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Ecosystem Services and California Policy Workshop



Carbon Sequestration and AB 32: An Opportunity to Leverage Ecosystem Services

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Presentation Overview

- CA Climate Policy Context
 - AB 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006)
 - CA Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols
- Opportunities to advance ecosystem services under AB 32
 - Forest Protocols and GHG market
 - Sustainable Forests Section
 - Integration of mitigation and adaptation

AB 32 Context and Timeline

- Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
 - Mandate of 1990 emissions level by 2020
 - Total reduction amount 165 MMTCO₂
- CA Air Resources Board (CARB) lead implementing agency
 - Scoping Plan for comprehensive implementation measures by January 2009 (5 year updates)
 - Scoping Plan regulations developed 2009 – 2011
- Voluntary GHG reduction measures adopted 2007
 - CA Registry Forest Protocols adopted as voluntary early action measure in Fall 2007

CCAR Forest Protocols and Ecosystem Services

- CCAR is voluntary GHG reduction registry
- Developed GHG accounting protocols for forests and adopted June 2005
- Protocol updates underway
- Guidance for measuring and monitoring forest-based carbon sequestration services
 - Reforestation
 - Improved forest management
 - Conservation (avoided conversion)



CCAR Protocols and Ecosystem Services

- Foster protection and enhancement of water quality and biodiversity
 - Project activities support these values
 - Natural forest management and native requirement
 - Enhancement of biodiversity can minimize risk of impermanence of GHG reductions

- Opportunity in Protocol update and adoption to promote ecosystem services
 - CCAR Public comment period starting Dec. 5, 2008
 - CCAR Protocol adoption by Board – Jan or Feb 2009
 - ARB consideration of CCAR Protocol Adoption Feb/March 2009

AB 32 Opportunities: Sustainable Forests

- Protecting and managing forests for climate benefits = GHG mitigation and ecosystem services protection
 - Integration of mitigation and adaptation can leverage ecosystem services
- GHG emissions trading with offsets and adaptation funding
 - Forest/natural system offset opportunities
 - Auction revenue for natural system adaptation
- Additional funding for conservation, management and reforestation
 - Bonds, carbon revenues, Forest Legacy, etc.

AB 32 Opportunities: Land use and Local Governments

- GHG targets could include land base in land use and local government sections of Scoping Plan
- SB 375
 - Incentives for regional planning to address transportation
 - Clean up legislation 2009
 - Could include natural systems/ecosystem services and be expanded to rural counties
 - Could include planning for mitigation and adaptation to address ecosystem services
- CEQA
 - SB 97: Office of Planning and Research to design guidelines to address GHG emissions
 - Adjusted to include forests/natural systems
 - Could complement SB 375 efforts

Ecosystem Services Mapping: Opportunity to integrate with AB 32

- Explore opportunities to integrate with SB 375 and CEQA GHG updates
- Innovative tools to map the production and value of services provided by the Sierra
 - e.g. water yield, carbon sequestration, forage production, recreation
- Analyzing change in services due to land use and climate scenarios
- Can provide critical local/regional information to inform Scoping Plan targets and updates
- Potential to integrate mitigation and adaptation (i.e., multiple ecosystem services)





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