

Carbon Sequestration Advisory Group

Meeting 1 Summary

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: February 12, 2020
Time: 8:30am – 3:30pm
Location: Lacey Community Center: 6729 Pacific Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98503

9:00 AM: Opening remarks and introductions

- Welcome from Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands
- CSAG Members (listed alphabetically by last name):

Patti Case, Green Diamond	Cody Desautel, Colville Tribes (remote)
David Diaz, University of Washington	Joseph Donnegan, US Forest Service
Ara Erickson, Weyerhaeuser	Kathleen Farley Wolf, King County
Indroneil Ganguly, University of Washington	John Henrikson, Wild Thyme Tree Farm
Joe Kane, Nisqually Land Trust	Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust
Mo McBroom, The Nature Conservancy	Mark McPherson, City Forest Credits
Gary Morishima, Quinault Indian Nation	Julius Pasay, The Climate Trust
Lisa Remlinger, Washington Environmental Council	Steve Rigdon, Yakama Tribe
Max Scher, Salesforce (remote)	Reed Schuler, Gov. Inslee's Office
Edie Sonne Hall, Three Trees Consulting	Jason Spadero, SDS Lumber
Skip Swenson, Forterra	Bill Turner, Sierra Pacific Industries
Mike Warjone, Port Blakely	Andrea Watts, Wildcat Tree Farm
Liz Willmott, Microsoft (remote)	Mark Wishnie, The Nature Conservancy (remote)
Lenny Young, DNR (CSAG Chair)	

- CSAG Staff:

Dan Stonington, DNR	Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
Rob Willis, Ross Strategic	

- Other Attendees:

Glenn Christensen, USFS Forest Inventory Analysis (presenter)	Matt Comisky (observer)
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9:35 AM: Review legislative proviso and CSAG purpose, outcomes, roles, and responsibilities

- Lenny Young provided a copy of the budget proviso (ESHB 1109.SL, pp 238-239) that directs DNR to convene the CSAG and describes what DNR must accomplish with the \$375,000 operating budget appropriation.
- The proviso is attached (see Appendix A) and also is available on the [CSAG website](#).
- The CSAG went through the proviso line-by-line; Lenny addressed questions and comments that came up and the group resolved questions of scope and purpose. Discussion themes included:
 - CSAG’s focus: CSAG will primarily advise on inventories and incentives relating to forest lands and forest products. At CSAG's second meeting on May 8, the group will resolve the extent to which to address carbon sequestration on other natural and working lands listed in the proviso (croplands, rangelands, wetlands, grasslands, aquatic lands, or urban green space).
 - CSAG’s role in DNR’s final report to legislature: There are two reports – the CSAG report to DNR, and the DNR report to the legislature. The CSAG Final Report will be appended to DNR’s report to the legislature. CSAG members will not review DNR's report, but it will be distributed to CSAG members at the same time DNR submits it to the legislature.
 - Definition of “nonstate”: Nonstate means all lands that are not owned by Washington.
 - Focus of incentives discussion: 24(a)(ii) has a more narrow focus (“owners of ... forestland interested in voluntarily engaging in carbon markets”) than 24(b), in which the proviso language creates broader opportunities for discussion and thinking on programs such as voluntary markets, compliance markets, or incentives such as EQIP.
 - When CSAG will discuss harvested wood products: HWP inventory methodology will be presented in Meeting 2 and the results will be discussed in Meeting 3.
- CSAG members reviewed and accepted CSAG outcomes, process for completing final report, and preliminary report content (see Appendix D).

10:15 AM: Review CSAG charter, schedule, timeline, and ground rules

- CSAG accepted the charter with the following clarifications and/or amendments:
 - Proviso clarifications as described above.
 - Modify CSAG purpose #3 to (additions in italics): What are the existing opportunities for carbon compensation services and other incentive-based carbon reducing programs for forest landowners *and managers who voluntarily engage* in carbon markets?
 - Any incentive-based carbon sequestration program would be for landowners and managers who *voluntarily engage*.
- The revised charter is available on the [CSAG website](#).
- No questions or comments on CSAG schedule or timeline.
- Discussion themes about ground rules included:
 - Open public meetings: CSAG meetings are open for the public to attend, but not participate. CSAG will not take public testimony. Meeting notes and materials will be posted on the website. CSAG meetings will not be recorded.

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- DNR will provide via email detailed expectations for CSAG members around public meetings requirements.
- “Proxy” vs. “alternate”: Because the CSAG is not a voting body, it is more appropriate to use the word “alternate” when referring to a person who may attend meetings on a CSAG member’s behalf.
- The CSAG reviewed and accepted the timeline (Appendix B), ground rules (Appendix C), and other relevant information regarding CSAG operations (Appendix D).

11:00 AM: 15-minute break

11:15 AM: Presentation 1: USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) and Forest Inventory Methods

- Glenn Christensen presented information about the national FIA program, how data are collected and used, its role in the Pacific Northwest and Washington, and how it approaches forest carbon assessments and reporting. Glenn answered questions throughout the presentation.
- Presentation 1 slides are available on the [CSAG website](#).
- Discussion and question themes included:
 - Plot data:
 - Data are available to landowners.
 - Inventory as a barrier to incentives: FIA provides high-level data but doesn’t address questions for landowners who want to know information relevant to their land. More detailed inventory data could be a valuable resource for them.
 - Plot types include corporate and non-corporate as types of private plots but don’t specify management type. A small family tree farm could be an example of a corporate or non-corporate plot, depending on the ownership structure, and a land trust is an example of a non-corporate plot.
 - Remote sensing is used to support stratification (wherein FIA measures all the plots and groups them to reduce the sampling error).
 - Plots in riparian zones can be classified as such.
 - Plots are measured at the same time every year (summer).
 - Dynamic factors or rare events are difficult to capture on the plots, e.g., a fire needs to be large-scale to be represented. If there is a large disturbance year, FIA can’t necessarily capture the event in its measurements. However, FIA is looking at Image-based Change Estimation (ICE) which uses National Aerial Imagery Program (NAIP) to categorize plots every two years and look at change.
 - If denied access to a plot, FIA will try for up to three years to get access. Ten years later, they will try again. FIA does not use another plot, but it keeps track of which plots are not sampled.
 - FIA compensates for denied access in post-stratification.
 - FIA reports focus on status and trends, but do not provide projections (although FIA data are often used in projections).
 - How easily FIA can staff up: Given that it’s difficult to hire at a federal level right now, if a state wants to invest in increasing the number of plots or frequency of measurements, it’s

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- easiest to partner with FIA and hire state employees; it would likely take a year to fully ramp up. There is also a question of whether there is an adequate labor pool for the field work.
- National remote sensing work: Biomass research is happening at a national level; it uses local FIA data to train satellite instruments.
 - USFS Rocky Mountain is going to customize biomass maps down to the stand level (Rocky Mountain Research Station, Oakridge Laboratory).
 - Standard errors (SE) are low in terms of carbon stock measurements; they increase for carbon flux measurements.

12:30 PM: 30-minute lunch break

1:15 PM: Presentation 2: Washington's Forest Ecosystem Carbon Inventory

- Glenn Christensen presented information about FIA's forest ecosystem carbon inventory methods and terms, Washington's forest ecosystem carbon inventory results (stocks and flux) by region and ownership, and FIA next steps. Glenn answered questions throughout the presentation.
- Presentation 2 slides are available on the [CSAG website](#).
- Discussion and question themes included:
 - Downed woody debris does not include piles because they are so variable.
 - All 22 million acres of forest in Washington are included in carbon stock numbers.
 - The model for soils may show a lower standard error for carbon flux than really exists, given that the model was not originally designed to show flux.
 - The bars on the annual change per acre graph (slide 21) are surprisingly similar.
 - It's difficult to compare live tree and dead tree data because they're the most dynamic. It's easier to compare a single pool.
 - "Growth" includes trees that have grown past one inch in diameter.
 - Net growth is volume at time 2 minus volume at time 1.
 - The data go through 2016 and do not capture wildfires since then.

2:15 PM: Break-out groups

- CSAG members and staff numbered off to form two groups: one group stayed in the main room with Rob and the remote participants, and the other group went into a separate room with Shelby to discuss:
 - Initial impressions of Glenn's second presentation.
 - Conversations that CSAG needs to have in the future.
 - Washington carbon stocks and flux on forest land by region.
 - Washington carbon stocks and flux on forest land by region and pool.
- Break-out group worksheets and photos of facilitator notes are available on the [CSAG website](#).

3:15 PM: Regroup and next steps

- CSAG regrouped to cover next steps and logistics for Meeting 2.
 - Meeting 2 will be on May 8, 2020.
 - The agenda for Meeting 2 will be distributed two weeks prior to the meeting.
 - CSAG members should expect updated calendar invites for remaining meetings.

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- A draft Meeting 1 Summary will be posted on the CSAG website by March 2. CSAG will discuss any needed changes and approve a final meeting summary at the group's second meeting on May 8.

3:30 PM: Adjourn

Appendix A: Legislative Proviso

1FY 2019-2021 Budget: ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1109, April 28, 2019

Sec. 308(Pages 238-9)

(24)(a) \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for the following activities:

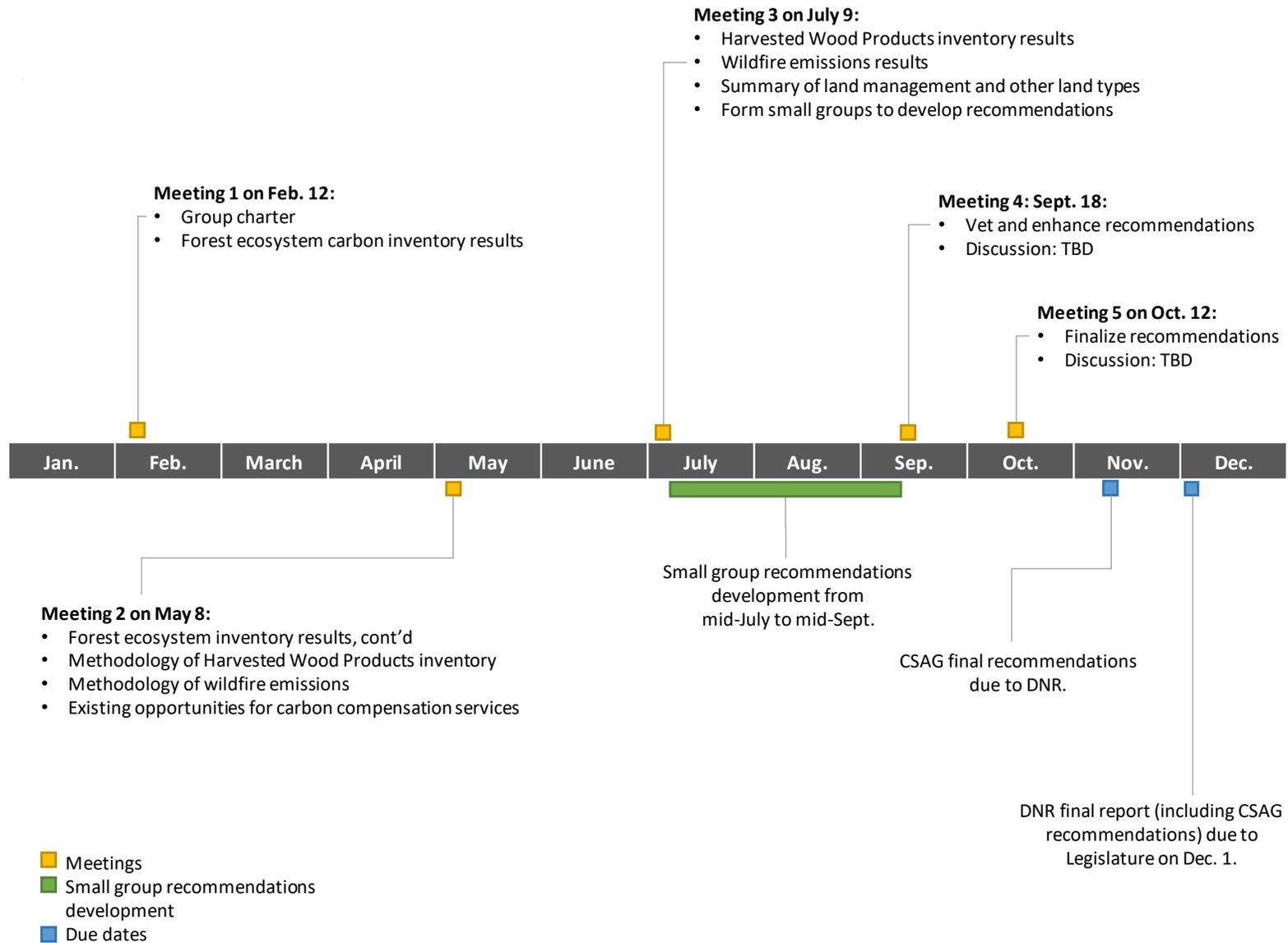
(i) Conducting carbon inventories to build on existing efforts to understand carbon stocks, flux, trends, emissions, and sequestration across Washington's natural and working lands, including harvested wood products, wildfire emissions, land management activities, and sawmill energy use and emissions. Where feasible, the department shall use available existing data and information to conduct this inventory and analysis. For the purposes of this section, natural and working land types include forests, croplands, rangelands, wetlands, grasslands, aquatic lands, and urban green space.

(ii) Compiling and providing access to information on existing opportunities for carbon compensation services and other incentive based carbon reducing programs to assist owners of private and other nonstate owned or managed forestland interested in voluntarily engaging in carbon markets.

(b) By December 1, 2020, the department must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature summarizing the results of the inventories required under this section, and assessing actions that may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of carbon inventory activities on natural and working lands, including carbon sequestration in harvested forest products. The department must also describe any barriers, including costs, to the use of voluntary, incentive-based carbon reducing or sequestering programs. The department may also include recommendations for additional work or legislation that may be advisable resulting from the advisory group created in this subsection as part of this report.

(c) The department must form a natural and working lands carbon sequestration advisory group to help guide the activities provided in this section. The advisory group must be composed of a balance of representatives reflecting the diverse interests and expertise involved on the subject of carbon sequestration on natural and working lands.

Appendix B: CSAG 2020 Timeline (as of Feb. 2020)



Appendix C: CSAG Ground Rules

Participation

1. CSAG meetings are open public meetings; the public is welcome to attend but there will not be any opportunity for public testimony. Meeting minutes and materials will be available on the CSAG website following each meeting.
2. Participation during meetings, including break-out groups, will be limited to CSAG members, experts/guests invited to present to the CSAG, and CSAG member alternates.
3. CSAG members may be asked to work with one another between CSAG meetings.

Role of the CSAG Chair

4. The CSAG Chair is the process owner and is responsible for establishing the meeting agendas and convening the meetings.

Attendance and Alternates

5. CSAG members are encouraged to attend all meetings in person. If attendance in person is not practical, other methods of participation (video or teleconference) will be made available.
6. CSAG members may select an alternate for the duration of the year to participate in meetings in the event a CSAG member is unable to attend. CSAG members are requested to inform the CSAG chair via email at least one week prior to the meeting if their alternate will attend.
7. An alternate will assume the full responsibility of the CSAG member they are representing. The CSAG member is expected to prepare the alternate to fully participate during the meeting.
8. If a CSAG member and alternate are both unable to attend, the CSAG member can provide written comments on the material covered during the missed meeting to CSAG Chair prior to the next meeting.
9. If a CSAG member is no longer able to serve on the CSAG, the CSAG Chair has the responsibility to determine whether a replacement is necessary and, if so, to identify a replacement CSAG member.

Decorum

10. The facilitator is a neutral party and responsible for running productive and constructive meetings consistent with the ground rules and charter.
11. CSAG members are expected to listen to others, focus on issues (not personalities), and assume positive intent.
12. CSAG members should come prepared to participate in deliberations. Materials CSAG members are expected to review prior to the meeting will be available no later than one week prior to the CSAG meeting.

Transparency and Documentation

13. CSAG meetings will be documented in the form of meeting minutes. Meeting minutes, meeting materials (e.g., presentations, handouts), and photographs of relevant outputs of meeting deliberations (e.g., flip charts/sticky notes) will be posted to the CSAG public website.

Appendix D: **Relevant Information**

The three images below are slides from the facilitators' Meeting 1 slide deck that contain relevant and important information:

Outcomes

- The results of the CSAG deliberations are documented in a report to DNR.
- The consultant team will draft the CSAG report.
- The DNR will use the CSAG report to develop the formal response to the WA Legislature as required by the proviso.
- The material for the CSAG report will be produced from the CSAG meeting deliberations and through work of CSAG members in between meetings.
- The CSAG will not be voting on positions or seeking consensus perspectives.

CSAG Report Content

- Observations and statements on the inventory products including interpreting results and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the inventory products.
 - WA Forest Ecosystem Carbon Inventory
 - Harvested Wood Products
 - Wildfire Emissions
 - Sawmill Energy Use and Emissions
 - Land Management Activities
- Documentation of existing opportunities for carbon compensation services and other incentive-based carbon reducing programs for landowners.
 - For those opportunities identified we will document observations on barriers, including costs, to use these services or programs.
- Recommendations for additional work or legislation that may be advisable resulting from deliberations of the CSAG. Not seeking consensus recommendations rather recommendations with a signal/sense of support.

Process to Complete the CSAG Report

- Consultant team will produce a draft CSAG report following Meeting #4
- CSAG members are expected to review and provide comment on a draft CSAG report. Meeting #5 will be used to discuss report areas needing clarification, and to the extent possible, resolve any different recollections or interpretations. The consultant will produce a final report following meeting #5.
- Once the final report has been produced, CSAG members will have at least one week to review and will be asked to characterize the report as follows:
 - The CSAG member concurs that the report accurately represents the deliberations of the CSAG.
 - The CSAG member concurs that the CSAG Report accurately represents the deliberations of the CSAG with the following caveat – CSAG member will provide specific language to convey with the report.
 - The CSAG member does not believe the report accurately represents the deliberations of the CSAG.