

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground is dominated by a large, vibrant green field with faint circular patterns, possibly from a tractor. To the left, there's a smaller field with a mix of green and brown patches, and a small stream or ditch. In the middle ground, a dirt path leads to a small, shallow pond. The background shows rolling hills, more fields, and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

# OGWC Natural & Working Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

12 January 2023  
12:30pm-2:00pm

# AGENDA

- Welcome and introductions – process questions
- Definitions
- Background and Objectives for GHG Inventory
- Draft List of Practices
- Wrap-up and Key Next Steps

# Technical Work Group Focus

## Activity-Based Metrics

**Goal:** Develop activity-based metrics and a baseline of these activities for Oregon's NWL.

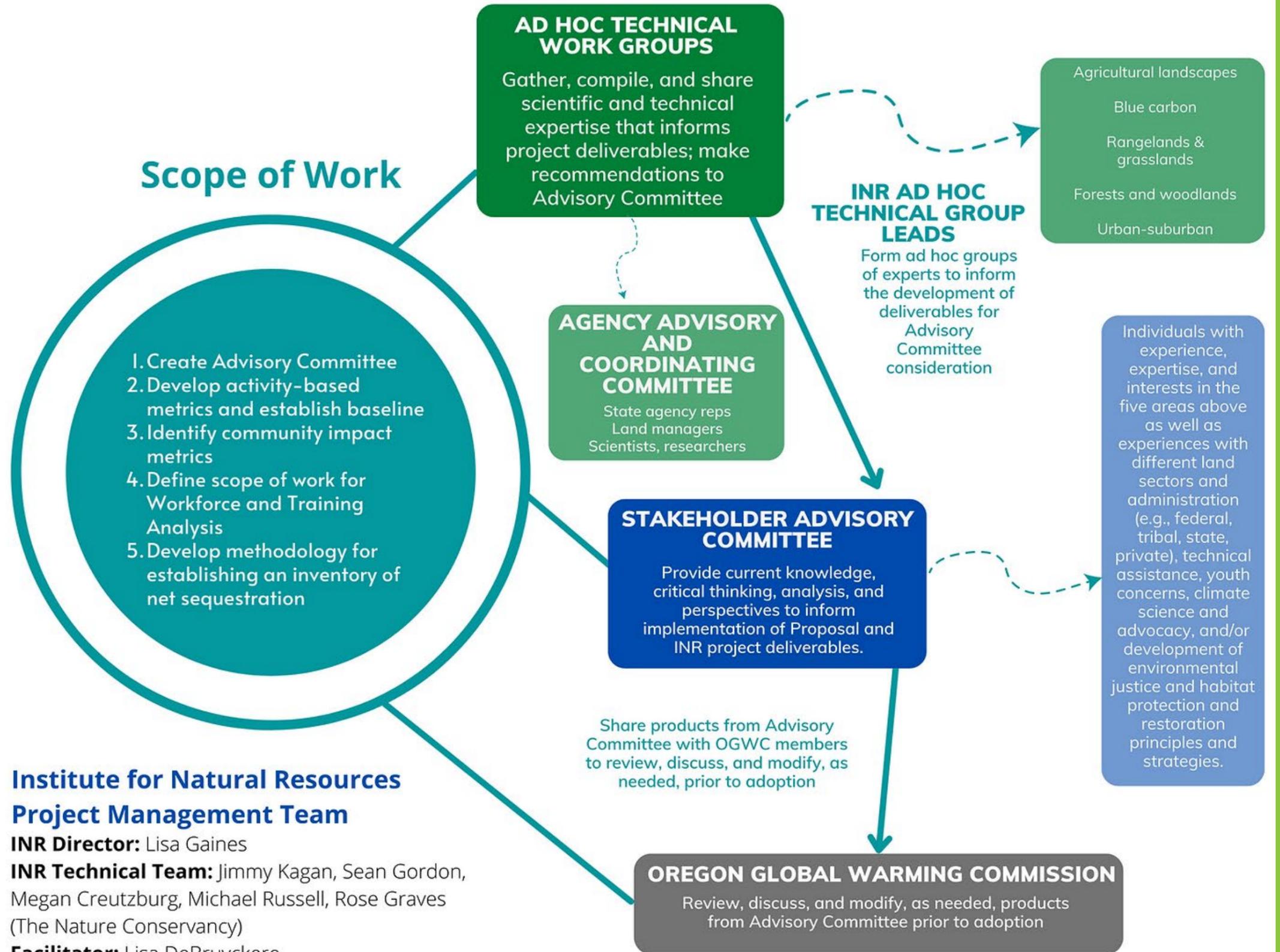
1. What are the recommended activities to capture and store more carbon and reduce GHGs in Oregon's NWL sector? Which should be included in this effort?
2. What method should be used to develop a baseline for these activities and track implementation through time?  
How much is occurring and how much has happened in the past? How much would occur following 'business-as-usual'?
3. How do we best measure or estimate the amount of carbon that is captured and stored by implementing the activities?

# PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE



# OGWC NATURAL & WORKING LANDS PROJECT

## OUR PROCESS



### Institute for Natural Resources

#### Project Management Team

**INR Director:** Lisa Gaines

**INR Technical Team:** Jimmy Kagan, Sean Gordon, Megan Creutzburg, Michael Russell, Rose Graves (The Nature Conservancy)

**Facilitator:** Lisa DeBruyckere

## Advisory Committee\* Roles

**Provide current knowledge, critical thinking, analysis, and perspectives to inform the implementation of the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Natural and Working Lands Proposal and the Institute for Natural Resource (INR) project deliverables.**

- Actively participate in committee and sub-committee meetings.
- Review draft products developed by the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and other technical experts on behalf of the Commission.
- Provide substantive input on draft products.
- Work collaboratively with other advisory committee members to understand issues and perspectives that represent the diversity of interests in Oregon.

\* Advisory Committee is a non-voting entity

## Where are we currently in the process? (Parallels to workforce development SOW process)

- Review and provide input to definitions document(s).
- December 2022 meeting – sneak peak/short presentations on draft practices
- January 2022 meeting – **begin to provide input** on draft practices\*
  
- Note: At this juncture, Stakeholder Advisory Committee is viewing a draft practices document. It continues to be vetted by scientists, researchers, academics, etc. At least 2 of the 5 technical groups expect to make significant additions/changes to the current proposed practices.
  
- Propose convening subset of stakeholders from this committee to have a discussion about ag practices and solidify recommendations to technical leads/committees.

## Specific Questions Asked by Advisory Committee Members in the Past Week

### Agriculture

- **Can you share the list of technical experts you consulted?** Markus Kleber (OSU), Lucas Silva (UO), Laurel Pfeifer-Meister (UO), Stewart Wuest (USDA), Jennifer Moore (USDA), Kate Lajtha (OSU) – in process of obtaining input, Kiara Winans (DEQ) – in process of obtaining input. Will be reaching out in an official manner from those outside of Oregon as well.
- **Will we get to see the input from the Technical Experts for Agricultural Landscapes?** I would have expected 8-10 practices to come out of such a discussion.
- **Will committee members and/or the public have a chance to add to our list of practices?** The role of the SAC is to make recommendations to the OGWC on the list of practices.
- **Will there be an opportunity for members of the committee to talk with the Technical Experts and the Agricultural Lead when we have more time allotted for a thorough discussion?** Proposed subset of SAC to discuss ag practices – who is interested?
- **How were comments collected from the tech committee members and how were they assembled to represent a broader view of potential practices?**

## Specific Questions Asked by Advisory Committee Members in the Past Week

- **Do we have access to the input provided by all of the individual members of the Technical Group? Do they have meeting recordings, notes or written comments to review? Are these publicly available?**
- **Will the Advisory Committee have adequate time to discuss all areas and all feedback? How will you ensure that all members have time to contribute their thoughts adequately with so many topics to cover?**
- **How will you record the overall opinion of the entire Advisory Committee?**
  - Will the Advisory Committee be **voting** on the entire document? Or section by section?
  - How will Advisory Committee feedback be tacked? For written comments to count, do they have to happen during the meeting (e.g. in the chat)?
  - Can written comments emailed in after? Who should be the recipients of the email to ensure they are shared publicly?
  - Will meeting notes be a bit more detailed for this topic, given its importance?
- **When is the next Technical Group meeting where they will review our feedback?**
- **Is the Ad Hoc Technical Group given time to watch Advisory Committee meetings? Do they have access to our written feedback and meeting notes?**
- **After the entire Tech Group gets the feedback, when will the Advisory Committee then get a more finalized version before sending our feedback to OGWC?**
- **Does the OGWC has ultimate voting power on the inclusion of practices?**
- **How are the AC's suggestions sent to the OGWC?**
- Will external groups be allowed to provide comments on the draft list? At a future OGWC meeting? Will there be a public comment period? After that point, will it go back to the AC, Technical Groups and/or OGWC? (This is a question for the OGWC – outside the scope of our advisory committee)

## The next set of slides

The next 3 slides are examples of how information will be shared with the Technical Leads and their respective ad hoc technical experts. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee is addressing three key questions relative to Oregon Natural & Working Lands Proposed Practices (DRAFT). The input from stakeholders will be compiled and summarized for each of the three questions.

## Are there any practices that you disagree with promoting, and if so, what are they and why do you not concur they be included?

- **Burning of biomass** - Woody biomass emits significant amounts of carbon when burned to produce energy. A detailed analysis of biomass energy generation commissioned by Massachusetts (the Manomet Study) compared the lifetime greenhouse gas effects of a continuous harvesting and replanting scenario to burning natural gas to generate the same energy. This analysis showed that, considering the first 35 years of operation, the biomass plant would have one and a half times the net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a natural gas plant generating the same amount of energy. Based on this study and many others, incentivizing biomass energy generation will put Oregon *further behind* on its current 2050 greenhouse gas goals, which aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state by at least 45 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2035, and by 80 percent by 2050.
- **Afforestation** - Afforestation can displace other native ecosystems such as grasslands, wetlands, and shrublands. Reforesting areas that have been previously forested is a good climate strategy if done in an ecologically appropriate manner, but afforestation can negatively impact biodiversity and watershed function. I recommend only using the term reforestation.
- **Replanting** - Replanting after wildfires could be problematic if it replaces a naturally-regrowing forest with a monoculture plantation. Any recommendations about wildfire replanting should be coupled with retaining legacies (snags, down wood, seedlings, etc). Referring to "understocked forests" on public lands also falls into the underlying problem with treating public lands the same way you treat plantations on private lands - public lands are managed for multiple use, and should be held to higher standards when it comes to logging.
- **Wildfire** - The recommendations for wildfire management should also reference the need to retain the oldest, largest trees on the landscape, and focus restoration efforts on younger, small-diameter trees that are overly dense due to past fire suppression. Failing to include these guardrails in policy recommendation can undermine the ecological and climate benefits of forest treatments.
- **Distinguish between different land use types for forest practices** – what is appropriate for plantations on private industrial lands is not appropriate for public forests managed for multiple use (state forests, industrial forests, non-industrial private forests, federal forests)

**Are there any additional practices you recommend including in any of the five land sector categories IF they meet the criteria for inclusion in the document (e.g., is not a practice that the experts state will not be included because they do not fall within the context of GHG and carbon stock accounting for purposes of the NWL initial efforts)?**

- Include as climate smart forestry practices under the section on Reduce harvest frequency and intensity
  - Lengthened logging rotations on private lands (federal and state lands should not be managed along the same lines as plantation style forestry on private lands).
  - Retention of mature and old growth forests on state and federal forest lands.
  - Ecologically appropriate thinning of overly young growth stands on public lands to promote mature and old-growth forest characteristics.
  - Increase green tree retention on the land during harvest (avoid clearcutting).
  - Protect riparian buffers and restore forested riparian areas and forested wetlands.

**What additional perspectives would you like to share regarding this document - that you believe would add value and context to process being used to identify practices, and then take the next step to develop activity metrics for those practices?**

- Document reflects a narrow view of current science when it comes to natural climate solutions, especially those related to forests. I encourage you to reach out to a broader group of technical experts who have more expertise in the science around biomass use and the complexity of fire issues.