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Forestry, Agriculture, and Waste Management Technical Work Group Synopsis of Technical Work Group and High Priority Recommendations

Technical Work Group Role and Process

The Forestry, Agriculture, and Waste Management (FAW) Technical Work Group (TWG) is comprised of 10 members, serving as technical experts in the forestry, agriculture, and waste management sectors to provide the Alaska Climate Change Mitigation Advisory Group (CCMAG) with climate change mitigation policy recommendations pertaining to the aforementioned sectors. The Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) has provided facilitation assistance for the process of generating these recommendations – and estimating the potential costs and benefits of the high-priority recommendations. Three high-priority recommendations were developed from a catalog of over 50 potential greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation actions through a balloting process. 14 of the initial catalog actions were included in the three consolidated high-priority recommendations. Each high-priority recommendation was developed into a straw proposal, which included a more thorough description of the recommendation and a specific design, which includes recommendations for policy goals. The FAW TWG is currently in the process of estimating the quantitative costs and benefits of each recommendation. The CCMAG is responsible for affirming recommendations provided by the TWG through each step of the process. The following is a list and brief description of each high-priority recommendation from the FAW TWG:

- **FAW-1. Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration**

Alaska forests can play a unique role in both preventing and reducing GHG emissions while providing for a wide range of social and environmental benefits. The state has two distinct forest ecosystems, the boreal and coastal forests and the types of forest management activities that may apply to each from a carbon management perspective may also differ. This recommendation promotes additional durable products produced from coastal forests through enhanced management practices such as extended rotations, pre-commercial or commercial thinning, fertilization treatments, and other silvicultural treatments. In the boreal forest, the TWG recommends fuel reduction products, the completion of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and reforestation of sites impacted by fire, insect, or disease outbreaks.

- **FAW-2. Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Energy Production**

Increase the amount of biomass available from forestry, municipal solid waste, and agriculture for generating heat/electricity and liquid/gaseous biofuels to displace the use of fossil energy sources. This requires development of conventional and emerging technologies, as well as methods to economically utilize biomass feedstocks to make alternative fuel products or heat and electricity generation.

- **FAW-3. Advanced Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Reduce waste generation and increase recycling and organics management and in order to limit GHG emissions upstream from material production, through transportation and on the downstream end associated with landfill methane generation. Reduction of generation at the source reduces both landfill emissions and upstream production and transportation emissions. Increase economically-sustainable recycling programs, create new recycling programs, provide incentives for the recycling of construction materials, develop markets for recycled materials, and increase average participation and recovery rates for all existing recycling programs.