**20.FW.SF.1** **NCASI Funding Request:** Staff Time

**Title:** Technical support on implementation of certification programs

**Project Duration:** Ongoing

**Contact information:** Jake Verschuyl (jverschuyl@ncasi.org; 360-873-5012)

**Relevance/Value to Members:**

NCASI Member Companies typically participate in forest certification and chain of custody programs developed by organizations such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council. In addition, certification programs for bioenergy feedstocks such as the Sustainable Biomass Program are gaining prominence. During FY2023-24 Member Companies that implement these programs are likely to encounter technical information needs related to implementation and revision of certification standards.

**Objectives:**

- NCASI will continue to monitor regulatory and scientific developments related to these issues and provide technical support to member companies and their associations as needed.
- NCASI staff remain engaged in certification related partnership projects with the American Bird Conservancy, SFI, and Natureserve.
- Staff also will update information on the NCASI website documenting the linkage between the NCASI technical studies program and certification program research requirements.

**Summary of Recent Accomplishments:**

**Recent Presentations of Results and Products:**

**24.FW.SF.1** **NCASI Funding Request**: $10,000 + staff time

**Title:** Evaluation of model differences for forest carbon projections: A synthesis and assessment of current state of the knowledge

**Project Duration:** 2023-2024

**Collaborators:** Aaron Weiskittel (University of Maine), Adam Daigneault (University of Maine), Michael Premer (University of Maine), and Dan Hayes (University of Maine)

**Contact:** Kevin Solarik (ksolarik@ncasi.org)

**Funding Entities:** Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (CAFS), Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU), Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRU)

**Relevance/Value to NCASI Members:** Forests are receiving increased attention as a potential natural climate solution through their ability to both sequester and store carbon and provide sustainable products. To date, limited synthesis and assessment of the current state of knowledge on forest carbon projection systems in North America is available or has been attempted. As policy on natural climate solutions and carbon markets begin to emerge, it is important to better understand regional differences at relevant management scales depending on the question or objective trying to be met. In addition, a better examination of key underlying assumptions like spatial resolution, temporal scale, and modeling approach is needed. Less is currently known about differences in these predictions across spatial scales (stand- vs. landscape-level), particularly when comparing different management approaches. A better understanding of these critical differences and specific recommendations for future refinement would be helpful to guide research, policy, land management, and most importantly, forest carbon offset programs.

**Objectives:**

1. Determine the most widely used forest carbon projection systems across four regions in the US (PNW, SE, Lake States, and NE).
2. Assess key assumptions, strengths, and potential weaknesses of the most commonly used forest carbon projection systems.
3. Synthesize findings and provide specific recommendations for appropriate use and future refinements.

**Summary of Recent Accomplishments:**

**Recent Presentations of Results and Products:**

Weiskittel, A., Daigneault, A., Simons-Legaard, E., Fernandez, I. (2022). Comparing alternative future carbon pathways: Assessing multi-regional and -model differences. NCASI Northern Sounding Board Meeting, August 23, 2022. Oral Presentation.