ACTION PLAN

CLIMATE SUPERFUND BILLS:

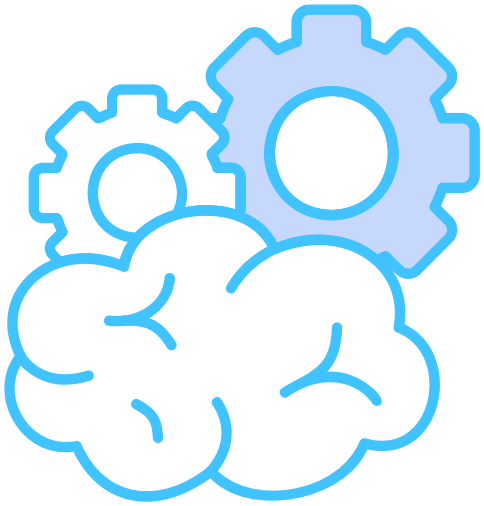
FUNDING SKY CLEANUP

What are Natural Climate Solutions?

In addition to complete decarbonization of our energy system, we must **draw down and sequester** the excess atmospheric carbon that is heating the planet to dangerous levels. This project must start with regional, land-based, **natural climate solutions (NCS),** which are protocols of land management that boost nature's own capacity for storing carbon. Natural climate solutions exist for four ecotypes: forests, farmlands, grasslands/rangelands, and wetlands. Research estimates the sequestration potential of land-based NCS across the U.S. alone to be the equivalent of **21%** of the nation's current net annual emissions. The goal is to **enlarge and protect** the natural carbon "sinks" of the world.

Sky Cleanup

Like the mobilization that occurs in response to a **marine oil spill**, we must recognize and accomplish a massive sky cleanup to draw down the excess carbon that fossil fuel companies have "spilled" into our skies. To restore balance, we must draw down and sequester **150 or greater** gigatons of carbon (GtC) by 2100—in essence, a **massive sky carbon cleanup.**



Climate Superfund Acts: Adaptation or Cleanup?

Adaptation alone is **not enough.** The climate crisis is rapidly reaching a **point of no return** and approaching climate tipping points that are poised to trigger runaway heating. In addition to preparing communities to adapt to climate change, we must also address its root causes through NCS projects that **clean up** the atmosphere by removing excess carbon. These projects can also make communities more **resilient** to future environmental catastrophes and provide an economic boost to rural communities by funding NCS projects on **working lands**.

Current climate superfund bills that focus **solely on adaptation** will concentrate funding in the first few metropolitan areas that seek damages. Payouts for adaptation projects alone create a **zero sum game.**

NCS involves land management on a **localized level**, involving and working closely with willing landowners and managers of **working lands** to implement carbon sequestration practices.These solutions will **engage and empower** local communities rather than consolidate power and decision-making in a small number of corporations.

Natural Resource Damages

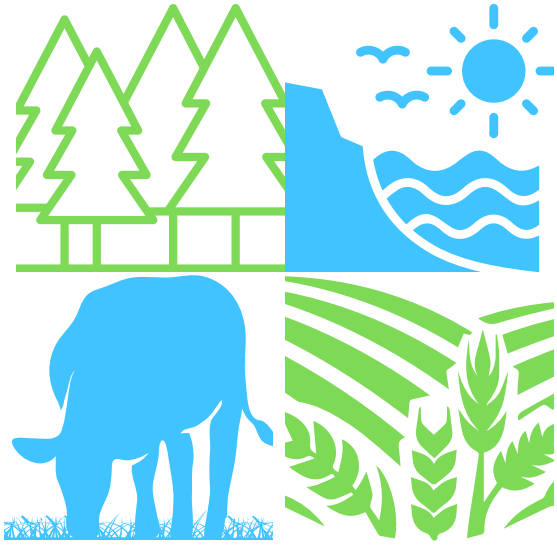
Fossil-fuel corporations will be held liable for **paying** for sky cleanup and NCS projects through a theory of legal liability for **natural resource damages (NRDs)**. An atmospheric NRD approach would hold fossil-fuel companies accountable for cleaning up atmospheric carbon in the same way that oil companies are held accountable for cleaning up marine oil spills. Marine oil spill cases typically invoke **statutory grounds for liability**, which a climate superfund bill would create.

Under an established NRD approach, sovereign entities (foreign nations, federal agencies, states, counties, and tribes) stand positioned to invoke these same grounds to pursue atmospheric NRDs against the fossil-fuel industry to fund **atmospheric cleanup projects.** Regional frameworks for atmospheric cleanup can organize a region's drawdown efforts.

Any drawdown achieved anywhere benefits *everyone, everywhere* by helping restore climate balance.

What about Carbon Offsets?

Carbon offsets make the climate problem **worse.** Offsets justify further pollution purportedly through drawing down and sequestering carbon dioxide elsewhere. Offsets do not make any dent in the legacy pollution that continues to **destabilize** the climate system. Climate superfund act projects should **not** involve offsets.



With all four ecotypes in the region, including millions of acres of working lands, the Pacific Northwest is primed to lead in the implementation of NCS practices to draw down excess carbon. Incorporating these ideas in the Climate Superfund Bill will ensure that funding climate adaptation does not become a zero sum game.