



Ecosystem Services Work Group

Work Group Charter

April 18, 2024

Background

DNR manages 5.6 million acres of state trust lands, aquatic lands, and natural areas that provide a suite of ecosystem services that include carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and many others. Emerging environmental markets, such as Washington State's carbon offset program (RCW 70A.65.170), provide new opportunities for the state to monetize these ecosystem services assets while reducing or removing greenhouse gasses and enhancing other ecosystem services. Ecosystem services can be monetized by generating carbon offset credits and other types of ecosystem service credits via projects.

In 2023, the Washington State Legislature directed DNR to conduct an ecosystem services asset inventory and develop an ecosystem services asset plan for DNR-managed lands. DNR has hired a technical consultant to assist with this work. The final asset plan will outline how ecosystem services provided by DNR-managed lands can be monetized and marketed; as well as recommendations on how to implement the plan. Specifically, the plan will include the following elements:

- An inventory of DNR-managed lands that can be used to generate carbon offset credits or other ecosystem services credits.
- Identified potential options/markets for selling these credits.
- A marginal cost abatement model to inform highest and best use of DNR assets in carbon markets and other ecosystem services markets.
- A needs assessment and implementation plan for marketing ecosystem services assets to third-party developers.
- Identified policy or regulatory limitations to implementing the plan.
- Identified attributes needed to build a virtual dashboard for accessing the ecosystem services asset inventory, model information, and requests for ecosystem services project proposals.

The Washington State Legislature also directed DNR to convene a Work Group composed of a balanced representation of experts and stakeholders to advise DNR and the technical consultant on conducting the inventory and developing the asset plan.

This work is funded by a proviso in the 2023 Operating Budget (2023 c 475 §310(12)).

Work Group Composition

The budget proviso requires DNR to “convene a group composed of a balanced representation of experts and stakeholders.” To achieve this goal, DNR assembled a group of members who represent stakeholder interests and members who have carbon project experience, experience with environmental markets, or other expertise in subject matters relating to the proviso deliverables.

DNR solicited applications for representatives of the following groups:

- Trust beneficiaries
- Tribal Representative
- Experts

Stakeholders:

- Timber industry
- Conservation non-profits
- Environmental justice organizations

Applications were reviewed by DNR in order to identify the work group membership. The Ecosystem Services work group was convened by DNR in April 2024, and includes the following members:

Name	Organization	Representation
Mark Burrows	Stevens County	Beneficiary
Brenda Campbell	Snoqualmie Tribe	Tribal Representative
Matt Comisky	American Forest Resource Council	Stakeholder
Stephen Donofrio	Ecosystems Marketplace	Expert
Julie Ann Koehlinger	Hoh Indian Tribe	Tribal Representative
Rebecca Niggemann	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Stakeholder
David Onstad	Kitsap Environmental Coalition	Stakeholder
Mark Ozias	Clallam County	Beneficiary
Kasia Patora	Department of Ecology	Partner Agency
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt	School Board of Directors, Chair and WWSDA Trust Lands Advisory Committee, Chair	Beneficiary
Mary Jean Ryan	Center for Responsible Forestry	Stakeholder
Gareth Waugh	Port Blakely	Stakeholder
Jordan Wildish	Department of Ecology	Partner Agency
Kathleen Wolf	King County	Expert
Rene Zamora Cristales	Oregon State University	Expert

Role

The work group will serve in an advisory role to both the technical contractor and DNR. The work group can inform the analysis and development of the ecosystem services asset plan. Advisement will include sharing experiences and expertise from developing carbon projects, working with ecosystem services markets, conducting environmental economic cost-benefit analyses, and other related expertise. In addition, group members will provide counsel on the interests and perspectives of the above stakeholder groups in regard to DNR entering ecosystem services markets.

DNR has the final authority over the analyses and content of the legislative report.

Work Group Logistics

The work group will meet seven times from April 2024 through March 2025. The Department will provide a progress report to the legislature by the end of 2024 and a final report of the findings by June 2025.

All meetings will be held remotely over Zoom, and the public may attend meetings as observers.

- A meeting reminder and RSVP will be sent at least a week in advance of each scheduled meeting. This email will include a link to meeting materials, which will be uploaded to the work group webpage.
- In the event a member cannot make one of the meetings, they may select someone from their organization to attend the meeting in their place and collect information on that member's behalf.
- Recordings of each meeting will be posted on the work group website. If a work group member is unable to attend, we ask that they review the recording to stay up to date with the progress of the group.

Commitments

- Members agree to attend meetings as they are able and to actively participate in each meeting with cameras on. Meetings will be 3 hours each.
- Members will be asked to develop an understanding of DNR-managed lands, including DNR's fiduciary responsibilities to trust land beneficiaries, as well as other values and interests associated with DNR-managed lands that are relevant to the work at hand.
- Members will be asked to develop a working knowledge of Washington's cap and invest program, voluntary carbon markets, and other ecosystem services markets.
- Members agree to prepare for each meeting by reviewing the provided meeting materials and bringing relevant experiences, ideas, or approaches to the work group meetings for consideration.
- Members should be willing to share their perspectives, consider the perspectives of others, and collaborate with other members in a respectful manner. Members should be creative and

forward thinking, recognizing that the future is uncertain and that new information and/or opportunities may arise at any time.

- Members agree to work within this charter.

Ground Rules

Work group members commit to the following ground rules:

- Be respectful of one another.
- Fairly consider and discuss all points of view.
- Encourage all group members to speak and comment.
- Request an example if a point is not clear.
- Value the time of work group members and their contributions to this effort.