

Environmental Analysis & Decision Making

Northern Region Partner Roundtable

March 14, 2018



Roundtable Agenda

7:30 a.m.	Check In and Networking
8:00 a.m.	Welcome and Meeting Overview
8:30 a.m.	National Overview and Introduction of Environmental Analysis and Decision Making
9:15 a.m.	BREAK
9:30 a.m.	Regional Overview and Perspectives
10:35 a.m.	Breakout Session #1 – Identify Challenges Partners Face in Environmental Analysis and Decision Making Efforts
11:45 a.m.	Break for lunch on own
1:00 p.m.	Breakout Session #2 - Brainstorm Solutions to Address Challenges and How We Can Work Together to Implement Ideas
2:15 p.m.	BREAK
2:30 p.m.	Collecting Diverse Perspectives for Successful Solutions
3:30 p.m.	Partner Reflections on the Environmental Assessment and Decision Making Effort
4:00 p.m.	Close Out and Next Steps
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn



Northern Region Environmental Analysis & Decision Making

Cadre Members

- **Julie Schaefer**, *Ecosystem Assessment and Planning Director - EADM Point of Contact*
- **Christine Dawe**, *Renewable Resources Management Director*
- **Tammy Fletcher**, *Regional Wildlife Program Manager*
- **John Gubel**, *Kootenai NF District Ranger - NEPA LOT*
- **Rob Gump**, *Bitterroot NF Planning Staff Officer*
- **Craig Kendall**, *Flathead NF Watershed & Fisheries Program Manager*
- **Clint Kolarich**, *MT/DK NEPA Strike Team Leader*
- **Chandra Neils**, *Idaho Panhandle NF Soil Scientist - Facilitator*
- **Bill O'Donnell**, *Dakota Prairie Grasslands Forest Supervisor - NEPA LOT*
- **Chris Partyka**, *Lolo NF Environmental Coordinator*
- **Timory Peel**, *Regional Planner - EADM Content Manager*
- **Rebecca Rasch**, *Regional Social Scientist*
- **Katie Renwick**, *Regional Assistant Planner*
- **Dan Scaife**, *Idaho Panhandle NF District Ranger*
- **Matt Shaffer**, *IDT Leader, Tally Lake, Flathead National Forest*
- **Karen Smith**, *WICW Council Zone Fish Biologist*
- **Kim Smolt**, *Idaho Regional Wildlife Supervisor*
- **Fritz Sweet**, *Forest Supervisor, NEPA Analysis, Flathead National Forest*

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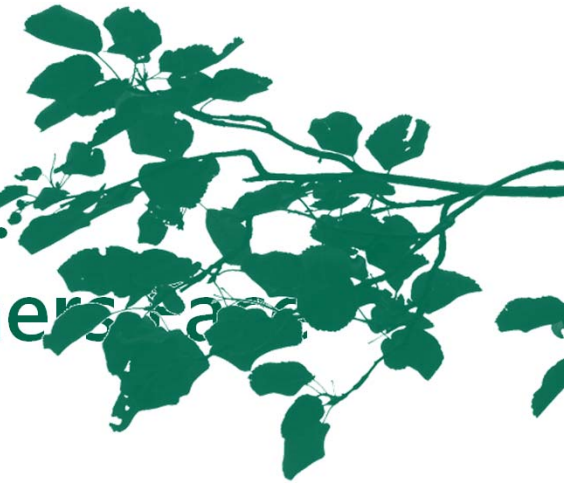
Why do our environmental analysis and decision making processes take so long?

complex issues		laws		time consuming	staffing	appeal process	
Neutral		Neutral	Mixed	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
							Negative
		forest plans					
leadership		Neutral		priorities		data	
Positive	Negative			Neutral		Neutral	
Neutral				interests		comment periods	
				Positive		Neutral	

How can we improve our environmental analysis and decision making processes?

forest plans		data		categorical exclusions	priorities	leadership
Neutral		Neutral		Neutral	Negative	Neutral
		comment periods				
		Positive				
staffing		Neutral		laws		appeal process
Neutral	Negative	Neutral		Neutral		Neutral
				interests		
				Neutral		

Breakout Session #1: Identifying Challenges Partners Face in EADM



What do you see as challenges to efficient and effective environmental analysis and decision-making by the Forest Service?



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Breakout Session #1: Identifying Challenges Partners Face in EADM



FRAMING QUESTIONS

Barriers: *Why is this challenge important – what are its impacts and who/what does it affect? What is getting in the way of effective and efficient EADM?*

Evidence: *What evidence of the challenge can you cite? Can you provide some concrete resource values- or place-based examples of the challenge?*

Desired Outcome: *How will things work when this challenge is addressed?*



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Breakout Session #2: Generating Solutions to Identified Challenges



Breakout Session Topics:

1. Exploring Staff Management: What are solutions for managing turnover, improving training, and building capacity?
2. How do we focus analysis to reduce paralysis and prevent overwriting analysis documents to litigation?
3. How can we effectively and fairly incorporate public (and agency) input into decision making?
4. How can the Agency improve systems for employee and leadership accountability and authority?
5. Exploring Categorical Exclusions (CEs): When are they the right tool? How can they be improved? What are people's hopes and fears about CEs?
6. How can we tier project-level decision making to forest plans, landscape analysis and monitoring?



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Breakout Session #2: Generating Solutions



FRAMING QUESTIONS

Scale: *At what scale is this challenge most apparent?*

Examples: *Do you know of examples of successful solutions in response to this challenge?*

Solution: *How can this problem be prevented or addressed? What tools or resources are needed?*

Who: *How could the Forest Service address this challenge? How could partners support an effective response to this challenge?*



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World Café: Collecting Diverse Perspectives for Successful Solutions



FRAMING QUESTIONS

1. Strengths and weaknesses of the proposed solution?
2. Do you see potential to apply this solution to any of the other challenges identified in the morning, or more broadly?
3. What is the most appropriate scale to apply this solution?
4. How would this solution help you in your work on National Forests & Grasslands?



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Reflections



- What are you excited about from today?
- What are you concerned about?
- How would you like to engage in the future?



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THANK YOU!



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