

Forest Carbon Action Team (FCAT)
June 15, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Draft: 7/13/15

Meeting attendees:

George Gentry – State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BoF); Mark Andre – BoF; Jerry Bird – US Forest Service; Janet Barentson – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); Chris Keithley – CAL FIRE; Justin Johnson – CAL FIRE; Keith Gilless – BoF; Helge Eng – CAL FIRE; Carla Martinson – California Association of Counties; Kim Carr - CAL FIRE; John Digman – Air Resources Board (ARB); Edie Chang – ARB; Ken Pimlott – CAL FIRE; Duane Shintaku – CAL FIRE; Ashley Conrad-Saydah – CAL EPA; JR Delarosa – Natural Resources Agency (NRA); Russ Henly – NRA; Jim Branham – Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC); Nic Enstice – SNC; Patrick Wright – California Tahoe Conservancy; Jay Chamberlin – Department of Parks and Recreation; Klaus Scott – ARB; David Mallory – ARB; Lori Gilbert – ARB; Jim Bowmer – Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Miriam Morrill – BLM; Claire Jahns – NRA; Tony Mediati – CAL FIRE.

Agenda Items 1-3 Opening remarks and Agenda Review

Ken Pimlott greeted the team, stated that the team is making progress in a number of areas and reviewed the agenda items.

Mr. Pimlott asked if anyone had comments on the agenda. No comments were received. Mr. Pimlott asked if anyone had comments on the minutes from the last meeting. No comments were received.

Action/Consent Items

- Approval of April 20, 2015, minutes.

Agenda Item 4, Biomass/Bioenergy Presentation

Kim Carr discussed biomass and bioenergy and stated that there were a lot of opportunities and lost opportunities both economically and environmentally.

Ms. Carr gave a PowerPoint presentation.

- The supply of forest biomass continues to increase due to insect and disease mortality, fire salvage and fuel reduction projects.
- Biomass continues to increase in the forest and the backlog of untreated acres that would have been treated under a pre-European fire regime continues to increase.
- The majority of un-merchantable forest biomass generated by forest management is piled and burned or cut and left to decompose on-site.

- Currently there is about 500 MW of biomass energy in the state powered by forest and agriculture byproducts. Some facilities are going idle or closing due to pricing or purchasing contracts. Facilities associated with sawmills are fairing better.
- Use of biomass in facilities has the potential to reduce black carbon and methane from forest management projects.
- The renewable gas standard may increase the demand for biofuels from forests.
- Using biomass can provide many co-benefits including public health, air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat improvement.

Agenda Item 5, Forest Carbon “Work Plan”

Chris Keithley passed around two handouts (Forest Carbon Work Plan, June 4, 2015 and the Forest Resource Evaluation Method – Analysis Guide).

The Work Plan includes a data analysis step. The Work Plan mirrors the outline of the Forest Carbon Plan. The tasks in the Work Plan correspond with the Forest Carbon Plan outline. Subcommittees have been assigned as leads for each of the tasks. Each subcommittee needs to decide how to address the tasks assigned to them.

The Forest Resource Evaluation Method – Analysis Guide is an analysis template to help complete the tasks of the Work Plan. FRAP has developed a tool to combine two or more priority landscapes.

Mr. Pimlott asked about the timeline chart on page five of the Work Plan.

Mr. Keithley said subcommittee leads need to supply an estimated start and end date for the timeline chart.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah asked when the maps are likely to be updated and what would it take to have more up-to-date maps?

Mr. Keithley said updated maps many start to become available by the end of the summer.

Action/Consent Items

- Subcommittees need to provide start and end dates for the tasks to Chris Keithley.

Agenda Item 6. Update on the Resource Economic Study

Mr. Henly reported that a work plan budget to get an investigator had been developed and was in the process. This contract will use up a large portion of the money allocated to this item. The work plan enables a great deal of coordination with FCAT.

Agenda Item 7 – List of Forest Health Attributes

Mr. Shintaku reported that a draft list of attributes was developed as a communications tool to help everyone frame the discussion regarding what constitutes a healthy forest. The Attributes were sent out to the members by email. These attributes are not intended to be all-encompassing.

Action/Consent Items

- Subcommittees can provide comments or edit to the attributes to Duane Shintaku.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion of significant “milestones” and future public workshops

Mr. Henly started with two things for FCAT to consider. What might a future series of public outreach look like? What structure should the outreach take?

He suggests a series for three cycles of public meetings. The cycle would be initial, midterm, and draft document. He suggests the next round of public outreach in August. Midterm outreach in March 2016 and the Forest Carbon Plan draft document outreach in September 2016.

The UC team included an outreach plan as part of their work plan. Initial outreach in November 2015, midterm in July 2016 and release of the draft Resource Economics Study in mid-2017.

For the structure of the public outreach meeting Mr. Henly suggests a Sacramento based webinar and possibly of couple of satellite meetings, one possibly in Redding. A more fully developed plan will be brought back at the August meeting. He recommends scheduling the next outreach meeting for August following the next FCAT meeting.

Subcommittee chairs should think about what can be produced by August for the public outreach.

Action/Consent Items

- Subcommittees can provide comments or feedback on the draft timeline to Russ Henly.

Agenda Item 9 – Subcommittee Updates & Discussion

Inventory Subcommittee report

There is consensus on which carbon pools lend themselves to analysis. Due to confidentiality rules it is easier to analyze some things on a statewide basis as opposed to an ownership basis.

State/Federal Lands Subcommittee report

Kim Carr noted the State and Public Lands Issues Subcommittee has taken on the biomass/bioenergy issue. The subcommittee is getting information on volumes, acres treated and treatment type from USFS Region 5 and FRAP.

Co-benefits Subcommittee report

Helge Eng reported the Co-benefits Subcommittee has started on a detailed analysis and an outline of priority landscapes.

Policy Subcommittee report

Russ Henly noted that the Policy Subcommittee thinks FCAT should provide recommendations for the GGRF investment plan. The subcommittee proposes to meet again and develop a draft set of recommendations for the August meeting.

Action/Consent Items

- FCAT consented to have the Policy subcommittees develop a draft set of recommendations for the GGRF investment plan and bring them to the FCAT for review and action at the August FCAT meeting.

Agenda Item 10. New web page on FCAT website.

There is a new public comments page on the FCAT website. Some members have been contacted by stakeholders wanting to provide comments to FCAT at large. The comments page will allow FCAT member to see what the public think is important and wants to have considered.

Action/Consent Items

- Subcommittees can provide comments to Duane Shintaku.

Agenda Item 11. Next FCAT scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2015.

Agenda Item 12. Meeting Adjourn.

End