

NORTH CAROLINA POCOSIN PEATLANDS RESTORATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

About 1.2 million acres of **peatlands** in the Southeastern U.S. have been ditched and drained, emitting carbon dioxide. A partnership led by The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina has been steadily restoring distinctive “pocosin” peatlands, supporting this restoration by working with **TerraCarbon** to develop a one-of-a-kind carbon methodology. On privately-owned peatlands, this tool allows landowners to register new projects with the American Carbon Registry (ACR) to generate and sell verified carbon credits based on the emission reductions achieved by rewetting peatland.

OBJECTIVES

- Restore pocosin peatlands on National Wildlife Refuges and on state-owned land, providing opportunities to research and verify the greenhouse gas mitigation impact of restoration.
- Develop a carbon credit methodology to help incentivize restoration of peatlands on privately owned land, while also helping to cover up-front restoration costs.
- Reduce the risk of fire on peatlands.

PATHWAYS FOR SCALING



ACR’s peatland restoration methodology provides a pathway for scaling through incentives for landowners to rewet peatlands, while also providing investors opportunities to support restoration efforts while meeting their own sustainability goals.



The efforts in North Carolina can be replicated in other Southeastern states with extensive peatlands.

LOCATION

North Carolina

PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, TerraCarbon, American Carbon Registry.



Peatlands are a type of wetland containing a high amount of partially decayed organic matter, retaining an incredible amount of carbon. Peatlands cover just 3% of the earth’s surface but store more than twice the carbon as the world’s forests combined.

SUCCESSES TO DATE



Development of a carbon methodology to incentivize peatland restoration in North Carolina.



Establishment of a 1,241-acre proof-of-concept restoration site at the Pocosin Lake NWR.

For more information about this and other innovative and scalable projects implementing Natural Climate Solutions in the U.S., please visit www.usnature4climate.org/building-ambition/.