



Proposed Goal for Natural and Working Lands Sequestration and Storage

Presentation to the OACD, November 16, 2021

Catherine Macdonald, Chair Oregon Global Warming Commission

Overview

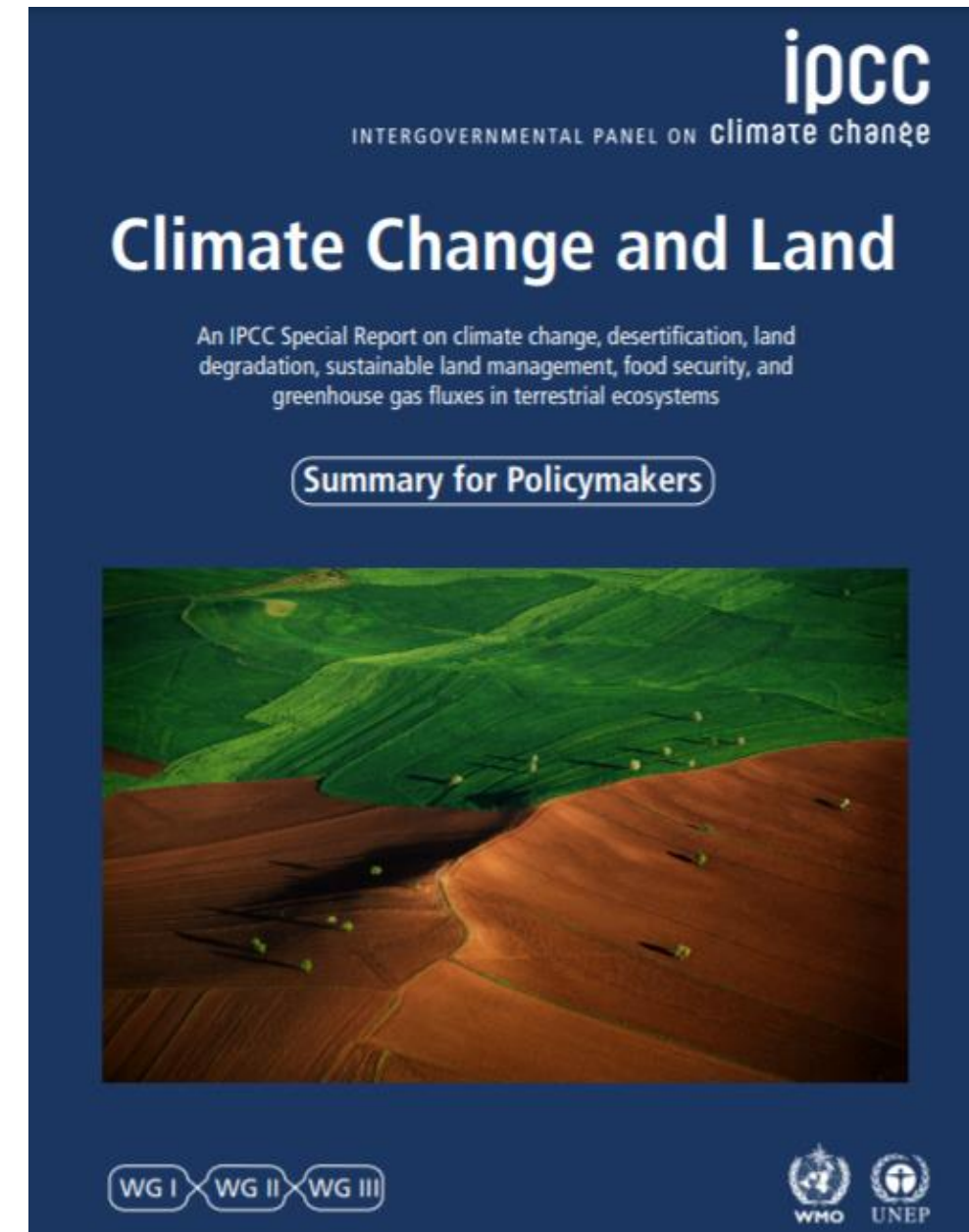
- Purpose and underlying motivation
- Interested and affected Party Engagement Process
- Proposed goals
- Strategy recommendations
- 2022 Legislative priorities



International Panel on Climate Change

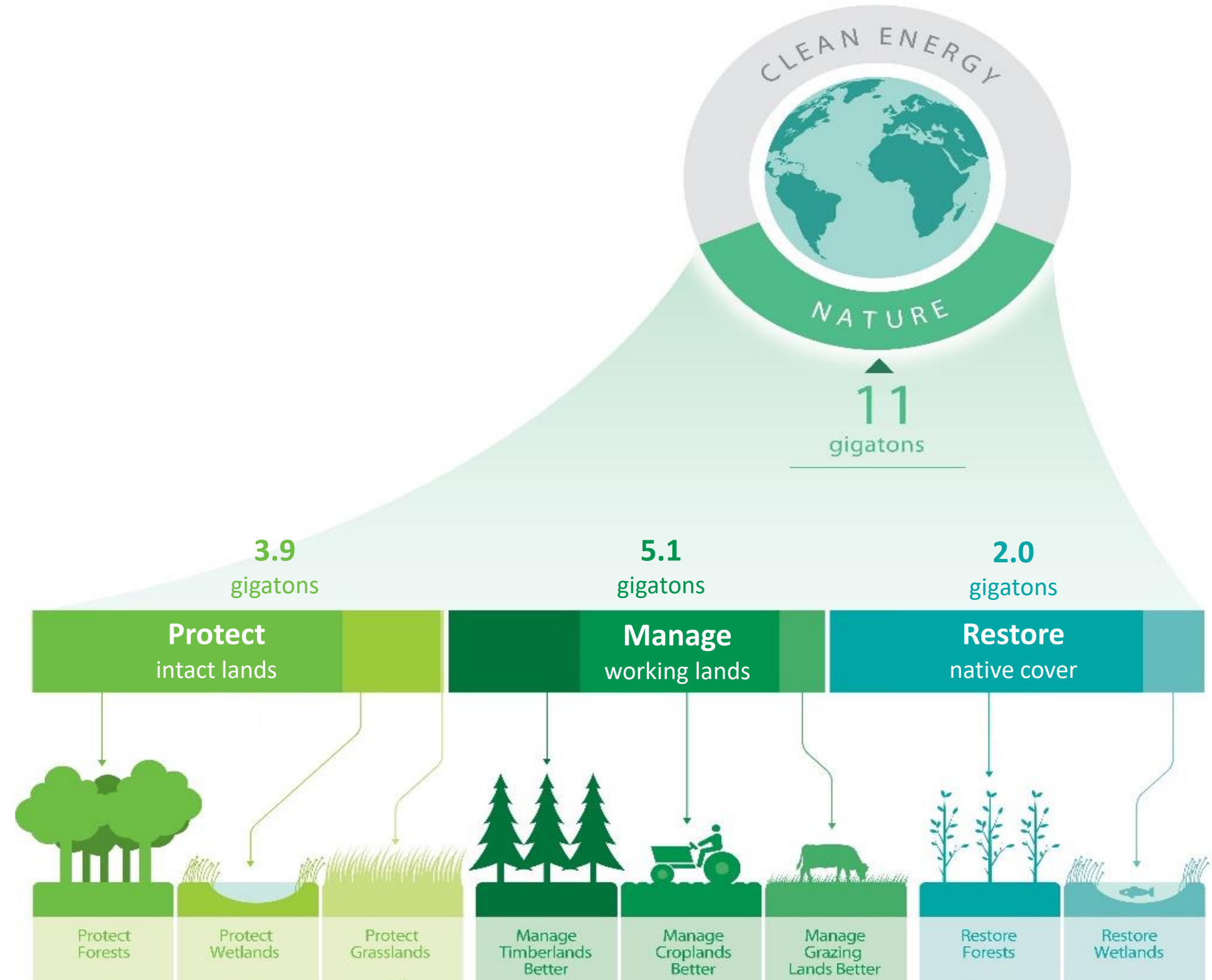


[IPCC Global Warming of 1.5 ° C Link](#)



[IPCC Climate Change and Land Link](#)

Nature can be one third of the solution needed by 2030



Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04

Directive to the Oregon Global Warming Commission:

*In coordination with ODA, ODF and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by **Oregon's natural and working landscapes**, including forests, wetlands and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021.*

Vision

*Oregon's natural and working lands are managed to be **the most resilient and robust climate sink we can achieve** in keeping with the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, while maintaining the health of our economy and communities, and enhancing equity and quality of life for all Oregonians.*



Hearing from Oregonians

- Tribes
- Agricultural Landowners/Land Managers
- Forest Landowners/Land Managers
- Federal and State Agencies
- Technical Assistance Providers
- Agriculture/Forest Landowner Interest Groups
- Conservation or Environmental Organizations
- Environmental Justice
- General public



Natural and Working Lands Outreach



Input on Goals and Metrics

- Address the Urgency of Climate Action
- Add to Existing Goals
- Be Informed by Science
- Advance Equity
- Create Accountability
- Ensure Continuous Improvement



Proposed Goals & Metrics

Outcome-Based Goal

Sequester at least an **additional 5MMTCO₂e per year in Oregon's natural and working lands and waters by 2030**, and at least **9.5MMTCO₂e per year by 2050** relative to a 2010 to 2019 activity-based, business-as-usual net carbon sequestration baseline. The OGWC recommends that the natural and working lands outcome-based goal should be separate from, and in addition to, Oregon's sector-based emissions reduction goals as established by the Legislature and updated in Governor Brown's EO 20-04.

Proposed Goals & Metrics

Activity-Based Metrics and Goals

Activity-based metrics (e.g., acres of adopted soil health practices, riparian reforestation, and urban forest canopy expansion) will help the state evaluate progress in implementing natural and working lands practices. Activity-based goals for programs designed to incentivize climate-smart management practices will help communities, technical assistance providers, and land managers anticipate the opportunity to adopt new practices.

Community Impact Metrics

Input emphasized the need to prioritize environmental justice considerations throughout carbon sequestration programs. Community impact metrics and goals should be designed to evaluate the benefits and burdens associated with different strategies, practices, and programs including effects on jobs, local economies, public health, and access to programs, among other factors.

Input on Strategies

- Equitable and collaborative processes
- Informed by science including Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Streamline policies and programs
- Create a continuous improvement process
- Expand technical assistance and education capacity
- Evaluate and eliminate disincentives
- Recognize and reward good practices
- Cover transition costs for adoption of new practices
- Align N&WL strategies with other state, federal, and tribal needs and goals
- Focus on incentives with judicious/strategic improvements in regulations



Strategies

1. Position the state to leverage federal lands and investments in climate-smart natural and working lands practices.
2. Investigate options and create a sustained source of state funding to increase sequestration in natural and working lands.
3. Fund and direct the agencies to take actions to advance natural and working lands strategies.
4. Invest in improvements to our understanding of the optimal sequestration capacity and improvements to the natural and working lands inventory.





10 Elements Included in Strategy 3

- Enhance and maintain Oregon’s statewide land use planning program
- Establish a comprehensive climate-smart agricultural program including funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)
- Support the implementation of climate-smart forest management
 - Invest to expand urban tree canopies
 - Adopt Forest Accord recommendations
 - Complete an all-lands strategic plan for incentivizing climate-smart forestry
 - Complete a strategic plan for expanding reforestation capacity
 - Expand forest resiliency treatments
 - Expand the OAHP to assist forest landowners
- Increase protection and restoration of carbon-rich tidally influenced coastal ecosystems
- Fund a workforce and economic development study

Recommendations 2022 Session

1. Pass legislation to establish and regularly update the Natural and Working Lands (N&WL) sequestration goals
2. Give agencies the authority to accept federal funds from the bipartisan Infrastructure and Reconciliation bills
3. Fund agency/OGWC capacity to improve the inventory, establish Activity and Community Impact metrics, track progress toward goals and implement the N&WL recommendations
4. Fund an analysis of the workforce needs and economic benefits of implementing the N&WL recommendations
5. Fund a strategic plan for expanding Oregon's reforestation infrastructure
6. Pass legislation to codify the Forest Accord recommended changes to the Forest Practices Act



Questions?

www.keeporegoncool.org

Oregon.GWC@oregon.gov