



Carbon and Forest Management Work Group DNR Update



November 13 | 9 – 11 am

Meeting #9

Legislative Report

- DNR received one comment from the work group on the draft report (requested change was made)
- DNR revised the report and submitted it for final in-house review on Nov. 1
- We are currently addressing in-house comments and edits, which were very light.
- Report will be submitted to the legislature by Dec. 1



Scenario Development: Quick Review



Scenario Development Overview

- Scenario development took place between January and May 2025.
- The final vote was taken at the May 8 work group meeting.
- Descriptions of the adopted scenarios can be found on the [Carbon and Forest Management Work Group webpage](#) under the May 8 heading.



Scenario Development: Dial Concept

Scenarios were developed by turning “dials.” The silviculture dial was added later in the process.



Harvest rotation length



Amount of thinning



Deferral of structurally complex, carbon-dense forest



Emphasis on silviculture

Scenario Structure

All scenarios adjust one or more aspect of DNR's current management.

Unless noted otherwise, all other aspects of DNR management not included in the scenario remain the same as current practices.



Single Dial Scenarios

To start, the work group developed, refined, and voted the following:

Scenario 1

DNR current operations

Scenario 2

**Lengthen harvest
rotation**

Scenario 3

**Shorten harvest
rotation**

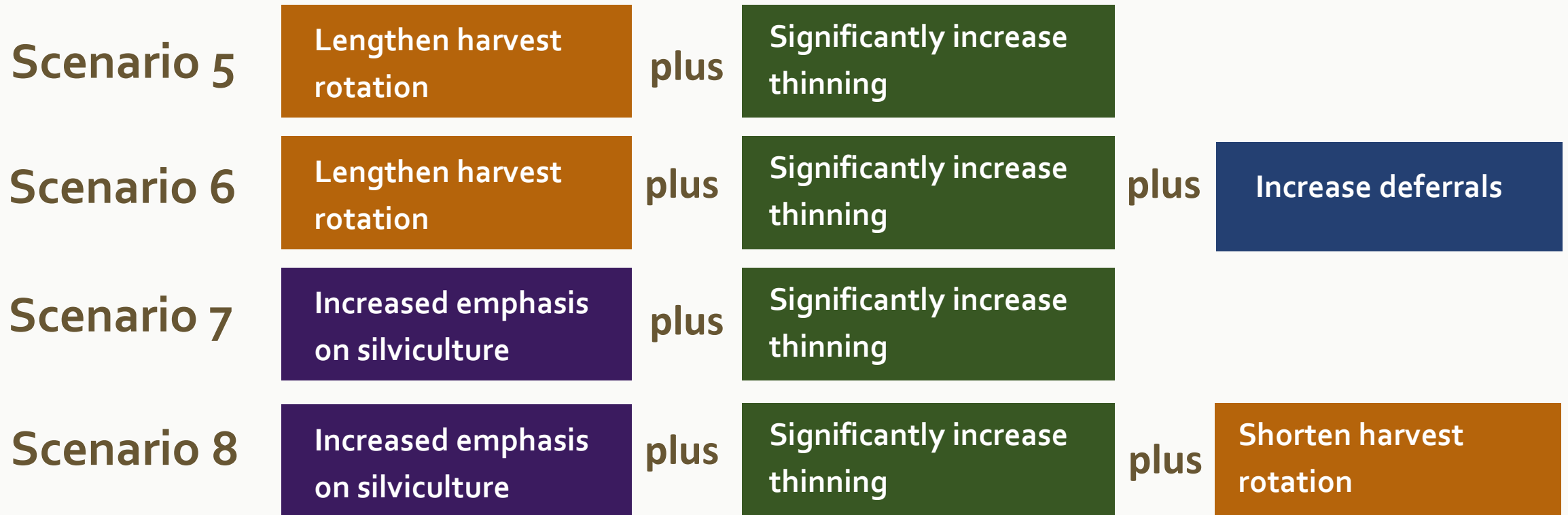
Scenario 4

**Significantly increase
thinning**



Multi-dial Scenarios

The work group developed, refined, and voted on four multi-dial scenarios



Today's Meeting: What to Expect



Preliminary Results

- ESSA will not present preliminary results today.
- The reason is related to land classifications.



Background: Modeling Vs. Reporting

DNR land classifications in the large data overlay (LDO) can differ depending on whether the data is being used for modeling or reporting.

- For reporting, areas that are subject to rain-on-snow requirements and the northern spotted owl conservation strategy are classified as **uplands**.
- For modeling, these areas are classified as **GEM lands** because the forest estate model can look across decades, predict when these areas will meet required conditions, and schedule harvest accordingly.



Modeling Vs. Reporting, Cont.

- ESSA was directed to use the modeling approach, meaning they input rain-on-snow and northern spotted owl habitat areas into their model as GEM lands instead of uplands.
- Because FVS does not have the same capabilities as a forest estate model, these areas were open to the full range of DNR management in the carbon model.
- This was not a mistake, just a discrepancy that DNR and ESSA caught only recently.



Modeling Vs. Reporting, Continued

- ESSA needs to find a way to represent these restricted areas in the model to accurately portray DNR management under all the scenarios.
- Since they are not using a forest estate model, this fix will be technically challenging.



How Does That Affect Today's Meeting?

- It was not possible to rerun the model before today's meeting.
- Without correcting and rerunning the model, it is not possible to determine how this discrepancy in land classification could affect the results for either harvest volume or carbon.



How Does That Affect Today's Meeting, Continued

- Presenting results that could shift is not a good use of this group's time.
- It would be difficult for the work group to make decisions about scenarios or adjustments to the model, when the preliminary results may change.
- Therefore, ESSA will not present preliminary results today.



What Will They do Instead?

- ESSA will present their modeling methodology. The meeting will be much shorter than anticipated.
- Preliminary results will be presented at the Dec. 11 meeting instead.
- Work group members will have a few days after the Dec. 11 meeting to submit their change requests/ideas to DNR via the CFM email address.



What Will Happen Next?

- DNR will work with ESSA to make decisions on changes that can be made within the project budget and schedule, understanding that both are now more restricted.
- DNR will communicate the outcome of these decisions to the work group via email.

