MEETING INFORMATION

Date: October 12, 2020  
Time: 9:00am – 1:45pm  
Location: Zoom virtual meeting

9:00 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Welcome from Lenny Young  
- CSAG Members in attendance:
  
  | Cody Desautel, Coleville Tribes | Joseph Donnegan, US Forest Service |
  | Ara Erickson, Weyerhaeuser | Kathleen Farley Wolf, King County |
  | Indroneil Ganguly, University of Washington | John Henrikson, Wild Thyme Tree Farm |
  | Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust | Gary Morishima, Quinault Indian Nation |
  | John-O Niles, Salesforce (alternate for Max Scher) | Julius Pasay, The Climate Trust |
  | Edie Sonne Hall, Three Trees Consulting | Jason Spadero, SDS Lumber |
  | Skip Swenson, Forterra | Bill Turner, Sierra Pacific Industries |
  | Mark Webster, Washington Environmental Council (alternate for Lisa Remlinger) | Mark Wishnie, BTG Pactual |
  | Lenny Young, DNR (CSAG Chair) |

- CSAG Staff:
  
  | Dan Stonington, DNR | Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic |
  | Rob Willis, Ross Strategic |

- Other Attendees:
  
  | Brian Cochrane, SCC | Jason Callahan, Washington Forest Protection Association |
  | Chris Elder, Whatcom County | Hilary Franz, Washington Commissioner of Public Lands |
  | Heath Heikkila, American Forests |

9:10 AM: Non-forest Ecosystem Update

- DNR is working with Colorado State University to extract Washington-specific data from US EPA National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The final DNR report will include cropland and grassland results from 1990-2015.
• Although the results are not ready as of Meeting 5, a snapshot of cropland soil carbon flux (below) was provided as an example.

![Table 6.30: Net CO2 Flux from Soil C Stock Changes in Cropland Remaining Cropland (MMT CO2 Eq.)](image)

**9:25 AM: Revising Inventory Recommendations**

CSAG members reviewed CSAG Report changes made by the consulting team between Meetings 4 and 5 based on the discussion during Meeting 4. Lenny Young, the CSAG Chair, encouraged members to share anything they believe should be in the CSAG Report and to keep the distinction between the CSAG Report and DNR’s report in mind. Observations included:

• Because the CSAG did not have an opportunity to review DNR’s report, they do not know whether DNR followed the recommendation to present inventory information in clear, non-technical terms that makes it easy for decision makers to identify where carbon stocks and fluxes could be affected by policies and incentives. Therefore, the CSAG cannot endorse DNR’s representation of inventory results. The relationship between the CSAG process and DNR’s report needs to be clear in the final CSAG Report.

• The CSAG Report does not include a dedicated section that describes the discussion CSAG members had regarding forest carbon inventories, methodologies, and interpreting results, despite the fact this work is outlined in the proviso.

• The CSAG discussions and recommendations have covered topics beyond carbon sequestration and it’s more accurate to use the phrase “carbon impacts.”

• Regarding Inventory Recommendation 4: It’s important to distinguish between databases and models: inventory databases can be refined by using different techniques (e.g., remote sensing) and improve models.

**10:35 AM: 10-minute Break**

**10:45 AM: Revising Inventory Recommendations, continued**

CSAG observations, continued:

• Regarding Inventory Recommendation 5: There is a difference between “carbon stored in wood” and “embodied carbon.” Embodied carbon refers to carbon-intensive materials that are substituted for harvested wood products (which actually store carbon).

**10:50 AM: Message from Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands**

**10:55 AM: Revising Incentives Recommendations**

CSAG observations regarding the incentives recommendations included:
• The CSAG Report does not provide much context for incentive-based programs and their barriers.
• The CSAG discussed several types of barriers to incentive-based programs; this broad consideration should be reflected in the CSAG Report even if does not list every single barrier discussed.
• Specific to Incentives Recommendation 3: It’s important to be very clear about what the CSAG is asking the state to do in terms of increasing flexibility and accessibility to carbon offset projects. Not all members feel this recommendation is clear enough. Additionally, several CSAG members don’t feel comfortable recommending carbon offset programs without more context. (The CSAG did not have the opportunity to discuss carbon offset programs at length.) The CSAG discussed the idea of including a disclaimer with this recommendation along the lines of, “The CSAG was focused on removing barriers to landowner participation in offset markets and not on the climate effectiveness of the offset markets themselves,” but ultimately decided not to include it because the same could be said for many of the incentive-based programs and in fact offset programs are the only programs with a carbon accounting methodology subject to scientific and public review. Instead, the recommendation will include preamble language to clarify that the CSAG didn’t discuss or endorse the effectiveness of any protocols.

12:00 PM: 45-minute Lunch Break

12:45 PM: Revisions to CSAG Report, continued

Note: The discussion around Incentives Recommendation 3 continued into this time. The CSAG ended the meeting by discussing the Introduction section of the CSAG Report. Observations included:

• The CSAG is not a stand-alone effort yet the Report does not reference the Forest Action Plan, State Energy Strategy, Sustainable Farm and Field legislations, etc. The broader framework is important and DNR staff acknowledged that it will be included in the DNR report.

1:30 PM: Process to Finalize CSAG Report

• Final draft of CSAG report will be shared with CSAG members on Monday, October 19
• CSAG members will have one week (until Monday, October 26) to provide a response.
• The final CSAG Report and CSAG member responses will be appended to the DNR Report which will be submitted to the Legislature on December 01, 2020.

1:45 PM: Adjourn
Transcription of Substantive In-meeting Chat

09:53:31 From Bill Turner: Agree

09:55:09 From Edie Sonne Hall: agree to have a clear summary of the separation between CSAG and DNR report (and highlight that CSAG won't have seen DNR report) per Mark and Ara's recommendation and Rob's proposal

10:14:52 From Ara Erickson, Weyerhaeuser: Comfortable. Thanks.

10:47:12 From Edie Sonne Hall: plot density?

10:55:52 From Edie Sonne Hall: Thank you!

10:58:09 From Jason Spadaro: Suggestion:

11:00:26 From Max Webster: Good clarification Indro

11:04:01 From Jason Spadaro: My suggestion: "...impacts associated with incentives that result in the substitution of building products with _________(not sure of term to use here that conveys carbon preferred) building products,..."

11:06:24 From Mark Wishnie: ...carbon and other social and environmental impacts associated with greater utilization of wood in construction and other applications, including the storage of carbon in HWP, substitution for more carbon intensive alternative materials (also referred to as substitution for higher-embodied carbon materials"), end-of-life impacts, and impacts on carbon stock. CSAG also recommends exploring the data and decision support tools that should be collected to better inform policy decisions.

11:09:33 From John Henrikson: Perhaps add the word "easement" in last sentence: "conservation easement acquisition programs"

11:11:54 From Cherie Kearney: I suggest language that states "...creates incentives and removes barriers...."

11:13:07 From Max Webster: Is there a possibility of including a "case study" or some small example, that is illustrative of what some of these barriers look like when encountered? Maybe that would provide some of the specificity the group is asking for?

11:14:53 From Kathleen Farley Wolf: I think it would be helpful

11:16:22 From Jason Spadaro: I agree Cherie!

11:16:57 From John Henrikson: tax incentive programs

11:20:10 From Cherie Kearney: I agree with Max's point - not just conservation easement

11:20:32 From Jason Spadaro: "conservation acquisition and easement programs"

11:22:49 From Patti Case: great point, Gary

11:24:37 From Bill Turner: Can the tax programs be added to the American Forest List?
11:25:57 From Jason Spadaro: "could included, but is not limited to,"

11:27:15 From Max Webster: agree including but not limited to is appropriate language or examples including ...etc.

11:28:54 From Bill Turner: We did miss the estate problem

11:30:36 From Cody Desautel: yes

11:44:23 From Bill Turner: If I remember correctly, we were discussing "voluntary" programs

11:47:41 From Jason Spadaro: The CSAG recommends that the state develop and pursue strategies that increase flexibility and accessibility for Washington landowners seeking to participate in voluntary forest carbon offset projects. Examples of increasing flexibility and accessibility may include, but are not limited to, addressing barriers such as high cost of carbon projects, invalidation, reversals and project aggregation challenges.

11:49:14 From Cherie Kearney: agreed

11:50:43 From Ara Erickson, Weyerhaeuser: I think the language provided by Jason helps clear this up.

11:51:01 From John Henrikson: Agree with Jason's text.

11:51:07 From Edie Sonne Hall: I like the language as well

11:51:22 From Patti Case: Agree.

11:58:01 From Bill Turner: Well said Edie

11:58:24 From Patti Case: yes, this is another thing that has not come up until meeting 5.

12:08:20 From Edie Sonne Hall: Wanted to write down before I forget what I said as a possible one sentence clarification "The CSAG was focused on removing barriers to landowner participation in offset markets and not on the climate effectiveness of the offset markets themselves." Or something like that. Happy lunch!

12:53:56 From John Henrikson: I prefer option #2.

12:59:52 From Ara Erickson: I like that, Julius.

13:00:10 From Skip Swenson: I agree that's well-said.

13:00:19 From Indroneil Ganguly: i agree with Julius

13:02:51 From Jason Spadaro: I agree with option 2 and the amending comments. Sorry all, I have to depart for another meeting.

13:07:43 From Max Webster: I like it
13:36:03 From Ara Erickson: Thank you, everyone, for a productive 8 months!