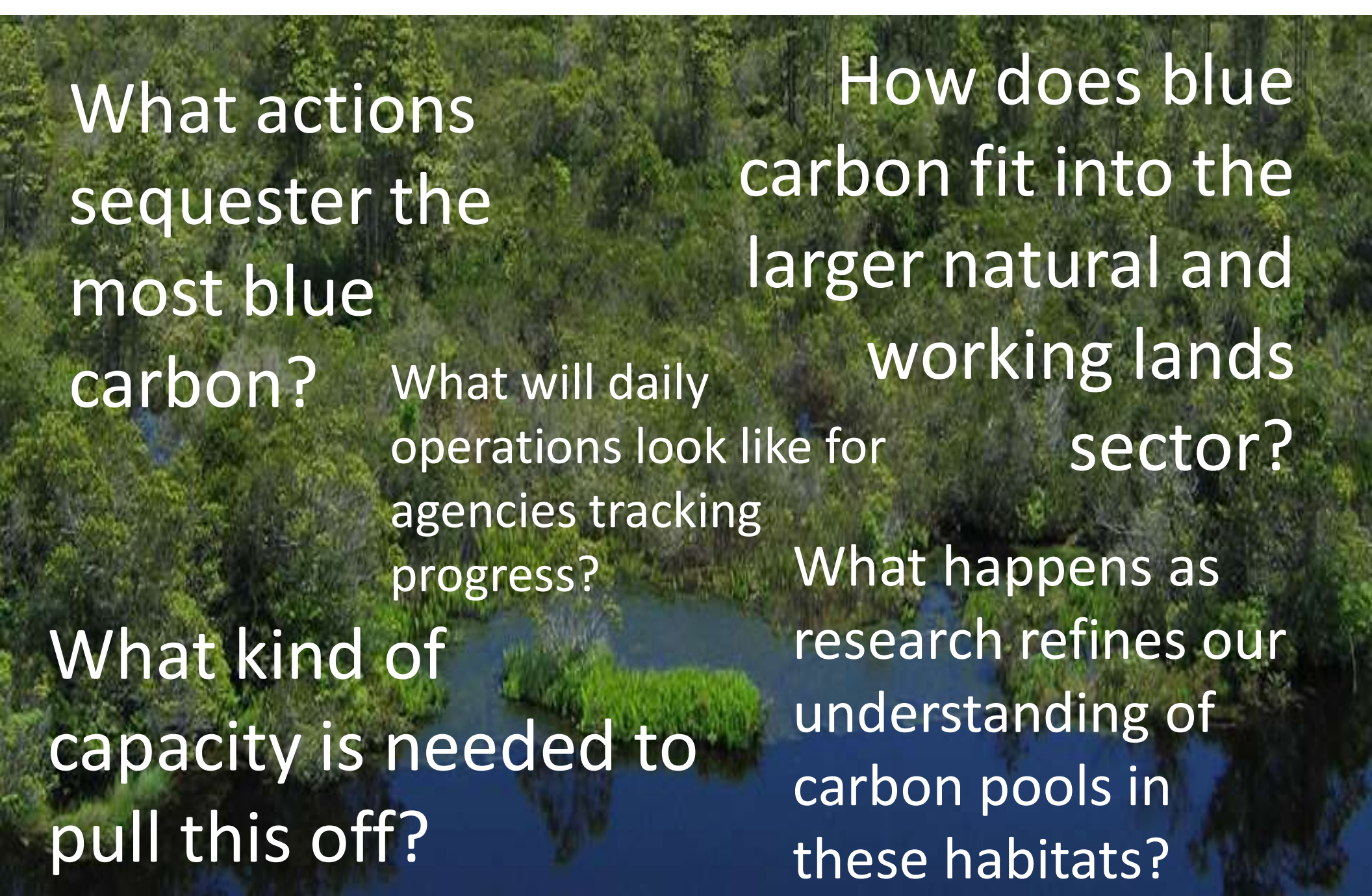




THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Integrating Blue Carbon into State Climate Actions: Oregon's Experience

Elizabeth Ruther, eruther@pewtrusts.org
US Conservation Program, West Coast



What actions
sequester the
most blue
carbon?

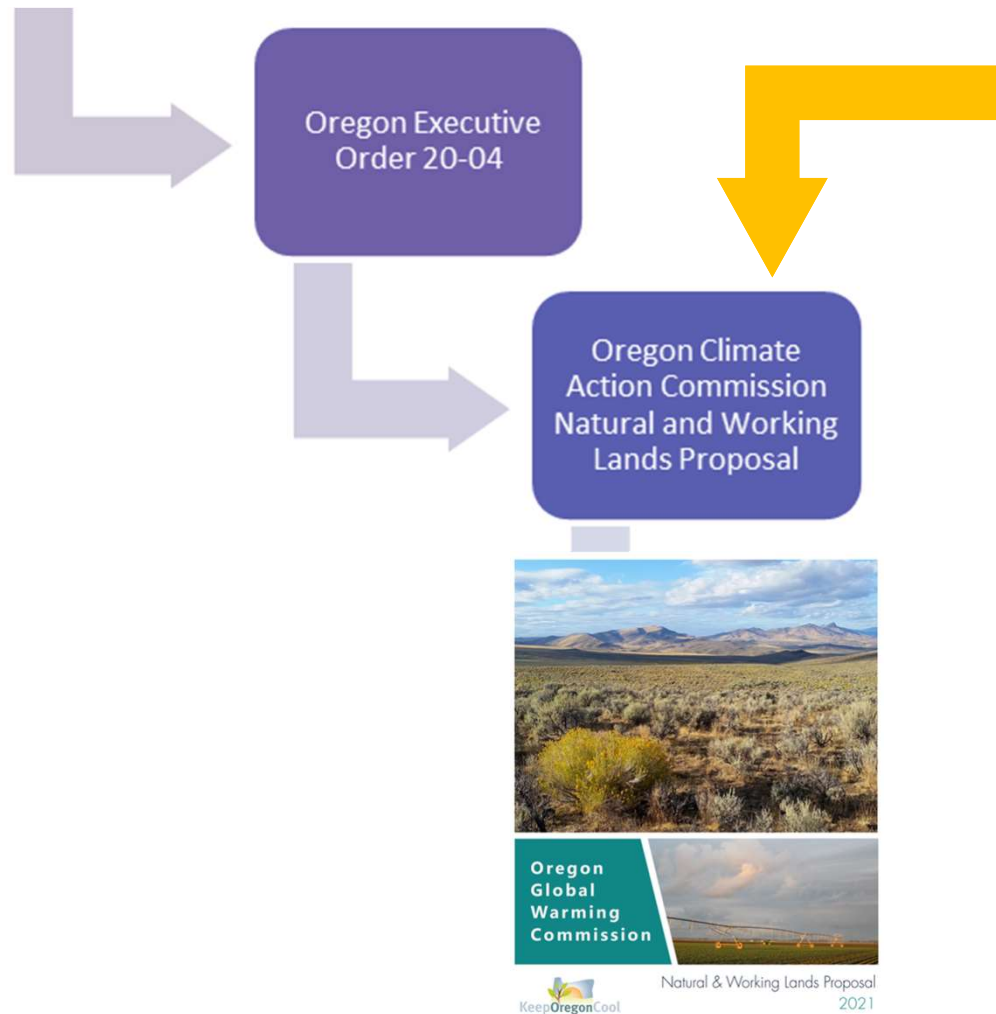
What will daily
operations look like for
agencies tracking
progress?

What kind of
capacity is needed to
pull this off?

How does blue
carbon fit into the
larger natural and
working lands
sector?

What happens as
research refines our
understanding of
carbon pools in
these habitats?

Incorporating Blue Carbon



INCORPORATING COASTAL BLUE CARBON DATA AND APPROACHES IN OREGON'S FIRST GENERATION NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS PROPOSAL



South Slough, Oregon (Photo courtesy of Craig Carroll)

White paper submitted to the Oregon Global Warming Commission
July 2021



Policy Landscape & Timeline



Natural and Working Lands

“Alliance members are scaling best practices for land management, restoration, and conservation to contribute to emission reductions and carbon sequestration at the scale needed for deep decarbonization and, where appropriate, integrating natural and working lands into state mitigation and resilience plans with ambitious goals that center equity and prioritize actions that deliver multiple benefits.”

Natural and Working Lands Project

1. Establish and facilitate a Natural and Working Lands Advisory Committee;
2. Develop a methodology to inventory net carbon capture in Oregon's natural and working lands;
3. Develop climate-smart management practices and establish an activity-based baseline;
4. Define the scope of work for a Workforce and Training needs analysis;
5. Identify community impact metrics; and
6. Produce a final report.



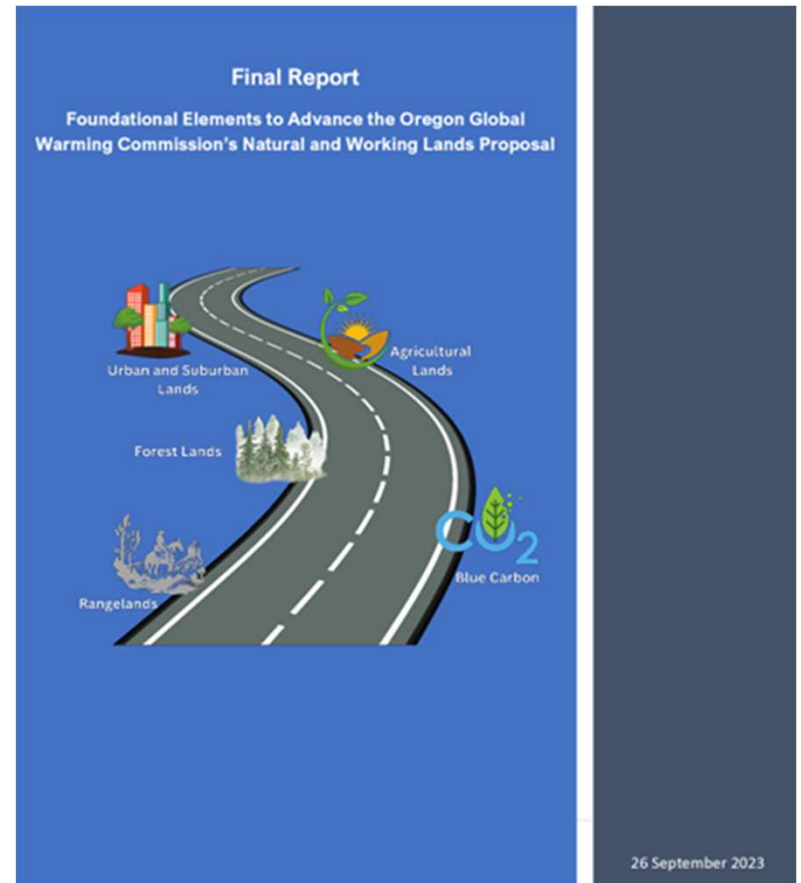
Blue Carbon Practices

Recommended

- Tidal wetland conservation
- Tidal wetland restoration
- Seagrass conservation

Emerging

- Seagrass Restoration
- Kelp and Seaweed Protection and Restoration
- Enhance Tidal Wetland Resilience to Sea Level Rise



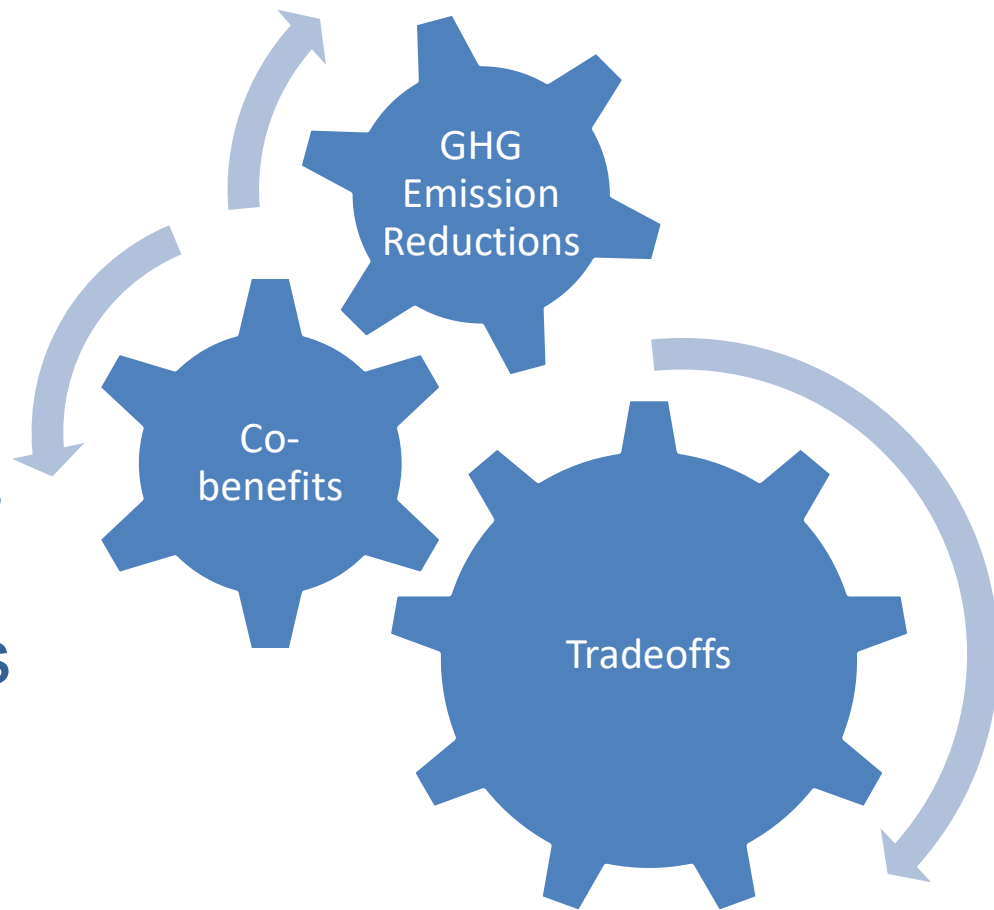
Important Considerations

Co-benefits

- How to evaluate, value, account

Tradeoffs

- Differ at different scales
- How to make individuals/communities whole for societal level benefits
- Collaborative planning processes generally under-funded



[San Francisco Estuary Institute Scenario Planning Tool](#)

Natural Climate Solutions Legislation (HB 3409)

Defined natural and working lands

Established NWL as GHG emission reduction strategy

Required agencies to set targets by 2025

Establishes a process to work with Tribal Nations to potentially incorporate indigenous practices

Requires agencies to establish/maintain an inventory in their appropriate sector/work with lead agency to maintain NWL inventory

Establishes permanent fund for NCS on private lands



Phase 3: Implementation



What's next for blue carbon in Oregon



NWL Advisory Committee

- POLICY
- Formed by legislation
- Advises Oregon Climate Action Commission
- Includes blue carbon seat



NWL Inter-Agency Working Group

- GOVERNANCE
- Facilitated by Commission
- Audit existing state agency programs
- Create NWL Inventory
- Facilitate Targets dialogue and produce report by 2025



Oregon Coastal Management Program

- MANAGEMENT and DATA CURATION and POLICY
- Maintenance of inventory data
- Filling data gaps
- Blue Carbon Calculator
- Creating estuary Resilience Action Plans
- Leverage federal funding opportunities w coastal partners
- Help create blue carbon



PNW Blue Carbon Working Group

- SCIENCE and RESEARCH
- Institute for Applied Ecology
- Continue to research carbon/refine current data
- Fill science/data gaps related to methodology/emerging practices



Questions?