Project Management Plan

Project Carbon and Biomass Change Date January 14, 2016

Project Goal

Goal Statement	Project Lead	Target Date
RMA will continue to provide scientific leadership to efforts - both domestic and international – aimed at providing baseline information on carbon change. Biomass estimates from comprehensive forest inventories are essential for quantifying the amount and distribution of carbon.	Sharon Stanton	

Expected Outcomes/Benefits/Measurable Results

Expected Outcomes & Benefits	Measurable Results
• Provide (much-needed) empirical data to test existing conceptual models of carbon flux. • Address the connection between fuels, fire severity, and carbon storage in the western US. • Integrate FIA field plot data with remote sensing information to improve carbon estimates. • Work with NFS to update Climate Scorecard requirements and inform forest plan revisions. • Improve models that examine the efficacy, outcomes, and economic feasibility of fuel treatments. • Assess effects of management on forest carbon pools. • Use inventory and remotely sensed information to reconstruct long-term changes in carbon stores and investigate causes of flux. • Highlight RMA's work in carbon monitoring and research.	• Updated and improved techniques/equations for calculating tree volume, biomass, and carbon. • Improved multi-level inventory designs that more accurately scale field-based estimates of biomass to landscape and region scales. • Use post-fire measurements to determine amount of carbon consumed during fires of different intensities. • Determine roles of decay and regrowth in carbon balance of post-fire recovery • Provide annual updates to the US GHGI • Work with Hawaii to develop baseline carbon stores used to determine carbon credits for cap & trade systems. • Contribute to NASA collaboration on Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) linking field data, lidar, and Landsat change data. • Develop alternative sampling techniques to support countries with less field data.

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Project Deliverables

Short Term Deliverables (1 year)	Long Term Deliverables (2 – 5 years)
• Pull together study plans for existing projects to identify potential areas of overlap and/or future collaboration. • Organize a brown bag seminar series of short talks highlighting existing research. • Produce PNW RMA Carbon briefing paper. •	• Publications documenting improved techniques. • Assess the role of fire and disturbance on carbon pools. How important is fire? • Improve estimates of non-tree biomass stores. • Efficacy of multi-level sampling design used in Tanana Valley pilot?

Success Factors Critical to Project Success (Select 1 to 3)

Improve public relations and self-promotion by telling a more compelling story - Produce products that are relevant and "newsworthy" to broad and diverse audiences.
Clearly define and document cross-functional roles, expectations, and goals within and when working across teams to quickly resolve challenges and confusion.

Who Is Impacted by or Invested in the Project? / Who should we collaborate with?

Impacted	Collaborate With
• Entire RMA program and FIA nationally. • VMaRS, VeMSA, and IRAM most heavily impacted as collaborators and those conducting the research using existing data.	• PNW-RS, NFS, other FIA units, university researchers.

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Challenges

Can Influence?	Challenges
	Keeping ourselves at the forefront of this competitive line of research being done by many agencies and researchers.
	Convincing non-federal partners of the value of this research.
	Devising mechanisms to establish and manage larger projects that cut across teams and partners.
	Convincing established scientists to work together / collaborate and give up some ownership of projects.

Assumptions

- Scientists will see the benefit of collaborating.
- Results/products are interesting and useful to more than our federal clients.
- Funding will be available
- Partners will be interested and motivated.
- We have enough analytical bench strength.

Keys for Successful Execution and Deployment

1. Fill existing staff vacancies.
2. Build some positive PR about the overall value of carbon research and that RMA has the experts already.
3. Align existing related work to build synergy across researchers and teams.
4. Build the necessary compilation systems, especially for non-tree data (DWM, VEG)
5.
6.

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Keys for Successful Execution and Deployment

7.
8.
9.
10.

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Major Milestones (Leading Indicators for Project Completion)

Major Milestone	Milestone Leader	Due	Done
1. Produce Carbon Research briefing paper	Sharon	11/15/15	Y
2. Develop project charter	Sharon		
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

Leading Indicators for Results

Leading Indicator	Timing
1.	
2.	
3.	

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Leading Indicators for Results

Leading Indicator	Timing
4.	

Proactive Recovery Planning

A) Brainstorm Potential Internal Breakdowns (circle 1-3 of most likely to surface)

- Interior Alaska implementation pulls away existing resources
- Too many other priorities
- Inability to hire following retirements
-

B) Recovery Plans (for 1-3 internal breakdowns most likely to surface)

- Focus on existing research projects already part of this portfolio and focus support to see those to completion before starting new ones.
- Continue working together as a program to prioritize and let go of unsuccessful or nonessential work

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Next Actions

What	Who	Due	Done
1. Discuss with leadership team: just how much to push? Determine priority for level of effort.	Joe		
2. If deemed priority, determine potential funding for collaborative efforts.	Leadership team		
3. Gauge interest among land cover / land use scientists.			
4. If interest, host land cover / land use "state-of-the-science" webinar/meeting.	Joe, Sharon, Andy, Hans		
5. Request proposals to integrate the projects.			
6. Manage the projects and portfolio.			

Due dates have been omitted given this priority is ranked 4th among our top priorities and will likely need to await additional funding and time.

