



US Forest Offset Working Group (Meeting #7)

Agenda for January 7th | 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_biwR1Zu0Q62ggdeUacz-Rw

Welcome and overview

- Welcome to the meeting
- Disclosure of financial interest related to topics to be discussed
 - Please come prepared to share any relevant financial interests or professional engagements **not previously shared** related to the changes discussed in this meeting.

Topic 1 – Approaches to support development of projects by small forest landowners

- Ecology will share a brief overview of the approaches to facilitate small forest landowner project development; specifically project aggregation and reduced verification frequency/intensity for small projects. Approaches discussed will include:
 - The Climate Action Reserve’s guidelines for aggregating forest projects
 - Reduced verification frequency for projects with few or no offset credit accruals
 - Alternative protocols specifically geared towards aggregation of small projects
- Discussion questions;
 - Corrections, context, and clarifications related to project aggregation
 - How should Ecology consider the trade offs between quantification accuracy and market access for smaller landowners? In your view, are special provisions warranted regarding inventory and verification for smaller landowners?
 - In addition to less intensive verification and reduced sampling intensity across aggregated forest offset projects, what other approaches should Ecology consider to reduce barriers for small forest landowner project development?
- Relevant materials:
 - [Forest Project Aggregation, US Forest Protocol 5.1, Climate Action Reserve \(p.11\)](#)
 - [Guidelines for Aggregating Forest Projects \(Climate Action Reserve\)](#)
 - [Small Forest Landowner Carbon Work Group – Legislative Report](#)
 - [Verra VM0045 – Improve Forest Management Using Dynamic Match Baselines](#)

Topic 2 – Project Boundary Changes

- Ecology will share a brief overview of a recommendation in the CARB Taskforce report to allow for changes to offset project boundaries.
- Discussion questions;
 - Corrections, context, and clarifications related to project boundary changes
 - Are there circumstances where Ecology should allow a proponent to terminate a portion of a project? In what circumstances should partial early termination of a project not be allowed?
 - Are there circumstances where Ecology should allow a proponent to expand the boundary of an existing project to include additional land area? In what circumstances should project boundary expansion not be allowed?

- Relevant materials:
 - [CARB Offset Taskforce Report](#) (p. 76)

Topic 3 – Inventory Sampling Design Standard

- Ecology will share a brief overview of a recommendation in the CARB Taskforce report to revise inventory sampling design standards.
- Discussion questions;
 - Corrections, context, and clarifications related to project boundary changes
 - Is the confidence deduction sufficient to compensate for inventory methods that do not achieve equal or greater accurate relative to the original sampling method?
 - Does this change allow for greater flexibility in inventory sampling design over time? Are there other requirements in the protocol that restrict proponents' ability to revise inventory sampling methods?
- Relevant materials:
 - [CARB Offset Taskforce Report](#) (p. 80)

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: February 4th, 2024, 9 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) – Final Meeting

Resource and Assistance

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