

## MEMORANDUM

To: Oregon Global Warming Commission Members  
From: Catherine Macdonald, Chair OGWC  
Subject: Natural and Working Lands Sequestration Goal  
Date: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Introduction

In Executive Order 20-04, Governor Brown directed the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) to develop a proposed goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the land sector. Over the past year we have engaged experts and heard from nearly 1,000 Oregonians on the level of ambition, practices, investments, and policies that should be considered in setting a goal to increase the sequestration of carbon dioxide in natural and working lands. Over the next two meetings, the Commission will finalize our recommendations. At our meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will consider, modify, and vote on the recommendations below. Please come with proposed language for any modifications you would like the commission to consider. At our meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will finalize and vote on a land sector emissions reduction goal and recommendations on practices, investments, and policies that should be advanced to achieve the goal.

### **1) What is the purpose for the land sector inventory – tracking progress toward our goal, evaluating policies and programs, or both?**

*Recommendation:* The OGWC should recommend investments in natural and working lands inventory data that will allow us to track progress toward our land sector goals and attribute changes to specific causes (e.g., changes in land use and management, habitat restoration, and wildfires).

Specific recommendations on improvements to Oregon's inventory will be presented in advance of our meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> based on the decision above.

### **2) What type(s) of goal should we recommend, GHG emissions-reductions based, activity-based, or both?**

*Recommendation:* The OGWC should recommend that Oregon set both an emissions reduction outcome-based goal and activity-related goal (e.g. acres of soil health practice adoption, acres of riparian reforestation, urban forest canopy maintenance and reforestation). The goals should be proposed for 2030 and for 5-year increments thereafter. The emissions reduction goal should be defined as added sequestration and/or reduced land sector emissions relative to Oregon's 1990 business-as-usual land sector baseline in a similar fashion to Oregon's other sector-based goals.

### **3) How detailed should the land sector goal(s) to be?**

*Recommendation:* The OGWC should recommend outcome-based and activity-based goals for each land type: forests, agricultural Lands, grasslands, shrub steppe, and coastal or 'blue' carbon.

**4) What should the relationship be between the land sector goal(s) and the state's existing emission reduction goals?**

*Recommendation:* The OGWC should recommend that the emissions reduction goal for natural and working lands be in addition to the sector-based goals established by the Governor in Executive Order 20-04.

**5) How frequently should the goal(s) and inventory be updated, and what criteria should be used to inform any such change?**

*Recommendation:* The OGWC should recommend that the activity-based goal be updated annually and reported as part of the OGWC's Biennial Report to the Legislature. Field and modeled data on emissions reductions and sequestration should be updated as it is available and at least every three years.

**6) What consequences do we want to recommend if we are not meeting the goal?**

*Recommendation:* If we are not meeting goals, the OGWC should recommend that an analysis be conducted to determine why we aren't meeting the goals and what, if any, changes should be made to programs, policies, and funding plans.