



Forest Carbon Standards Committee Webinar

September 25, 2009

Outline

- Background
 - More at www.forestcarbonstandards.org
- Development of Standard
 - Role of Technical Task Committees
 - Highlights of Task Committee work to date
- Anticipated Next Steps
- Q&A

Background

- Purpose and goals
- Bi-national: U.S. and Canadian
- Process
 - AF&PA-ANSI
 - CSA-SCC

Background

- Sponsoring organizations:
 - AF&PA
 - FPAC
 - SAF
 - CIF
- Committee
 - 15 new members just approved, now 53 total

Background

- U.S. context
 - Pending cap-and-trade legislation
- Canadian context
 - Revised offsets system design proposal
- Relationships with other efforts
 - Drawing on existing or developing efforts

Key Developments

- October 2008 meeting
- Scope of Work
- Technical Task Committees
 - Conference calls
 - Recommendations for standard
- Integration Task Committee

Project Types

- Afforestation
- Reforestation
- Improved Forest Management
- Avoided Forest Conversion

Technical Task Committees

- Baselines and Additionality
 - Alec Giffen, Maine Forest Service
- Permanence and Leakage
 - Edie Sonne Hall, Weyerhaeuser
- Quantification (Measurement, Monitoring, Verification)
 - Gary Bull, University of British Columbia
- Sustainability, Co-Benefits, and Environmental Impacts
 - Tim Pearson, Winrock International

Baselines/Additionality

- Defining baselines and additionality
- Afforestation
 - Assume former land use would have continued
- Reforestation
 - Assumes some natural regeneration

Baselines/Additionality

- Improved Forest Management
 - Multiple options considered
 - Maximize both legitimacy and “executability”
 - One size does not fit all – different management circumstances warrant different approaches

Permanence/Leakage Process

- Task committee divided topics into manageable pieces
 - Project Length
 - Managing reversals
 - Internal Leakage
 - External Leakage
- For each topic:
 - Background material presented
 - Sub-group formed to brainstorm and present options
 - Options discussed and “winning ideas” flushed out further
 - Votes if necessary

Permanence/Leakage

- Defining Permanence
- Short-term contracts
- Early termination
- Reversals

Permanence/Leakage

- Leakage
 - Internal
 - External

Permanence/Leakage: Outstanding Issues

- Atmospheric decay rate and permanence length
- Short-term contracts and atmospheric integrity
- Early-termination and pay-back requirements

Quantification: Terms of Reference

- Details on reporting requirements; carbon pools to measure; and emissions to include
- Evaluate the different approaches in terms of:
 - (a) good accounting principles (transparency, completeness, consistency, accuracy, repeatability, uncertainty);
 - (b) feasibility (available scientific methods, cost, transaction efficiency); and;
 - (c) ability of independent third-party verifiers to verify accuracy of reported amounts.
- Prepare draft recommendations for quantification rules.

Quantification: Process

Measurement

- Eligible activities
- Existing forest carbon stock (growing stock)
- Change in stock over time (growth and yield)
- Accounting for dynamics in all other carbon in the pool – minor vegetation, CWD, litterfall, soil
- Emissions associated with harvesting/silvicultural activities
- Harvested wood products and bioenergy
- Forest carbon and wood products decision support systems
- Risk

Monitoring

Verification/Validation

Quantification Recommendations (1)

- Growing stock/growth and yield: set accuracy and precision goal; allow various methods to achieve goal
- Carbon pools: some may be excluded if not signif. to emissions/sequestration (e.g., litter, soil)
- Emissions assoc. with harvesting: direct measurement not required; may rely on lookup tables or discount values
- Harvested wood products: methods/tables draw from DOE 1605(b); need to develop Canadian estimates

Quantification Recommendations (2)

- DSS: include pre-approved DSS; allow use of non-approved DSS if meet criteria
- Risk: standard requires development of risk management plan
- Monitoring: prescribe appropriate sampling methodology; auditing of adherence to prescribed procedures
- Verification/Validation: accreditation to ISO standard; audits must be developed by professional forester; materiality threshold 3% on GHG assertion and on baseline inventory

Sustainability

- Carbon goal is primary
 - But do no harm
 - Minimum requirements for sustainability
- Describe impacts on communities and environment and steps to mitigate negative impacts.
- Voluntary reporting of co-benefits

Sustainability

- Afforestation/Reforestation
 - Planting requirements
- Improved Forest Management
 - Document SFM
 - Planting requirements
- Avoided Forest Conversion

Anticipated Next Steps

- Technical TCs finalize draft recommendations
- Integration Task Committee reviews standard
 - ID gaps and inconsistencies
- Additional Technical TC review and input
- Committee meeting, early Dec., to review draft standard
- Refine standard; fill in missing pieces
- Committee ballot – early 2010
- Public review – parallel process in U.S. and Canada
- Refinement based on public review
- Final approval

Questions

- Type questions into chat box
- Website (again): www.forestcarbonstandards.org