**Midpoint Assessment Priority Work Plan:**

**Forest Harvest/bmp data**

**Lead: forestry workgroup**

**Full Title of Priority:**

**Review and refine as needed the amount of forest land assumed to be harvested** (or disturbed) in any given year.

**This task will be:** Lower Priority(as voted by WQGIT, 0 votes)

**Short Description of Priority:**

Currently, 1% of “forest” land cover in the CBW model is assumed to be harvested annually. Some states have regulatory programs around forest harvesting and can document acres of forests harvested and BMPs applied on those acres for any given year. Jurisdictions that are unable to report actual acres of forest harvest, could use or refine the 1% harvest assumption based on best available data. Thus far, Virginia and possibly others have been recently working with the Modeling Team to start reporting actual forest harvested acres to the model.

In addition to this Midpoint Assessment priority, two complementary tasks will be pursued by the Forestry Workgroup in 2013 related to forest harvesting. The workgroup will convene an expert panel to review the loading rates currently attributed to disturbed (harvested) forest and the efficiency rate assigned to Forest Harvest BMPs. Also in 2013, the workgroup will continue to develop the Verification Protocol for Forest Harvest BMPs, examining current and proposed future methods for tracking and verifying these BMPs in each jurisdiction.

**Supporting Partners:** State forestry agencies**,** Modeling Workgroup

**Necessary Datasets, Analyses, or Decisions:**

* Need best available data on forest harvesting extent and BMP implementation from state agencies and other available sources
* Need decisions with each jurisdiction and Modeling Team on what data sources and/or forest harvest % rate will be used in the model
* For BMP Expert Panel – need workgroup recommendations for who to serve on expert panel and any recommended literature to include in the review
* For BMP Verification – need each state’s documentation of current and future methods for tracking, reporting, and verifying forest harvest BMPs

**Start Date:** February 2013

**Interim Deliverables, Including Lead and Deadlines:**

* Work with Modeling Team on basic data criteria for jurisdictions to report actual acres of forest harvest (Jan-Feb)
* Call with state reporting leads for forest harvest BMPs to begin review data sources (Feb-Mar)
* Get workgroup recommendations for BMP expert panel members and key literature (Feb)
* Convene BMP expert panel and develop recommendations (Mar-Dec)
* Work with jurisdictions and Modeling Team on decisions regarding what forest harvest data sources, % rates will be used in future years (Aug-Oct)
* Complete Verification Protocol with state-specific documentation of current and planned future methods to track, report and verify forest harvest BMP practices (Mar-TBD)

**Completion Date:** January 2014

**Level of Effort for Lead and Supporting Partners, Including (as relevant) CBPO Modeling Team:**

Moderate for Forestry Workgroup and Expert Panel

Low for Modeling Team

**Potential Conflicts with Other Priorities:**

No conflicts anticipated

**Issues Requiring Input from Full WQGIT:**

No issues at this time; will keep WQGIT informed as the effort progresses

**Issues Requiring Input from Management Board and/or Principals’ Staff Committee?**

No issues at this time

**Other Notes:** *(include what Guiding Principle relates to; see Attachment E2)*

Relates to Midpoint Assessment Guiding Principles 2 and 3:

PRINCIPLE2: ENHANCE DECISION SUPPORT AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS TO

ENABLE SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL PARTNERS [*e.g. using best local land use data in the model wherever possible]*

PRINCIPLE 3: PROMOTE THE INCORPORTATION OF NEW OR REFINED BMPS

AND VERIFICATION OF PRACTICES INTO EXISTING ACCOUNTABILITY

TOOLS AND REPORTING PROTOCOLS