



US Forest Offset Working Group (Meeting #1)

Agenda for July 2nd, 2024 | 9:00 am – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom, the public may view the meeting in a webinar format

Welcome and Introductions

9:00 a.m. | Jordan Wildish (Ecology Offsets Lead), Ecology Facilitator

- Welcome to the meeting, introduce Ecology staff and working group members

Background and purpose of the working group

1. Goals of the working group
2. Intention of US Forest protocol updates
3. Review the working group charter
 - meeting logistics
 - expectations of working group members

Discussion: Preparing for a productive working group

1. Based on previous experience, what are some recommendations of practices or approaches that have worked well (or not worked well) in similar working groups?
2. Any further clarifying questions on the working group charter or purpose of this working group?

Overview of potential revisions to be discussed in the course of the working group

The following potential revisions will be shared by Ecology staff. In upcoming meetings, Working group members will discuss in-depth two to three of the proposed topics at each meeting. Others recommended revisions will be added to the list based on working group member feedback and public input. The potential revisions are not listed in order of priority.

- Eligibility
 - Eligibility of lands where an offset project was previously listed but no credits were issued
 - Definition of “Forest Owner”
- Reversals
 - Adopt a more narrow definition of “intentional reversals” to more accurately allocate liability
 - Alternative accounting for certain types of reversals
 - Allow reversal insurance in lieu of buffer pool contribution
- Conservation Easements
 - Allow phased qualified conservation easement implementation
 - Allow for multiple conservation easements over a single project area
- Verification and Monitoring
 - Reduce verification frequency and intensity for small projects with few or no offset accruals

- Baselines
 - Update Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) derived common practice statistics, plan periodic updates
 - Allow streamlined reforestation baseline by supersection (similar to common practice for Improve Forest Management (IFM))
 - Allow streamlined approach for estimating baseline carbon stocks for IFM projects on non-federal public lands
 - Adopt dynamic baselines responsive to exogenous factors
 - Adopt net present value method of calculating project baselines
 - Adopt streamlined baseline process for small landowners to establish a project baseline
- Forest Management Requirements
 - Implement alternative approaches to even aged harvest size restriction
 - Adopt alternate treatment of Safe Harbor Agreements as a component of project baseline
 - Allow changes to project boundaries with re-verification
- Inventorying and Sampling
 - Revise inventory sampling design standards
 - Allow of new methods of inventory and modeling
 - Allow use of CARIT tool for project developers

Discussion on the potential revisions

1. What potential topics are missing from this list?
2. In addition to comparable protocols, CARB Offset Taskforce report, and public comment, what resources should Ecology look to for potential offset protocol refinements?
3. What additional criteria should Ecology ask working group members to comment on through these discussions?
4. What context information would be helpful for Ecology to provide to guide the discussion on each topic?

Public comment opportunity

Public participants, Ecology's facilitator

- There will be a 15-minute public comment period. Public members are welcome to speak for up to two minutes. The comments should be focused on the content of the Forestry Offset Technical Working Group topics. Ecology will not respond to comments made by the public. Members of the public may provide written comments on the rulemaking process through the [digital comment platform](#).

Next Steps and Action Items

Next meeting: August 6th, 2024, 9 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)

Resource and Assistance

- Contact Jordan Wildish at CCAOffsets@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-6488
- [US Forest Offset Working Group Webpage](#)
- [CARB Taskforce Report](#)

July 2nd, 2024 US Forest Technical Working Group Meeting Agenda

- [Cap-and-Invest Offsets webpage](#)
- [Comment on the Chapter 173-446 WAC: Cap-and-Invest Offsets Rulemaking](#)