

# CCAR Forest Protocols

Society of American Foresters Meeting

Hot Topics

February 2, 2008

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California Climate Action Registry



# Overview

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- Overview of the Registry
- Background of the Forestry Protocols
- Current Project Protocols
- The Forestry Revision Process

# Background on the Registry



- Spearheaded by a coalition of forward-thinking CEOs
- Public/private partnership created by state legislation in 2000
  - Develop GHG accounting protocols
  - Encourage voluntary public reporting and promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions
  - Board represents business, government, NGOs
- Defines a “standard of excellence” for tracking GHG emissions
- Members = Over 300

# Role of Protocols



- Detailed accounting standards
  - Provides step-by-step guidance in measuring emissions and ensures that “a ton is a ton” across different organizations
- Two types: Entity and Project
- Entity protocols measure organization’s footprint
  - Facilitate annual tracking of emissions and GHG management

# Registry Entity Protocols

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- General Reporting Protocol
- Power Utility Protocol
- Cement Protocol
- Forest Sector Protocol

# Project Reduction Protocols



- Projects are discrete activities undertaken with the intention of reducing, avoiding or sequestering emissions
- Provide accounting methods to demonstrate a positive change in emission trends that can be deemed 'reductions'
- Projects are often undertaken for trading purposes
- Projects demand rigorous accounting methods

# Registry Project Protocols



- Forest Project Protocol – Adopted by Air Resources Board in October, 2007
- Livestock Manure Management Protocol
- Landfill Gas Capture Protocol
- Additional protocols under development include:
  - Transportation
  - Urban Forestry

# Key Accounting Principles



- General Principles:
  - Accuracy, Consistency, Transparency, Relevance and Completeness
- Project Principles:
  - Additional
  - Permanent
  - Conservative
  - Verifiable

# Key Project Accounting Concepts



- Generally accepted international standards (CDM, WRI, ISO 14064, etc.):
  - Additionality is central to project accounting (reductions must be above and beyond BAU, baselines must be conservative)
  - Permanence must be assured in sequestration projects
  - Leakage must be accounted for
  - Project boundaries must include all relevant sources and sinks
  - Monitoring must be regular and verified by an independent party
- To be credible, all project protocols must adhere to these standards, including forestry

# Protocol Development Process



- Voluntary multi-stakeholder workgroup
- Internal Review
- Expert Review
- Agency and Public Review
- Board Review and Consideration
- Ongoing opportunity for public feedback and comment

# Background on Forest Protocols



- SB 812 (Sher, 2002)
  - Informed protocol development process to permanently dedicate forestland to forest use and to include 'Natural Forest Management'
- Adopted by Registry Board (June 2005)
- Adoption by Air Resources Board (Oct 2007)
- Establishment of an expanded Forest Protocol Workgroup (Nov 2007)

# Projects Developed



## Forest Management Projects Underway:

- van Eck Forest - ~2000 acres in Humboldt County
- Garcia River Forest - ~ 20,000 acres in Mendocino County
- Sempervirens Fund Project ~ 200 acres in Santa Cruz County

All projects are receiving significant attention from investors.

# Air Resources Board Resolution 07-44



October 25, 2007

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts the California Climate Action Registry's forestry protocols as non-regulatory quantification methods for the purposes of voluntary greenhouse gas accounting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs ARB staff to initiate a stakeholder process working with government agencies, private and commercial land owners, and other interested parties, to develop additional approaches for forest carbon accounting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board directs ARB staff to return to the Board by June 2008 with a status report on the development of additional approaches for forest carbon accounting, and to return to the Board by the end of 2008 with the additional approaches that have been developed.

# Workgroup Members



<b>Stakeholders</b>
Air Resources Board Representative
Beaty and Associates
Board of Forestry Representative
Cal Fire Representative
California Climate Action Registry
California Forestry Association
California State Parks
Eco-Securities
Environmental Defense
Green Diamond Resources
Pacific Forest Trust
Scientific Certification Systems
Sierra Pacific Industries
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
University of California
US Forest Service
Winrock International
World Resources Institute

# What will the Registry Forest Protocol Workgroup Do?



- It will expand the Registry's voluntary protocols for use in a voluntary market
  - Responding to stakeholder input
- It will not decide how AB32 implementation will/will not involve the forestry sector
  - That is the Forestry Scoping Group's task

# Goals of Registry Forest Workgroup



Registry's Forest Protocols – In Use



Forest Workgroup Tasks

1. Using existing protocols as a base, develop additional accounting mechanisms to increase participation.
2. Address circumstances presented by publicly-owned forest properties.
3. Address unique circumstances presented by additional working forestlands.



Registry Board Review

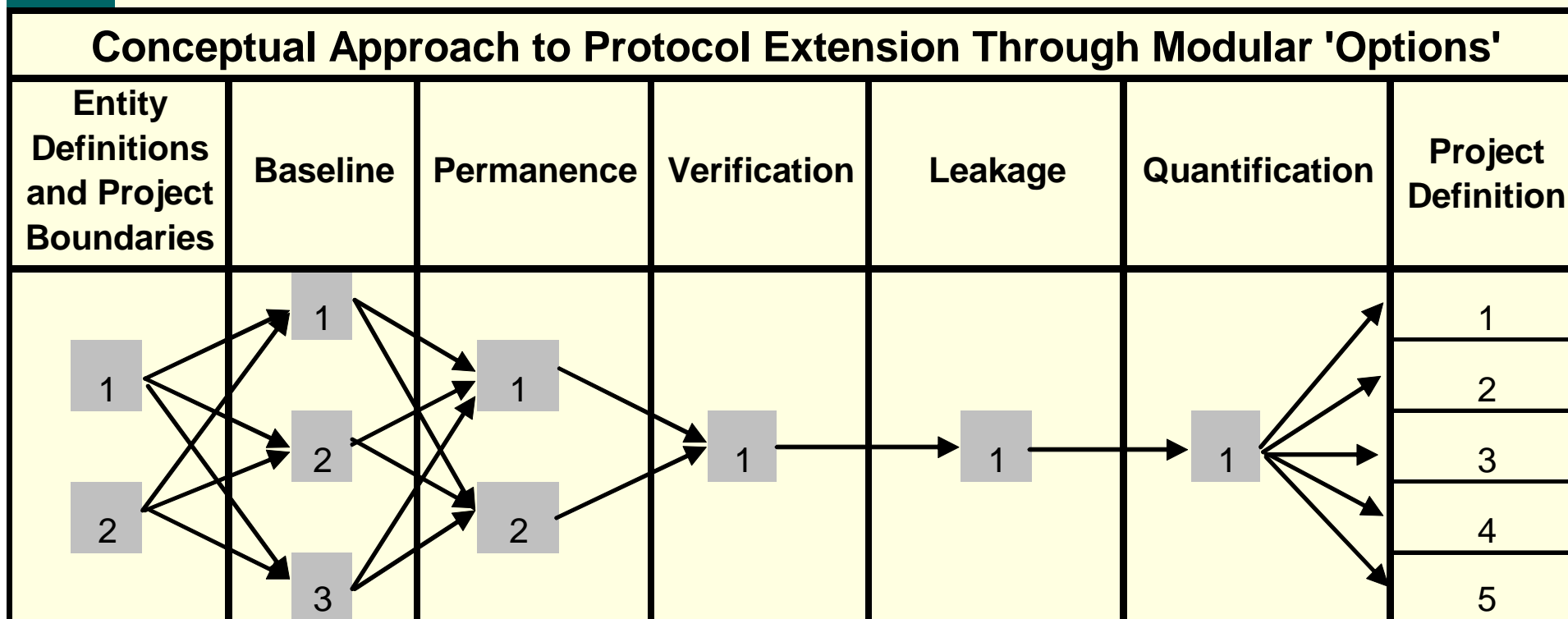


Additional CCAR Forest Protocols  
available for use in the voluntary market

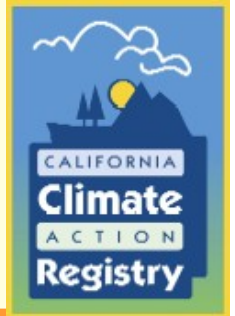
Public and Expert  
Review

# Vision of Protocol Additions

- Develop extensions within one forest protocol.
- Use existing forest protocols as general structure.
- Develop extensions through modular design.

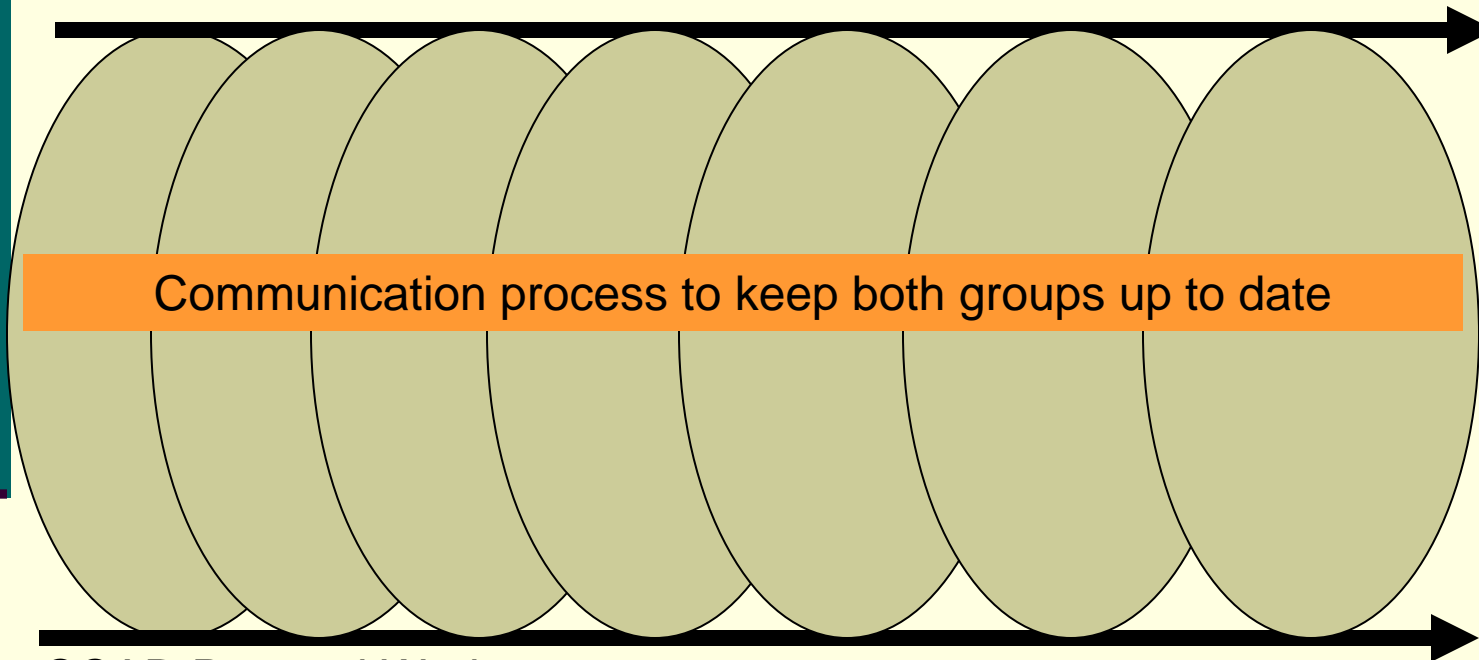


# Relationship Between ARB Scoping Group and CCAR Protocol Workgroup



Forestry Scoping Group

Focus on how forests are integrated into AB 32 implementation



CCAR Protocol Workgroup

Focus on protocol extensions for the voluntary market

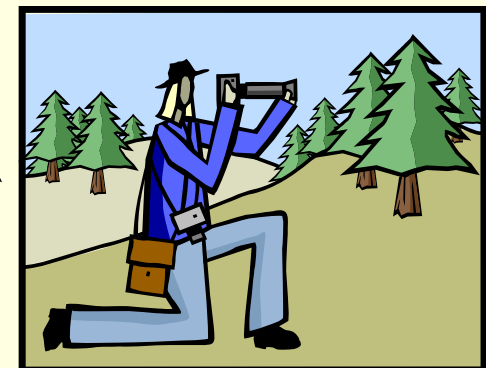
# CCAR Workgroup Meetings and Public Communications



CCAR Forest Protocol Workgroup



Public Workshops



ARB Forestry Scoping Group

<http://www.climateregistry.org/PROTOCOLS/FP>

COMMENTS!

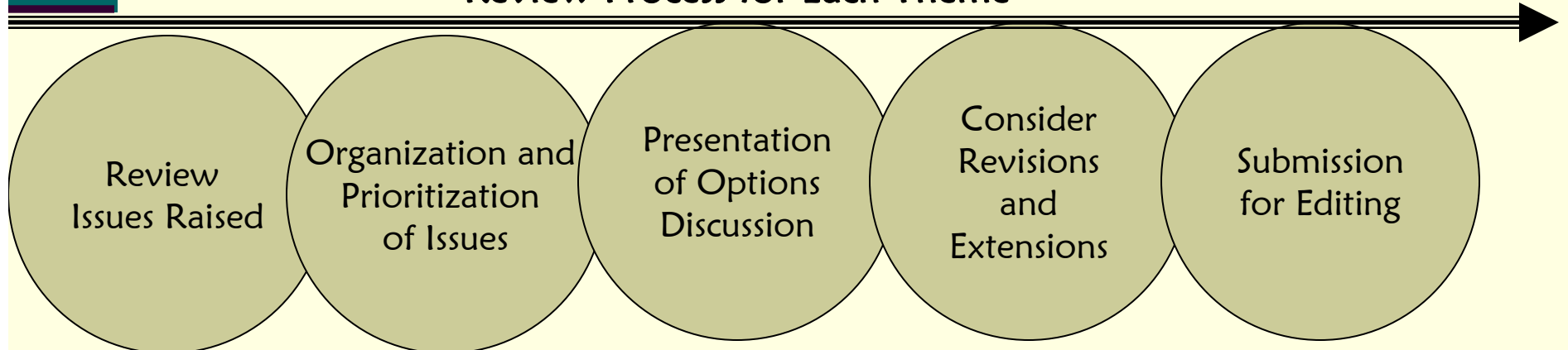
California Climate Action Registry's Website

# Thematic Approach to Review and Timeline



Policy Assumptions	Entity Definitions	Baseline	Permanence	Leakage	Verification	Final Review	Final Product
Review of selected policies within protocols	Entity Definitions and Project Boundaries	Determining business as usual and additionality for protocol expansion. Must exceed legal reqts at minimum	Any forest carbon used for emission offsets must be 'permanently' offset	Measurable emissions occurring outside the project boundary related to the implementation of the project	All projects must undergo independent, third party verification.	September-October 2008	November, 2008
December - January 2008	January - February 2008	March - April 2008	May - June 2008	July 2008	Aug-08		
<b>Quantification</b>							

## Review Process for Each Theme



# Contact Information



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## Greenhouse Gas Accounting Protocols and Resources

The following is a list of GHG accounting protocols and resources that the Registry considers to represent or conform to internationally accepted accounting principles. All of the resources listed here were developed in transparent processes that allowed for stakeholder input. They will represent points of reference for the Registry's workgroup as it engages in the process of revising and expanding the Forestry Protocols. Workgroup member should attempt to familiarize themselves with these resources.

### ■ General GHG Accounting

- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, Revised Edition, World Resources Institute. Available at: [www.ghgprotocol.org/standards/corporate-standard](http://www.ghgprotocol.org/standards/corporate-standard)
- ISO 14064-1: Greenhouse gases -- Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals. Available at: [www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_catalogue/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=38381](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=38381)
- California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, Version 2.2, California Climate Action Registry. Available at: [www.climateregistry.org/PROTOCOLS/GRCP/](http://www.climateregistry.org/PROTOCOLS/GRCP/)
- Climate Leaders Inventory Guidance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Available at: [www.epa.gov/stateply/resources/guidance.html](http://www.epa.gov/stateply/resources/guidance.html)

### ■ General Project GHG Accounting

- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol for Project Accounting, World Resources Institute. Available at: [www.ghgprotocol.org/standards](http://www.ghgprotocol.org/standards)
- ISO 14064-2: Greenhouse gases -- Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements. Available at: [www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_catalogue/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=38382](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=38382)

### ■ Forest Accounting

- Forest Sector Protocol and Forest Project Protocol, Versions 2.1, California Climate Action Registry. Available at: [www.climateregistry.org/PROTOCOLS/](http://www.climateregistry.org/PROTOCOLS/)
- Afforestation/Reforestation Approved Methodologies 0001-0010, Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Available at: [http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/approved\\_ar.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/approved_ar.html)
- Harnessing Farms and Forests in the Low-Carbon Economy: How to Create and Verify Greenhouse Gas Offsets, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. Available at: [www.dukeupress.edu/books.php3?isbn=978-0-8223-4168-0](http://www.dukeupress.edu/books.php3?isbn=978-0-8223-4168-0)
- Guidance for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Projects, Voluntary Carbon Standard. Forthcoming: [www.v-c-s.org/](http://www.v-c-s.org/)
- The Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry Guidance for GHG Project Accounting, World Resources Institute. Available at: [http://pdf.wri.org/lulucf\\_guidance.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/lulucf_guidance.pdf)