



## **Forest-Climate Working Group Policy and Planning Guidance Document**

Purpose of This Document: This Policy and Planning Guidance Document is meant to provide interim operating guideposts and near-term action steps for the Forest-Climate Working Group (FCWG) as we develop our consensus dialogues and subsequent action steps. The policies contained in this document could be refined based on participant feedback gained by our facilitators, Hugh O'Doherty and Suzan Podziba, as they conduct a wide-ranging set of interviews with FCWG participant organizations leading into the first consensus dialogue.

### **Forest-Climate Working Group Policy**

FCWG Recognized Participants: The FCWG is open to any interested organization willing to endorse our Entry Principles, which is the sole requirement for becoming a recognized participant. Organizations must signify their endorsement in writing to the co-chairs, with electronic communications sufficient to satisfy this requirement. Participation in select meetings of the FCWG may be opened to organizations or individuals who are not recognized participants upon the approval of the steering committee. Participation in any consensus policy dialogues as a vested participant is limited to recognized participants of the FCWG.

FCWG Co-Chairs: Two volunteer co-chairs will provide the overall coordination for the FCWG. The co-chairs will be drawn from separate organizations having diverse interests in forest-climate policy. The co-chairs' responsibilities will include: coordination of the full FCWG and its steering committee through email, conference calls, and meetings; securing professional facilitation and other contractor support for the FCWG as needed; assuring follow-through on task lists and action items developed by all FCWG committees; and responding to interest from new potential participants and other outside entities. The current co-chairs are Drue DeBerry of the American Forest Foundation and Jad Daley of The Trust for Public Land.

FCWG Steering Committee: To provide a broad base of leadership and engagement, the FCWG will be led by a steering committee open to any recognized participant. The steering committee will meet on average once per month, inclusive of any meetings, dialogues, and other events that involve all FCWG participants. Meetings will be held primarily by conference call, to be arranged and facilitated by the co-chairs. The steering committee will give guidance to the overall direction of the FCWG including any matters of significant policy or strategic importance. When it deems appropriate, the steering committee may also choose to bring a significant issue before the full set of FCWG participants for broader consideration. The steering committee will also oversee the coordinating activities of the co-chairs to assure consistent quality control and effective balancing of all participants' interests. The current membership of the steering committee will be regularly updated in the FCWG Master Contact List maintained on Google groups.

FCWG Task Committees: The co-chairs and steering committee will establish task committees when important pieces of work require more time and follow-through than can be provided by the steering committee as a whole. Participation on task committees will be open to any recognized participant in the FCWG. A chair will be appointed for each task committee to



arrange calls and meetings of the committee, keep the group on task, and assure follow-through. Current task committees include organizing committees for the Project Design Dialogue and Adaptation Funding Dialogue. These committees are working with the facilitators on a range of issues, including agenda design, identifying outside speakers, and logistics. The current membership of each task committee will be regularly updated in the FCWG Master Contact List maintained on Google groups.

Role of Facilitators: The FCWG has retained the services of Hugh O'Doherty of Cambridge Leadership Associates and Susan Podziba of Susan Podziba Associates to provide professional facilitation. The initial work of the facilitators will be to interview FCWG participants to gain an appreciation of the scope of issues and concerns held by various groups, including the interplay of interests among different participants and interest groups. The facilitators will also use these interviews to learn how the FCWG can refine its operations to better serve the needs of participants, and will provide professional expertise to the steering committee in designing optimally effective FCWG operating policy. As the FCWG dialogues move forward, the facilitators will play a lead role in working with the planning committees to design each dialogue, and then lead all aspects of the dialogues as they occur. To facilitate the successful closure of each dialogue, the facilitators will work with each drafting team to help assure that the summary white papers accurately reflect that dialogue's content.

Decision Making (Consensus and Voting): The FCWG will push strongly to operate by full consensus on any matter. When consensus cannot be achieved within the full FCWG or one of its committees but some action is required by that body, the relevant co-chairs or chair may accept a motion on that matter and subject the motion to a vote. Acceptance of a motion will require that no more than one-quarter of recognized participants or committee members (whichever is relevant) oppose the motion.

FCWG Internal Communications: As a rule, all recognized participants will be copied on each email to the steering committee unless a participant specifically requests otherwise. This is meant to enhance communications and transparency. The FCWG will maintain an account on Google groups that will facilitate communications with and among all participants. The Google group will contain a FCWG document library, for which the co-chairs and facilitators will have responsibility to maintain updated versions of all relevant documents pertaining to the FCWG and our meetings and dialogues.

### **FCWG Consensus Dialogues**

The FCWG consensus dialogues on specific issues of forest-climate policy are meant to provide a forum for diverse forest interest groups to share perspectives and pursue consensus on a set of recommended forest components for federal climate policies. Dialogues will close by tasking a drafting team comprised of dialogue participants with developing a consensus white paper that captures the highest level of consensus achieved at the dialogue. Once a draft white paper has been produced, it will be circulated to all dialogue participants for approval. Based on discussions among the FCWG participants at our meetings on April 3 and 4 in Washington, D.C., we adopted three initial topics for consensus dialogue, to be held over the summer and early fall of 2008.



Project Design Dialogue: June 18-19, Airlie Center, Warrenton, VA

Leadership Committee: See FCWG Master Contact Sheet

Duration: Two Days

This dialogue will focus on identifying consensus around the project design elements and benchmarks needed to create high quality forest carbon activities. Likely issues of project design to be addressed include:

1. Project Eligibility
2. Sustainability
3. Inclusion of Forest Pools
4. Reporting
5. Measuring and Monitoring
6. Equivalence
7. Harvested Wood Products
8. Leakage
9. Baselines and Additionality
10. Permanence

Policy Mechanisms Dialogue: Sept. 15-16, Defenders of Wildlife, Washington, DC

Leadership Committee: Same as Project Design Dialogue

Duration: Two Days

This dialogue will focus on developing consensus around what policy mechanisms should be used to support forest carbon activities. Mechanisms considered in various legislative vehicles have included, among others, development of carbon offset markets and award of allowances from cap and trade systems. This dialogue will also examine the potential role of programs not tied to cap and trade system for supporting forest carbon activities, such as incentive programs like the Healthy Forest Reserve Program. Finally, the dialogue will examine what role research can play in developing tools and methodologies that will lower costs and otherwise help support enhanced levels of forest carbon activities.

Adaptation Funding Dialogue: October 10, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, DC

Leadership Committee: See FCWG Master Contact List

Duration: One day

Various legislative vehicles have considered the need to allocate some proceeds generated from cap and trade system to help mitigate impacts of climate change on natural resources, including forests, waters, and wildlife. This dialogue will focus on developing consensus around what activities will be necessary to aid forest adaptation to climate change, and how these activities might be supported through natural resource adaptation funding. The dialogue will include presentations from scientific experts in the field of natural resource adaptation, and then move into a consideration of potential management responses to that science and an evaluation of what policy tools would be needed to guide and support that response.



## **Transition Meeting—Reviewing Dialogue Results and Legislative Next Steps**

Transition Meeting: Dec. 15-16, Washington, DC

Leadership: Full FCWG Steering Committee

Duration: Two Days

The primary goals for this meeting will be to share the results of the consensus dialogues with all participants in the FCWG and to assess a potential legislative strategy. Prior to the meeting, the facilitators will circulate any consensus policy white papers produced from the three dialogues along with lists of dialogue participant organizations that endorsed those documents. Should sufficient policy consensus exist to support development of an external platform, we will then devote the second half-day to chart a legislative strategy to advance the policy recommendations contained in these white papers. Should insufficient policy consensus exist on these specific issues at that juncture, we will develop a new plan for further consensus dialogues, if deemed appropriate and potentially fruitful. We will also explore the opportunity for an interim legislative strategy working solely from the consensus encapsulated in the Entry Principles.