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PRESS RELEASE

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Delta Institute generates over \$400,000 in carbon credit revenue for Michigan landowners

Lansing – Today, the Delta Institute announced the completion of the sale of carbon credits from sustainably managed forestlands in Michigan, generating \$435,980 in gross revenue, and significantly offsetting carbon dioxide emissions. After administrative fees, the initial 34 Michigan landowners in this program earned \$389,097 or \$8.00 per acre for fighting climate change through sustainable forest management and good stewardship of the land.

As part of the Delta Institute's Managed Forest Carbon Offset Program, Michigan landowners enrolled 48,665 acres of certified forestlands, earning carbon offset credits for sale on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX®). Through sustainable forest management, enrolled landowners showed a net increase in carbon sequestration of 172,000 metric tons over the 2006 baseline. This sale represents net carbon storage during the 2007 growing season. These landowners will continue to earn credits for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 growing seasons.

The Managed Forest Carbon Offset Program creates an opportunity for landowners to earn revenue through the sale of carbon offset credits when they maintain an ecologically vibrant forest - thereby contributing to the long-term storage, and reduction of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Delta's Managed Forest Carbon Program was introduced in 2006 with funding through a Forest Stewardship Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. With the help of Grossman Forestry Company (Newberry) and Forest Resource Services (Gaylord), Delta developed a pilot program that quantified the carbon sequestration benefits of sustainably managed forestlands in Michigan. This pilot program served as the basis for the Chicago Climate Exchange's Sustainably Managed Forest protocol. Ultimately, the work of the Delta Institute, the Michigan DNR and the forestry consultants demonstrated that sustainably managed forestlands can store significant amounts of carbon dioxide while providing a financial incentive to landowners to maintain and improve their forestlands.

All of the enrolled forestlands received third party certification to the American Forest Foundation's, Standards of Sustainability, by enrolling in Individually Managed Tree Farm Groups (IMGs). IMGs are maintained by consulting foresters whose programs have been certified by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB). These consulting foresters accept landowners into their IMGs, monitor their management activities and ensure that landowners maintain an ecological vibrant and sustainably managed forest. In Michigan, IMGs are maintained by Forest Resource Services, Grossman Forestry Company, and Green Timber Consulting Foresters (Pelkie).

The extra income is welcome recognition for a job well done. It is also an important source of annual revenue for areas that are economically challenged and suffering from job loss. For example, Burt Township Schools is an isolated school district located on the South shore of Lake Superior in Grand Marais. Sixty-four students attend the K-12 school. According to Superintendent Seth Hoopingardner, "keeping a well managed, healthy school forest is important for our students and the community. We are stewards of a wonderful 1,326 acres school forest which provides educational opportunities, recreational opportunities, and an important source of revenue."

Delta has recently closed the second enrollment period for the managed forest program, accepting enrollments from 37 Michigan landowners with 40,480 acres. These lands have the potential to sequester over 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide. A third enrollment period is open through the spring of 2009. Interested landowners should contact their forester or the Delta Institute for more information. There are no minimum acreage requirements for the program, although landowners with more than 100 acres are generally able to cover their costs and generate revenue with the first sale of carbon credits. By enrolling, landowners are making a contractual commitment to maintain their forestlands through 2012.

For more information, please visit www.deltacarbon.org.

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The Delta Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to improve environmental quality while promoting community economic development. With offices in Chicago and Lansing, the Delta Institute is changing the way business, government and community-based partners protect natural resources and create economic opportunity in the Great Lakes Region.

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Todd Parker, please call 517-482-8810 or email Todd at tparker@delta-institute.org.