**Confronting the other Climate Imperative: An Approach to Sky Cleanup Using Natural Climate Solutions (NCS)**

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The climate emergency presents two urgent imperatives: 1) rapid decarbonization (phasing out fossil fuels); and 2) drawdown of the legacy carbon dioxide surpassing safe levels of 350 parts per million (ppm). While decarbonization is the subject of enormous advocacy, initiative, and litigation, the drawdown project has languished due to lack of implementation strategies. Scientists point to vast potential of Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) to draw down and sequester carbon through conservation and restoration techniques deployed across four ecotypes: forests, rangeland/grasslands, farmlands, and blue/teal carbon areas such as estuaries and wetlands. While NCS cannot accomplish all the atmospheric carbon cleanup necessary to recover the climate system, it can rapidly propel the urgent drawdown project while at the same time addressing the biodiversity crisis and achieving multiple co-benefits for communities, such as soil health, water quality, and flood mitigation. Scattered pilot projects and small ventures exist, but the full potential of NCS has not yet been tapped due to the lack of a strategy to scale up and accelerate adoption of techniques across large landscapes.

This Address presents such a strategy, encompassing a three-gear approach: (1) Regional Frameworks for Atmospheric Recovery (FARs); (2) Financing; and (3) Regional Sky Trusts. A regional Framework presents an opportunity for land managers and organizations to hasten and NCS across broad landscapes by providing an implementation bridge consisting of components necessary to design and carry out NCS projects -- including techniques; pricing estimates; logistics; funding opportunities; co-benefit assessments, monitoring standards; and durability mechanisms (conservation easements and/or covenants). The Financing gear encompasses not only established sources (existing Federal and State programs, private philanthropy, public bonds and tax revenues), but also potential settlements or court-ordered damages in Atmospheric Natural Resource Damage litigation against fossil fuel corporations for their contributions to carbon pollution. Regional Sky Trusts, structured like land trusts, may serve as the repository for sky cleanup funds and function as the transactional entity funding and structuring sequestration projects. This talk presents the Pacific Northwest as a case study of a regional drawdown effort.