



West Virginia
LAND & MINERAL
Owners Association

Carbon Markets Update

2026 Annual Meeting

11 June 2026

White Sulphur Springs, WV

Compliance Market Updates

California Cap & Invest

- Program extended past 2030
- Updated regulation, name, and certain components of the program
- All protocols updated by 2029
- Likely to draw from WA updates and implement dynamic baseline

Washington Cap & Invest

- Forest protocol update expected in June
- Must have DEB's
- Simpler baseline establishment, no modeling, sloped line to common practice
- Baseline updated every 10 years

Compliance Market Updates Contd.

- WA & CA Cap & invest programs projected to merge within 2 years
- Likely to see price convergence somewhere between the two current offset prices
- RGGI maintained strong trading & prices through 2026 but offsetting likely to disappear in 2027 due to model rule



Compliance Market Updates Contd.

California Compliance Allowance (CCA)	BID	OFFER
Spot	\$28.06	\$28.16
Dec26	\$29.08	\$29.18
Washington Carbon Allowance (WCA)	BID	OFFER
Spot	\$68.50	\$69.50
Dec26	\$70.00	\$71.00
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Allowance	BID	OFFER
Spot	\$27.97	\$28.07
Dec26	\$28.54	\$28.64

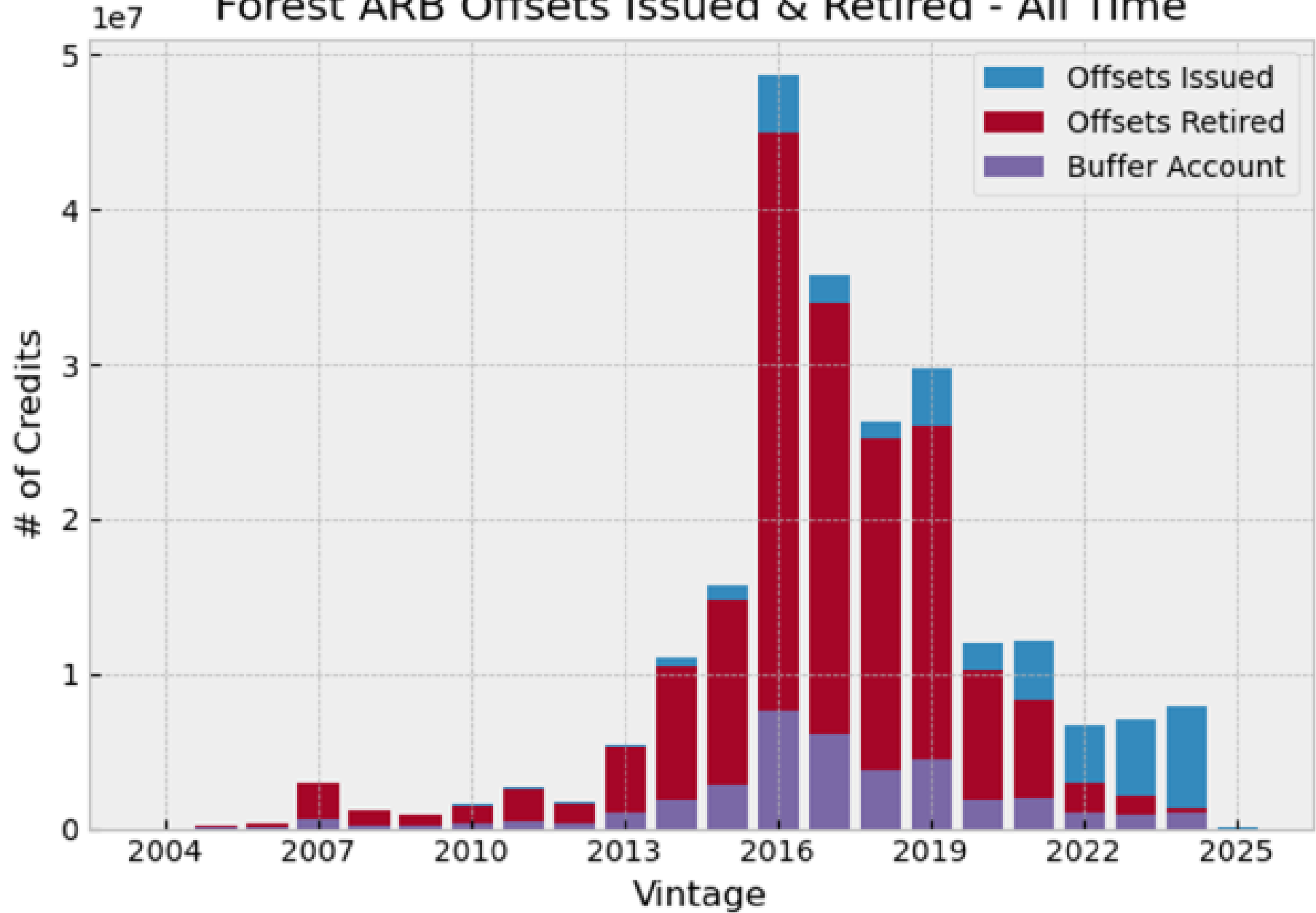
BGC Carbon Market Daily 3/30/2026

Voluntary Market Updates

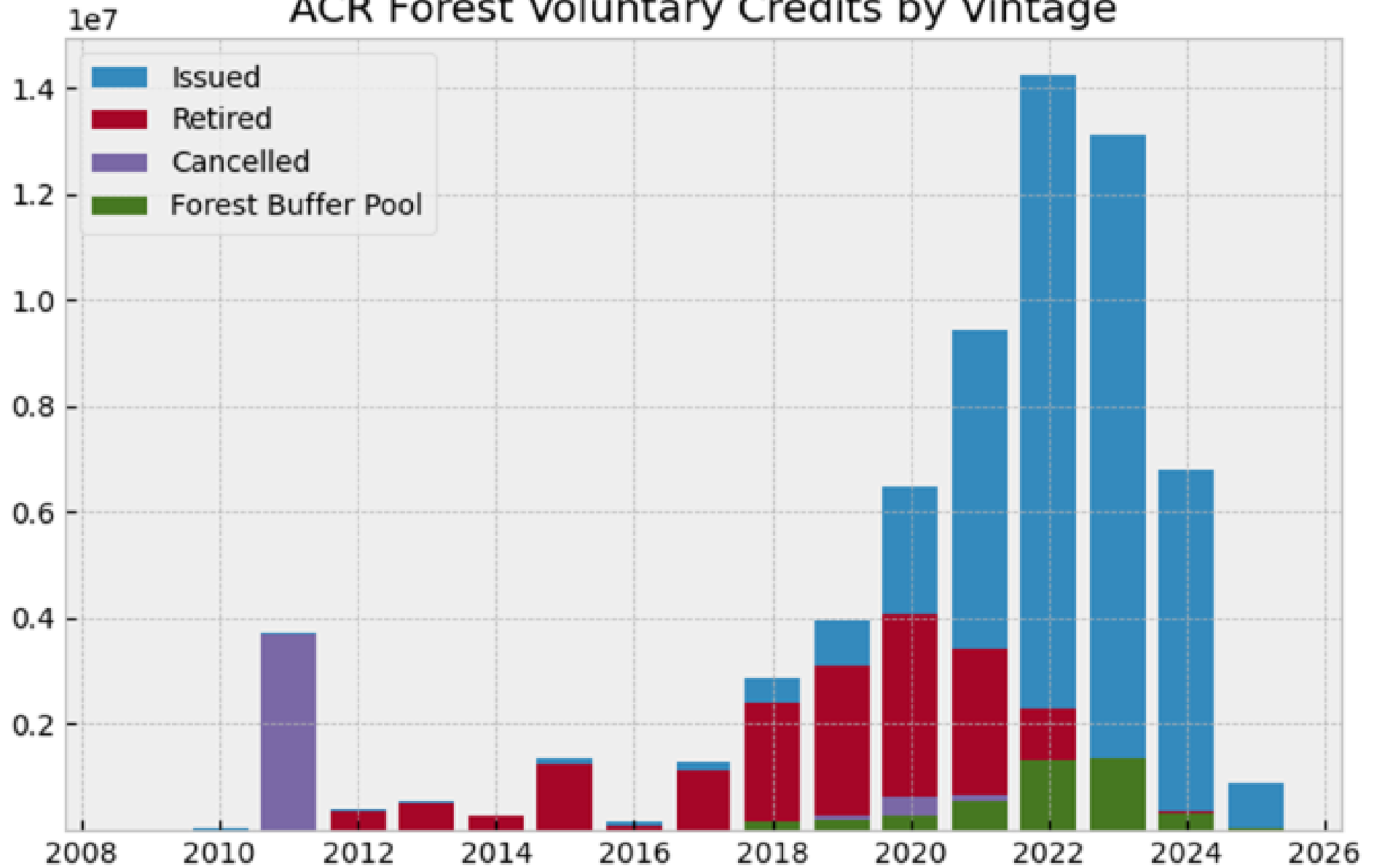
- Many new registries are opening up shop.
Optionality is good if you do your research!
- Removals vs. Reductions fad starting to shift
- Notable ACR updates:
 - IFM 2.1 Dynamic Baseline & Removals
Only Baseline
 - Remote sensing framework published
 - CCP labels minted for IFM 2.0 & 2.1



Forest ARB Offsets Issued & Retired - All Time



ACR Forest Voluntary Credits by Vintage



U.S. Voluntary Carbon Credit Market Size & Outlook

- “The voluntary carbon credit market in the United States is expected to reach a projected revenue of US\$ 7,088.4 million by 2030. A compound annual growth rate of 34.7% is expected of the United States voluntary carbon credit market from 2025 to 2030.”
- **U.S. voluntary carbon credit market highlights**
 - The U.S. voluntary carbon credit market generated a revenue of USD 899.7 million in 2023 and is expected to reach USD 7,088.4 million by 2030.
 - The U.S. market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 34.3% from 2024 to 2030.
 - In terms of segment, renewable energy was the largest revenue generating project in 2023.
 - Afforestation and Reforestation is the most lucrative project segment registering the fastest growth during the forecast period.

Source: [*Grand View Horizon*](#)

U.S. Voluntary Carbon Credit Market Size & Outlook

- **Other key industry trends**

- In terms of revenue, U.S. accounted for 30.2% of the global voluntary carbon credit market in 2023.
- Country-wise, U.S. is expected to lead the global market in terms of revenue in 2030.
- In North America, U.S. voluntary carbon credit market is projected to lead the regional market in terms of revenue in 2030.
- Canada is the fastest growing regional market in North America and is projected to reach USD 1,442.1 million by 2030.

Source: [*Grand View Horizon*](#)

North America & US

- North America has become a primary hub for credit issuance, more than doubling its share of new issuances to 43% in the second quarter of 2025 .
- This has positioned the American Carbon Registry (ACR) as a leading registry
 - <https://carboncredits.com/carbon-credits-supply-to-skyrocket-35x-by-2050-but-at-what-price/>



Forestry and Land Use

- This category is the clear leader, accounting for 46.4% of all issued credits in the U.S., with 266 million credits issued from 586 projects cumulatively
 - <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/breaking-down-us-carbon-offset-projects-in-2026/>
- These projects include Improved Forest Management (IFM), Afforestation/Reforestation (ARR), and Avoided Conversion (AC)



Methane Capture

- Projects that capture methane from landfills, mines, and agricultural operations are also significant, representing 18% of issued credits.
 - <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/breaking-down-us-carbon-offset-projects-in-2026/>



Challenges and Controversies

- **Additionality and Baselines:** A core challenge is proving "additionality", that the carbon sequestration would not have happened without the revenue from carbon credits
 - <https://www.anewclimate.com/post/understanding-improved-forest-management-a-foundation-for-high-integrity-climate-solutions>
- **Critics argue that many IFM projects have been over-credited because their baseline scenarios were unrealistic**
 - <https://environment-review.yale.edu/industry-standard-baselines-improved-forest-management-ifm-may-significantly-overestimate-carbon>

Major Corporate Investments in U.S. Forestry (2025–2026)

- Microsoft is aggressively pursuing its 2030 carbon-negative goals by shifting from short-term spot market purchases to massive, long-term offtake agreements for high-integrity carbon removal.
 - In June 2025, the company signed a landmark 10-year agreement with Anew Climate and Aurora Sustainable Lands to purchase 4.8 million nature-based carbon removal credits.
 - This Improved Forest Management (IFM) project spans over 425,000 acres across states including West Virginia, New York, and Florida, and utilizes the rigorous ACR IFM v2.1 protocol, which features dynamic baselines and enhanced monitoring ([Business Wire, June 2025](#)).
 - Additionally, in May 2025, Microsoft secured a multi-year deal with EFM for up to 3 million nature-based credits.
 - This agreement includes the direct delivery of 700,000 credits through 2035 from a 68,000-acre IFM project located on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula ([EFM Press Release, May 2025](#)).

Major Corporate Investments in U.S. Forestry (2025–2026)

- Netflix is also making significant, long-term investments in nature-based carbon removals to meet its climate targets, with a heavy focus on Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) projects.
 - In September 2025, the streaming giant signed a 15-year contract with the American Forest Foundation (AFF) to support its "Fields & Forests" program.
 - This initiative uses innovative milestone prepayments to help family landowners in the U.S. South transition underused agricultural fields back into working forests.
 - Netflix's initial investment will launch the first 6,000 acres, with the broader program aiming to enroll 75,000 acres by 2032 to generate an estimated 4.8 million carbon credits ([American Forest Foundation, Sept 2025](#)).

Key Market Drivers: Removal, Vintage, and Co-Benefits

- Beyond the specific project type, three major factors are driving price premiums in today's carbon market.
 - First, corporate buyers are showing a strict preference for credits that actively *remove* carbon from the atmosphere (like ARR and strict IFM) rather than projects that simply *avoid* future emissions.
 - This demand has pushed prices for carbon removal credits up to 381% higher—roughly 3.5 times higher—than traditional avoidance credits ([Carbon Credits Market Analysis, Nov 2025](#)).

Key Market Drivers: Removal, Vintage, and Co-Benefits

- Second, the "vintage" or generation year of the credit matters significantly.
 - Buyers heavily favor newer credits (specifically from 2021–2023) because they rely on modern, rigorous scientific methodologies, resulting in a 217% price premium over older vintages from 2016–2020 ([Green.Earth Market Guide](#)).

Key Market Drivers: Removal, Vintage, and Co-Benefits

- Finally, projects that deliver verifiable social or environmental co-benefits—such as enhanced biodiversity, improved water quality, or local community health support—consistently fetch higher prices by offering corporate buyers a more holistic and defensible environmental impact.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of white contour lines on a dark green background, resembling a topographic map. The lines are irregular and form various shapes, some resembling letters or symbols.

THANK YOU!

Questions?