



Carbon and Forest Management Work Group

Work Group Charter

Background

As part of the 2023-25 Capital Budget (c 474 §3130 3), the Washington State Legislature directed DNR to convene a stakeholder group (referred to as the Carbon and Forest Management Work Group) to examine the relationship between forest management and carbon sequestration (absorption) and storage in DNR-managed forests.

Per the legislative order, the goal of the work group is to collaborate on approaches related to the following:

- Conserving and managing older, carbon dense, structurally complex forest stands on DNR-managed lands,
- Increasing carbon sequestration and storage in forests and harvested wood products from DNR-managed forestlands,
- Generating predictable beneficiary revenue,
- Maintaining timber supplies that support the local timber industry, and
- Addressing the economic needs of rural counties.

As required by the budget proviso, DNR has contracted with a professional, external facilitator with experience conducting remote meetings.

DNR submitted a progress report to the Washington State Legislature in December 2023. DNR will submit a second progress report in December 2024 and a final report in 2025.

Work Group Composition

The proviso called for a "stakeholder group comprised of a balanced representation of relevant stakeholders and tribal interests." The work group was convened by DNR in September 2023, and includes the following members:

- Matt Comisky, Washington Manager, American Forest Resources Council, mcomisky@amforest.org
- The Honorable Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner, Jefferson County, heisenhour@co.jefferson.wa.us
- Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, Chair, Washington State School Directors Association, saxoncreek@msn.com

- The Honorable Randy Johnson, Commissioner, Clallam County, randy.johnson@clallamcountywa.gov
- Hannah Jones, Trainings Manager, Firelands Workers United, hannah@firelandswa.org
- Ed Murphy, Information and Ecosystems Services Manager, Sierra Pacific Industries, emurphy@spi-ind.com
- Bryan Pelach, State Forestlands Program Manager, Washington Conservation Action, bryan@waconservationaction.org
- Jason Spadaro, Executive Manager, Washington Forest Protection Association, jspadaro@wfpa.org
- Paula Swedeen, Senior Director of Policy, Conservation Northwest, pswedeen@conservationnw.org
- John Talberth, President and Senior Economist, Center for Sustainable Economy, jtalberth@sustainable-economy.org
- Pat Tonasket, Elected Official, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, patrick.tonasket.cbc@colvilletribes.com
- Ryan Miller, Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs, The Tulalip Tribes, ryanmiller@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Each work group “seat” represents a single vote. Members may opt to bring another colleague to one or more meetings for consultation.

Work Group Logistics

All meetings will be held remotely over Zoom, and the public may attend meetings as observers. Recordings of each meeting will be posted on DNR’s website (www.dnr.wa.gov/about/dnr-boards-and-commissions/carbon-and-forest-management-work-group).

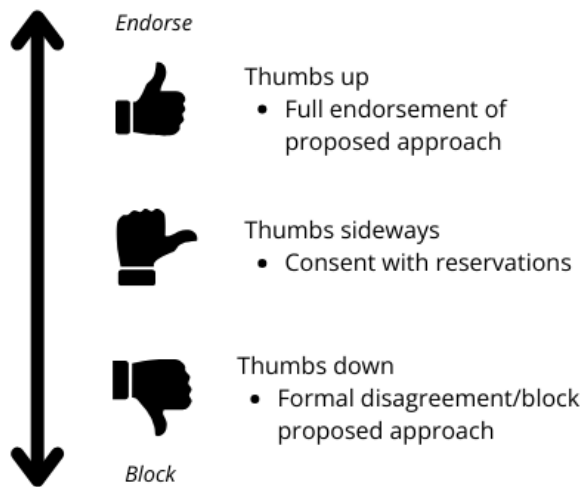
At the first work group meeting, participants confirmed that meetings held on Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm work for the most members of the group, with Tuesdays being the next best day.

- The facilitator will share a list of proposed meeting dates with the work group by the December 6, 2023 scheduled meeting. By the scheduled meeting on January 10, 2024, the facilitator will invite all work group members to the entire year of meetings for ease of calendar management.
- The facilitator will send work group members a meeting reminder and RSVP at least a week in advance of each scheduled meeting. This email will include a link to meeting materials, which will be uploaded to the work group webpage (www.dnr.wa.gov/about/dnr-boards-and-commissions/carbon-and-forest-management-work-group). Work group members will click yes to the calendar invitation or email an RSVP so the facilitator can confirm there will be a quorum.
- Work group members are responsible for finding an alternate to represent their perspectives if they are unable to attend a particular meeting. The facilitator should be notified that the alternate will be attending via the project email: cfmworkgroup@bluepointplanning.com. Since the work group members can send an alternate to meetings, there should not be an issue with reaching quorum. A quorum is the minimum number of members of the work group that

must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. Quorum will be one-half the work group plus one, or 7 based on the current work group roster of 12 members. If the anticipated quorum is not achieved before the meeting based on RSVPs, the meeting will be rescheduled.

Work Group Decision-Making

- Consensus does not mean unanimity of opinion. Consensus, as defined by the Cambridge Dictionary, is a *generally accepted opinion or decision among a group of people*.
- During discussions, the facilitator will poll the work group periodically using a “thumbs up, thumbs sideways, thumbs down” approach (shown below). This approach can help groups discuss differences of opinion, revise proposals to better address areas of concern and work together more effectively.



The thumbs-up, thumbs-sideways, thumbs-down scale will be used as follows:

- After discussion of a topic or issue, the facilitator will poll each person to determine their level of agreement. The facilitator will ask each person to hold explanations until the next step.
- The facilitator will facilitate a discussion in which each person can explain their level of agreement or disagreement.
- The facilitator will ask those who voted thumbs up to suggest modifications to better suit those who voted thumbs sideways or down. We will also ask those who voted thumbs down to suggest modifications to better suit those with a higher level of agreement.
- The facilitator will summarize the modifications.

- The facilitator will then poll the group and continue the process until a supermajority of the work group reaches consensus as defined in this charter. A supermajority is defined as 75 percent of the work group members; 9 thumbs up or thumbs sideways votes are needed to advance an approach.
- At major points in the process, for example when deciding which approaches to forward for carbon and economic analysis and which management approaches to submit to DNR for final consideration, the facilitator will take a formal vote using the thumbs-up, thumbs-sideways, thumbs-down scale. A supermajority of the work group must vote ‘thumbs-up’ or “thumbs-sideways” for a proposed management approach to move forward. A supermajority is defined as 75 percent of the work group members. With 12 members, 9 thumbs up or sideways votes will be needed to advance an approach.
- Proposed management approaches will be summarized in the legislative reports. In the reports, DNR will summarize the consensus view and include nuances of that proposed approach, including issues and concerns.
- Work group members will be notified well in advance of meetings during which a formal vote is anticipated.
- Minority reports may be submitted by those members who voted thumbs down in the final vote on which recommendations to send to DNR. A minority report is valuable in capturing the nuance of a decision, but does not reverse the decision made by the supermajority. Minority reports will be included in the final legislative report.

Commitments

- Members agree to attend a minimum of 12 meetings during the 2023-25 biennium (between November 1, 2023 and June 30, 2025) and to actively participate in each meeting. Meetings will range from 3 to 6 hours each. In the event a member cannot make one of these meetings, they may select someone from their organization to attend the meeting in their place and collect information on that member’s behalf.
- Members will be asked to develop an understanding of state trust lands, including DNR’s fiduciary responsibilities, as well as other values and interests associated with state trust lands that are relevant to the work at hand.
- Members agree to prepare for each meeting, reviewing the provided meeting materials and potentially developing ideas or approaches to bring to the work group meetings for consideration.
- Members are permitted to hold conversations with others about this project outside work group meetings, and to compile and relay information from these conversations to the facilitator for sharing with the work group.
- Members should be willing to share their perspectives, consider the perspectives of others, and collaborate with other members to craft approaches that meet a diversity of needs and

perspectives. Members should be creative and forward thinking, recognizing that the future is uncertain and that new information and/or opportunities may arise at any time.

- Members agree to work within this charter.

Ground Rules

Work group members commit to the following ground rules:

- Be respectful of one another.
- Fairly consider and discuss all points of view.
- Encourage all group members to speak and comment.
- Request an example if a point is not clear.
- Value the time of work group members and their contributions to this effort.
- Work towards consensus.

Sideboards

Approaches must:

- Be consistent with all laws and policies, including those guiding DNR's fiduciary responsibilities to trust beneficiaries, except for any statutory or policy changes proposed by this work group.
- Include and address diversity/equity/inclusion and environmental justice considerations.
- Be feasible to implement with existing agency resources, or include a proposal for additional, necessary resources.