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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wild Thyme Farm offers first sale of forest carbon offsets through NW NEUTRAL™ Carbon Emissions Offset Program

Seattle, WA March 12, 2009: Wild Thyme Farm announces the historic first sale of carbon offsets from its 100 acre family owned forest through Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG) NW Neutral™ program.

Wild Thyme Farm is 150 acres of forests, pastures, gardens, orchards and streams, showcasing an evolving model of wild forest management, permaculture, agroforestry and biological diversity. Primary objective is creating visionary landscapes that work, growing value for generations. Active forest management enhances forest health and diversity, local economic value and carbon sequestration.

The property of Wild Thyme in Grays Harbor County was established as a farm around 1909. The original farm owners did not actively manage the forest and the old growth Douglas Fir was cut over time in the early 1900s. Clear-cutting of the secondary timber occurred between 1967 and 1985. The current family owners purchased the property in 1987, developing the infrastructure and agricultural landscape, and began active forest management in 1997.

“Wild Thyme Farm is proud to be a partner in NW Neutral’s pioneering Carbon Offset Program that rewards exceptional forestry and promotes long term, highly productive forest landscapes,” said John Henrikson, co-owner and forest manager. “Wild forest management is maintaining our forest in the most natural and vigorous condition possible. The ultimate objective is a forest ecosystem dominated by big trees, structural and biological diversity, while providing a steady income stream from high quality timber, harvested using the principle of natural selection, attuned to nature’s own culling process.”

Wild Thyme Farm has participated in these programs, certifications and memberships:

- 2000 Forest Stewardship Plan prepared for State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources
- 2001 American Tree Farm System certification and membership, recertified in 2007
- 2001 USDA Conservation Reserve Program to reforest riparian habitat for salmon along Garrard Creek
- 2002 Washington Farm Forestry Association membership
- 2005 USDA / NRCS Wild Habitat Incentive Program to establish Band Tailed Pigeon Habitat
- 2005 Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification through Northwest Certified Forestry membership
- 2009 NW Neutral Carbon Offset Program pilot program

The 100 acre forest is currently managed according to FSC guidelines. The NW Neutral Carbon Model evaluates carbon benefits that can be generated by this improved forest management above and beyond ‘business as usual’ of the conventional short term rotation model.

The forest currently contains over 2 million board feet of timber in Red Alder, Douglas Fir, Big Leaf Maple, Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock and Grand Fir. A carbon model conservatively estimated the current live mean carbon stock at 45 tons of carbon per acre (165 tons of CO₂ equivalent per acre.)

By maintaining an FSC based management system, vs. employing a more traditional short-rotation clear cut approach, models estimate approximately 6,500 tons of carbon (24,000 tons CO₂) will be conserved in the Wild Thyme Farm’s forest over a 100 year timeframe.

“If public and private stakeholders manage forests for carbon sequestration, these healthy working forests will capture vast amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide and help us achieve planetary climate goals by 2050,” explained Robert Henrikson, co-owner of the Wild Thyme Farm. “Globally forest owners have had difficulties gaining access to carbon markets, and have not been recognized for their contribution to reducing atmospheric carbon buildup. NW Neutral is the first program that connects carbon market buyers directly to forest owners in the Pacific Northwest, providing economic incentives for better forest management.”

Wild Thyme Farm has an extensive website. Visit <http://www.wildthymefarm.com>.

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