Natural Resource Components of Climate Policy

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Natural Resource Components of Climate Policy

Outline
A. Human intervention in the natural carbon cycle
B. 2008 Natural resource policy goals for climate mitigation
C. Climate Advisory Team recommendations
D. Forestry in Cap and Trade systems
E. Washington’s Forest Carbon Workgroup
F. Relationship to climate adaptation
Human Intervention in the Natural Carbon Cycle
Human Intervention in the Natural Carbon Cycle

Non-tailpipe/smokestack influences – forests

- Forest clearing
- Forest managing/growing
- Forests influenced by climate
Human Intervention in the Natural Carbon Cycle

US Forest cover trends
- Stable or increasing slightly

Washington State forest cover trends
- Gains – Reforestation; volume, growth
- Losses – Conversion; forest health and fire
Natural Resource Policy Goals for Climate Mitigation

- Reduce losses of forest cover to land use conversion
- Increase carbon sequestration and storage by forests
- Displace fossil energy sources and energy-intensive building materials

Other natural resource goals influence pursuit of these goals (e.g.; biodiversity protection; forest product market development)
2008 Climate Advisory Team

“Most Promising: Forestry Carbon Mitigation Strategies

- Improving Forest Health/Fuel Reduction
- Reducing Conversion to Non-Forest
- Expanding Use of Wood Products
- Developing Advanced Biomass Conversion Technologies
- Expanding Urban Forests
2008 Climate Advisory Team

Other Forestry Carbon Mitigation Strategies

- Enhancing Carbon Sequestration in Forests
- Enhancing Carbon Sequestration in Harvested Wood Products
- Expanding Forest Biomass Energy
Forestry in Cap and Trade System
Policy Considerations

- In or out of cap?
- If out, marketable offsets or not?
- Offset requirements (why?)
  - Additionally above baseline
  - Permanence/reversals
  - Avoid leakage (considering all pools)
  - Measurement and verifications
- Offset categories – most promising?
- Influence of other goals – “co-benefits”
Forestry Outside of Cap and Trade Systems

- Other market incentives
- Non-market incentives
- Funding Sources to cap and trade system
Washington’s Forest Carbon Workgroup

Forest Sector Workgroup on Climate Change Mitigation Final Report

Co-conveners
Craig Partridge, Department of Natural Resources
Stephen Bernath, Department of Ecology

Facilitators
Jerry Boase, Ross and Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.
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Members of the Forest Sector Workgroup on Climate Change Mitigation

John Aruth,
Washington Environmental Council

Tim Boyd,
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 espacio Brothers Lumber, Inc.

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Clare Breidenich,
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Jill Carter,
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Michelle Conner,
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Kyle Davis,
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Danielle Dixon,
NW Energy Coalition

Evelyn Matthews,
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John Miller,
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Miguel Pones-Gibbon

Bill Robinson,
The Nature Conservancy

Betina von Hagen,
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Edie Sonne-Hall,
Weyerhaeuer

Steve Stimson,
Farm Forestry Assn.,
Family Forest Foundation

Paula Stover,
The Pacific Forest Trust
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2008 Consensus Recommendations

1. Avoided Conversion
   ◦ On-site clusters to reduce footprint
   ◦ Transfer of Development Rights

2. Urban Forests
   ◦ New tree planting programs
3. Forest Management

a. Offsets
   - “Business as usual” baseline
   - 100+ year duration
   - Contractual and regulatory safeguards against reversal
   - Pursue administrative simplicity
   - In-forest storage pools plus harvested wood products pool

b. Non-offset Incentive
   - For carbon storage that’s not clearly additional but could be legally reduced
   - Funding from emission allowance auction revenue in cap and trade system
Washington’s Forest Carbon Workgroup

   - Forest health and fire
   - Biomass energy
   - Building material substitution
Washington’s Forest Carbon Workgroup

2010 Work

- More work on avoided conversion
- More work on incentives
  - Including for forest health
- Explore possibilities for early registration of offsets
Relationship to Climate Adaptation

Back to carbon cycle

- Climate-stressed forests
  - All forest values threatened
  - Greenhouse gas emission increases

- BC forests – sink-to-source
Relationship to Climate Adaptation

- Unsustainable current carbon storage?
- Manage inevitable “emissions”
  - CO₂ versus methane
  - Capture energy value
  - Timing
Relationship to Climate Adaptation

- Adaptation as mitigation
  - Protect the sink function