

# **Charter and Operating Principles**

## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of the Forest Carbon Study Stakeholder Committee is to collaboratively discuss and provide feedback on the Forest Carbon Sequestration studies being developed and conducted by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in collaboration with the Oregon Carbon Policy Office.

The committee's role is to 1) review and provide feedback on scope of the studies and desired information; 2) discuss and provide input on selection of subject matter experts to review study methods; and 3) reviewing and providing advice on draft reports.

## **II. Background and Context**

The Oregon State Legislature continues to work on a carbon pricing program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The voluntary use of forest carbon to mitigate or offset emissions has been discussed as a component of carbon policy, and requires repeated inventory of forests and analysis for accurate accounting of stocks and changes.

An accurate forest carbon accounting is also required to meet the directive to the Oregon Global Warming Commission<sup>1</sup> to “track and evaluate...the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon’s forests, alternative methods of forest management that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce the loss of carbon sequestration to wildfire, changes in the mortality and distribution of tree and other plant species and the extent to which carbon is stored in tree-based building materials;” (ORS 468A.250(i)).

The Oregon Board of Forestry supervises all matters of forest policy in Oregon (ORS 526.016) and adopts rules regulating forest practices (ORS 527.630). An accurate assessment of the storage and flux of carbon in Oregon’s forests and harvested wood products will be critical for the Board in evaluating policies about the role of forests for climate mitigation. The assessment of Oregon’s forests should provide estimates of the impact of wildfire.

The Forest Inventory Analysis Program (FIA) within the USDA Resource Monitoring and Assessment Division of the Forest Service conducts an annual inventory of the nation’s forests with a 10-year remeasurement cycle for Oregon. The FIA Program has developed a forest sector carbon accounting methodology that complies with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines.

The Carbon Policy Office has asked ODF to produce an analytical report on the storage and flux of carbon in Oregon’s forests ecosystems. ODF is working with FIA to produce this report and with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana to produce a harvested wood products report.

### **III. Operating Principles**

#### Interests Represented

Committee members (see attached roster) include representatives from the conservation community, forest industry, and forestland owners.

#### Attendance at Meetings.

*Attendance expected.* Members are expected to make a good faith effort to attend all meetings. To maintain the continuity of the discussion, it is important to have the members (or alternates) attend every meeting. Members who choose not to attend a meeting may not seek to revisit issues from the missed meeting that were noted on the agenda and on which discussion was completed at the missed meeting. Members may participate by proxy by sending an alternate or through other committee members or by providing written input prior to the meeting.

#### Participant Commitments

All committee members agree to:

- Be prepared for and attend meetings and then follow through on commitments;
- Consult regularly with constituencies and provide their input at the earliest point in the process;
- Keep their organizations or constituents informed of the committee process and substance;
- Actively participate in meetings and review meeting materials prior to meetings;
- Treat everyone and his or her opinions with respect;
- Allow one person to speak at a time;
- Comment constructively and specifically;
- Engage in honest, constructive and good faith discussions in all aspects of the process, including any on-line discussions which may occur between meetings;
- Operate according to, and stay focused on, the committee's specific charge; and
- Represent the views of himself or herself only, and not any other member, group, or the committee as a whole to the public.

## Process Overview

### *Project Team.*

The Project Team consists of staff from ODF. The Project Team handles committee logistics and scheduling, and works to ensure that the committee receives appropriate technical and process support.

### *Meeting materials*

Project staff will target distribution of briefing materials, including agenda, at least one week prior to each meeting. Project staff will lead technical discussions designed to provide information and seek review and feedback on issues where applicable. Meeting materials will be posted on the ODF website.

### *Meeting summaries*

The project team will prepare summaries of the committee's meetings, which will document significant issues raised during the discussion, whether and how issues were resolved, committee advice and feedback regarding studies and other action items. The meeting summary will be posted on the ODF website after they are reviewed by the committee.

## **V. Contacts**

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