



## MEMORANDUM

**TO** Oregon Global Warming Commission  
**FROM** Catherine Macdonald  
**SUBJECT** Proposed Changes to the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Draft Natural and Working Lands Proposal  
**DATE** July 28, 2021

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The Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) received many important edits from Commissioners regarding the Draft Natural and Working Lands Proposal posted on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The requested changes affecting the Goals, Strategies and Next Steps recommendations (Sections III- V) as well as changes to the referenced Principles the Commission adopted at the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 OGWC meeting are provided below. The OGWC will consider and vote on these changes at the meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The editorial changes recommended will be included in the final proposal the OGWC will submit to Governor Brown later in August.

**A. Page 3, Principles: the text below needs to be modified to reflect the wording of the principles as adopted at our July 28, 2020 meeting:**

“In July 2020, the OGWC adopted the following principles for developing a net carbon sequestration goal for Oregon’s natural and working lands proposal:

- ~~In alignment with guidance from Oregon’s [Environmental Justice Task Force](#) developing a proposal~~ The process for developing a proposal will be inclusive and transparent and provide opportunities for broad public engagement and coordination with other Boards and Commissions.
- **The inventory, baseline and projection methods** will be based on **guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** ~~carbon sequestration goals on~~ and the best available science.
- The proposed goals and recommended policies, practices, and programs will:
  - Prioritize consideration of benefits to Climate Impacted Communities ~~including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, tribes, low-income communities, and other historically disadvantaged communities at greater risk to climate impacts;~~
  - Consider landowner, **land manager** and community interests **in policies, practices, and programs;**
  - Include provisions to ensure a diversity of landowners and managers can participate in any potential market- and incentive-based programs and provide meaningful climate benefits; and
  - Consider co-benefits ~~or~~ additional societal benefits ~~resulting from an action that may be relevant for other state goals (e.g., advancement of racial justice, climate resilience, clean water).”~~

## B. Page 5, Outcome-Based Goal:

Alternative A. Outcome-Based Goal: “Sequester **at least**<sup>1</sup> an additional 4 to 7 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year in Oregon’s natural and working lands and waters by 2030, and **at least an additional** 5 to 8 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e **per year** by 2050, relative to a 2010 to 2020 net carbon sequestration business-as-usual baseline.”

Alternative B. Outcome-Based Goal: “Sequester an additional 4 to 7 million metric MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year in Oregon’s natural and working lands by 2030 and 5 to 8 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e **per year** by 2050, relative to a 2010 to 2019 **activity-based** ~~net carbon sequestration~~ business-as-usual baseline.”

Alternative C. Outcome-Based Goal: “Sequester **at least** an additional 4 ~~to 7~~ million metric MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year in Oregon’s natural and working lands by 2030 and 5 ~~to 8~~ MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year by 2050, relative to a 2010 to 2019 **activity-based** net carbon sequestration business-as-usual baseline.”

## C. Page 5, Activity-Based Metrics and Goals:

Alternative: “To achieve the outcome-based goal, investments will be needed in technical assistance, incentives, and policy development--**including rules and regulations, when applicable/authority exists--** to support adoption of climate-smart management practices.” Activity-based metrics (e.g., number of acres with adoption of soil health practices, acres of maintained resource lands, acres of riparian reforestation, and acres of urban forest canopy expansion) will help us evaluate progress. Activity-based goals for programs designed to incentivize climate smart management practices will help communities, technical assistance providers, and land managers anticipate the opportunity to adopt new practices.

## D. Page 6, Paragraph 2:

Alternative: “The OGWC recommends **that state agencies be required to the state** report on Activity, Funding and Community Impact metrics and goals as part of the OGWC’s Biennial Report to the Legislature with recommendations on how to address barriers and identify opportunities to improve strategies for increasing carbon sequestration in Oregon’s natural and working lands.”

## E. Page 6: IV. Proposed Strategies

Alternative: To achieve the ambitious outcome-based goal and further develop the Activity, Funding, and Community Impact metrics and goals, the OGWC recommends that the Legislature: (1) Position the state to leverage federal lands and investments in climate smart natural and working lands practices; (2) investigate options and create a sustained source of state funding increase sequestration in natural and working lands; (3) fund and direct the agencies to take actions to advance natural and working lands strategies, including by **providing additional authority as-needed to support sequestration goals; directing agencies to incorporate sequestration as a part of their missions; requiring regular reporting to track progress in meeting goals; and funding new climate change policy positions within each natural resource agency to oversee sequestration work; and** (4) invest in improvements to Oregon’s natural and working lands inventory. These actions, as described in more detail below should be guided by the recommendations that emerged during the public engagement process used to develop this proposal which is summarized below and described further in Appendix A.

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<sup>1</sup>Differences between alternatives are shown in bold. Where more than two alternatives are provided the bolded items differ from the proceeding alternative.

## F. Page 9:

### **(2) Investigate and advance options for sustained state funding to increase sequestration in natural and working lands. Paragraph Two**

Alternative A: We can achieve some increases in sequestration by including a climate mitigation lens in existing natural and working lands programs. **In addition to natural and working lands investments that can be made through grant programs administered by OWEB and NRCS, DEQ should be encouraged to work tribes and other stakeholders to solicit Community Climate Investments focused on conservation practices that reduce GHG emissions, particularly those that focus on achieving carbon sequestration from working lands.**

**In addition** ~~However~~, to achieve the ambitious goals we recommend, new funding will be needed to:

- Fund and staff agencies to develop and implement recommendations and/or required policy changes.
- Strengthen education, engagement, and technical assistance efforts;
- Increase and deploy nature-based solutions in and around our built environment;
- Provide incentives to help land managers adopt climate-smart practices; and
- Protect and restore natural habitats that sequester carbon.

Alternative B: We can achieve some increases in sequestration by including a climate mitigation lens in existing natural and working lands programs. **In addition to natural and working lands investments that can be made through grant programs administered by OWEB and NRCS, DEQ should be encouraged to work tribes and other stakeholders to solicit investments focused on conservation practices that reduce GHG emissions, particularly those that focus on achieving carbon sequestration from working lands.**

**In addition** ~~However~~, to achieve the ambitious goals we recommend, new funding will be needed to:

- Fund and staff agencies to develop and implement recommendations and/or required policy changes.
- Strengthen education, engagement, and technical assistance efforts;
- Increase and deploy nature-based solutions in and around our built environment;
- Provide incentives to help land managers adopt climate-smart practices; and
- Protect and restore natural habitats that sequester carbon.

## G. Page 12:

- ***Create a blue-ribbon panel to develop an all lands strategic plan for incentivizing climate smart forestry in Oregon's forest while maintaining or enhancing Oregon's harvested wood products infrastructure. Paragraph 3***

Alternative A: The OGWC recommends that ODF evaluate a ~~bold set~~ **range** of scenarios including: lengthening harvest rotations on state and private forest lands; ~~increasing protections for mature and old growth forests on state and federal lands as well as areas with high carbon storage potential and co-benefits for threatened and endangered species and improved water quality;~~ **increasing protections for mature and old growth forests on state and** implementing forest resilience treatments in fire-prone forests; reforesting understocked stands, areas impacted by wildfire, and riparian floodplain habitats;

federal lands as well as areas with high carbon storage potential and co-benefits for threatened and endangered species and improved water quality; **and the effects of changes in forest harvest levels on the amount of carbon stored in long-lived wood products and leakage associated with shifting harvest to other jurisdictions.**

Alternative B: The OGWC recommends that ODF evaluate a ~~bold set~~ **range** of scenarios including: lengthening harvest rotations on state and private forest lands; ~~increasing protections for mature and old-growth forests on state and federal lands as well as areas with high carbon storage potential and co-benefits for threatened and endangered species and improved water quality;~~ implementing forest resilience treatments in fire-prone forests; reforesting understocked stands, areas impacted by wildfire, and riparian floodplain habitats; **increasing protections for mature and old growth forests on state and federal lands as well as areas with high carbon storage potential and co-benefits for threatened and endangered species and improved water quality; and assessing the effects of any proposed changes in forest management on short- and long-term fiber supplies and the amount of carbon stored in long-lived wood products.**

#### H. Page 15:

Alternative:

**E) Fund a study of the workforce and the economic development potential of carrying out the recommendations in this report and Expand climate-smart protection, restoration and improved management training and technical assistance programs. Paragraph 4**

Where new natural resources workforce programs are needed, they should be developed in partnership with the Oregon State Apprentice and Training Council **as appropriate**. Any new training programs **should prioritize creating real pathways to careers that provide family-wage employment for local communities and** should include union labor and give priority to diversity and equity in the workforce, including communities of color and historically underserved communities.

#### I. Pg. 16: Next Steps:

Alternative A: "In order to continue to advance a natural and working lands sequestration goal and strategies, the Legislature should fund and create a Natural and Working Lands Council. The Council should be charged with **utilizing the best available data and science to** ~~establishing~~ a baseline for the outcome-based goal and the activity and community impact metrics within a year of its establishment. **The Council should also advise state agencies on implementation of the strategies included in this proposal and provide continued opportunities for stakeholder engagement as it develops guidance and metrics.**

Alternative B: "In order to continue to advance a natural and working lands sequestration goal and strategies, **Governor Brown should direct the agencies (ODA, ODF, OWEB, DLCD, DEQ) and the Environmental Justice Task Force to work with the OGWC to draft Activity-based and Community goals and metrics, establish the 2010 to 2019 baseline and complete a first draft of a Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry inventory.** The Legislature should fund and create a Natural and Working Lands Council. The Council should **report Legislature and** ~~be charged with~~ **utilizing the best available data and science to** ~~establishing~~ a baseline for the outcome-based goal and the activity and community impact metrics within ~~a year~~ **six months** of its establishment **and then sunset.**

Alternative C: “In order to continue to advance a natural and working lands sequestration goal and strategies, Governor Brown should direct the agencies (ODA, ODF, OWEB, DLCD, DEQ) and the Environmental Justice Task Force to work with the OGWC to draft Activity-based and Community goals and metrics, establish the 2010 to 2019 baseline and complete a first draft of a Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry inventory. **The agencies should use the best available data and science to draft the baseline, metrics and inventory.** The Legislature should fund and create a Natural and Working Lands Council. **The agencies should provide draft recommendations on the metrics, baseline and inventory to the Council for review and public comment.** The Council should report **their findings relative to the agencies’ recommendations** to the Legislature ~~within a year~~ **within six months** of its establishment and then sunset.