



## **THE PALOUSE SOIL CARBON PROJECT: A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FAQ**

### **What is the project all about?**

- Project team received grant funding from the USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant Program, a 3 year project initiated in Fall 2011, to measure and quantify soil health through a rigorous scientific process, emphasizing soil carbon and nitrogen levels on Palouse area agricultural soils.
- Project will provide added value to the agricultural practices of Palouse area farmers by documenting carbon accrual benefits of no-till, minimum tillage and conventional tillage agricultural practices. Initiated soil sampling work with no-till agricultural producers in 2013; now expanding the research to include producers utilizing minimum and conventional tillage practices.
- Purpose is to organize and aggregate landowners to “bank” soil carbon credits at no risk to landowner, then work to monetize and market carbon credits when markets develop or buyers emerge.

### **What do you need or want from me?**

- Provide access to your land for soil sampling by mobile, hydraulic soil sampler in Spring, 2013.
- Provide information about your farm, including: 1) farm and field data; and 2) cultural practices for fields through a brief call with the project team in Spring, 2013.

### **What's in it for me?**

- You will understand quantity of soil carbon currently in your fields with verified measurement methodology.
- Involvement in a first-of-its-kind agricultural soil carbon research project based on rigorous science and on-the-ground measurement.
- Learn about soil carbon accrual in Palouse soils and become a partner in the development of carbon credits through enhanced soil organic matter and nutrient management.

### **Who are the partners on the project?**

- Applied Ecological Services (AES): science expertise, project design and implementation.
- The Earth Partners (TEP): land restoration, business development, and carbon finance.
- EKO Asset Management: additional financial support of project.
- University of Missouri Soils Lab: laboratory analysis of soil samples.
- Shepherd's Grain: farmer collaboration, stakeholder involvement and technical advisor.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: funder and technical advisor.

### **What type of methodology do you use? How will you evaluate soil carbon levels on my farm?**

- Methodology effectively measures and monitors carbon stocks in agricultural systems. It has been peer-reviewed by leading scientists and is validated through the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). Unlike other approaches, this method allows landowners to claim carbon accruals from their management practice after direct measurement has occurred. Landowners are not restricted by historical research results and results from computer modeling.
- The study team statistically locates sample points in the farm fields (and in reference natural areas for comparison) and implements a sampling plan to collect thousands of 1 meter depth soil cores from conventional and no-till acreage across the landscape. Laboratory analysis is completed by the University of Missouri Soils Lab and includes bulk density and soil carbon on all cores.
- Statisticians will analyze the results and develop science-based projections for future carbon levels in these fields.

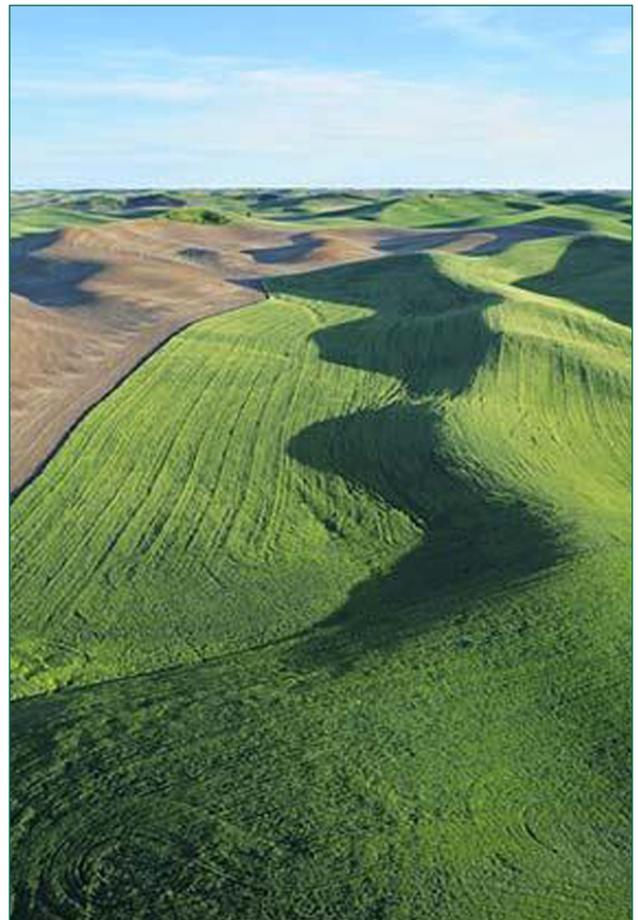
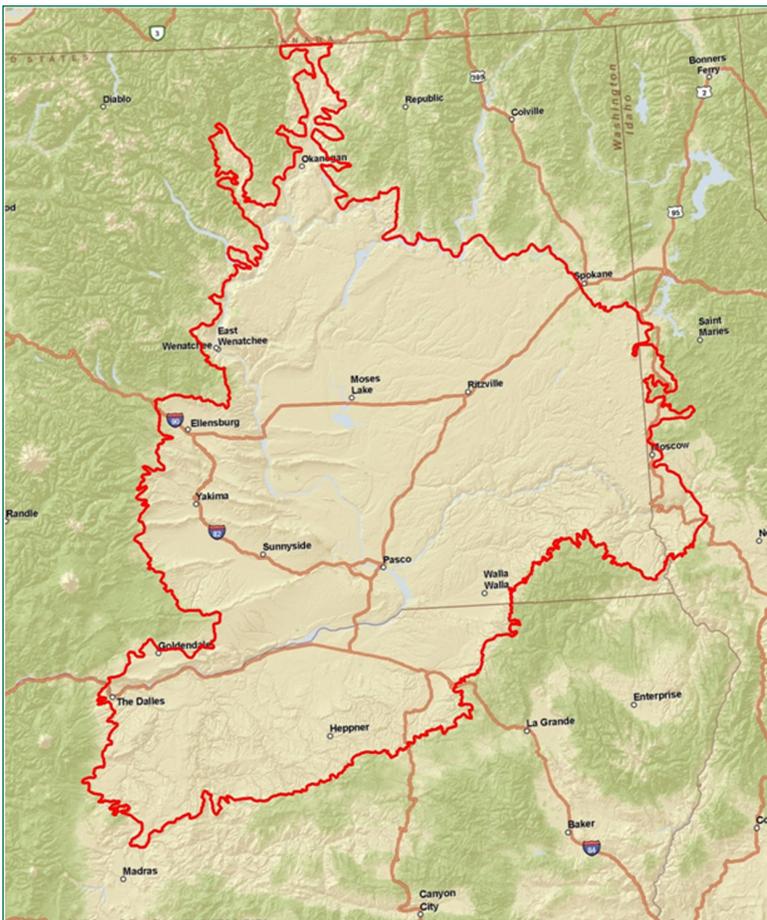
### **Contact us for more Information**

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Preliminary soil sampling with mobile sampler, Whitman County, WA (Nov 2011)



Primary Project Area – Palouse hills and loess hills in WA, ID and OR