

Strategic Plan and Report to ARB on Meeting AB 32 Forest Sector Targets

Presentation to IFWG, May 8, 2009

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Stated Goals and Approach

- The report provides a Strategic Plan to establish an approach and framework for maintaining the 5 MMT target within context of California forest policy
- To meet or exceed "No Net Loss" target of -5 MMT CO₂, the Board of Forestry plans to implement a program for managing forest carbon
- Further analysis is saved for a more detailed plan which will emerge from task groups.

Program for Managing Forest Carbon to Meet Target

- 1) Improve existing inventory of carbon stocks together with a credible monitoring program,
- 2) Use voluntary programs and incentives to maximize landowner participation in programs that enhance carbon sequestration,
- 3) Review effects on carbon sequestration of existing regulations and consider new amended regulations, if needed, and
- 4) Encourage research and suggest legislation related to climate change impacts for the Forest Sector.

BOF Authorities and Tools

- Regulations (Forest Practice Rules, Resource Management Programs, Fire Prevention and Administration)
- Board Policy Statements (Forest Pests, Forest Research, Range Improvement, Fire Protection, etc.)
- Joint Policies with other agencies (e.g. with DFG on Salmonids and also on Hardwoods)
- The California Fire Plan
- Policy recommendations and input to federal agencies
- Board Standing Committee on Policy.

Five Forest Sector strategies to reduce CO₂ and GHG emissions

- Reforestation/Afforestation - sequestration
- Fuels management – avoided catastrophic wildfire and renewable energy
- Urban forestry – sequestration, energy savings and renewable energy
- Conservation – avoided conversion to non-forest vegetation and management
- Forest Management – increased sequestration and reduce risk of loss

BOF Work Plan

Principles to guide policies and strategies:

- Preserve and enhance carbon stocks in forests and wood products
- Increase resilience to reduce loss from disturbances (wildfires, insects, disease)

Actions:

- Form Climate Change Committee (IFWG) to prioritize actions and maximize collaboration
- Convene task groups
- Charge Science and Research Committee to identify and prioritize research needs for climate action

BOF seeks input on IFWG priorities and support

- Managing Institutions
 - Review and modify regulations for carbon benefits
 - Incentives and funding
 - Carbon markets
 - Increased fuels reduction and biomass utilization
 - Work with local entities on land use, forest and watershed management, fire safety
- Managing Ecosystems
 - Incorporate climate change into Fire Plan
 - Review forest health & assistance programs
 - Link CEQA and BOF authority
 - Review Research
- Managing Information
 - Inventory & monitoring
 - Track and assess program effectiveness
 - Protocol development
 - Outreach and education
 - Reporting progress to ARB

Need for New Resources

Cost to implement treatments is significant but sequestration benefits increase significantly over time

Expand or maintain CAL FIRE and other programs

New tools and funding sources:

- Bonds, legislation, carbon market, Carbon Trust /ARB revenues, federal funds
- Carbon market and bioenergy markets

Investments in inventory and tracking of carbon, GHGs and forestry climate activities will be critical