

Carbon Sequestration Opportunities for Hunters & Landowners

Liz Mathern

North Dakota Farmers Union



Introduction

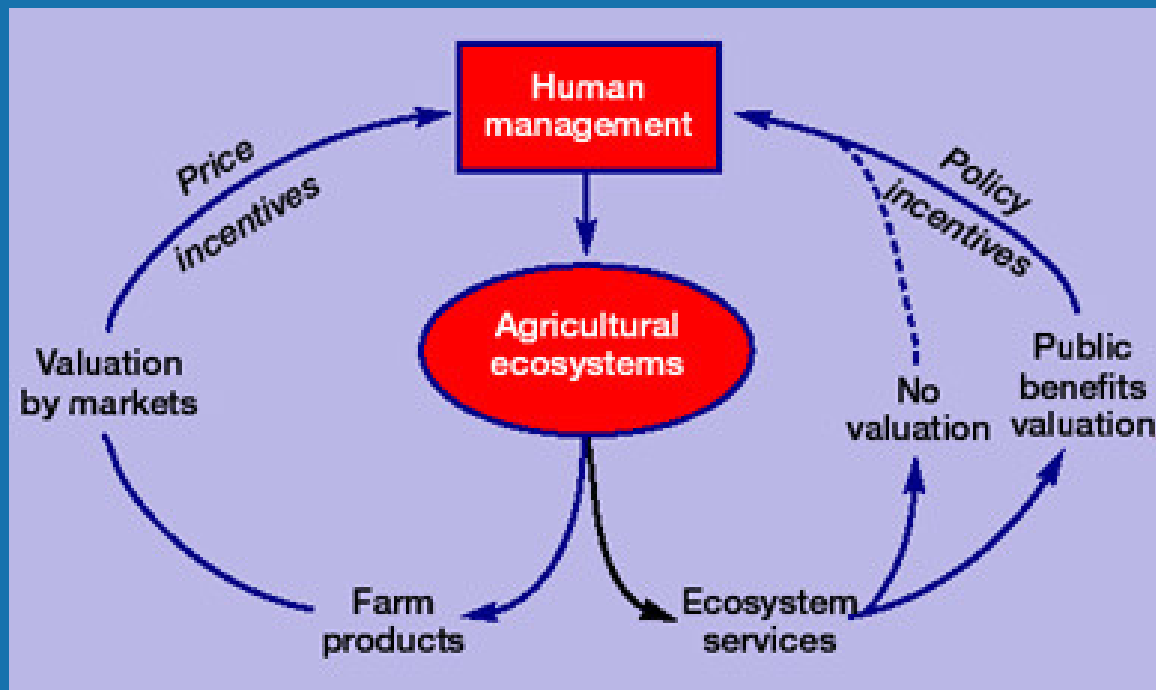
- 89% of North Dakota's land is in agricultural production- over 39 million acres.
- Hunting and Fishing activities bring over \$200,000,000.00 into the ND economy every year.
- Aligning agricultural production with wildlife habitat makes sense for North Dakota.



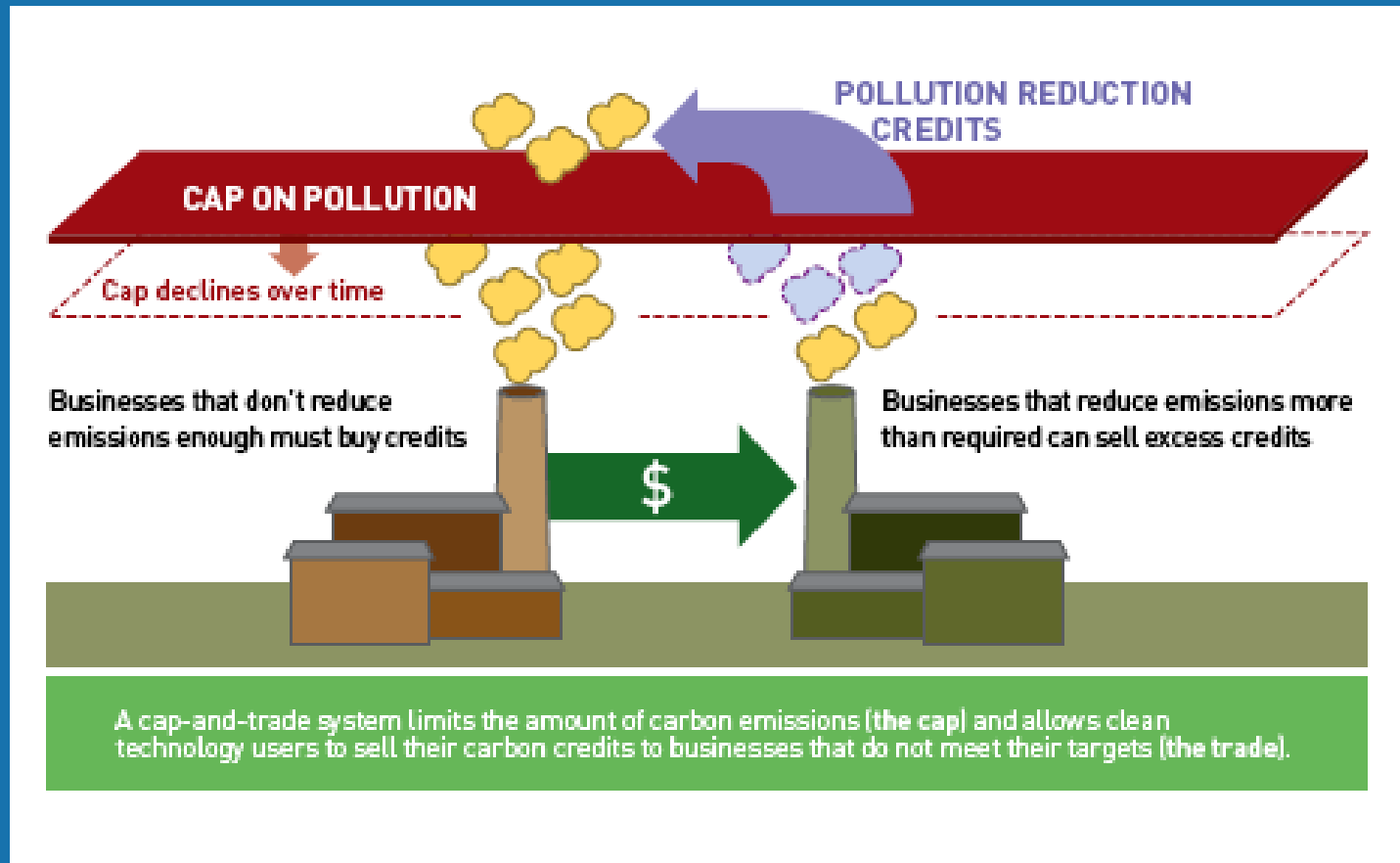
Environmental services are often valued by society, but because they are a public good- that is, people can obtain them without paying for them- farmers and ranchers may not benefit financially from producing them.



Valuation Strategies



Cap and Trade



Add Offsets

- Offers more flexibility to capped entities in meeting emissions limits.
- Allows un-capped sectors (such as agriculture) to sell offsets.



Existing Markets (U.S.)

- Voluntary Carbon Standard
- Chicago Climate Exchange
- Climate Action Reserve (CA)
- American Climate Registry
- Other OTC (not registered)



Types of Offset Projects that benefit Wildlife

- Conservative soil management (reduced tillage)
- Cover cropping
- Grass/tree Conversion (Marginal Lands)
- Rangeland Management
- Wetland Restoration



Sample ND Farm

- Located in Southeastern ND, corn-soybean-wheat-sunflower rotation, some alfalfa for silage.
- 3800 acres tillable (3150 NHEL, 650 HEL)
- Enrolled in the Farmers Union Carbon Credit Program
- Projects are registered with the Chicago Climate Exchange



Sample ND Farm

- Project 1:
 - 3150 acres committed to continuous conservation tillage for 6 years
 - 1260 Mt/year
- Project 2:
 - 650 acres planted to grass, may be grazed, hayed or left standing for 6 years
 - 650 Mt/year



Sample ND Farm

- Project 3
 - 23 acres planted to shelterbelts (not tillable acres) trees left for 15 years.
 - 29 Mt/year
- Total of three projects (over 5 years):
 - @ \$2.00 = \$19,390.00
 - @ \$5.00 = \$48,475.00
 - @ \$15.00 = \$145,425.00



ND Sample Farm

- Future Projects:
 - Prescribed grazing program
 - Methane digester
 - Cover cropping
 - Wetland restoration
 - Precision nitrogen application



Offset Projects Create Habitat

- Many carbon-sequestering and/or emissions-reducing activities also create/preserve habitat.
- Creates a public benefit while also rewarding the land manager.
- Generally keeps the land in agricultural production.
- Market-based incentive.



Conclusion

- Carbon Markets create value for providing environmental services.
- Agricultural production decisions create habitat.
- Win-win-win for agricultural producers, sportsmen and rural communities.

