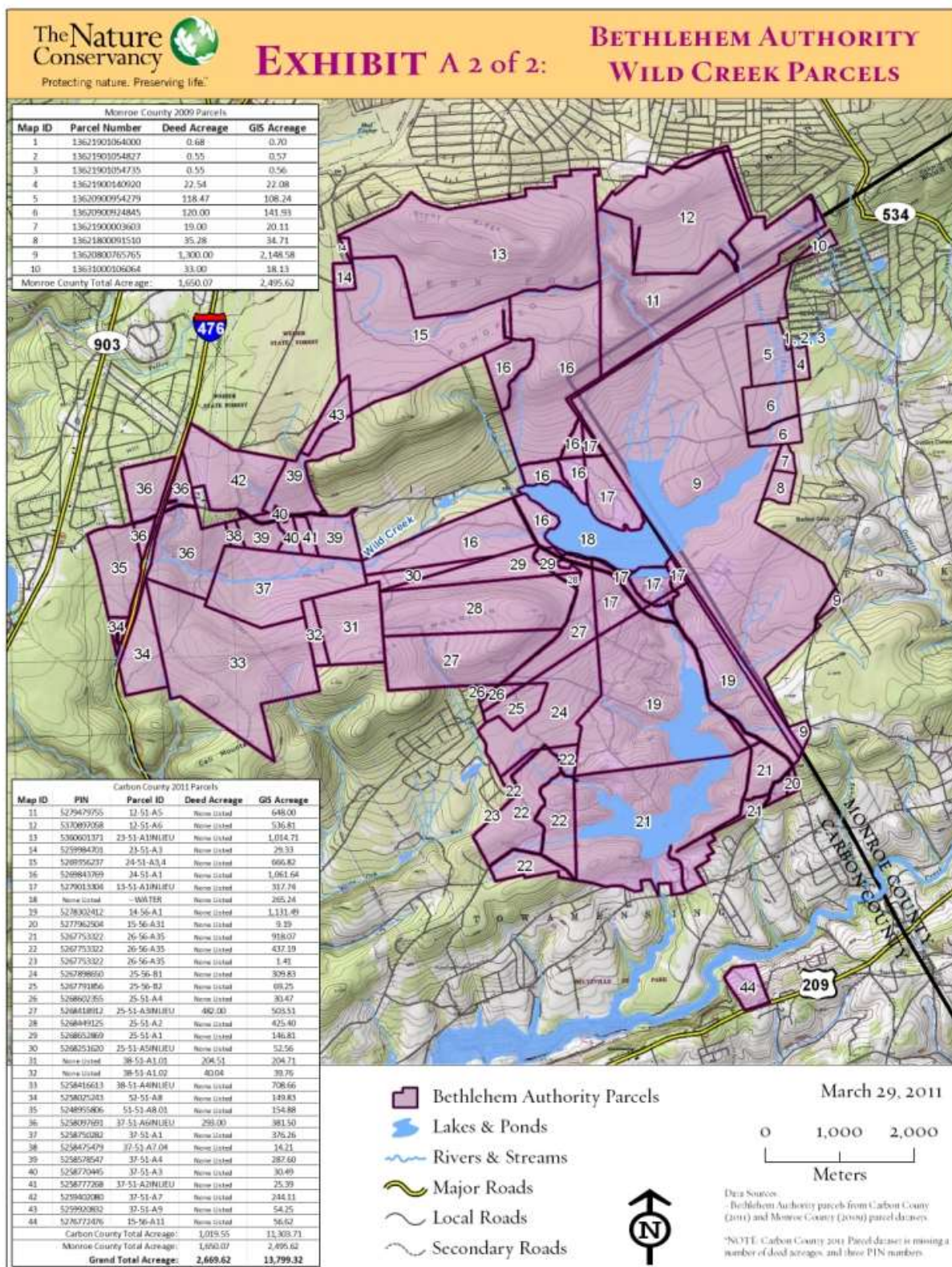
Exhibit B shows the proximity of the Tunkhannock and Wild Creek Parcels.

[KMZ files, with the associated KML component provided separately for verification purposes.]

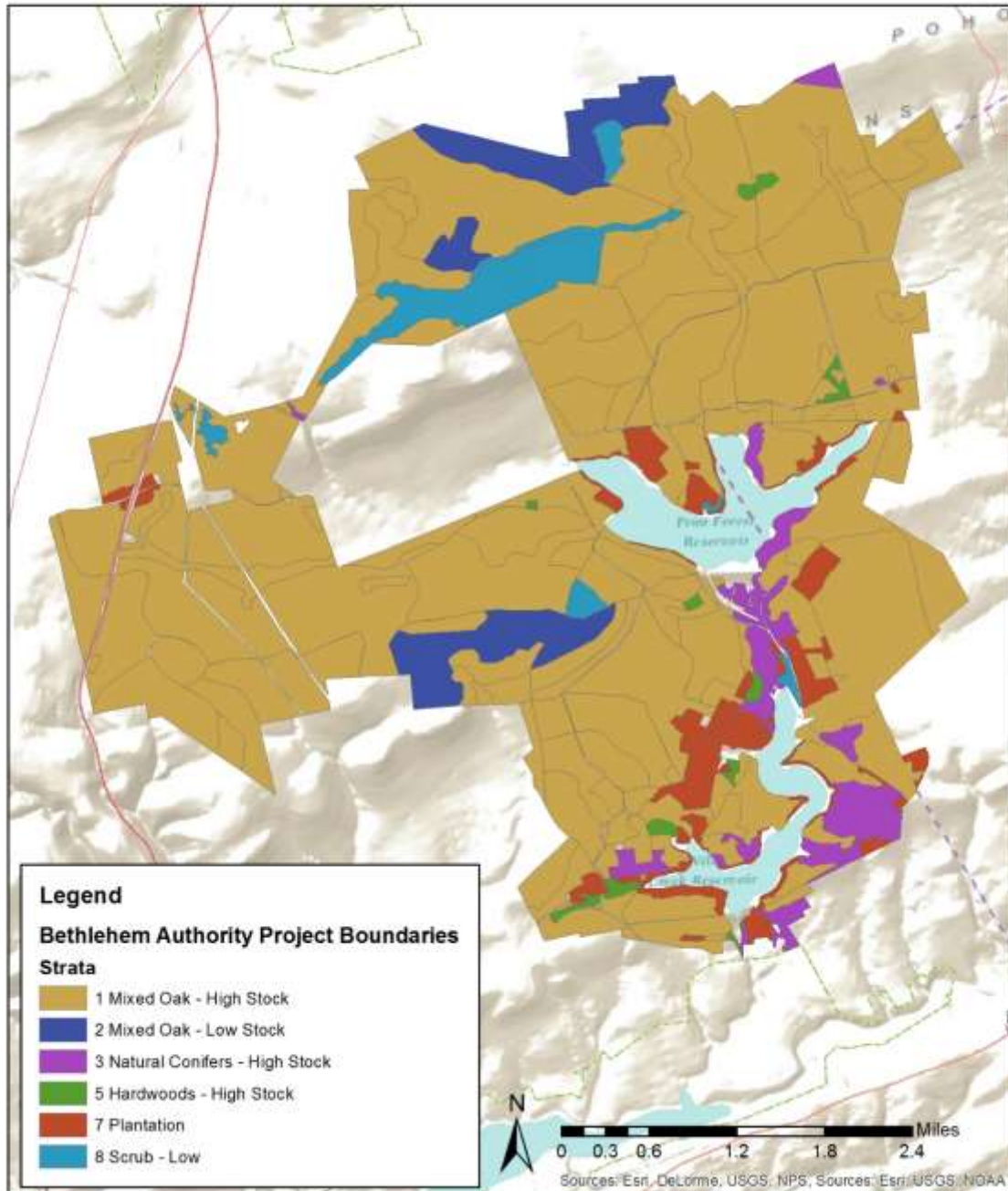


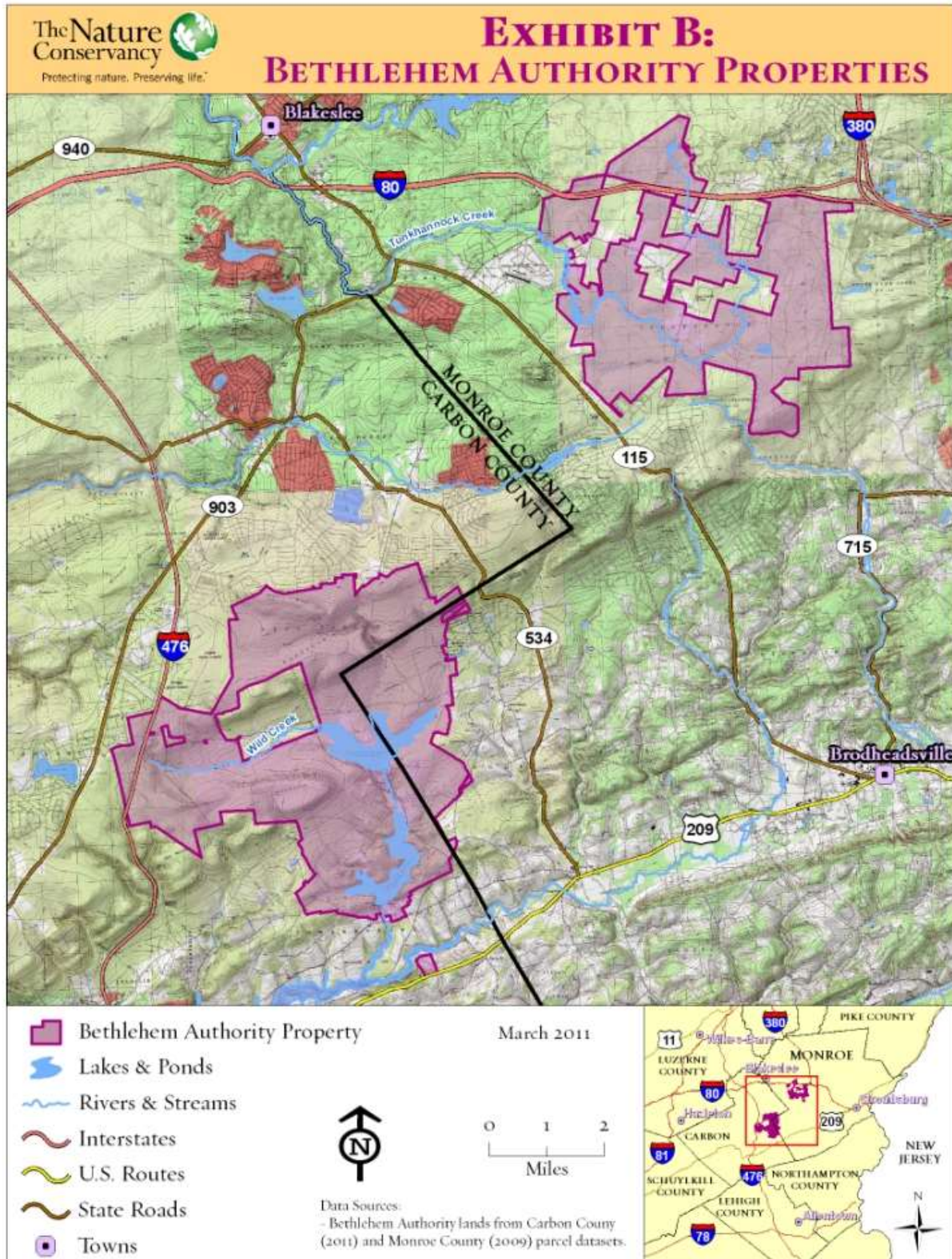
Tunkhannock Stratification Map (4,964.9 acres)

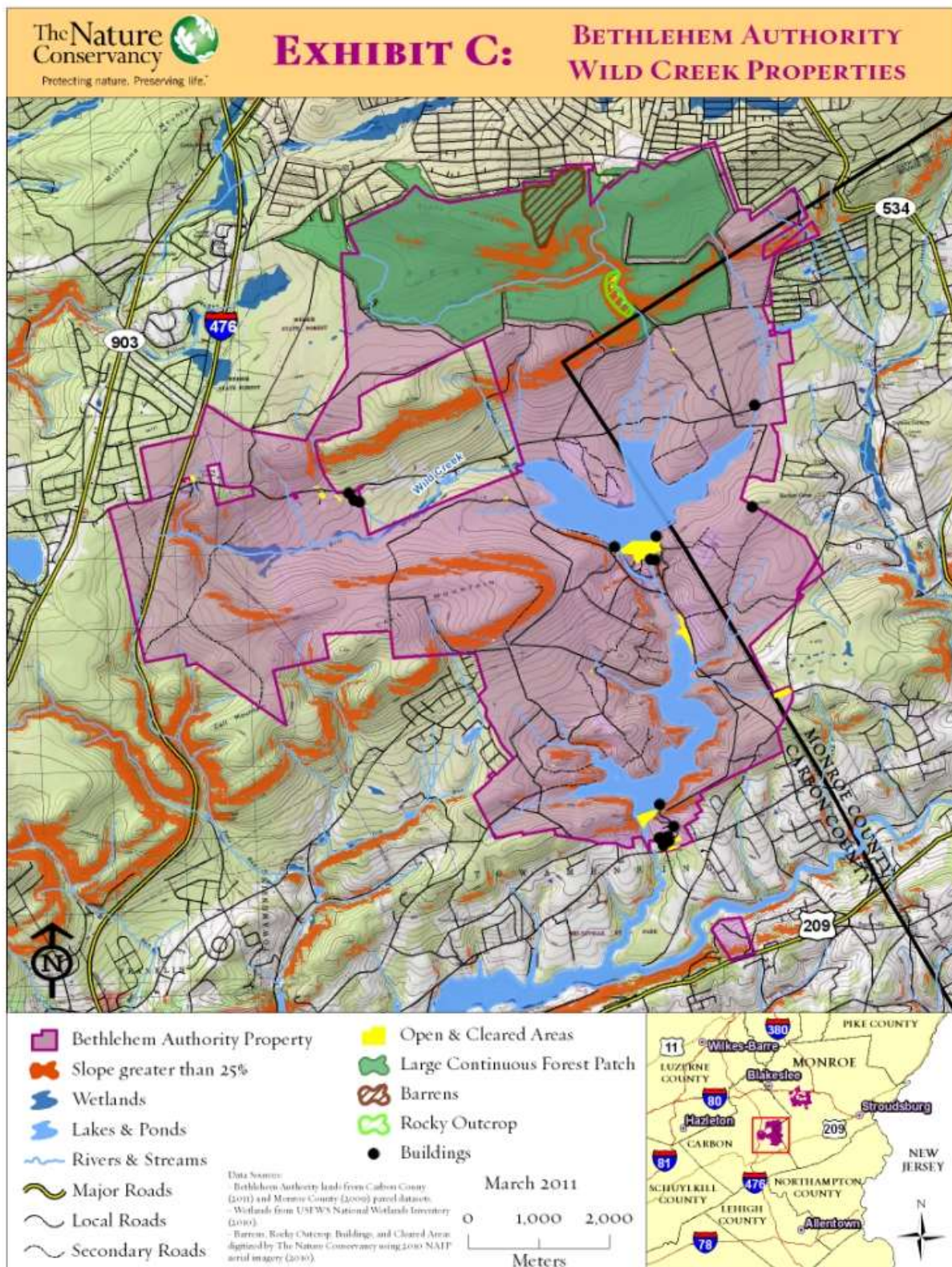


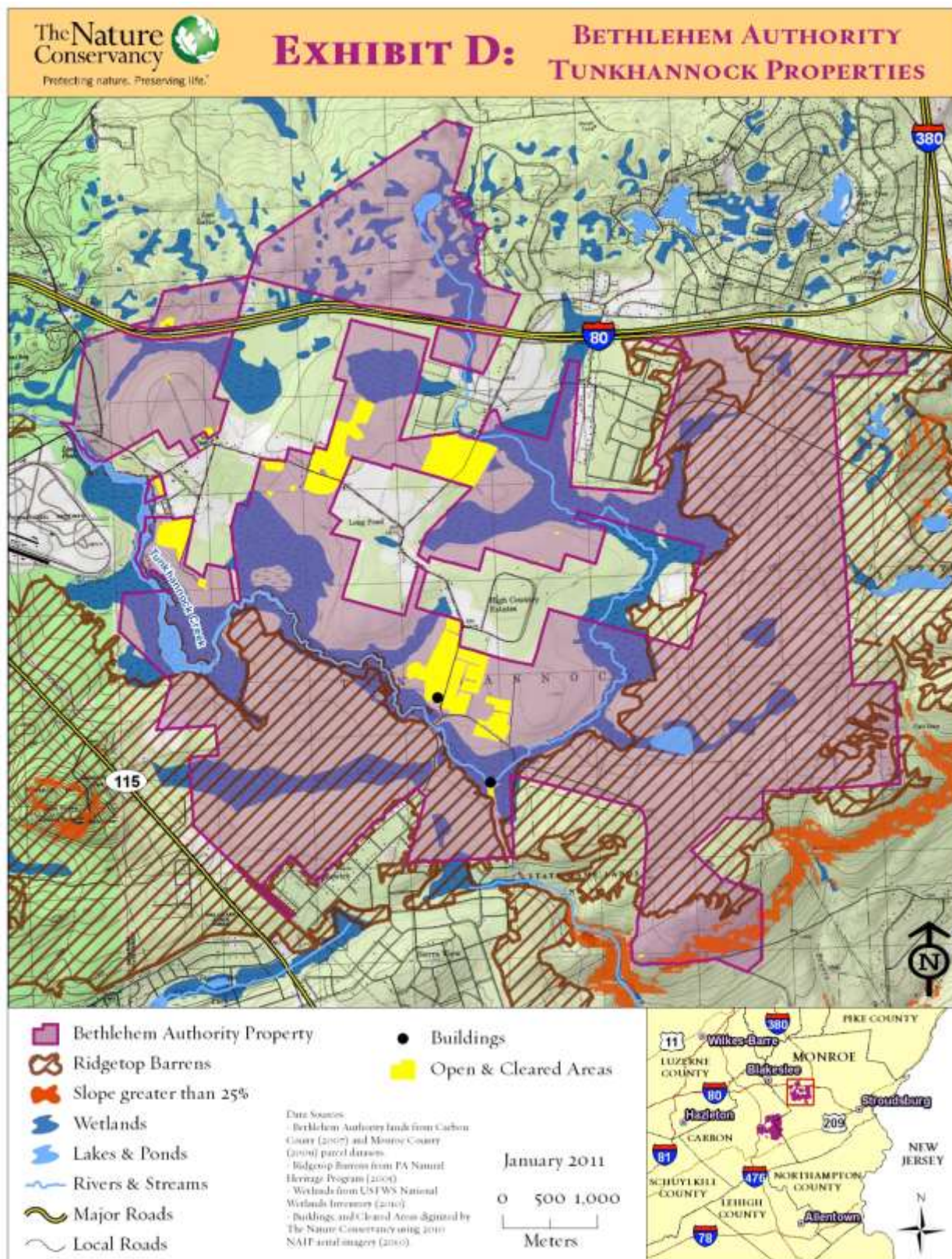


Wild Creek Stratification Map (12,562.4 acres)









1.8 Title and Reference of Methodology

Approved VCS Methodology VM0003, Version 1.1

“Methodology for Improved Forest Management through Extension of Rotation Age”

Sectoral Scope 14

1.9 Other Programs

N/A

2 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

2.1 Implementation Status of the Project Activity

Approximately 160 acres were harvested during the current monitoring period (1-1-2015 through 12-31-2015). The projects undertaken included: 60 acres in 3 separate blocks of conifer plantation thinnings, a mixed oak improvement thinning project, 24 acres of oak shelterwood, and a hemlock salvage/thin treatment in a mixed oak/conifer stand. All of these treatments were budgeted and included in the FSC Plan. In addition there were 4 small 1-2 acre clearings as part of the Wind Project which were mapped and reported for both FSC and Carbon records. Greater detail on these harvests can be found in the *BA 2015 Treatments by Strata and Type* spreadsheet and the associated *Harvest Inspection Reports* provided separately for verification purposes.

Future harvesting activities depicted in the modeled Project Scenario will be carried out in accordance with the Bethlehem Authority Forest Management Plan.

Management staff consistently monitor the general health and condition of the forest throughout the course of normal forest management activities (e.g. road maintenance, timber harvesting, boundary marking, etc.), reducing the risk of reversal by disease, pest invasion, and unauthorized timber removal.

The applicability conditions of VM0003 and the VCS standard prohibit any activity shifting leakage as result of the implementation of an IFM project. As the Bethlehem project area is the only forestland owned/managed by BA, this requirement is automatically met.

Under the applicability conditions of VM0003 and the VCS standard, the only type of leakage emissions calculated for the project are GHG emissions due to market effects resulting from a shift in harvests through time.

Per VM0003 market effects leakage is defined as: Total GHG emissions due to impacts of project on timber supply and demand.

The impact of the project on timber supply was calculated using equation 42.

$$LK_{\text{MarketEffects}} = LF_{\text{ME}} * (\Delta C_{\text{ACTUAL}} - \Delta C_{\text{BSL}})$$

Where:

$LK_{MarketEffects}$ Total GHG emissions due to market-effects leakage through decreased timber harvest; tCO_2-e

LF_{ME} Leakage factor market-effects calculations; dimensionless

ΔC_{ACTUAL} Actual net greenhouse gas removals by sinks; tCO_2-e

ΔC_{BSL} Baseline net greenhouse gas removals by sinks; tCO_2-e

As rotations within the project were extended by more than 10 years in comparison to the baseline scenario, the methodology requires that the LF_{ME} be determined by calculating the proportion of total biomass in commercial species that is merchantable (PMP_i) within each project stratum and comparing that figure to the mean proportion of total biomass that is merchantable for each associated Forest Service FIA forest type group (PML_{FT}).

PMP_i was established based on FVS total and merchantable biomass calculations.

PML_{FT} is a percent figure based on default forest type group values provided by VCS in the following table:

Forest Type Group	Merchantable Biomass as proportion of Total Biomass
White Red Jack Pine	77%
Spruce Fir	58%
Longleaf Slash Pine	73%
Loblolly Shortleaf Pine	73%
Ponderosa Pine	64%
Oak Pine	71%
Oak Hickory	73%
Oak Gum Cypress	72%
Elm Ash Cottonwood	73%
Maple Beech Birch	76%
Aspen Birch	61%
Douglas Fir	70%

Western White Pine	62%
Fir-Spruce/ Mountain Hemlock	62%
Lodgepole Pine	64%
Hemlock/ Sitka Spruce	67%
Western Larch	66%
Redwood	43%
Western Oak	69%

A representative forest type group was selected for each of the five currently forested project strata (Mixed Oak High, Mixed Oak Low, Natural Conifer High, Hardwoods High, Plantation, and Scrub) based on the predominant tree species present in each stratum.

The following table depicts the percentage of merchantable biomass in each stratum and the percentage of merchantable biomass in each stratum's associated forest group type. The cumulative weighted average percentages were calculated based on the proportion of the total project acres represented in each stratum.

Strata name	Merchantable biomass in each stratum (PMP _i)	Associated forest type group	Merchantable biomass in associated forest type group (PML _{FT})	Acres
Mixed Oak (high stock)	60%	Oak Hickory	73%	11,443
Mixed Oak (low stock)	58%	Oak Hickory	73%	944
Natural Conifer (high stock)	62%	Hemlock/Sitka Spruce	67%	1,911
Hardwoods (high stock)	63%	Maple Beech Birch	76%	1,635
Plantation	63%	White Red Jack Pine	77%	1,007
Scrub	61%	Oak Hickory	73%	586
Weighted average	61%	Weighted average	73%	

The table illustrates that PMP_i (~61%) is 17% less than PML_{FT} (~73%). This means a higher proportion of total commercial species biomass is merchantable in the displacement forest (i.e. the area that will be harvested to satisfy market demand for wood products that would have been

harvested on the project area in the baseline scenario) than in the project area forest. Therefore a smaller area will have to be harvested in the displacement forest to provide the same quantity of wood that would have been produced on the project area in the baseline scenario.

Per VM0003:

PML_{FT} is > 15% greater than PMP_i

$LF_{ME} = 0.2$

Therefore the project's leakage factor for market effects (LF_{ME}) is 0.2.

Market effects leakage will continue to be reassessed at each verification but does not require additional specific leakage management activities.

[A letter from the Bethlehem Authority's head forester, confirming that all forest management activities occurring on the Bethlehem site during the third monitoring period (1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015) have been in full accordance with the management activities described in the FSC Management Plan and are accurately reflected in the Bethlehem Project Description and Monitoring documents, is provided separately for verification purposes in the "Management Plan" folder.]

[The Bethlehem Authority Forest Management Plan, a breakdown of 2015 Timber Harvest Treatments, a series of Harvest Reconciliation Reports, and a series of Harvest Inspection Reports are provided separately for verification purposes in the "2015 Harvests" folder.]

2.2 Deviations

2.2.1 Methodology Deviations

Measuring Stumps:

The procedures for measuring standing dead wood in the project's forest inventory slightly deviate from those prescribed in the VM0003 methodology as stumps were not included in the project's field measurements. The exclusion of stumps increased both model accuracy and ensured conservatism in the projects carbon calculations and is therefore in conformance with the VCS Standard's requirement that the deviation "not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals."

Excluding stumps for the project model is conservative because stumps are excluded from the dead pool in the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS, the VM0003 approved model utilized for the Bethlehem project) and, therefore, cannot be tracked, and the FVS-NE variant (associated with the project location) excludes stumps in the wood product volume equations. The result of these FVS exclusions is that stumps are essentially a "lost" pool and are considered immediate GHG emissions in the model. The implication of this is that if stumps were included in the project carbon inventory, they would only contribute to the standing dead pool in the project scenario. Clearly, accounting for stumps as stores of carbon in the project scenario, and as immediate sources of emissions in the baseline scenario would lead to an over crediting of VCUs.

Decomposition Classes:

A five class system was initially used to identify level of decay in standing dead trees, based on the inventory designer's familiarity with the five class Harmon et al. 2011 system. However, after data was recorded, classes 4 and 5 were merged to represent one class of dead trees with only the bole and no branches remaining. This left four total classes conforming to the descriptions of each class laid out in VM0003 v1.1.

2.2.2 Project Description Deviations

Note – All of the following deviations occurred in previous monitoring periods. No new deviations have taken place from 1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015 (i.e. the current monitoring period).

Decomposition Classes:

The original PD only used three decay classes. This was modified to a four class approach in the updated project inventory to better align with the methods described in VM0003 v1.1.

Roads:

During the course of the forest inventory update, it was discovered that a minor roads component that was erroneously omitted from the original forested project area. The 63.4 acres occupied by these roads are no longer included as “forested acres” in the project scenario. Quantitative evidence was provided to the verification body demonstrating that the reduction of project acres did not have a material effect on the number of VCUs issued to the project.

Correction of Baseline Emissions for 2013:

The PD erroneously showed -15,897 tCO₂e as the baseline emissions for 2013. The -15,897 value was calculated by subtracting the to-date GHG emission reductions and removals at year t1 (2012) from t2 (2013). However, the removals for year t2 (2013) in the original VCU calculations were incorrect. In the original calculations, year t2 (2013) was computed as two full years of baseline emissions (-12,086 x 2), but the first reporting period (2012) was 7 months, not 12 months. Therefore, the 2nd reporting period should be calculated as -12,086 x 1.58 for onsite stocks plus the sequestration from baseline wood products. The edit to baseline stocks results in baseline emissions of -10,821 tCO₂e for 2013 instead of -15,897 tCO₂e. This edit does not affect the number of credits issued for 2012, and only conservatively impacts the 2013 calculations. The table below illustrates the updated projected baseline emissions in each year of the first project decade following the calculation correction.

Years	Cumulative Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Annual Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
2012	-5,112	-5,112
2013	-15,933	-10,821
2014	-28,234	-12,301
2015	-40,535	-12,301

2016	-52,836	-12,301
2017	-65,137	-12,301
2018	-77,438	-12,301
2019	-89,738	-12,301
2020	-102,039	-12,301
2021	-114,340	-12,301

2.3 Grouped Project

N/A

3 DATA AND PARAMETERS

3.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,1
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 1
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	11,443.4
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comment:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,2
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 2
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	944.3
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,3
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 3
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	1,911.3
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,4
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 24
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	0
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	No acres currently represent this stratum (Natural Conifers – Low Stock) but in the future, management will cause acres to be shifted into this forest type.

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,5
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 5
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	1,635.1
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003

Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,6
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 6
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	0
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	No acres currently represent this stratum (Hardwoods – Low Stock) but in the future, management will cause acres to be shifted into this forest type.

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,7
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 7
Source of data:	GPS coordinates
Value applied:	1007.1
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	ABSL,8
Data unit:	Acre
Description:	Area of baseline stratum, 8
Source of data:	GPS coordinates

Value applied:	586.2
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	CF
Data unit:	t C t ⁻¹ d.m.
Description:	Carbon fraction of dry matter
Source of data:	VM0003
Value applied:	Default value 0.5 t C t ⁻¹ d.m.
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	D
Data unit:	t d.m. m ⁻³
Description:	Basic wood density
Source of data:	National and species-specific data from US Forest Service Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS)
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	D _{DW}
Data unit:	t d.m. m ⁻³
Description:	Basic wood density of dead wood in the density

	class – soft snag (6), hard snag (9)
Source of data:	FVS
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	fj(DBH,H)
Data unit:	t d.m. tree ⁻³
Description:	Allometric equation for species j linking diameter at breast height (DBH) and possibly height (H) to above-ground biomass of living trees
Source of data:	Jenkins et al. (2003) allometric equations within the FVS' Fire and Fuels Extension Carbon Submodel
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	WW
Data unit:	kg kg ⁻¹ .
Description:	WW = Fraction of extracted biomass effectively emitted to the atmosphere during production
Source of data:	The source of data is the published paper of Winjum et al. 1998
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Prescribed in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	PMLFT
Data unit:	%
Description:	Mean merchantable biomass as a proportion of total aboveground tree biomass for each forest type
Source of data:	Official Government data and statistics within FVS
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of leakage
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	R
Data unit:	kg kg ⁻¹ .
Description:	Root-shoot ratio appropriate for biomass increment of forest type / biome
Source of data:	Jenkins et al. (2003) allometric equations within the FVS' Fire and Fuels Extension Carbon Submodel
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	SLF
Data unit:	unitless
Description:	Short lived fraction - proportion of wood products that oxidize immediately in the first three years after harvesting
Source of data:	The Forestry Appendix of US Department of Energy's Technical Guidelines for The Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Program (Section 1605b)

	http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/Forestryappendix[1].pdf Also available as a US Forest Service General Technical Report at: http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/durham/4104/papers/ne_gtr343.pdf Winjum et al., 1998
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	MLF
Data unit:	unitless
Description:	Medium lived fraction - Proportion of wood products that decay over a 20 year period after harvest
Source of data:	The Forestry Appendix of US Department of Energy's Technical Guidelines for The Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Program (Section 1605b) http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/Forestryappendix[1].pdf Also available as a US Forest Service General Technical Report at: http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/durham/4104/papers/ne_gtr343.pdf Winjum et al., 1998
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and	Recommended in VM0003

procedures applied:	
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	LLF
Data unit:	unitless
Description:	Long lived fraction - proportion of wood products that remain stored for 100 years after harvest
Source of data:	The Forestry Appendix of US Department of Energy's Technical Guidelines for The Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Program (Section 1605b) http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/Forestryappendix[1].pdf Also available as a US Forest Service General Technical Report at: http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/durham/4104/papers/ne_gtr343.pdf Winjum et al., 1998
Value applied:	Provided in carbon inventory model
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Recommended in VM0003
Purpose of the data	Calculation of baseline emissions
Comments:	

3.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₁
Data unit:	Acres

Description:	Area of stratum 1
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	11,443.4
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Calculated in Arc GIS
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₂
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 2
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	944.3
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Calculated in Arc GIS
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₃
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 3
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates

Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	1,911.3
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Calculated in Arc GIS
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₄
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 4
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	0
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₅
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 5
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	1,635.1
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted

Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Calculated in Arc GIS
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₆
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 6
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	0
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₇
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 7
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	1,007.1
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Calculated in Arc GIS
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	A ₈
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of stratum 8
Source of data:	GIS shape file derived from GPS coordinates
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Strata area figures adjusted based on stocking levels and species distribution projected in modeling and verified through inventory updates
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Decadal, following with inventory update
Value monitored:	586.2
Monitoring equipment:	Hand held GPS unit, GIS software
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Meta data is kept current and uncorrupted
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Calculated in Arc GIS
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	Ap
Data unit:	Acres
Description:	Area of sample plot
Source of data:	
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	
Value monitored:	N/A
Monitoring equipment:	
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	
Purpose of the data	
Calculation method:	
Comments:	Variable radius plot design using BAF 10 prism

Data Unit / Parameter:	DBH
Data unit:	in
Description:	Diameter at breast height of tree
Source of data:	Field measurement

Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Tree diameter measured 4.5ft. above the ground
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Updated during annual inventory process
Value monitored:	
Monitoring equipment:	Measured with Logger Tape or calipers
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Equipment will be maintained in excellent condition
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	Index
Data unit:	Dimensionless
Description:	Site Index
Source of data:	Field measurement
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Tree cores taken 4.5ft. above the ground (breast height)
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Updated during annual inventory process
Value monitored:	
Monitoring equipment:	Increment borer
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Equipment will be maintained in excellent condition. If early rings are narrow in comparison to latter rings (signifying suppression) another core is taken from an alternate site tree
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	H
Data unit:	ft
Description:	Height of tree
Source of data:	Field measurement
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Executed in accordance with standard forest mensuration practices
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Updated during annual inventory process

Value monitored:	
Monitoring equipment:	Suunto Clinometer with percent and topographic scales
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	Equipment will be maintained in excellent condition and all height entries will be double checked for reasonableness prior to submission for verification
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	PMP_i
Data unit:	%
Description:	Merchantable biomass as a proportion of total aboveground tree biomass for stratum i within the project boundaries
Source of data:	
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	Executed in accordance with standard forest mensuration practices
Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Yearly
Value monitored:	
Monitoring equipment:	
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	All calculations double checked for accuracy prior to submission for verification
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Divide the FVS merchantable biomass output for a given stratum by the total above ground live tree biomass in said stratum
Comments:	

Data Unit / Parameter:	T
Data unit:	yr
Description:	Number of years between monitoring time t and t1 ($T = t2 - t1$)
Source of data:	Monitoring reports
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied:	

Frequency of monitoring/recording:	Yearly
Value monitored:	
Monitoring equipment:	Calendar
QA/QC procedures to be applied:	All calculations double checked for accuracy prior to submission for verification
Purpose of the data	Calculation of project emissions
Calculation method:	Subtraction
Comments:	

3.3 Monitoring Plan

The following material outlines the monitoring plan to be followed during the first 10 years following project validation. It should be noted that modifications made to the measurement and monitoring techniques reviewed during the initial project field verification (e.g. permanent plot monumentation and the recording of tree heights to the nearest foot) have been implemented to improve ease of plot location and increase carbon measurement precision.

Monitoring Method:

In the year of validation/verification (2013), a representative sample of 242 variable radius permanent inventory plots was established across the project area. 43 of these plots were integrated from a network of pre-existing continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots on the property dating back to 1991. GIS software was utilized to randomly distribute plot locations across the various project strata, in proportion to stratum acreage, while incorporating the 43 existing CFI plots. All 242 permanent plots will be re-inventoried at least one more time over the following decade to calibrate forest growth models and improve carbon sequestration projections.

Permanent inventory plot centers are logged using a professional grade GPS unit and monumented by a rebar pole buried in the ground and topped with a florescent plastic cap. Live trees qualifying as “in” using a BAF 10 prism are recorded for species, merchantable height to a 4” top, sawtimber height to a 10” top, % missing/rotten¹, and DBH (in 1/10th inches). Total height (in feet) is recorded for all “in” trees over 5” in DBH on every fourth plot. Site index measurements are also recorded from a dominant tree on every fourth plot sampled. These site index figures are used to improve growth and yield model results. Standing dead trees qualifying as “in” using a BAF 10 prism are recorded for height as a tree originally stood (based on height of neighboring trees, in feet), height in current condition (in feet), DBH (in inches), % missing/rotten, and decay class² (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5). All height measurements are based on clinometer or laser range finder

¹If there are portions of the tree that are missing/rotten, percent defect should be estimated with by visually dividing the tree into thirds, estimating the percentage that is missing or rotten in each third, and then using these estimates to determine the total defect by assuming that 70% of biomass is in the bottom third, 25% is in the middle third, and 5% is in the top third.

²See Permanent Plot Network Inventory document, provided separately for verification purposes, for detail. After field data was collected, classes 4 and 5 were combined to represent a single class.

readings. All DBH measurements are taken using a logger's tape. All inventoried trees of 5" DBH or greater are marked with a permanent paint dot at breast height and numbered according to the order within the plot in which they were measured. At each plot a metal tag labeled with the inventory plot number and distance to plot center is driven at ground level into the inward facing base of a dominant/co-dominant tree to allow for location of plot center if permanent paint markings fade. This plot design gives forest managers the opportunity to consistently track the growth and development of specific trees over an extended timeline and allows for improved ease of plot location during field work and site verifications. It should be noted that harvest activities are not affected by permanent plot locations. This ensures that permanent plots accurately reflect the silvicultural treatments on the stands in which they reside.

In addition to inventory sampling, management staff consistently monitor the general health and condition of the forest throughout the course of normal forest management activities (e.g. road maintenance, timber harvesting, boundary marking, etc.), reducing the risk of reversal by disease, pest invasion, and unauthorized timber removal. Any scheduled forest treatments are documented through pre and post-treatment monitoring and all forest removals are tracked by product class. During pre-treatment monitoring, forest staff verify stand stocking and condition before marking stands to designate trees for removal, perimeter of sale, and protected areas. During the harvest forest staff periodically inspect the site to review forest treatment activities and ensure compliance with management standards. Inspection reports are generated documenting inspection findings. Post-harvest, a final inspection is carried out to assess conditions of the residual stand, quality of cleanup, and the retirement/stabilization of the landing and skid trails. Following natural disturbance events, affected project stands are assessed for damage by Bethlehem forestry staff. If damage is significant, the affected areas are re-inventoried and project scenario models are adjusted to reflect onsite carbon stocks. Any changes in strata boundaries necessitated by harvesting or natural disturbances (i.e. stands moving from high stocking to low stocking through mortality or harvest) are mapped and documented.

In years in which forest plots are not re-inventoried carbon stocks are monitored through forest growth and yield modeling using the US Forest Service's FVS software.

Leakage is consistently monitored throughout all project crediting periods. As the Bethlehem Project Area is the only working forestland owned/managed by BA, the project is automatically in compliance with VM0003's prohibition of *activity shifting leakage*. The project's *Market effects leakage* is re-assessed, prior to each project verification, based on a comparison of the percentage of merchantable timber per acre on the project site compared to other forests within the region (See section 3.3 for a detailed description of all leakage calculations).

In accordance with the VCS AFOLU Requirement document (v3.4), the project baseline will be updated every 10 years. All decadal inventories following the 2013 inventory update will be carried out in concurrence with the baseline update and the project scenario model and long term average will be calibrated/updated to reflect the most current state of the Bethlehem forest.

Organizational Structure, Responsibilities, and Competencies:

Blue Source LLC (Blue Source) oversees the execution and reporting of all project reporting, modeling, and monitoring activities on behalf of the landowner, the Bethlehem Authority. The Nature Conservancy-Pennsylvania (TNC) and Woodlands Management Services LLC (WMS) are responsible for "on the ground" forest management activities on the project area, and conduct inventory measurements and data collection. After forest inventory data collection, both WMS and

TNC report results to Blue Source for processing and updating of modeling projections. After processing is complete Blue Source houses all data and submits the necessary documentation for compliance with VCS standards. Blue Source then stores the project data in an online cloud storage account for at least two years after the conclusion of the project.

Blue Source is the leading climate change offset portfolio in the nation with more publicly registered third-party verified GHG offsets than any other company in North America. They have deep expertise in carbon project development and substantial experience working with forest carbon.

TNC is an internationally respected NGO that has been active in environmental management for over 60 years. TNC has a long history working with forest based carbon projects dating back to the groundbreaking 1996 Noel Kempff climate action project. TNC's Pennsylvania chapter has a staff of qualified natural resource managers and is responsible for Pennsylvania's Working Woodlands forest conservation program designed to protect the state's forests while improving private forest management, providing revenue for forest landowners, and fighting climate change.

WMS is a consulting firm specializing in forest management, timberland investment, and land conservation services. WMS staff holds professional degrees in Forestry, Environmental Management, Biology, and Environmental Studies, and collectively bring 45 years of forest management experience to the organization. Founded in 1994, WMS currently manages over 50,000 acres of forestland.

Methods for Generating, Recording, Storing, Aggregating, Collating and Reporting Data:

All data is collected on hand held Pocket PC data recorders incorporated with Pocket Dog data collection software, then downloaded and compiled on Office Dog. All equipment utilized throughout the course of the project is regularly calibrated to the equipment's specifications and/or the relevant national standards.

Field personnel use the following equipment for obtaining forest carbon data:

- 75' Logger Tape designed to measure in 10ths of inches
- Clinometer with percent and topographic scales
- 10 Basal Area Factor Prism
- Compass
- Increment borer
- Pocket PC equipped with PocketDog software
- Professional grade GPS handheld unit with point locations

All sample points are located using professional grade handheld GPS units. At each point the cruiser carries out the measurement and monumentation practices described in the *Monitoring Method* section above.

All field data collectors receive field training and complete several plots with an experienced collector before heading off on their own. Data collectors are provided with data entry procedure documents that define species codes, product codes and overstory/regeneration tally methods. Tables of 10 BAF critical distances are provided to each forester to verify border trees.

At each sample plot live trees qualifying as "in" using a BAF 10 prism are recorded for all of the metrics described in the *Monitoring Method* section above. Where necessary, monumentation is

modified to incorporate new “in” trees and replace degraded monumentation materials. Pocketdog inventory data collection software is used to record inventory plot data on HP ipaq handheld computers. Custom Pocketdog method sets are patterned and designed per documented inventory procedures and provided by Fountains Forestry. These custom method sets help to maintain the integrity of the data by prompting input, listing codes, and constraining entries with custom validation rules. In the event that technical difficulties are encountered with the HP handheld computers or Pocketdog program, paper datasheets are utilized.

All inventory data is uploaded, processed and compiled by TNC and WMS using TwoDog's OfficeDog software. This allows for the data to be easily converted to other formats for additional analysis pertaining to carbon offset generation. Multiple backups (to multiple hard drives) of raw data are performed each time cruise data is uploaded. After upload, TNC or WMS back up all inventory data and send a copy to Blue Source for statistical analysis and model updating. Blue Source then compiles all monitoring data and analysis and submits the required documentation for verification. Blue Source then stores all data in an online DropBox account for at least two years after the conclusion of the project.

Procedures for Auditing and Non-conformities:

Non-conformities are minimized by utilizing Twodog inventory software to analyze inventory plot data. Pocketdog inventory plots are uploaded directly from the ipaq handhelds into the Twodog inventory software to avoid transcription errors. Once uploaded, inventory plots are sorted into corresponding forest stands. As plots are sorted into appropriate stand types, data from each plot is automatically validated by the Twodog software. Twodog automatically return validation errors for any anomalous entry and trigger the data analyst to make appropriate corrections.

Sufficient field data is collected to ensure that the uncertainty thresholds within the protocol are upheld. Uncertainty (i.e. the 90% confidence interval as a percentage of the mean) for all measurement pools is maintained below 10% and a conservative approach is taken in the selection of parameter values.

Ultimately stand data summary reports are reviewed for reasonableness by WMS foresters, printed and entered into GIS stand layer attributes tables for archiving and use in day-to-day forest management activities. Additional review of the Twodog stand data reports and GIS attributes tables is performed as the stand data is analyzed.

4 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

4.1 Baseline Emissions

Carbon stock changes in above ground and below ground biomass, dead wood biomass, and wood products = -12,301

Carbon emissions due to biomass burning as part of forest management = 0 tCO₂e

Total Baseline emissions reductions = -12,301 tCO₂e³

³ See the VCU Calculations 2015 spreadsheet within the *VCU and Wood Products Calcs* folder for greater detail.

4.2 Project Emissions

Carbon stock changes in above ground and below ground biomass, dead wood biomass, and wood products = 33,987 tCO₂e

Carbon emissions due to biomass burning as part of forest management = 0 tCO₂e

Total Project emissions reductions = 33,987 tCO₂e³

4.3 Leakage

Market effects leakage = .2

Leakage emissions = 9,258 tCO₂e

4.4 Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Year	Baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Project removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions (tCO ₂ e) after 10% risk deduction
1/01/15-12/31/15	-12,301	33,987	9,258	32,402