October 9, 2017

Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan Proposed Process

The proposed 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update sets as objectives in Natural and Working Lands: (1) maintain them as a resilient carbon sink (i.e., net zero or negative GHG emissions), and (2) minimize, where appropriate, the net GHG and black carbon emissions associated with management, biomass disposal, and wildfire events to 2030 and beyond.

The State, led by California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and California Air Resources Board (CARB) will complete a Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Climate Change Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) in 2018 to set the pathway for meeting these objectives.

The Implementation Plan will include a projection of emissions for all NWL (Federal, State, and Private) statewide under business-as-usual land use and management conditions. It will also include alternative scenarios that will be made up of a suite of land conservation, management, and restoration activities implemented over specified extents, measured in acres. The expected climate impacts of the business-as-usual vs. alternative scenarios will be modeled with the California Natural and Working Lands Carbon and Greenhouse Gas model (CALAND). This will help inform a broader analysis for development of a long-term (2050 or 2100) statewide emission reduction and sequestration pathways that can be incorporated into future state climate policy.

Further, the Implementation Plan will recommend land use and management interventions that could be taken by State departments, boards, conservancies to increase sequestration and avoid emissions to meet an intervention-based goal. The proposed 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update will suggest an intervention based goal of reducing emissions from NWL by at least 15 -20 MMT CO_2e by 2030. This goal is intended to serve as an ambitious but achievable marker for state agencies to reduce GHG emissions or increase carbon sequestration across all NWL programs and the landscapes they impact. Recommended actions will be informed by available information and data and sources including the CALAND model results and based on program activities by acre. Work to meet this goal is intended to help institutionalize greenhouse gas emission forecasting and planning into state program implementation to support long-term NWL climate objectives. If after further analysis it is found that the emission reduction goal needs to be adjusted, the Implementation Plan will include a new goal for public review.

CNRA, CDFA, CARB, and CalEPA propose this schedule for Implementation Plan development:

- October 13, 2017: Public workshop introducing the Implementation Plan and presenting on CALAND technical advancements.
- November 2017: Appoint Public Members to CALAND Technical Advisory Committee.
- Spring 2018: Release a draft Implementation Plan with a public workshop and comment period. The Draft Implementation Plan will:
    - identify methodologies to be used by State programs to account for the GHG impacts of interventions;
    - describe the alternative scenarios for land use and management interventions;
    - present preliminary model results of greenhouse gas impacts; and
    - outline potential State actions to implement the alternative scenarios.

Stakeholders will be asked to comment in particular on the alternative land use and management scenarios and proposed implementation.

- Summer 2018: Release Final Implementation Plan. The Final Implementation Plan will:
    - include a preferred scenario for land use and management interventions;
    - present final model results of the preferred scenario(s), which will inform the necessary extents of activities undertaken to reach the intervention-based goal; and
    - recommend state actions and agency, board, and conservancy programs and activities to achieve the goal.

In comments before November 10th, the agencies invite specific input on:

- The proposed schedule and opportunities for feedback;
- The proposed conservation and management interventions and state programs to be considered in developing scenarios, including the level of activity (in acres, dollars, or another metric) that is feasible and appropriate for each;
- The use of CALAND or other models to determine the greenhouse gas and climate change impacts of conservation and management activities; and
- The preliminary goal of at least 15 – 20 million metric tons CO_2e emissions avoided or sequestered by 2030.

Comments may be made in person at the workshop or in writing. Please submit written comments at https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/meetings/meetings.htm. The comment log will open after the workshop and be available until 11:00 pm October 30, 2017.