

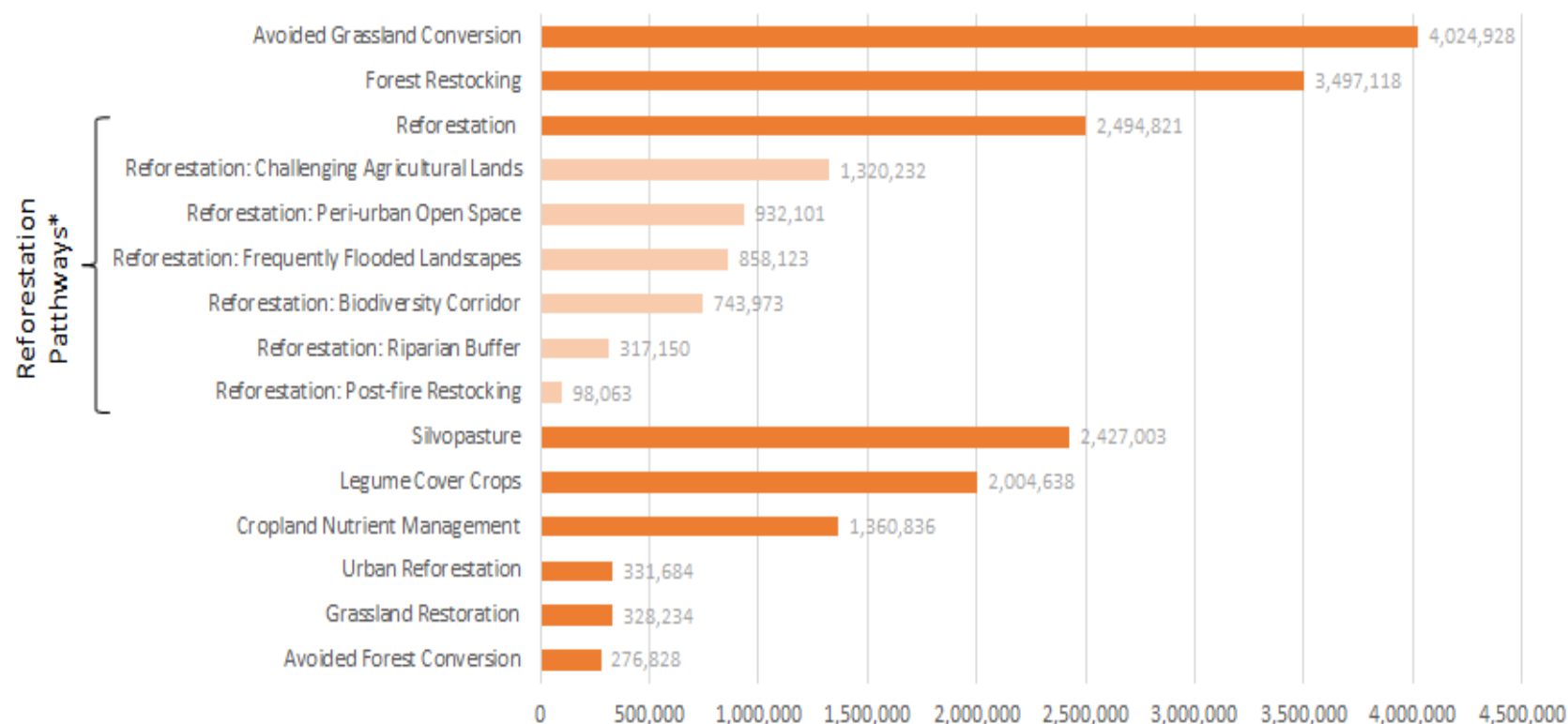


# Forests as Climate Critical Lands

Fred Clark, Executive Director, Wisconsin's Green Fire




## Wisconsin Carbon Gain Potential



*\*Reforestation subpathways  
are not mutually exclusive.*

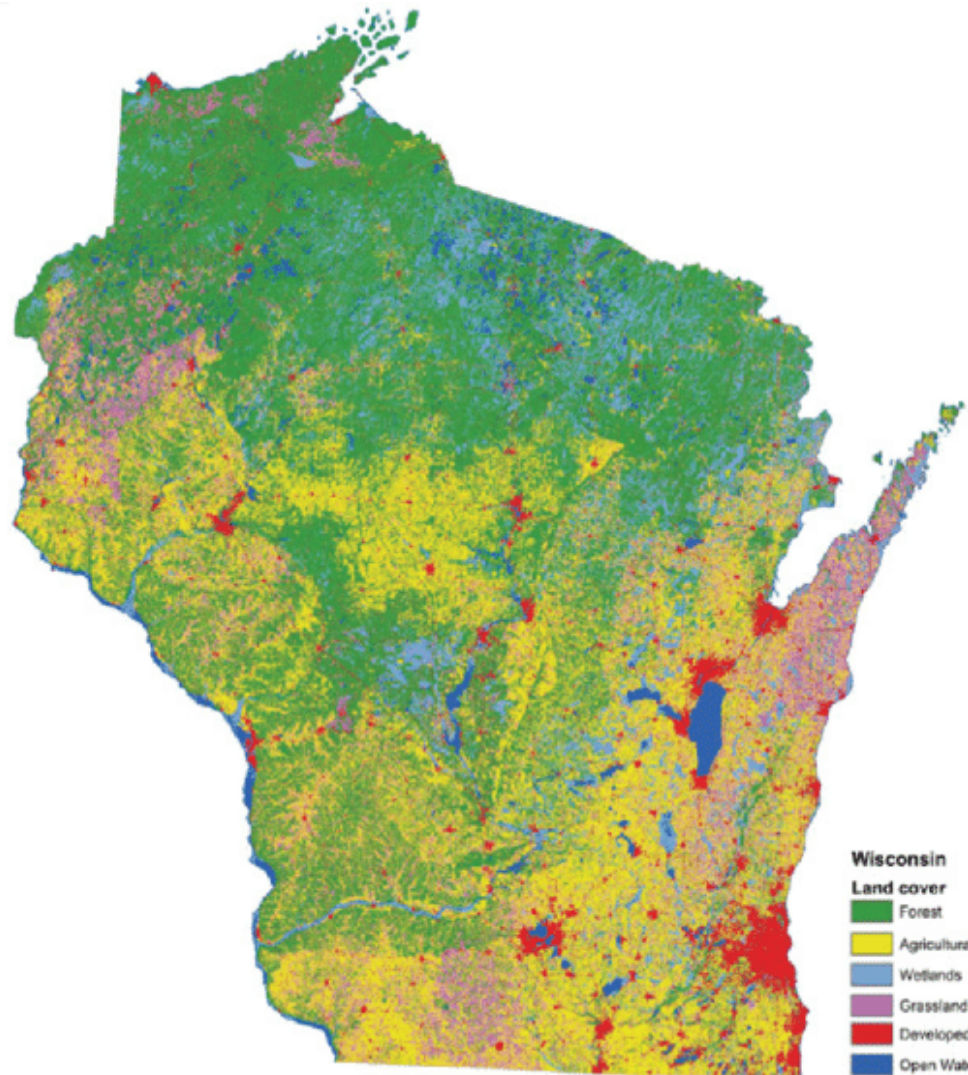
tCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr



An aerial photograph of a vibrant green landscape. A winding river flows through the center of the frame, surrounded by lush grass and trees. A dirt road runs along the left side, leading towards a red barn with a white roof. In the background, rolling hills are covered in dense green foliage under a clear sky. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

If we manage our Natural and Working Lands effectively, Wisconsin could offset an additional 16 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent each year, an amount equivalent to as much as 20% of our annual net greenhouse gas (GG) emissions – a significant contribution to cleaner air and reduced warming.

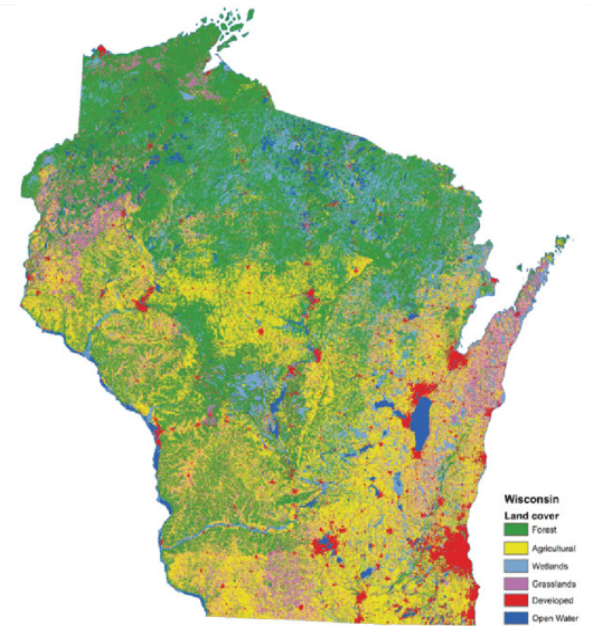
# Wisconsin Land Cover – 49% Forest





# Who Owns It?

Wisconsin Forest Ownership	100%
National Forest	8.3%
Other Federal Forest	1.1%
State Forestland	7.0%
County and Local Government	13.8%
Tribal Governments	2.4%
Corporate and Industrial	10.4%
Families and Individuals	57.0%
Total	17 Million Acres



# Forest Carbon Strategies

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- Keep Forests In Forest
- Improved Forest Management
- Reforestation / Afforestation
- Build with Wood





# Urban Forests: Carbon Sinks with Benefits

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U.S. urban forests store 90 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>eq, or about 10% of current land carbon storage.

Urban trees and parks:

- Moderate temperatures
- Improve air quality
- Reduce noise
- Improve public health
- Improve property values
- Create livable communities.

Trees and parks are one of our best indicators of community viability.

Communities with more trees and greenspaces are significantly more likely to be healthier, safer, more prosperous, and enjoy a higher quality of life.



# Restore Carbon Sinks

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## What If?

- **75 Million More Trees by 2025?**





**WHEREAS**, this Earth Day, the state of Wisconsin affirms that conserving, restoring, and growing trees in both rural and urban areas remain one of the simplest and most powerful tools for storing carbon and tackling climate change, and pledges to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland and to plant 75 million trees by the end of 2030, in collaboration with public, private, and non-governmental partners.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby direct the Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with public, private, and non-governmental entities, to achieve a goal of conserving 125,000 acres of forestland and planting 75 million trees by December 31, 2030.



By the Governor:

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Executive Residence in the Village of Maple Bluff this twenty-second day of April in the year of two thousand twenty-one.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TONY EVERS  
Governor

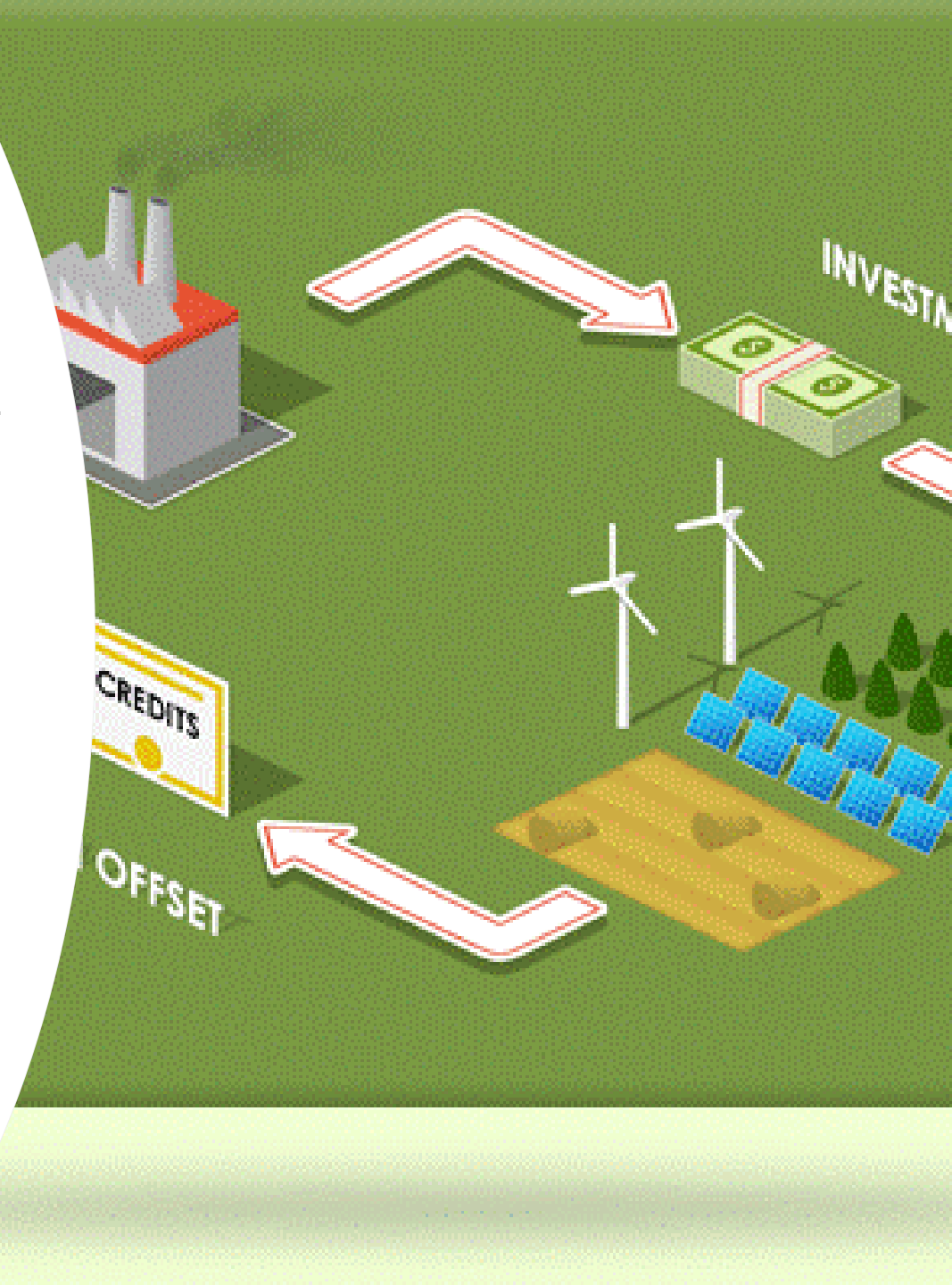
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

# Forest Carbon Offset Markets - Key Questions

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**Are Forest Carbon Offset Markets reducing GG emissions and helping solve the climate crisis?**

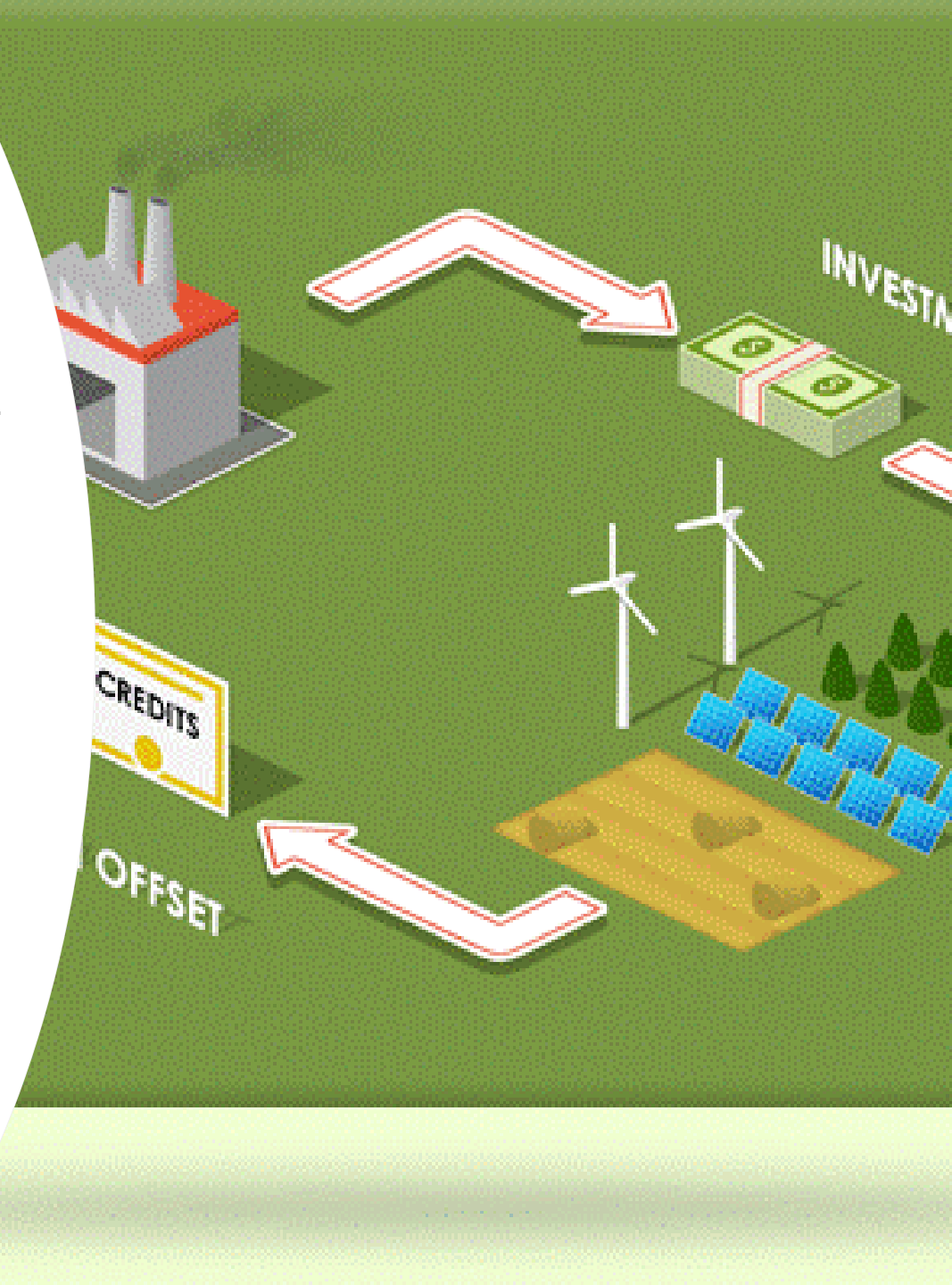
**Are Forest Carbon Offset Markets addressing critical forest conservation needs?**





# Forest Carbon Offset Markets - Challenges and Vulnerabilities

- High transaction costs
- Complex, evolving protocols
- Additionality
- Permanence
- Leakage
- Accounting
- Verification



# Existing and Emerging Forest Carbon Offset Programs

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## California ARB Cap and Trade Program

- A Compliance Market

## Traditional Voluntary Carbon Markets

- Driven by corporate sectors e.g aviation

## Emerging Aggregated Carbon Offset Programs

- Family Forest Carbon Program – TNC / AFF

[www.familyforestcarbon.org](http://www.familyforestcarbon.org)

- Sylvia Terra – NCAPX

[NCAPX | SylviaTerra](http://NCAPX | SylviaTerra)

- Land Trust Alliance – Family Forest Offset Pilot

[www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org)





# Forests as Climate Critical Lands

## Questions?

Fred Clark, Executive Director  
608.697.2226 [fclark@wigreenfire.org](mailto:fclark@wigreenfire.org)

