



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Environmental Justice Offsets Working Group

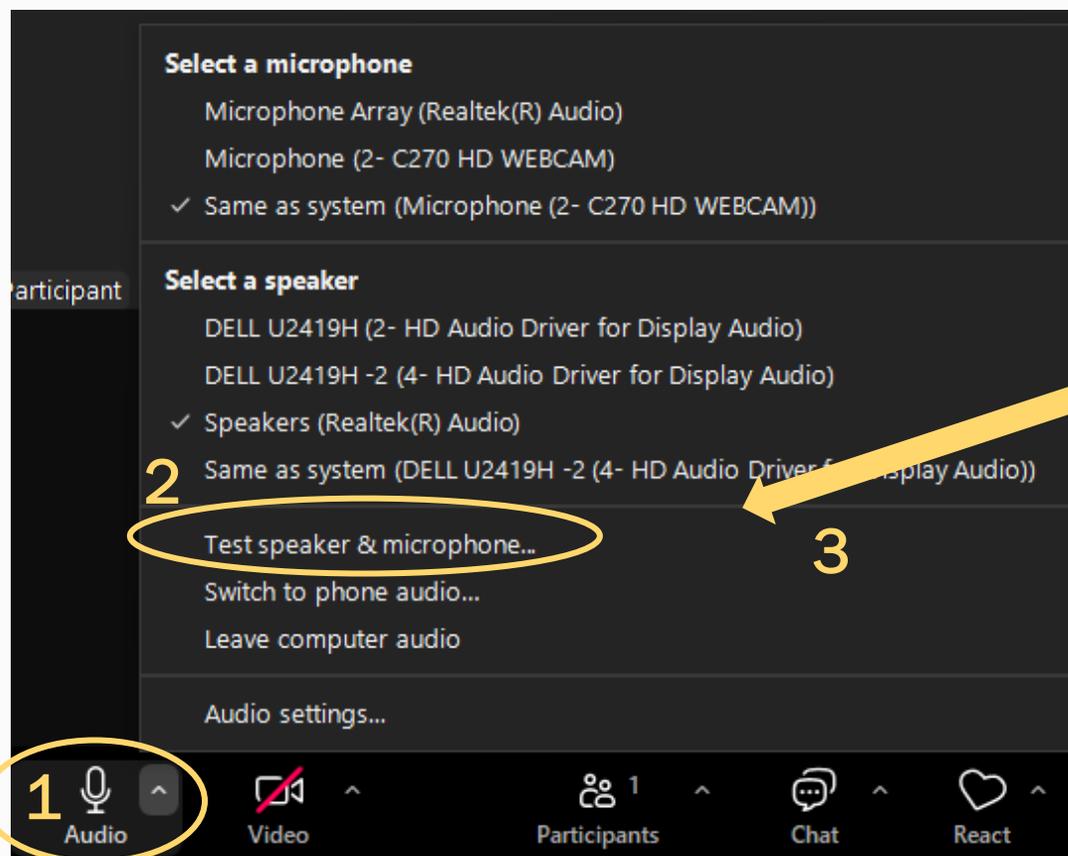
Meeting #3

November 27, 2024

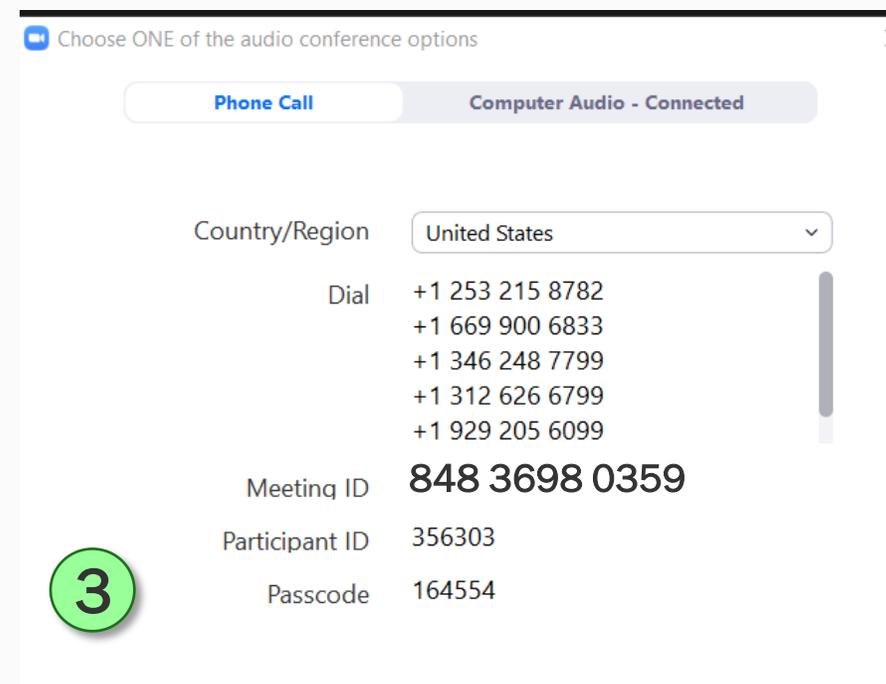
# Sound check

**No sound?** Connect your audio and listen for a sound check before we start.

Confirm that the speaker and mic you're using match those selected in your Zoom settings.

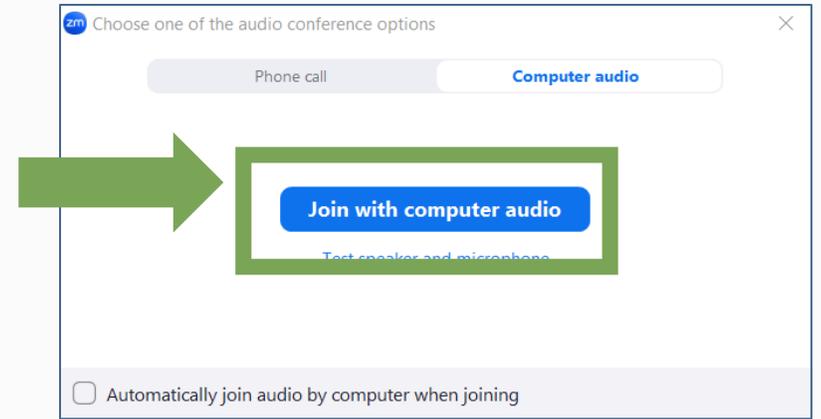


Is your internet low quality? If yes, then click “Switch to phone audio”. Enter Participant ID when prompted for your phone to be associated with your video.





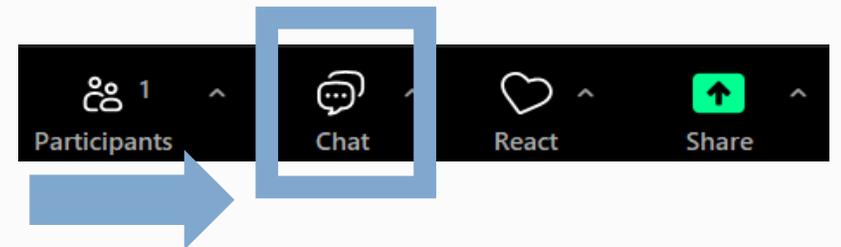
Connect to Zoom audio, such as by clicking "Connect with computer audio"



If you have a slow internet connection, consider calling into today's meeting for clearer audio. Dial 253-215-8782 and input the Meeting ID, 848 3698 0359



If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please send Kayla Stevenson, our technical host, a message in the chat



# Zoom audio tips

# Zoom tips for participation

**Panelists and attendees:**  
Raise your virtual hand  
and we'll call on you.  
(Dial \*9 to raise your  
hand if you called in.)



Please keep your video  
on as bandwidth allows  
and mute yourself  
unless speaking.



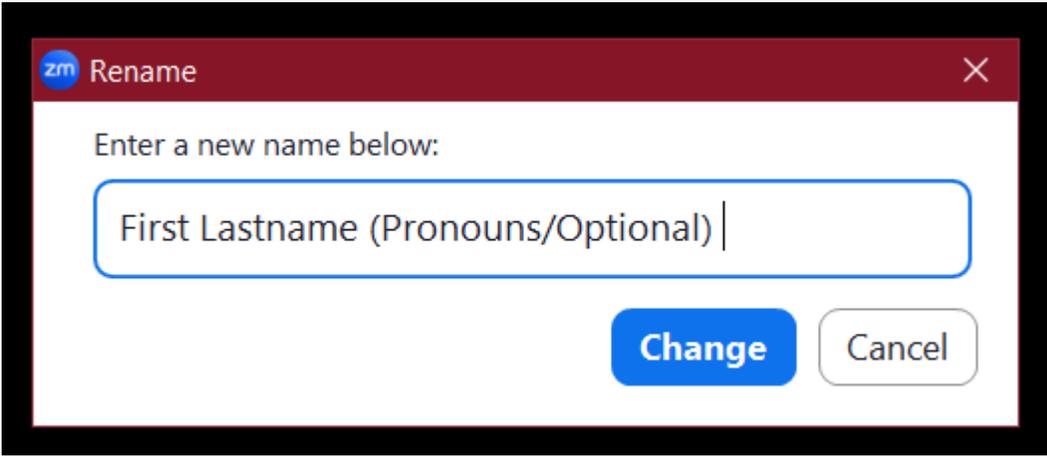
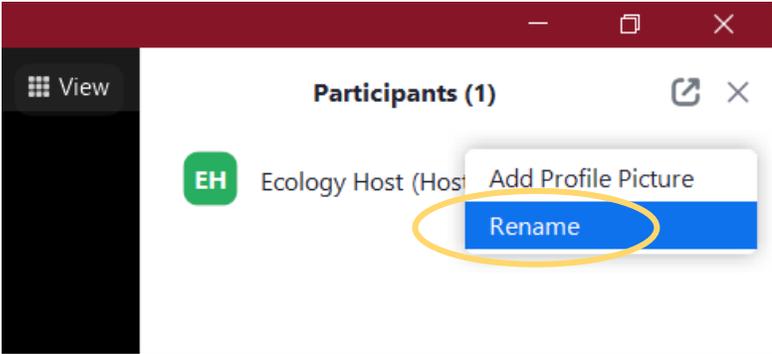
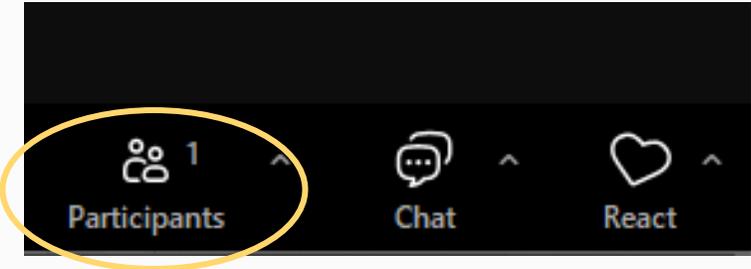
To view live, auto-  
generated captions,  
click the "captions"  
button.



# How to change your name

Click the “Participants” icon located at the bottom of the Zoom window.

Select the “...” next to your name to open the options menu. Click “Rename.”



# Start recording





DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Environmental Justice Offsets Working Group

Meeting #3

November 27, 2024

# Welcome

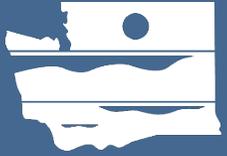
- Meg Baker – Facilitator, Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist
- Jordan Wildish – Senior Environmental Planner
- Kayla Stevenson – Offsets Rulemaking Lead, Technical Host
- Joshua Grice – Climate Pollution Reduction Policy and Planning Section Manager

# Working Group Role

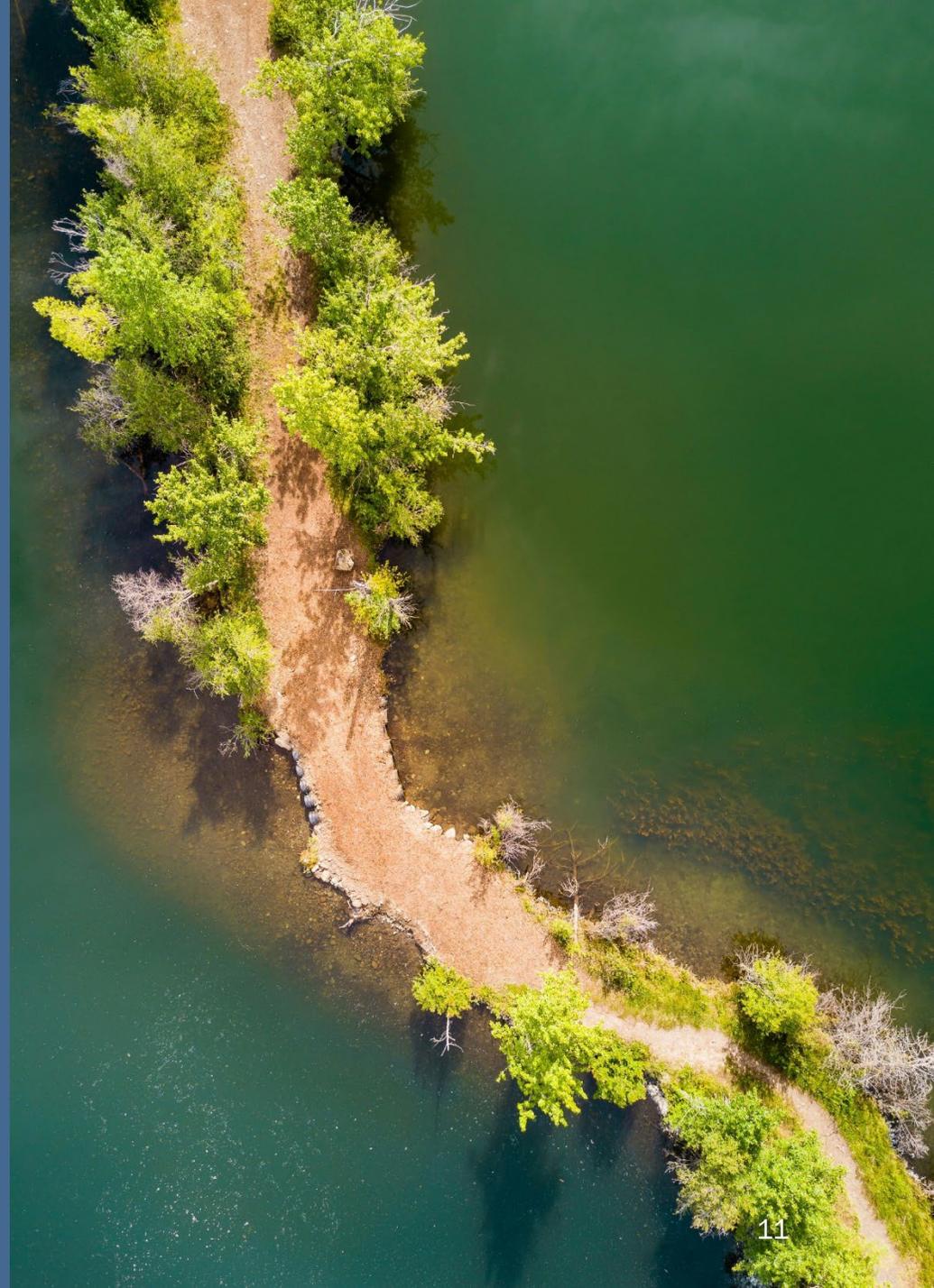
- This working group is not tasked with making consensus recommendation changes to Ecology rule or adopted protocols
- Ecology will consider multiple sources and perspectives, including the input collected through this working group, when deciding how to proceed with changes to this protocol
- Input provided by working group members, even if unanimous, should not be considered an indicator of the changes Ecology may or may not make

# Agenda

- 1** Community agreement – check in
- 2** Reviewing Washington’s offsets and meeting #2
- 3** Quantification of offset credits
- 4** Environmental justice and Forestry Protocol topics
- 5** Public comment period



# Community agreement

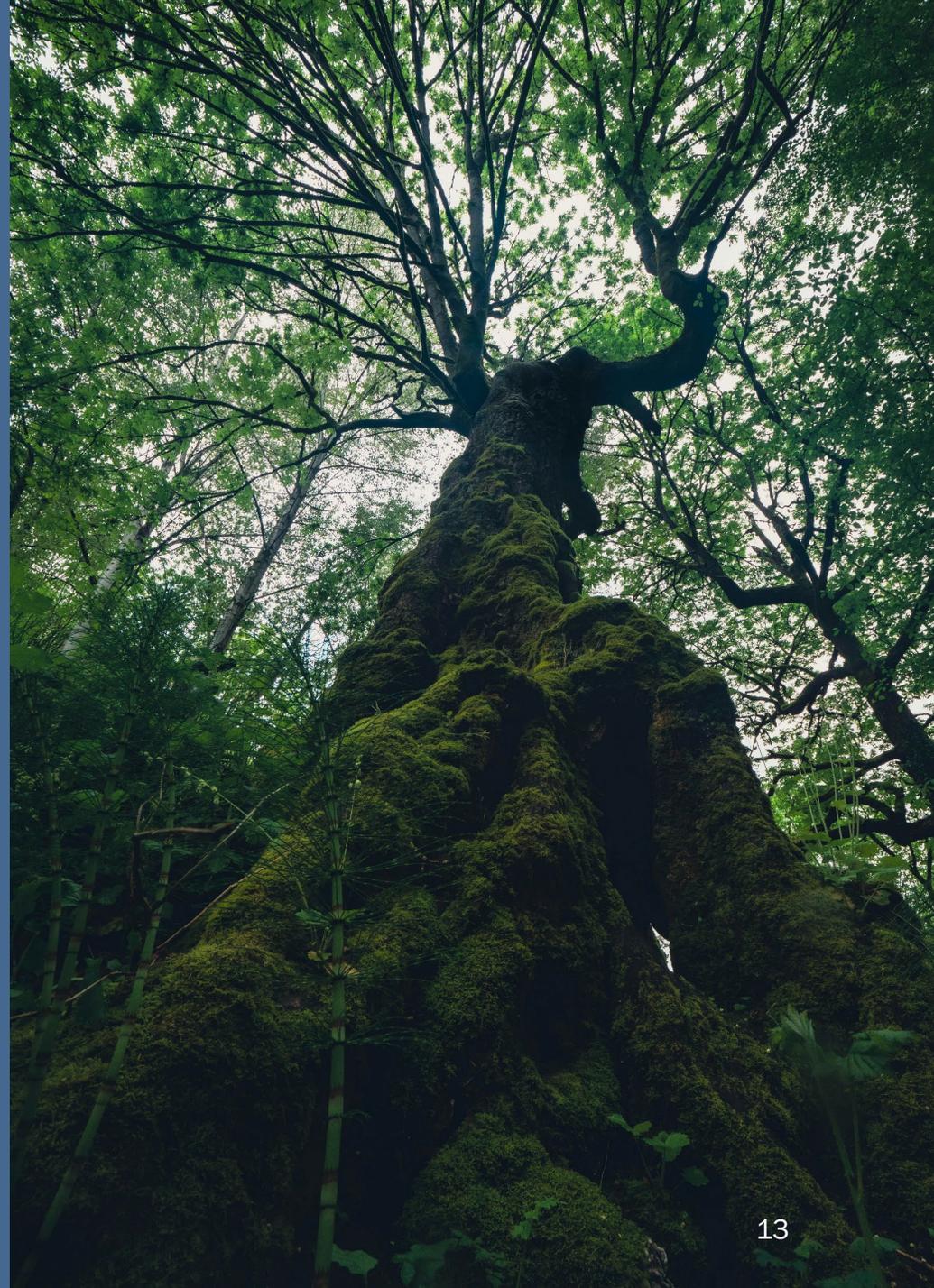


# Community Agreement

- **Respect** – diverse viewpoints, group members’ time, active listening, “sit in a circle,” raise hand to speak
- **Accessibility and transparency** – plain talk complex topics and be forthcoming on desired outcomes
- **Think broadly and creatively** – including impacts outside of our own communities
- **Ask for clarification** and help when needed



# Review of Cap-and-Invest Program's offsets and meeting #2 questions



# Compliance vs voluntary markets

## Compliance carbon markets

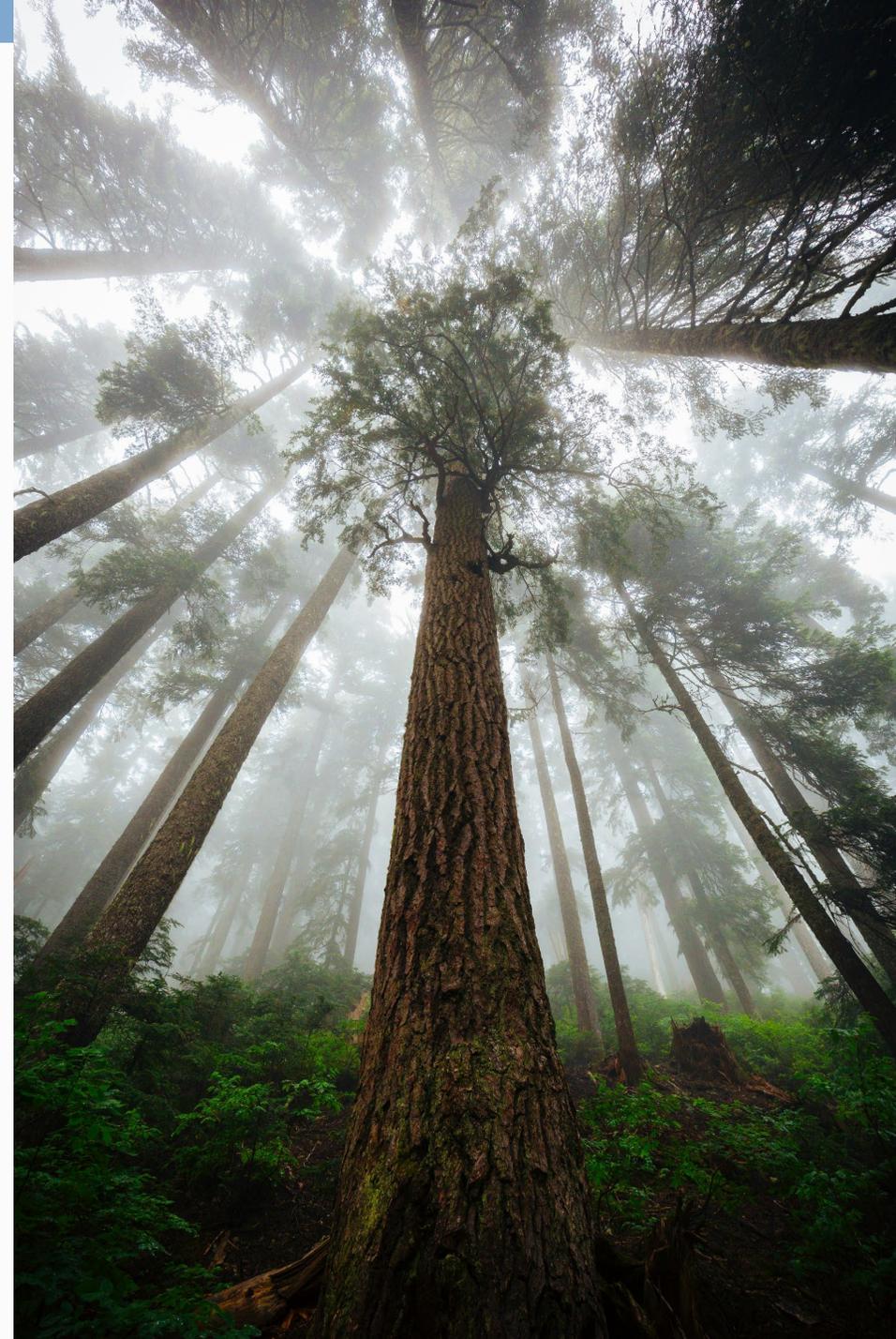
- established and regulated by governments with the aim of capping and reducing greenhouse gas emissions set in law
- target high-emission industries such as energy, manufacturing, and transportation
- includes penalties for non-compliance

## Voluntary carbon markets

- independent from government regulation and optional
- driven by businesses and individuals' desire to green their brand or take proactive steps toward sustainability
- lack strict regulatory oversight of compliance markets but are governed by independent standards

# Washington's offsets

- In CCA offsets are “under the cap”
  - The number of offsets used in the program is subtracted from the number of available allowances in the following year to ensure we hit emissions targets
- Ecology has authority to reduce the number of offset credits a business can use if contributing substantially to air pollution in an overburdened community
- To maximize offset use, businesses must source a portion of their offsets from projects on Tribal lands



# Washington's offsets – Q&A

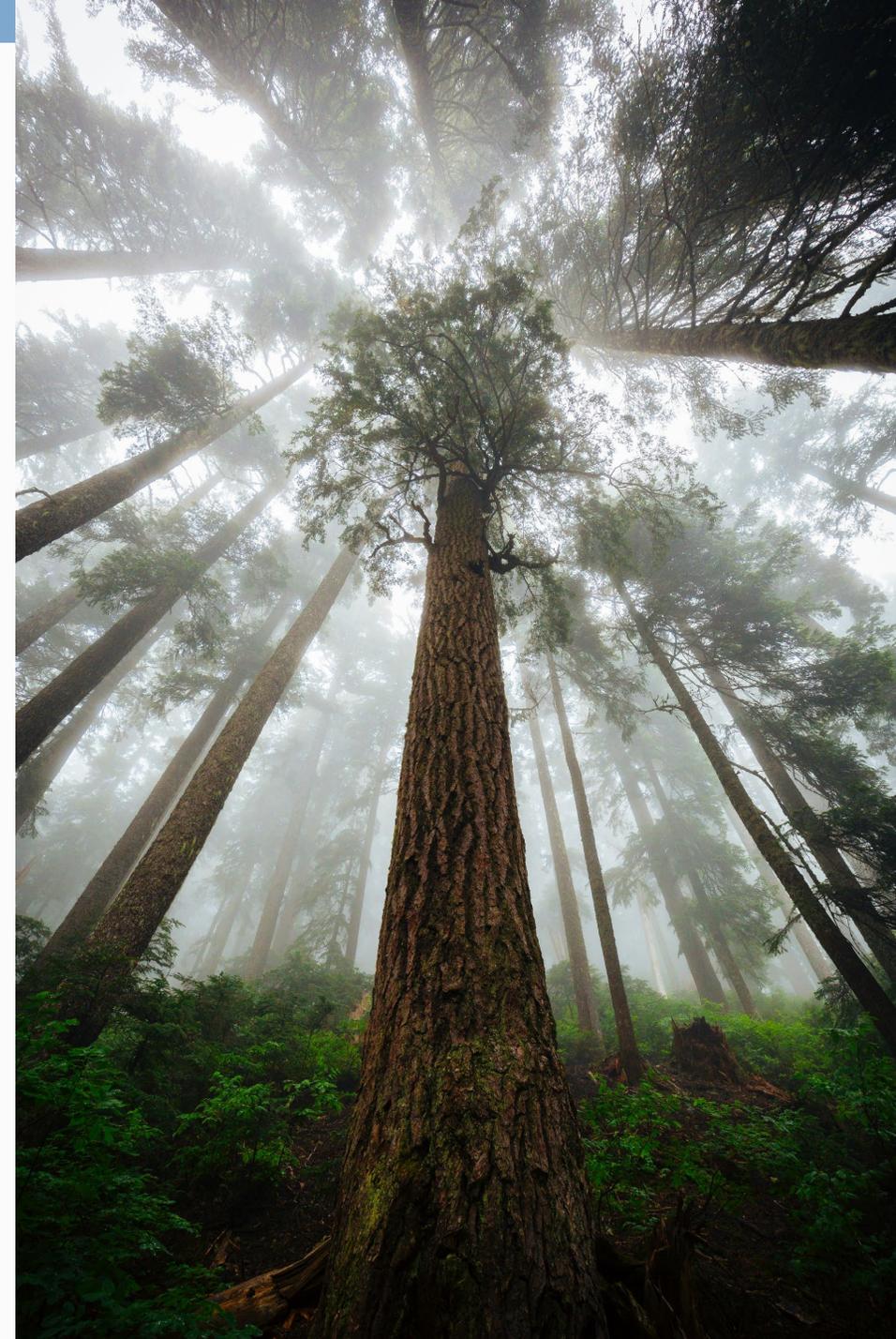
## Tribal sovereignty and sovereign immunity

- [WAC 173-446-520\(3\)\(b\)\(iv\)](#)
- Ecology does not require Tribes to waive sovereign immunity to participate in the program



# Washington's offsets – Q&A

- Out-of-state projects may apply to Ecology to receive Direct Environmental Benefits designation and therefore participate in Washington's market, as in California's market



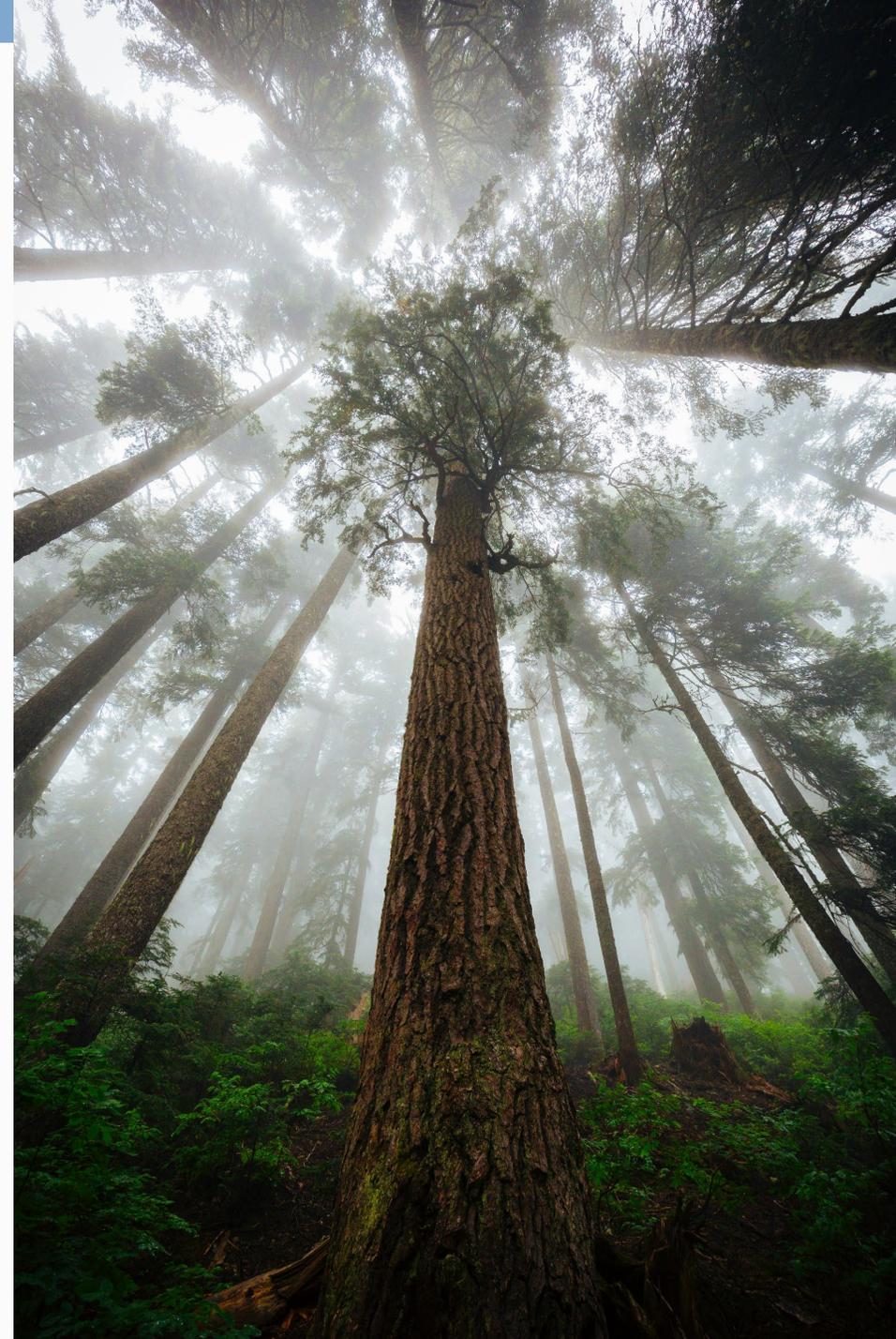
# Washington's offsets – Q&A

- **Planting monocultures of tree species**

The existing protocol ([3.8.2](#)) requires management to achieve "natural forest management" criteria - defined as practices that promote and maintain native species comprised of multiple ages and mixed native species

- **Science-aligned policies**

Technical working group – [recorded meetings online](#), next meeting Dec. 3



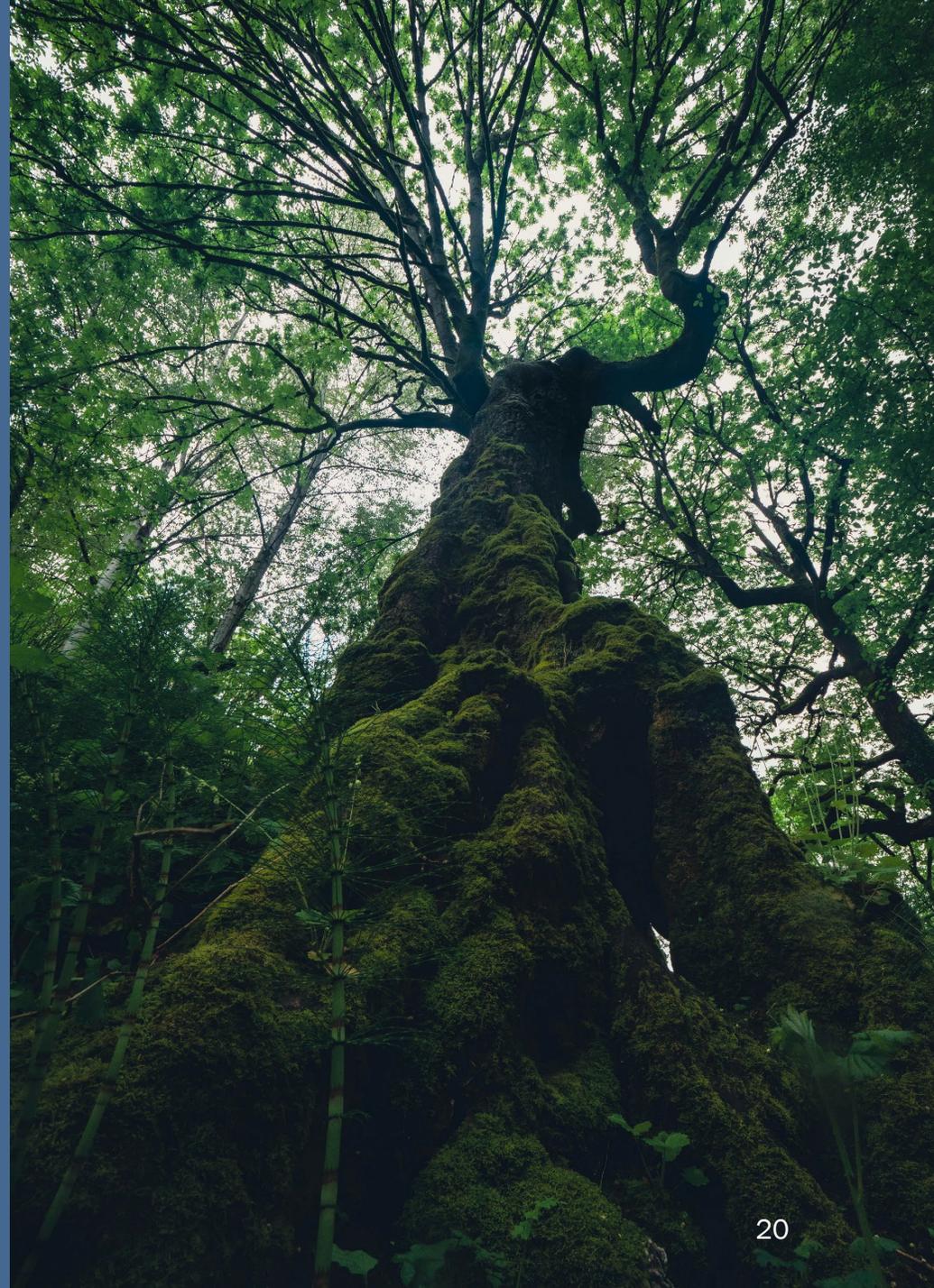
# Washington's offsets – Q&A

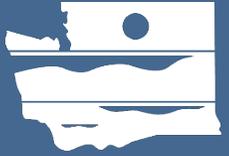
- "Forest land" ([WAC 222-16](#)) means all land which can support a merchantable stand of timber and is not being actively used for a use which is incompatible with timber growing.
- Does not include agricultural land that is/was enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program if such land was historically used for agricultural purposes and the landowner intends to continue to use the land for agricultural purposes in the future.
- "Forest land" excludes:
  - Residential home sites up to 5 acres
  - Crop fields, orchards, vineyards, pastures, feedlots, fish pens, and the land on which items necessary for the production, preparation, or sale of crops, fruit, dairy products, fish, and livestock exist.



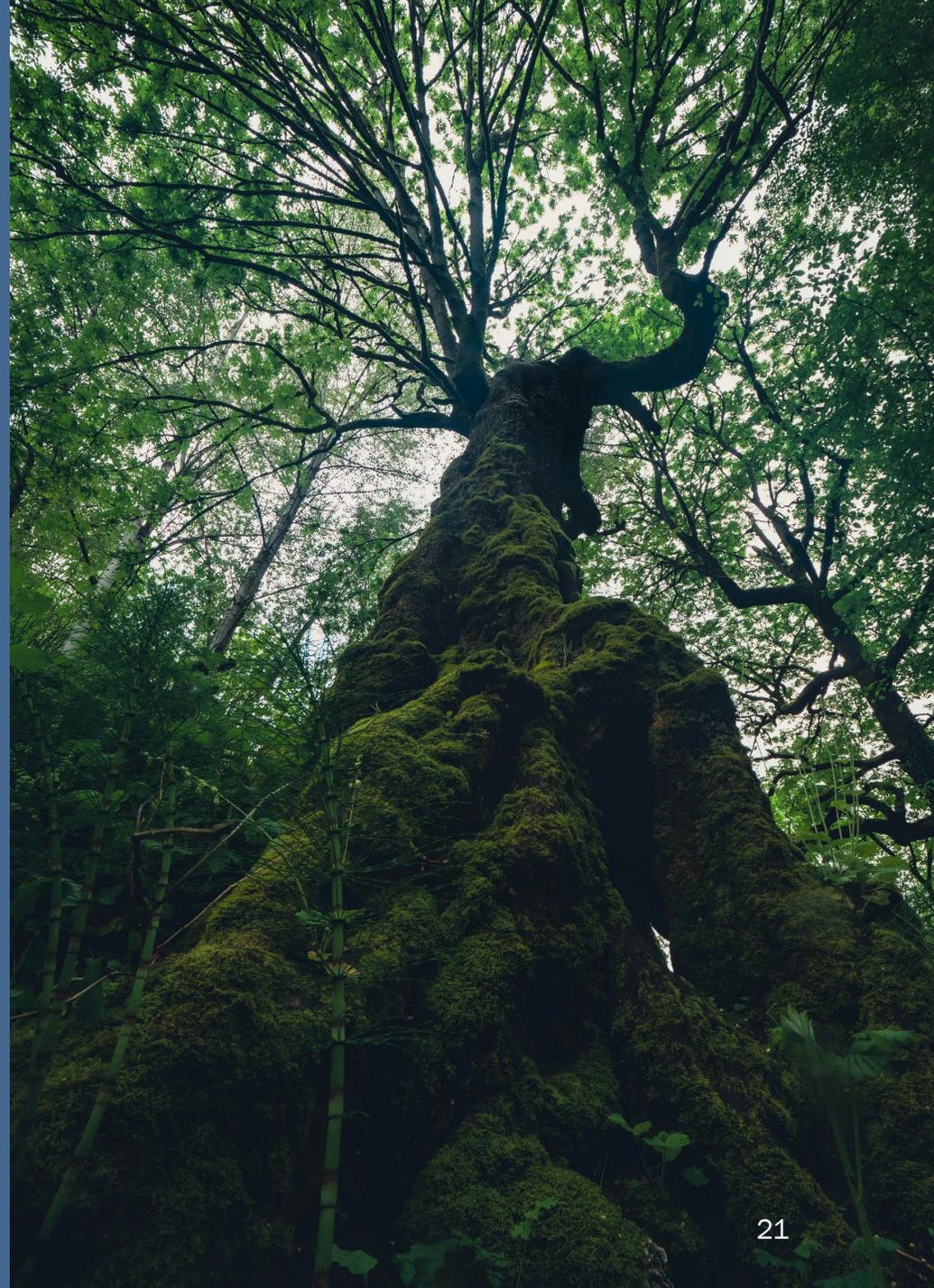


# Forest offset project development and quantification – continued

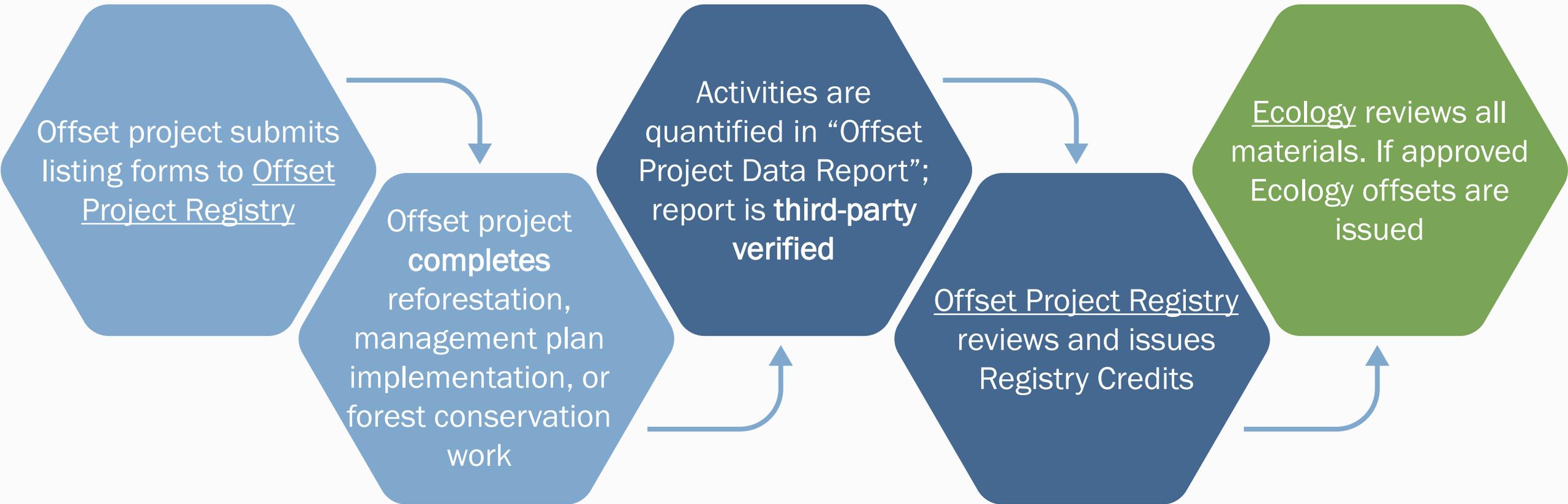




Questions?



# Forest Offset Lifecycle



# Requirements to develop a forest offset project

- Inventory project area at project outset and with every offset project data report
  - Inventorying requires on-site measurement of forest carbon
    - Forest areas are sampled, and carbon is quantified using approved allometric equations
    - Inventory includes standing live and dead trees
    - Inventory requirements are detailed in depth in Appendix A of the protocol
- All inventories must be 3<sup>rd</sup> party verified by an approved verifier

# What's measured in an offset project

	Baseline	Project
Standing live trees	Yes	Yes
Shrubs and Understory Carbon	No	No
Standing dead trees	Yes	Yes
Lying dead wood	No	No
Soil carbon	No	*Only as emissions <b>source</b> due to site preparation
Carbon in forest products	Yes	Yes
Forest product carbon in landfills	Yes	Yes
Emissions from site preparation	No	*Reforestation only
Changes in harvesting on forestlands outside project area	N/A	Yes – default rate

# Estimating Carbon in Wood Products

## Equation C.3. Baseline Carbon Transferred to Wood Products

$$CTWP_{i,y} = BC_{dm,i,y} \times ME_i$$

Where,

- $CTWP_{i,y}$  = Carbon in harvested standing live trees that would have been transferred to wood products during the reporting period; calculated separately for each species (MT C)
- $i$  = Species that would have been harvested in reporting period
- $y$  = Reporting period
- $BC_{dm,i,y}$  = Baseline carbon in standing live trees that would have been harvested and delivered to a mill during the reporting period; calculated separately for each species (MT C)
- $ME_i$  = Mill efficiency for species  $i$ ; use the actual efficiency from the mill, if available, or the mill efficiency identified for the project's mill location(s) obtained from the Regional Mill Efficiency Database found on the Forest Offset Protocol Resources section of ARB's website; if the mill efficiency is not available at the

## Equation C.13. Actual Carbon Transferred to In-Use Wood Products by Product Class

$$CTPC_{i,y} = CTWP_{i,y} \times PC_{i,y}$$

Where,

- $CTPC_{i,y}$  = Carbon transferred to each product class; calculated separately for each species if wood product classes are broken down by species (MT C)
- $i$  = Species harvested during the reporting period
- $y$  = Reporting period
- $CTWP_{i,y}$  = Carbon in harvested standing live trees transferred to wood products during the reporting period; calculated separately for each species (MT C)
- $PC_{i,y}$  = Percentage of harvest that ends up in each product class during the reporting period; determined separately for each species if data is broken down by species (%)

**Table C.1. Worksheet to Estimate Baseline Long-Term Carbon Storage in In-Use Wood Products**

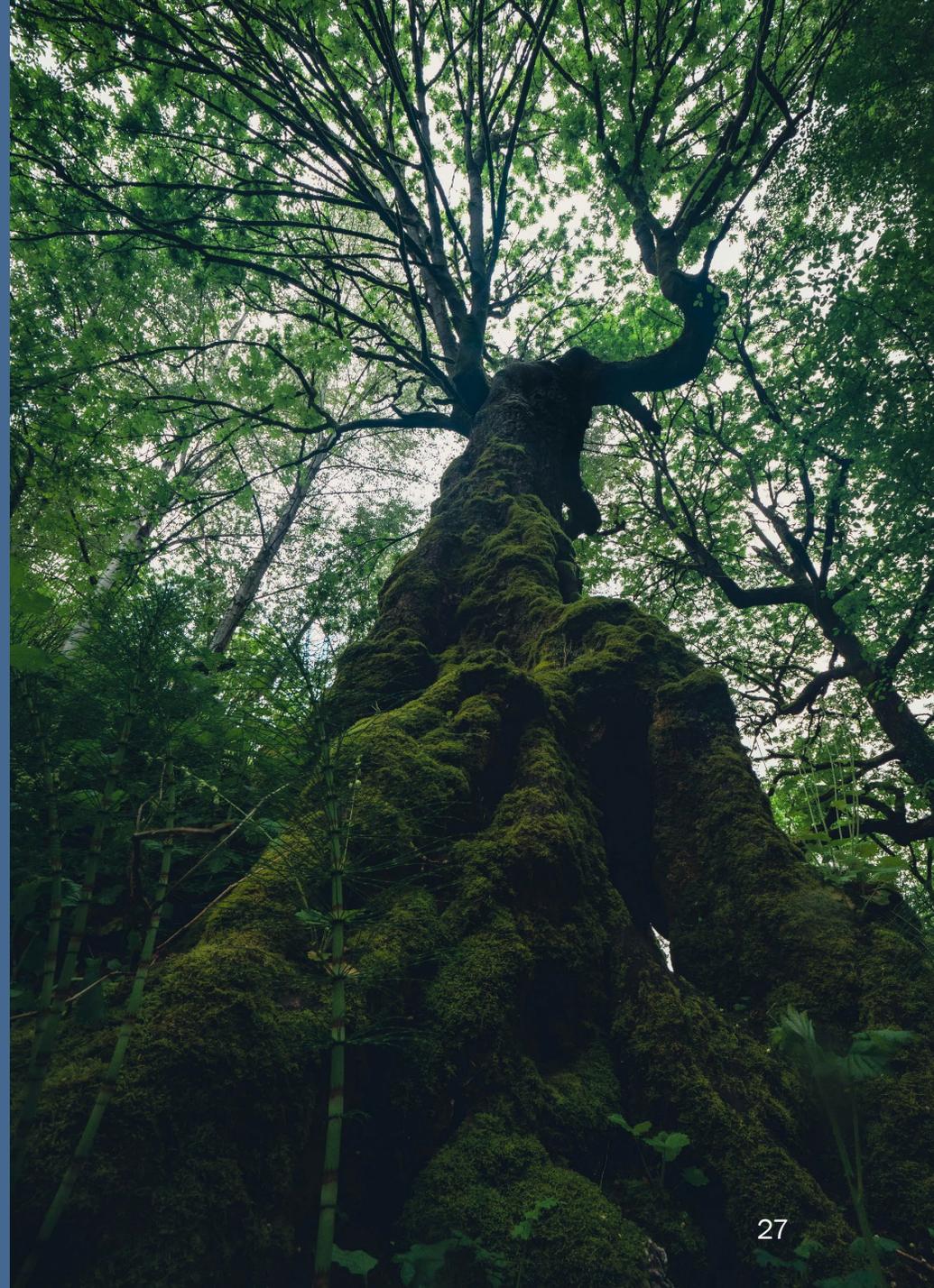
Rows		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	Wood Product Class	Softwood Lumber	Hardwood Lumber	Softwood Plywood	Oriented Strandboard	Non Structural Panels	Miscellaneous Products	Paper	Alaskan Exports
1	% in each class	(X%)	(X%)	(X%)	(X%)	(X%)	(X%)	(X%)	(X%)
2	Metric tons C in each class	(2A)	(2B)	(2C)	(2D)	(2E)	(2F)	(2G)	(2H)
3	100-year average storage factor (in-use)	0.463	0.250	0.484	0.582	0.380	0.176	0.058	0.391
4	Average C stored in in-use wood products (metric tons)	(4A)	(4B)	(4C)	(4D)	(4E)	(4F)	(4G)	(4H)

# Forest Practice Requirements

- If project involves the harvest of timber:
  - Project must maintain or increase the standing live tree carbon stock within the area over any consecutive 10 year period
    - Unless a decrease in carbon stock is demonstrably necessary for forest health and supported by peer reviewed research
  - Maintain certification with FSC, SFI, for Tree Farm system, OR;
    - Operate under renewable long term management plan demonstrating harvest levels that can be permanently sustained over time
    - Employ uneven-age management and retain at least 40% of canopy across the forest
  - If even-aged management is practiced, projects must maintain no more than 40% of their acres in ages less than 20 years

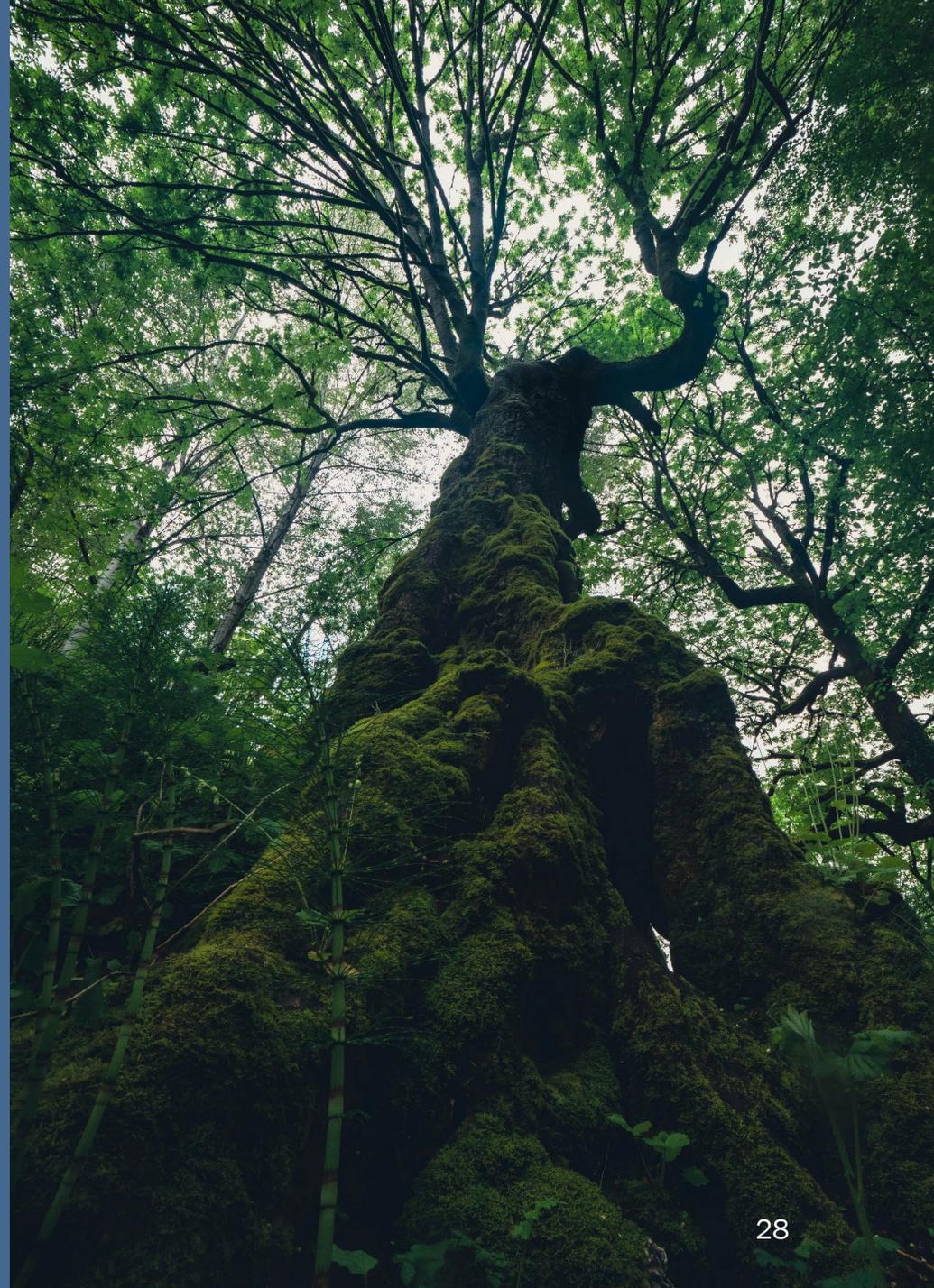


Questions?





# Environmental justice topics and Forestry Protocol



## Environmental Justice Principles

- »» Achieve the highest attainable environmental quality and health outcomes for all people.
- »» Adopt a racial justice lens.
- »» Engage communities meaningfully.
- »» Be transparent.
- »» Be accountable.



## Environmental justice...

...is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

This goal will be achieved when **everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards** and has **equal access to the decision-making process** to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

# Statutory context

## Program components set in statute:

- Offset usage limits
- Tribal lands usage approach
- Requirement that offsets result in greenhouse gas reductions or removals that:
  - Are real, permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable
  - Are in addition to reductions or removal that are required by law or would otherwise occur
- All Offsets issued by Ecology must provide Direct Environmental Benefits to the State



# Forestry Protocol and group identified environmental justice topics

## **General**

- Equitable distribution of benefits

## **Ecological**

- Increased vulnerability due to climate change
  - o fires w/o thinning and controlled burns
  - o incentives for fire risk management

## **Economic**

- Small landowners access
- Job displacement in timber-dependent communities
- Potential land value increases affecting housing costs/cost of living
- Enhancing economic benefit of avoided conversion
- Aggregation of projects

## **Geographic**

- Industrial areas (often low-income and minority communities) with higher pollution burden
- Access to forest lands by local communities once lands are used in offsets projects (Tribal members who gather, people who find mushrooms, recreation etc.)

## **Programmatic**

- Accountability and transparency
- Buffer pool/permanence
- Evaluation methods of program

## **Implementation**

- Outreach strategies
- Tools for program participants

# Environmental Justice Working Group Goals

1. Consider potential environmental justice impacts of changes to offset protocols
2. Identify and mitigate potential negative impacts and identify and amplify positive impacts
  - Explore potential solutions, ideas for ways to lessen harmful and strengthen beneficial
3. Inform Environmental Justice Assessment

# Next steps

Throughout the rest of our working group meetings, we will be exploring environmental justice topics on the US Forest Protocol.

We propose to take the December meeting off and use the full four hours so you can research independently the US Forest Protocol and examples of environmental justice topics related to it as well as send along any questions.

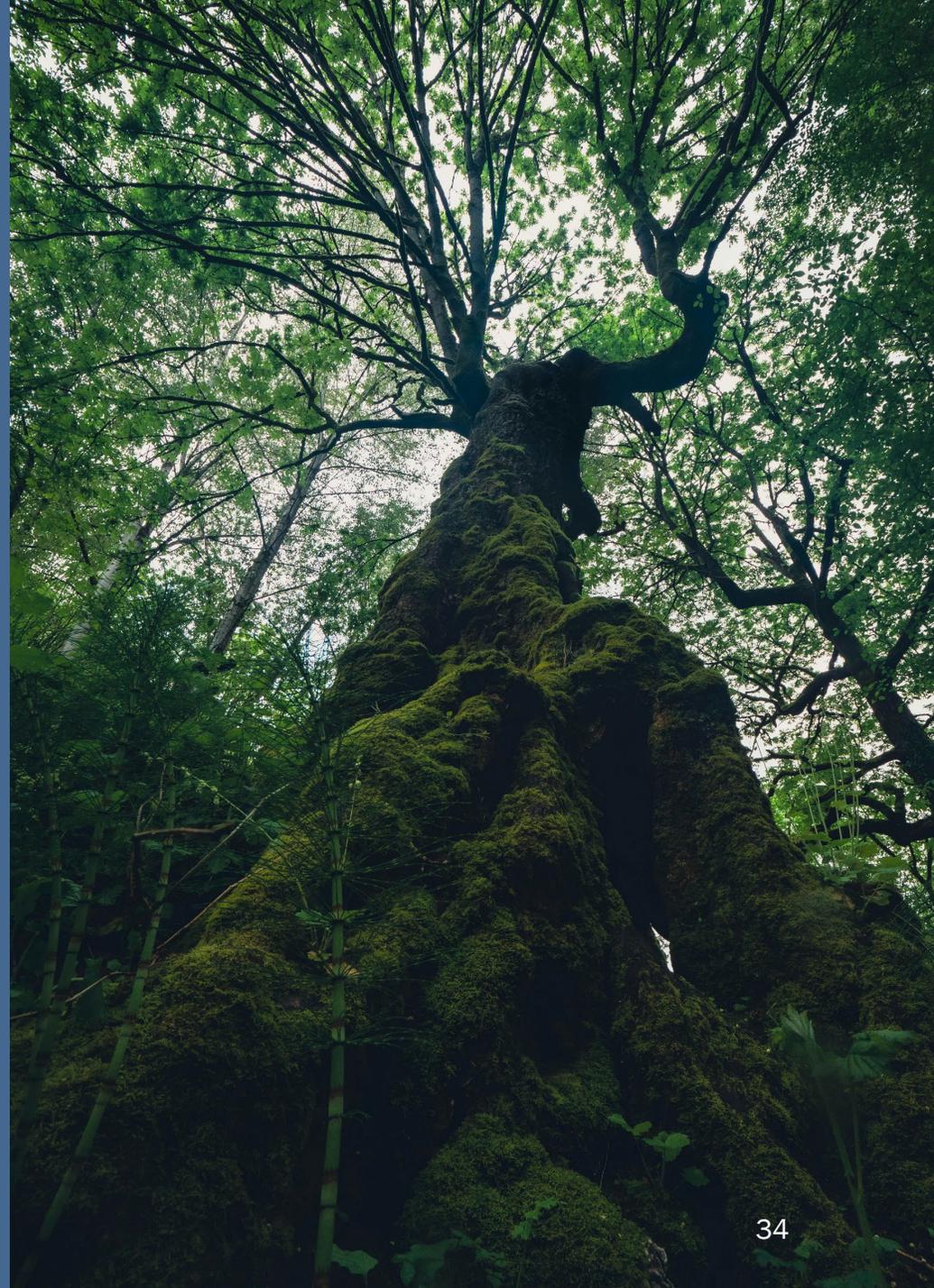
## What do you need from us?

- What additional resources would support your efforts in this group?
- Areas of protocol, goals of group, or something else we can clarify?



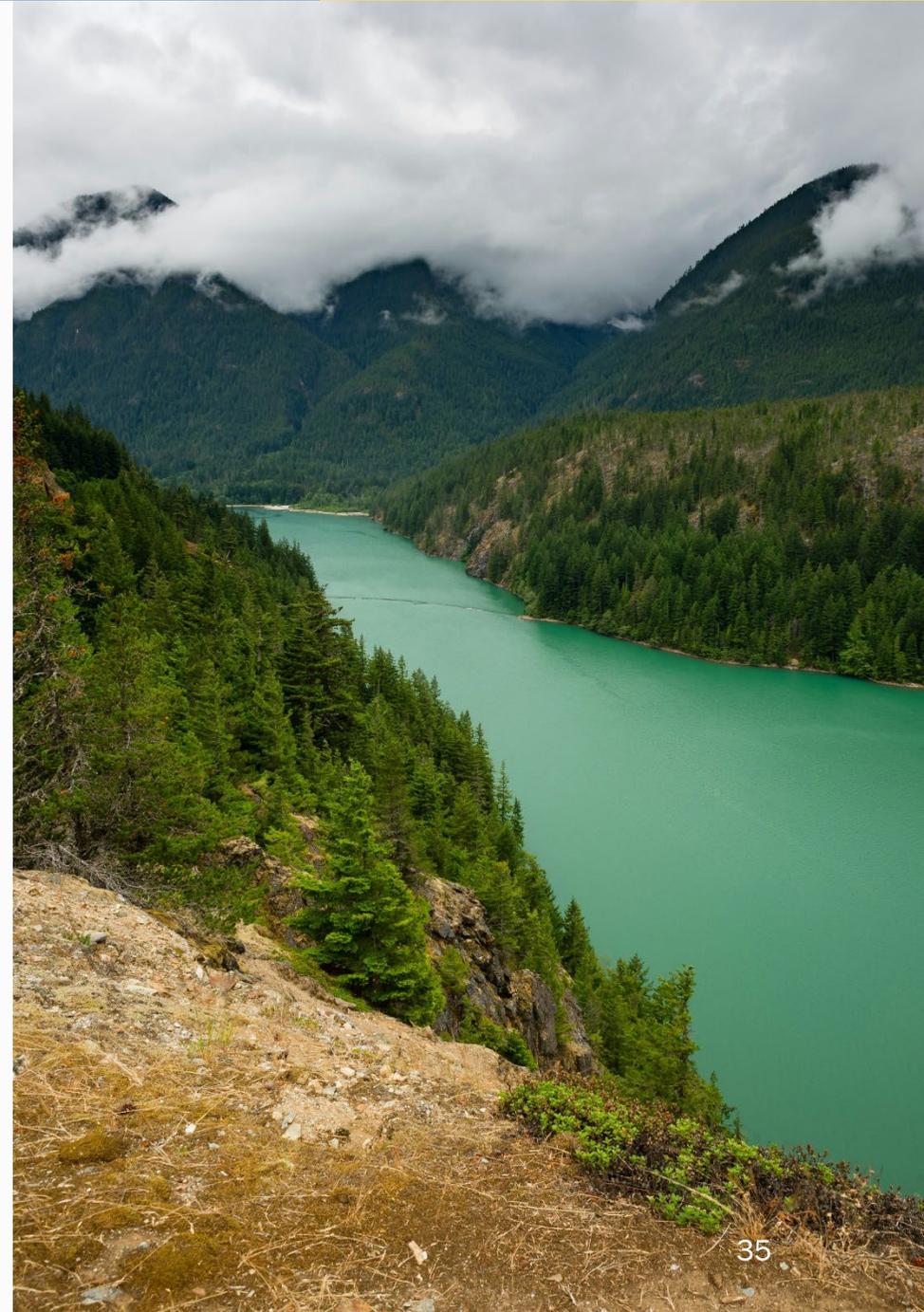


# Questions and discussion



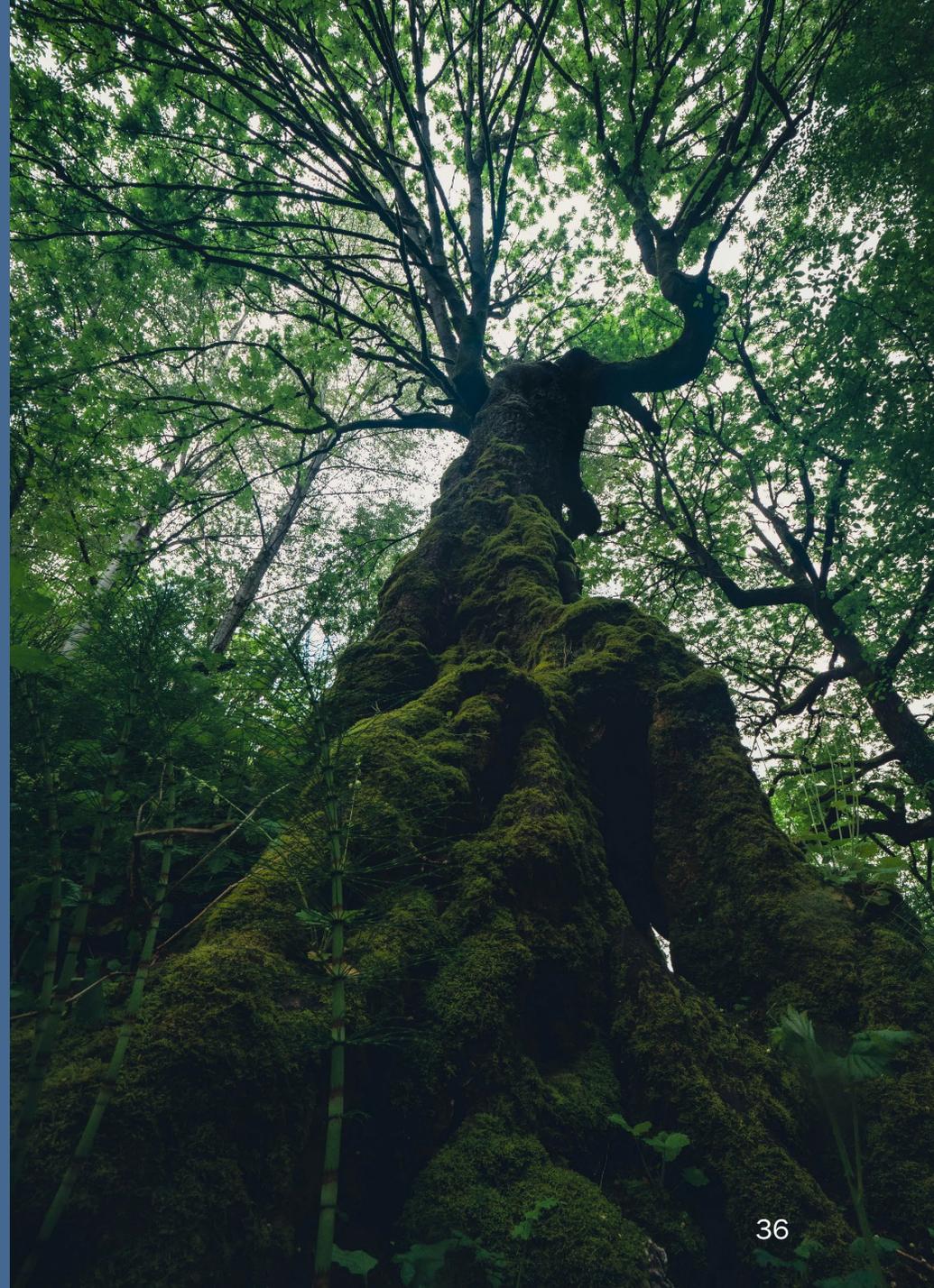
# To note...

- CCA subcommittee of the Environmental Justice Council has invited you all to attend the Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. meeting.
- Submit community compensation documentation (Oct. and Nov. hours)
- December meeting
- Working group evaluation



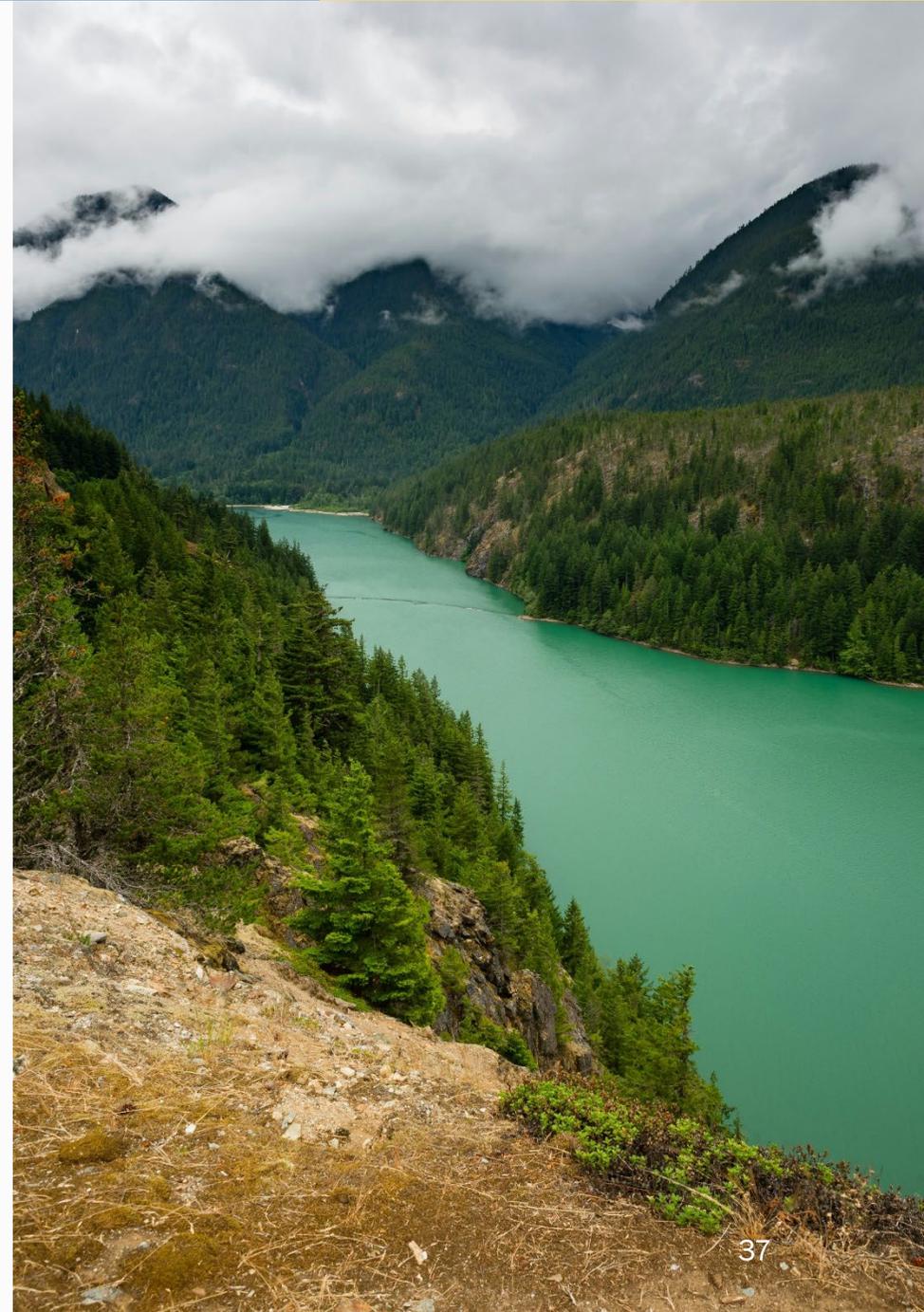


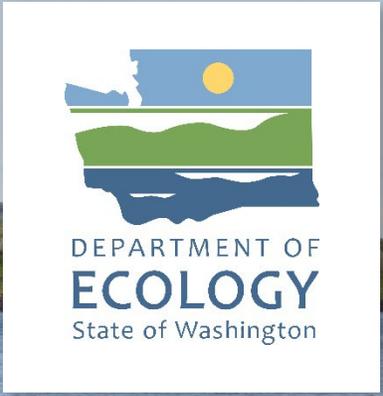
# Public comment period



# Public comment period

- Guidelines for providing public comment
  - Up to two minutes per person
  - Host will unmute you and begin timer
  - Please keep the comments related to forestry projects
  - Ecology will not respond to comments in this meeting
  - To submit written comments, use our digital comment platform
  - Please use “raise hand” button to indicate that you wish to provide a comment





# Thank you!

**Meg Baker**

[meg.baker@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:meg.baker@ecy.wa.gov)

**Jordan Wildish**

[jordan.wildish@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jordan.wildish@ecy.wa.gov)



## ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at [ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov). For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's website](#) for more information.