



US Forest Offset Working Group (Meeting #2)

Agenda for August 6th, 2024 | 9:00 am – 11:00 a.m.

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

Registration link: https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_opD2RW0dSqedD15F1fPjSO

Welcome and overview

- Welcome to the meeting, meeting structure
- Disclosure of financial interest related to topics to be discussed
 - Please come prepared to share any relevant financial interests or professional engagements related to the changes discussed in this meeting such as:
 - Intention or consideration of development of a forest offset project in Washington's market
 - Ownership, involvement, or other interest in an offset project that has been listed in a voluntary or compliance market but has never received offset credits
 - Any other financial interests that may be perceived as pertinent to this this discussion
 - Please note that the existence and disclosure of a financial interest **does not** preclude you from full participation in this discussion and meeting

Topic 1 – Eligibility of previously listed projects

- Ecology will share a considered revision, sourced from the CARB Offset Taskforce Report regarding the eligibility of previously *listed* projects in other compliance offset programs.
- Topic 1: Discussion questions:
 - What additional considerations or context related to this topic should Ecology be aware of?
 - Does this change present a risk of double counting of offset credits? In what situation might this occur?
 - Does this change have a meaningful impact on developers or landowners?
 - Does this change positively or negatively impact any of Ecology's programmatic goals for this rulemaking?
 - Improve project feasibility for smaller landowners
 - Increase viability of less used project types and less used land types
 - Remove unnecessary or unintended barriers or exclusions to project development
 - Improve applicability of the protocol to forests in Washington state
 - Increase methodological rigor
 - Do you recommend that Ecology make this change to the protocol?

Topic 2 – Definition of forest owner

- Ecology will share a considered revision, sourced from the CARB Offset Taskforce Report regarding the definition of “forest owner” for the purposes of compensating for an intentional reversal and meeting the requirements in the protocol
- Topic 2: Discussion questions:
 - What additional considerations or context related to this topic should Ecology be aware of?
 - Does this change more accurately allocate liability to the responsible parties in the event of an intentional reversal? Why or why not?
 - Does this change positively or negatively impact any of Ecology’s programmatic goals for this rulemaking?
 - Improve project feasibility for smaller landowners
 - Increase viability of less used project types and less used land types
 - Remove unnecessary or unintended barriers or exclusions to project development
 - Improve applicability of the protocol to forests in Washington state
 - Increase methodological rigor
 - Do you recommend that Ecology make this change to the protocol?

Topic 3 – Standard of negligence in forestry reversals

- Ecology will share a considered revision, sourced from the CARB Offset Taskforce Report regarding the standard of negligence for intentional reversals, clarifying that permitting third party access to the project area will not be deemed gross negligence or misconduct.
- Topic 3: Discussion questions:
 - What additional considerations or context related to this topic should Ecology be aware of?
 - Are the situations where permitting third party access to a project area *should* be considered gross negligence or misconduct?
 - Does this change have a meaningful impact on developer or landowner risk?
 - Given that this change would be intended to classify some reversals that would otherwise be intentional as unintentional, should a corresponding increase to buffer pool contributions be included with this change?
 - Does this change positively or negatively impact any of Ecology’s programmatic goals for this rulemaking?
 - Improve project feasibility for smaller landowners
 - Increase viability of less used project types and less used land types
 - Remove unnecessary or unintended barriers or exclusions to project development
 - Improve applicability of the protocol to forests in Washington state
 - Increase methodological rigor
 - Do you recommend that Ecology make this change to the protocol?

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

August 6th, 2024 US Forest Technical Working Group Meeting Agenda

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: September 3rd, 2024, 9 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)

Topics:

- Alternative accounting approach for certain types of reversals
- Buffer pool contribution structure

Resource and Assistance

- Contact Jordan Wildish at CCAOffsets@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-6488
- [US Forest Offset Working Group Webpage](#)
- [CARB Taskforce Report](#)
- [Cap-and-Invest Offsets webpage](#)
- [Comment on the Chapter 173-446 WAC: Cap-and-Invest Offsets Rulemaking](#)