

IFWG Task 2: Draft Work Plan

CAL FIRE

Task # 2 Objective:

Determine the effect of the State's existing forest and rangeland regulations (i.e., Sustained Yield Plans, Non Timber Management Plans, wildlife, water quality, erosion protection, etc.) and related programs on meeting the state's GHG goals, whether simple adjustments are needed, or whether more significant action is needed.

Deliverables

- An evaluation, as feasible, of the capacity of existing forest regulatory framework and programs to ensure achievement of Scoping Plan target
- List of concerns and identified regulatory and programmatic gaps,
- Recommendations, if needed, for amending regulations or improving program practices or procedures to ensure that CA forests achieve the Scoping Plan target
- Recommendations, as needed, for longer term analysis, research, demonstration or monitoring of regulatory and other programs' effects on carbon sustainability.

Steps

- 1) Develop a collaborative public involvement process that provides opportunities for stakeholder groups to participate in the development of IFWG findings and recommendations. Workgroup stakeholders should include a wide array of agencies, industry groups, land owners and NGOs covering the variety of interests.
- 2) Work group will review information on forest inventory and growth information to identify current trends in carbon stocks and sequestration (CAL FIRE and USFS staff support).
 - a. CAL FIRE will summarize and brief subcommittee on the type, currency and accuracy of forest inventory and growth data for timberlands and working forest landscapes
 - b. CAL FIRE and USFS/PNW will advise subcommittee on reliability of data from the USFS, CAL FIRE programs (FRAP and Forest Practices), and other sources for different uses (i.e. statewide, regional or finer scales); by ownership (state/private, federal, local, other); for programs or activities (e.g. industrial harvest plans, nonindustrial plans)
 - c. CAL FIRE and ARB will brief subcommittee on additional comments related to above from Task 1 Inventory Workshop.

- 3) Work group will review current regulations and implementation for maintaining growth, yield and net carbon sequestration
 - a. CAL FIRE will do presentation on Forest Practices Act rules and forestry assistance programs for maintaining and enhancing carbon stocks, e.g., Timber Harvesting Plan process, sustained yield and timberland conversion rules, regulations on silviculture, basic post harvest stocking requirements, timberland conversion permitting, reforestation and forest improvement activities
 - b. USFS will review federal forest regulations and project development process, e.g. NFMA and Forest Plans, if desired
- 4) Discuss potential for sustaining forest carbon stocks in face of climate change.
 - a. USFS will discuss recent projections of long-term trends and risks.
- 5) Work group will identify information gaps or concerns about capacity of regulatory and other fire or forestry assistance programs to achieve Scoping Plan 2020 target.
- 6) Based on steps above, work group will evaluate adequacy of programs for achieving Scoping Plan 2020 target of GHG sustainability and will recommend changes to programs, if needed, to ensure GHG sustainability, including consideration of inventory improvements from Task #1, program tracking and administration, silvicultural practices, regulations, etc. This information can be used as a starting point for IFWG Task 3 consideration of sustainable utilization of forest biomass for bioenergy purposes.
- 7) Work group will decide whether additional research, analysis, demonstrations, workshops or monitoring, is needed to fill information/program gaps, and will develop a work plan with clear objectives, timeline and resources.