

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT)**  
**Forestry Preparation/Adaptation Work Group (Forestry PAWG)**  
**Call #1, 10-12, July 17, 2007**

**Attendance:**

1. Preparation/Adaptation Working Group Members: Craig Partridge, Greg Ettl, Kathy O'Halloran, Dave Rolph, Scott Holman, Pete Heide, Bruce Lippke, Jeremy Littell, Ann Gygi, Jeff DeBell, Will Littke, Steve Stinson, Dave Whipple, Gary Morishima
2. Agency and Staff Support: Heidia Adelsman, Ecology
3. Other attendees: Tony Ifie, DNR

**Background documents:**

(posted at [www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat\\_pawg\\_overview.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_pawg_overview.htm))

1. Agenda
2. Powerpoint presentation (including agenda) for meeting
3. Summary Workplan and schedule
4. Issue prioritization criteria

**Discussion items and key issues:**

1. Scope:
  - Include fish and wildlife and habitat in context of forests
  - Recognize overlap with water resource PAWG re: fish habitat
  - Recognize relation to and need for consistency with Forestry TWG, especially with regard to fire prevention, forest health, and utilization of materials from thinning.
  - Need for Ecology/CTED to integrate recommendations from Forestry TWG with those from this PAWG
2. Timeframe:
  - Discussion of expectation for recommendations for short-term action.
  - The group also recognized needs for longer-term strategies
3. Relation to Related Parallel Efforts:
  - Group members referred to numerous related efforts that can serve as a foundation or reference for the work of this group.

4. Schedule:

- Group members recognized that the ambitious schedule does not allow time for independent analysis by this group, other than identifying and prioritizing existing work, and identifying major unknowns.
- CIG will circulate its forest related Workplan when it's complete.

5. CIG Background Presentation:

- The group felt the background climate data could be useful input to existing models of forest response.
- Attention needs to be paid to timing of hydrologic effects.
- Attention needs to be paid to potential for major changes in species composition and range, linking with BC and Idaho.

6. Potential Climate Change Impacts in the Forest Environment:

- Warmer condition for over-wintering insect defoliators, could lead to catastrophic landscape scale impacts. Also, spread of pathogens is important.
- Within-species genetic variability and response to climate change may affect species range long-term.
- Changing conditions will affect the current generation of trees, e.g. reproduction, and the establishment of the next generation.
- Changing stream-flow characteristics, could affect riparian restoration projects.
- Interaction of forest environment with fish and wildlife is important, including T&E species. Species distributions may change. Water temperature may increase, with adverse effects for salmon.
- Westside forest health may be affected, not just eastside.
- Growth and yield may be affected, making current models inaccurate
- Genetic variability may be narrowed, and relative economic value of various tree species may be altered.
- Rates of change are not well understood.
- Effects of CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment on water use efficiency, given changing hydrology, are unknown.
- Current management guidance may become outdated.
- Resilience by stand age and diversity may be altered.
- Incidence of large fires is likely to increase, putting increased pressure on seed banks and nurseries.
- Phytosanitary risks, such as for Sudden Oak Death, may change.
- Fire risk in SW Washington may increase.

- Resilience of preserve areas may change, including the effectiveness of refugia, for example.
- Landscape scale responses will be critical.
- Indirect impacts on human social and institutional interactions with forest need attention, including forest processing infrastructure.

7. Ideas about Desired Future Conditions:

- What do we expect/want future forest to look like, especially with respect to native species, and their composition and range, as well as currently non-native species?
- Keeping forests and forest industries in Washington is important.

8. Ideas about Strategies:

- Thinning unhealthy and overcrowded forests will be a win-win situation.
- Will need to expand the use of seed banks.
- We need to encourage appropriate climate change research.
- Needed genetic variability (across and within species) must be maintained in gene pool reserves.
- We may need new growth and yield models.
- For forest health, support the recommendations of the Forest Health Strategies Work Group, and resulting legislation.
- We should design pilot projects to test standards for biomass removal which apply the latest science.
- We should re-examine the respective roles of controlled burns, use of insecticides and silvicultural treatments.
- Standards for stand density (fuel loads) may need to be re-examined.
- We need disaster response strategies for major events.
- The 1989 publication, The Burning Decision should be updated.
- The use of LiDAR and other remote sensing should be increased, for example for “large area risk assessments” across ownerships.
- Outreach efforts should be targeted to family forest landowners, along with incentive programs.
- WDFW’s Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy can be a useful reference.
- We should promote monitoring of key indicators to both validate conjectured effects of climate change and signal the need for action.

- The current regulatory system and industry infrastructure need to be flexible so as to ensure an adapting industry remains on the landscape. The institutional structure for response to climate change impacts on forests needs to develop, applicable to all categories of landowner.

**Next steps and agreements:**

1. Craig will circulate meeting notes.
2. Members will respond with additional ideas on issues, vulnerabilities, and priorities.
3. Craig will work with Ecology to develop a single repository for group information on related efforts, documents, links, etc.
4. Members will circulate information/links to similar work being done by others, as reference foundation, and documentation for the work of this committee.
5. Members will think about desired future condition and strategies prior to the next meeting.
6. Craig will circulate proposed criteria for prioritizing strategies.

**Next meeting:**

The next Forestry PAWG meeting is set for Tuesday, August 21, 10:00 to 12:00. At that meeting we will verify/elaborate and then prioritize our list of major issues, while generally agreeing on expectations for supporting documentation. We will discuss and generally agree on a desired future condition. And we will continue exploring potential response strategies, while settling on strategy prioritization criteria.