CLIMATE FORWARD Avoided Wildfire Emissions Forecast Methodology Version 1.0

Workgroup Meeting 2

March 10, 2022

Housekeeping

- Workgroup members have the opportunity to actively participate during the meeting
 - Please keep yourselves muted unless / until you would like to speak
- All other attendees/observers are in listen-only mode
- Observers are free to submit questions in the GoToWebinar question box
- We will follow up via email to answer any questions not addressed during the meeting
- The slides and a recording of the presentation will be posted online





Introductions



Jon Remucal Marissa Schmitz Jordan Mao



Thomas Buchholz David Saah



Dogwood Springs Forestry

John Nickerson



Jeff Ravage



Seth Baruch

Introductions

Name (alphabetical)	Organization
Aaron Green	Colorado State Forest Service
Andrew Dunn	HQPlantations Pty Ltd
Bruce Springsteen	Placer County Air Pollution Control District
Christian Eggleton	FRST
Dan Porter	The Nature Conservancy
Ed Murphy	Sierra Pacific Industries
Elliott Vander Kolk	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Harry Statter	Firewise Landscapes Inc / Frontline Wildfire Defense
Jens Stevens	US Forest Service

Introductions

Name (alphabetical)	Organization
John Battles	University of California, Berkeley
John Cleland	Renew West
Mark Finney	US Forest Service
Matt Hurteau	University of New Mexico
Phil Saksa	Blue Forest Conservation
Steve Eubanks	(Independent)
Tad Mason	TSS Consultants
Tadashi Moody	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Funding support





element MARKETS



Shoulders we're standing on...



Today's Discussion

Methodology Components

Eligibility

- Defining the project
- Ownership
- Start Date / Crediting period (40 years)
- Project Location
- Additionality
 - Performance Standard Test
 - Legal Requirement Test
 - Enhancement Payments
- Regulatory compliance
- Permanence

Defining GHG boundary

Quantification

- Delineating the project area
- Quantifying project emissions/removals
- Programmatic risk deduction

Monitoring / Reporting / Confirmation

- Sampling
- Confirmation field visit

Project Area

Section 4 Project Area

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4 Project Area

- Project area consists of:
 - <u>Treatment areas</u> Locations where fuel treatment activities are performed
 - <u>Non-treatment areas</u> Locations where fuel treatments are not performed but that have the potential to have fire behavior and severity influenced by activities in treatment areas
- May comprise multiple ownerships/ownership types
- Delineated through modeling process



Section 6 Quantifying GHG Emission Reductions

$$\label{eq:energy} \begin{split} \text{Emissions Reductions} &= ([\text{Emissions}_{\text{baseline}}] - [\text{Sequestered } C_{\text{baseline}}]) - \\ & ([\text{Emissions}_{\text{project}}] - [\text{Sequestered } C_{\text{project}}]) \end{split}$$

Emissions savings have to outweigh diminished C sequestration

Project Area Delineation

Define the project area by modeling fire spread from each ignition point in project vicinity, with project area determined by burned areas that overlap the project's treatment area(s).



Model Forest Growth Without Fire

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Model changes to tree and surface fuels data for each stand with FFE-FVS over crediting period for baseline and project, absent wildfires and including baseline harvesting to estimate changes in forest C



Model Fire Impacts – Emissions, Regen

At each time step for the baseline and the project: Estimate GHG emissions from fires and determine resulting stand conditions



Calculate Conditional Burn Probability

At each time step for the baseline and the project: Model wildfire behavior, to adjust emissions outcomes based on likelihood of individual pixels to burn from a fire starting from each ignition point



At each time step for the baseline and the project: Adjust emissions outcomes and delayed regeneration results to account for probability of fire occurring in a given year

Input

- GHG Emissions (FOFEM) adjusted by CBP
- Delayed regeneration estimates
- Fire return interval

[GHG Emissions] x [1/FRI]

[Delayed regeneration] x [1/FRI]

Output

- Probable annual emissions
- Probable delayed regeneration

6.1 - 6.7 Quantification

Accounting steps

- 1) Project area delineation, selection, and characterization
- 2) Weather data
- 3) Management scenario development and fuel reduction treatment design
- 4) Forest carbon (forest growth and sequestration) calculation
- 5) Forest removals life cycle assessment (wood products) calculation
- 6) Wildfire emissions calculation
- 7) Delayed regeneration calculation
- 8) Fire ignition probability (fire return interval) assessment
- 9) Aggregated emissions accounting



1) Project area delineation, selection, and characterization, 2) Weather data

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- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Weather data (Two representative RAWS locations, 97th percentile, windspeed, temperature, fuel moisture)
 - Topographic data
 - Ignition maps (Historic ignitions from USFS)
 - Surface fuel models
- Approach:
 - Treatment polygons overlayed with ignition map
 - Add ignition points if <0.6/ha
 - Run fire spread model (8 hrs) to ignition points that impact treatment area

Example of RAWS output

Table 3: 97th percentile fire weather conditions for fire modeling.						
Variable	SimFire FVS	FConstMTTValue				
1-hr fuel moisture	4%	3%				
10-hr fuel moisture	4%	4%				
100-hour fuel moisture	5%	5%				
>3"	10%	N/A				
Duff	15%	N/A				
Herbaceous fuel moisture	N/A	39%				
Live woody fuel moisture	70%	70%				
Ambient air temperature	80° F	N/A				
Percentage of stand burnt	10%	N/A				
Wind speed	20 mph (20 ft)	21 mph				
Wind direction	N/A	Southwest (225 degrees).				



3) Management scenario development

• Standardized input from Climate Forward:

- Baseline management
- Approach:
 - Define fuel treatment spatial layers
 with:
 - Treatment types,
 - · Locations, and
 - Timing

Treatment	Year	Entity	Activity
A	0	Federal	Remove ladder fuels & thin co-dominants
А	1	Private	Prescribed burn
В	1	Federal	Remove ladder fuels & thin co-dominants
В	3	Private	Prescribed burn
С	2	Federal	Prescribed burn
А	2	Federal	Prescribed burn
В	3	State	Prescribed burn

Example: Eve et al. 2014

Table 6-6: Common Silvicultural Options by Most Commonly Managed Forest Type

Region	Forest Type	Generalized Practice
Rocky Mountain	Ponderosa pine	Plant 400-500 trees per acre, precommercial thin to 200- 300 trees per acre, commercial thin to 150-200 trees per acre at age 30-40; clearcut harvest at age 60-80
Norths	Lodgepole pine	Site prepare to expose mineral soil seedbed, natural regeneration by seeding, precommercial thin to 200–400 trees per acre, patch clearcut harvest at age 80–100
Pacific Southwest ^h	Mixed conifer: ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar, white fir, Jeffrey pine, and California black oak	Commercial thin: Starting at ages near 40 and continuing at various periodic cycles until regeneration; post-thinning stocking generally ranges between 150–250 ft ² ; variable rotation length, depending on objectives Commercial thinning with both patch regeneration and reserved areas: Similar to above, but with higher levels of variation in post-thinning stocking levels, small patches of regeneration, primarily to increase pine species, and small areas reserved from harvest, maintaining larger/older trees providing relatively unique wildlife habitats; variable rotation length, depending on objectives
Parific	Douglas fir/Ponderosa pine - low intensity	Site preparation by site scarification in small spots, natural regeneration, precommercial thin at age 20–25 years to 100–250 trees per acre, patch clearcut or seed-tree harvest at age 50–70
Northwest, East ⁱ	Douglas fir/Ponderosa pine - medium intensity (on more productive sites)	Mechanical site preparation to scarify soil and remove competing vegetation, plant with improved seedlings at approx. 400–500 per acre, precommercial thin at age 15– 20, commercial thin at age 30–40, patch clearcut or seed- tree harvest at age 50–70
Pacific Northwest, West	Douglas fir	Site prepare stand with pre-emergent herbicides, plant with improved seedlings at approx. 450 per acre, commercial thinning as needed at age 20-30, fertilize as needed at age 30-40, clearcut harvest at age 40-50

4) Forest carbon (forest growth and sequestration) calculation

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- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Tree inventory
 - (Stand data)
- Approach:
 - FVS parametrization using verifiable sources
 - FVS simulation runs (year 0 to 40 in 5-year timesteps):
 - Baseline, no wildfire
 - Project, no wildfire

Example: TreeMap USDA MISSOULA FIRE SCIENCES LABORATORY Forest Service **Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS)** U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science (FFS) Program Home About the Lab FFS Program - Apps & Products Projects Seminar Series - News Galleries -Search TreeMap: A tree-level model of the forests **Project Contacts** of the United States Principal Investigator Karin Riley Mark Finney Machine learning matched forest plot data with biophysical characteristics of the Isaac Grenfell landscape to produce a seamless tree-level forest map. Contact: Karin Rilev A map of the location, size, and species of every tree in the forests of the United States would **Research Collaborators:** be useful for any number of applications, ranging from habitat mapping to estimation of Jason Wiener, University of Montana carbon resources. No such map currently exists, but we have used machine learning to make



5) Forest removals life cycle assessment (wood products) calculation

- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Tree inventory
 - (Stand data)
- Approach:
 - FVS simulation runs from Step 4
 - Assumptions on:
 - Harvest and transport emissions; e.g. Hennigar 2013 (Forgate); 0.4 odt metric/m3
 - No consideration of bioenergy or wood product substitution effects



6) Wildfire emissions calculation – Direct emissions

- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Surface fuel models
- Approach:
 - FVS-FFE simulation runs (year 0 to 40 in 5-year timesteps):
 - Baseline with periodic wildfire (0, 5, ..., 40)
 - Project with periodic wildfire (0, 5, ..., 40)
 - Crosswalk FVS-FFE into FOFEM for non-CO₂ GHG emissions

Table 6.2 Non-CO₂ GHG emissions GWPs for conversion to CO₂e

۲.		
	GHG	GWP Factor ¹¹
	CH ₄	25
	NOx	-8.2
	CO	1.0
	PM2.5	9
	NMOC	5



6) Wildfire emissions calculation – Indirect emissions

- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - N/A
- Approach:
 - Fire spread model with 8-hr runs
 - Determine Conditional Burn Probability (CBP) for each stand in Baseline and Project
 - Where CBP_P/CBP_{BSL} ratio <1, multiply wildfire emissions for that stand with CBP delta (CBP_{BSL}-CBP_P)





7) Delayed regeneration calculation

- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Percentage of acreage affected by delayed regeneration by forest type and ecoregion (P_{DR})
 - Carbon crosswalk for forgone sequestration (C_{DR})
- Approach:
 - Calculate area that burnt with flame length >4' for each:
 - Baseline and project
 - Time step
 - Forest type
 - Multiply delta (acreage BSL minus Project) with P_{DR} and C_{DR}



Delayed

16,473

10,281

6,226

6.082

5.892

5,695

5,280

5,199

4,686

4,077

3,525

3,430

1,846

832

747

612

565

262

50

22

17

81,798

regeneration

44%

87%

45%

36%

61%

44%

78%

52%

50%

62%

50%

9%

80%

86%

66%

82%

77%

94%

21%

10%

18%

55%

HARDWOOD HERBACEOUS SHRUB Grand Total

782

77

41

55

54

148

26

51

18

263

243

5

73

1

7

1

8

0

2

1,856 42,726

6,364

8.878

2,748

1.960

3.536

2,362

4,094

2,597

2,331

2,259

1.507

317

712

488

500

428

246

9

1

3

1,387

7) Delayed regeneration calculation





24

10

6

152

10

16

7

7,431

217

1,460

2.655

1.041

417

1,872

1.099

1,972

1.259

1.875

2,128

8) Fire ignition probability (fire return interval) assessment

- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Fire probability map
 - CAL FIRE; USFS (relative fire probability)
 - Updated by most recent 10y fire probability (absolute fire probability)
- Approach:
 - Retrieve mean fire probability for project area



8) Fire ignition probability (fire return interval) assessment

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Example: Relative fire probability

9) Aggregated emissions accounting

- Standardized input from Climate Forward:
 - Accounting template (Excel)
- Approach:
 - Insert outputs from Steps 4-8:
 - Forest carbon stocks (BSL and Project)
 - CO₂ wildfire emissions (BSL and Project)
 - Non-CO₂ wildfire emissions (BSL and Project; in CO₂e)
 - Wood products (Net)
 - Delayed regeneration (BSL and Project)
 - Fire probability

GHG offset protocol: Avoided emissions from significant wildfire Calculation template v 8/15/2016 Example: Eldorado case study (2015-2018 OLIEBROW project)

				MT CO	2e/acre fir	re shed			
arameter					Time (yrs)				
	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
laseline									
orest stock and growth	(318.7	(338.8)	(354.2)	(374.4)	(389.7)	(408.3)	(423.2)	(440.4)	(453.8)
Constant (annual) probability of fire		1.66%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
eriodic (5-year) probability of fire		8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%
Vildfire		39.7	42.2	42.7	45.6	47.1	49.0	49.9	53.5
Ion-CO2 GHGs		33.6	34.6	35.5	36.6	37.5	38.5	39.5	40.8
Weighted 5 year interval		6.1	6.4	6.5	6.8	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.8
Weighted cumulative		6.1	12.5	18.9	25.8	32.8	40.1	47.5	55.3
otal cumulative	(318.7	(332.7)	(341.7)	(355.4)	(363.9)	(375.5)	(383.2)	(392.9)	(398.5)
Fuel treatment) Project									
orest stock and growth	(318.7	(322.6)	(333.3)	(349.1)	(359.0)	(375.1)	(387.5)	(402.0)	(415.4)
Vildfire		20.8	21.9	23.7	25.2	25.5	26.6	26.8	28.4
Ion-CO2 GHGs		28.7	29.1	28.9	29.1	29.7	30.2	30.5	32.3
Weighted 5 yr interval		4.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.0
Weighted cumulative		4.1	8.3	12.7	17.2	21.8	26.5	31.3	36.3
let slash removed (zero for Climate Forwar	d)	2.96				0.54			
Net slash diverted to bioenergy LCA		(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.3)
let merchantable removed		2.55				0.22			
Wood products produced		(1.72)			-	(0.15)			
Wood products in use or landfill (%)		43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%
Harv. & trsp. incl. presc. burn emissions		0.1			-	0.0	-	-	-
Wood products LCA		(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)
let mill waste fate		(0.8)	-	-	-	(0.1)	-	-	-
Mill waste bioenergy LCA (zero for Climate	Forward	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Aill waste fate non-bioenergy in-use (%)	100%	40%	10%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mill wastefate non-bioenergy LCA		(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
let wood product substitution LCA		(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.0)	(2.0)	(2.0)
woided vegetation type conversion									
Vegetation type conversion baseline (%)		29%	32%	32%	34%	33%	35%	34%	36%
Vegetation type conversion project (%)		20%	25%	25%	27%	23%	30%	27%	27%
Weighted 5 yr interval LCA		(2.5)	(2.6)	(2.5)	(2.8)	(3.8)	(2.7)	(3.3)	(4.0)
Cumulative LCA		(2.5)	(5.1)	(7.6)	(10.3)	(14.1)	(16.8)	(20.1)	(24.1)
otal cumulative (pre risk deduction)	(318.7	(325.2)	(334.3)	(348.2)	(356.4)	(372.2)	(382.5)	(395.6)	(408.0)
let cumulative (pre risk deduction)	-	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.5	3.3	0.7	(2.7)	(9.5)
let periodic (pre risk deduction)		7.52	(0.07)	(0.27)	0.37	(4.22)	(2.64)	(3.36)	(6.81)

GHG offset protocol: Avoided emissions from significant wildfires

Calculation template v 8/15/2016

Example: Eldorado case study (2015-2018 QUEBROW project)

				MT CO	2e/acre fi	re shed					CLIM		
Parameter	• •	- "	10	15	Lime (yrs)	25	20	25	40		CLIM		
Baseline	U	5	10	15	20	23	30	35	40				
Forest stock and growth	(318.7)	(338.8)	(354.2)	(374.4)	(389.7)	(408.3)	(423.2)	(440.4)	(453.8)				
Constant (annual) probability of fire		1.66%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%				
Periodic (5-year) probability of fire		8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%				
Wildfire		39.7	42.2	42.7	45.6	47.1	49.0	49.9	53.5				
Non-CO2 GHGs	T	33.6	34.6	35.5	36.6	37.5	38.5	39.5	40.8				
Weighted 5 year interval		6.1	6.4	6.5	6.8	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.8				
Weighted cumulative		6.1	12.5	18.9	25.8	32.8	40.1	47.5	55.3	 Large 	e delta BSL v	s. Project	
Total cumulative	(318.7)	(332.7)	(341.7)	(355.4)	(363.9)	(375.5)	(383.2)	(392.9)	(398.5)				
(Fuel treatment) Project													
Forest stock and growth	(318.7)	(322.6)	(333.3)	(349.1)	(359.0)	(375.1)	(387.5)	(402.0)	(415.4)				
Wildfire		20.8	21.9	23.7	25.2	25.5	26.6	26.8	28.4				
Non-CO2 GHGs	1	28.7	29.1	28.9	29.1	29.7	30.2	30.5	32.3				
Weighted 5 yr interval		4.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.0				
Weighted cumulative		4.1	8.3	12.7	17.2	21.8	26.5	31.3	36.3				
Net slash removed (zero for Climate Forward	d)	2.96				0.54			•				
Net slash diverted to bioenergy LCA		(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.3)	<mark>(1.3)</mark>	<mark>(1.3)</mark>	(1.3)	_ Limit	ed additional		
Net merchantable removed		2.55				0.22				timb	er production		
Wood products produced		(1.72)	-	-	-	(0.15)	-	-	-				
Wood products in use or landfill (%)		43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%				
Harv. & trsp. incl. presc. burn emissions		0.1	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-				
Wood products LCA		(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)				
Net mill waste fate		(0.8)	-	-	-	(0.1)	-	-	-				
Mill waste bioenergy LCA (zero for Climate	Forward)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)				
Mill waste fate non-bioenergy in-use (%)	100%	40%	10%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	Large	delta RSI va		
Mill wastefate non-bioenergy LCA		(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)				
Net wood product substitution LCA		(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.0)	(2.0)	(2.0)		Project		
Delayed regeneration	_												
Delayed regeneration baseline (%)		29%	32%	32%	34%	33%	35%	34%	36%				
Delayed regeneration project (%)		20%	25%	25%	27%	23%	30%	27%	27%				
Weighted 5 yr interval LCA		(2.5)	(2.6)	(2.5)	(2.8)	(3.8)	(2.7)	(3.3)	(4.0)				
Cumulative LCA		(2.5)	(5.1)	(7.6)	(10.3)	(14.1)	(16.8)	(20.1)	(24.1)	Net (HG benefits		
Total cumulative (pre risk deduction)	(318.7)	(325.2)	(334.3)	(348.2)	(356.4)	(372.2)	(382.5)	(395.6)	(408.0)	(over time		
Net cumulative (pre risk deduction)	-	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.5	3.3	0.7	(2.7)	(9.5)				
Net periodic (pre risk deduction)	-	7.52	(0.07)	(0.27)	0.37	(4.22)	(2.64)	(3.36)	(6.81)				

Eldorado case study: Accumulated C fluxes





6.8 Performance Decline

Fuel treatments have limited efficacy periods—accounted for in project modeling

10% programmatic ex ante risk discount is applied to all projects to address:

- Goal of crediting on conservative basis
- Uncertainty associated with estimating future climate benefits from treatments today
- Uncertainty associated with probabilistic occurrence of future wildfires



Section 7 / Section 9 Monitoring / Confirmation

Photo Plots

Photo plots must show that data being used by the models are representative of actual conditions on the project site

Plot attribute	Project proponent	Confirmation body
Location	Georeferenced datapoints; plots stratified by	Confirm location, statistics
	treatment type	
# of plots	Based on treatment size	Confirm plot number in accordance with procedures
Imaging	360 degree fisheye pre- and post-treatment	Confirm image match
Image	 Dominant overstory and understory 	Confirm choice (random selection
interpretation	vegetation specie(s)	of 20% of plots; 90% match for
	Fire behavior fuel model choice	each metric)
	 Canopy base height estimate 	
	 Canopy height estimate 	
	Overstory closure estimate	

7.1 Monitoring / 9.4 Confirmation

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Plot attribute	Project proponent	Confirmation body						
Vegetation	Species (overstory and understory)							
Fire behavior fuel model	ire behavior fuel model Selection from Scott and Burgan (GTR-153)							
Canopy base height	of plots							
Canopy height	In feet, to nearest 10'							
Overstory canopy closure	Assign to closure class (0-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, 75-100%)*	≥90% match for each metric						

* Can also use remote sensing-based assessment, with confirmation body estimate within 10% of project proponent estimate

If 90% match not achieved:

- Perform on-the-ground adjustments to the treatment area(s)
- Adjust data inputs for modeling to reflect pre-treatment conditions
- Adjust data inputs for modeling inputs to reflect post-treatment conditions

Next Steps

Focal Areas for Feedback

- Crediting period length
- Enhancement payments and additionality
- Weather data
- Baseline harvest scenarios
- Model parameterization and assumptions
 - Standardized vs. site-specific
 - Are standardized parameters and assumptions conservative and/or reasonable?
- Fuel model assignments
- Regeneration models
- Programmatic discount
- Tolerances for confirmation of photo plots

Logistics

- Next meeting TBD (within the next three weeks)
- Focus will be in-depth discussion of specific non-quantification topics identified by drafting group, plus any additional topics raised by workgroup members or remaining from today's meeting
- After third workgroup meeting, submit comments/feedback within two weeks
- Reach out any time to discuss methodology topics or process
- Reserve staff and drafting group will determine if additional workgroup meetings are desired, otherwise will produce draft for public comment



Questions or Comments?

Contact Information

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