



CLIMATE
ACTION
RESERVE

Forest Project Protocol Summary of Proposed Revisions

October 2016

Section 3

- Consider adding clarification that would further define the scope of regulatory compliance issues that are considered for forest projects.
- Clarify the criteria for measuring performance against the Natural Forest Management requirements.
- Provide further definition to the even-age harvesting requirements to clarify that the intent is to limit even-age rotation harvests. Also, add allowance to expand 40-acre limit commensurate with retention levels (variable retention). Guidance to include requirements and verifiable criteria for retention (amount and spacing).

Section 4

- Provide guidance that outlines conditions (eminent domain, lot line adjustments, surveys, etc.) for allowable modifications of the project boundary, and outlines adjustments to calculations if needed.

Section 5

- Revise RF-4 SSR for lying dead wood from “optional” to “excluded.”

Section 6

- Clarify leakage calculation to ensure all harvest is included in the calculation.
- Eliminate the term ‘Logical Management Unit’. In its place, establish criteria to ensure against concerns of project selection bias.
- Provide an alternative methodology for calculating a project baseline that would not require modeling. This would instead be based on a forthcoming spreadsheet application under development by the Reserve.
- Revise approach to public lands baseline.

Section 7

- Revise the reporting requirements associated with unavoidable reversals to address the realities of inventory limitations and ongoing mortality that may persist for several years following a disturbance event.

Section 8

- Guidance to be provided for documentation that should be submitted to demonstrate the acreage of the Project Area.

Section 9

- Guidance to be provided as to how proof of ownership of the Project Area is to be evaluated by the verification team. This will include a comparison of county Assessor's parcel information to project data (e.g., GIS-based information), and describe allowable tolerances.

Appendix A

- Consider a revision to the calculation of the Reversal Risk Rating that would redistribute buffer pool contributions based on risk mitigated thought time.

Assessment Area Data File

- Update Common Practice based on most recent FIA data without stratification by site class.
- Incorporate assessment areas for Hawaii.

Quantification Guidance

- Provide further guidance to wood products classification to clarify the fate of wood chips (biomass) so it is not to be confused with a long-lived wood product.
- Integrate Reserve's standardized inventory methodology and computer application (under development) for developers and verifiers.
- Improve guidance to facilitate the quantification effects of decay and defect.
- Develop guidance that would allow a defined percentage of plots to be excluded from quantification for annual reporting and from potential selection from verifiers. This will be limited to plots that have recently been subject to disturbance and have not been updated due to scheduling conflicts between forest management and verification oversight.