

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mountain Association for Community Economic Development
Contact: Scott Shouse, bsshouse@maced.org, 859-986-2373
October 13, 2009

Seven Kentucky Landowners Get Paid \$65,000 for Managing their Forests

Berea, Ky – Seven forest landowners in Kentucky received a total of \$65,000 for the carbon dioxide their forests stored in 2007. These landowners represent 5,006 acres of forestland which took in and stored 14,500 metric tons of carbon during 2007.

The payment for carbon storage resulted from the landowners' agreement to use certified sustainable forest management. These landowners were the first to enroll in a carbon credits program offered by the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) in 2007. To date, MACED has enrolled 31 private landowners owning over 16,000 acres. Forty more landowners are actively pursuing enrollment for over 17,000 acres across Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The blue moon fund donated money to MACED to permanently retire these carbon offsets. President Diane Edgerton Miller said, "Blue moon fund, by nature of the significant travel we do, wished to find an immediate way to begin accounting for and taking responsibility for our carbon footprint and MACED provided us with a means. MACED is leading the way in developing multiple-benefit forest carbon projects in the Central Appalachians—a biodiversity hotspot in North America."

"This sale of managed forest carbon credits represents an investment in the future of sustainable forest management in Kentucky," said Scott Shouse, MACED forestry program manager. "We hope this money will catch the attention of more forest landowners, and move new acres of Appalachian forestland into certified sustainable management."

To become enrolled in MACED's program, landowners must provide proof of ownership, proof of forest management, certification (such as American Tree Farm or Forest Stewardship Council), and hire a consulting forester to conduct a baseline inventory. These requirements not only make landowners eligible to receive payment for the carbon stored in the trees, they are also beneficial for the overall health of the forest ecosystem and value of timber.

"Sustainable timber harvest coupled with carbon credit revenue can generate more economic return from your forest," said Shouse. Landowners should note that to be eligible to sell carbon stored in 2009, baseline inventories must be conducted before the end of December 2009.

MACED is a 33-year-old nonprofit organization that works in eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia to create economic opportunity, strengthen democracy and support the sustainable use of natural resources. To learn more, visit www.maced.org.

###