

Blue Carbon and Additionality

International Blue Carbon Working Group

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Brussels

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Restore America's Estuaries

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Additionality Working Group

- Need identified by Blue Ribbon Panel
- Funded by NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation
- Goal: additionality decision-framework for coastal managers
- Members:
 - Steve Crooks, ESA PWA
 - Igino Emmer, Silvestrum
 - Steve Emmett-Mattox, RAE
 - Tim Dillingham, American Littoral Society
 - Doug Myers, People for Puget Sound
 - Doug Huxley, CH2M Hill

Additionality Basics

- GHG reductions must be additional to any that would have occurred in the absence of offsets
- Project method
- Standardized methods
 - Performance method
 - Activity method



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Project Method

1. Identify alternative land use scenarios, select baseline
2. Investment analysis
 - a. Project w/o C finance is not most \$ attractive
 - b. If no \$ benefits other than C finance, skip to Step 4



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Project Method (cont.)

3. Barriers analysis

- a. E.g. similar activities have only been implemented with grants or other non-commercial financial terms

4. Common practice test

- a. Credibility check to demonstrate additionality, complements investment and barrier analyses
- b. Determine if similar activities have been implemented (scale, environment, region)
- c. Assess essential distinctions between them, e.g. existence of barriers



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Draft Wetland Activities

- Restoration or creation of tidal wetland by removing barriers or adding/removing fill and planting native plants
- Subsidence reversal by gradually raising water levels and building soil surfaces to intertidal elevation
- Filling of ditches and canals
- Restoration of sea grass meadows through improved water quality
- Restoration or creation of sea grass meadows by planting seeds or shoots
- Avoided conversion to alternative use by acquisition and prevention of disturbances
- Protecting shoreline tidal wetlands by constructing barrier islands or other measures such as wave breaks



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Key Considerations for Matrix

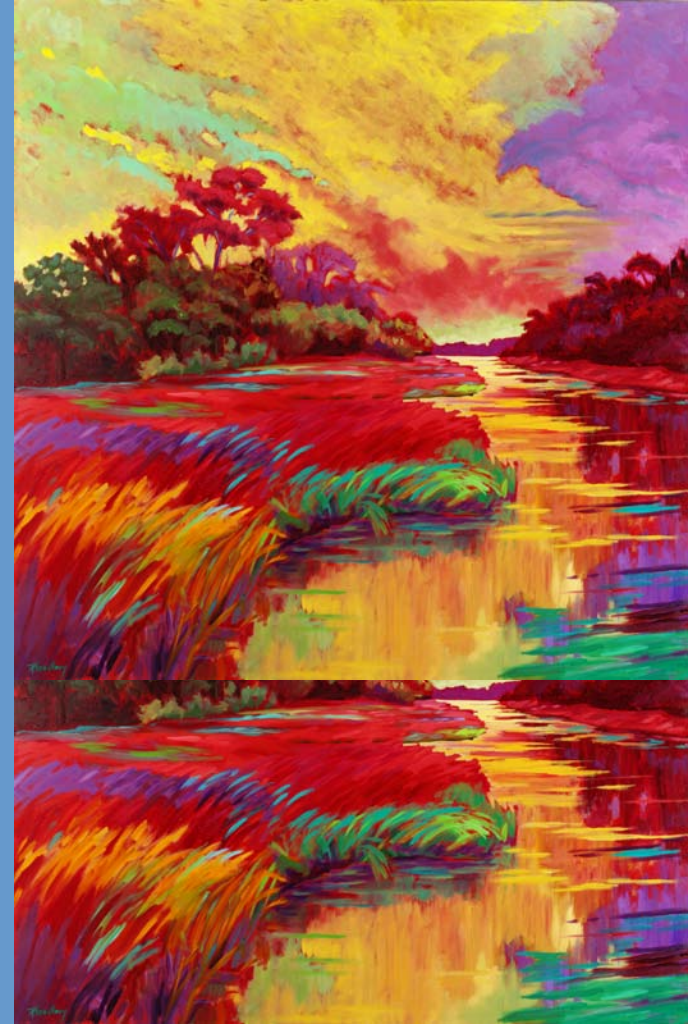
- Types of activities
- Common alternative land uses
- Legal/institutional setting (in the U.S.)
- Grouping of activities
- Revenue generation
- Sources of funding
- Barriers to implementation



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Standardized Methods

1. Performance Method
Use reliable proxies to determine project performance
2. Activity Method
Step 1 - Regulatory surplus
Step 2 - Positive list
Demonstrate that the class of project activities:
 - a. has achieved a low level (<5%) of penetration relative to its maximum adoption potential, or
 - b. is less financially or economically attractive than the alternatives, or
 - c. does not have any significant sources of revenue other than C finance



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Next Steps

- Draft decision framework for project method and representative wetland activities
- Determine approach to inclusion on positive list



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