Improving Environmental Analysis and Decision Making
“we have seen firsthand how cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive USFS processes can be compared with other agencies”

Forest Service’s Largest Stewardship Partner
“We believe the primary problems with – and solutions to – the Forest Service’s NEPA process lie not with the agency’s regulations and procedures but with operational and organizational culture issues that can be addressed within the scope of the agency’s existing authority. “

Coalition of Environmental Groups
We encourage you to return to the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) guidelines (40 CFR 1500-1508) as a starting point rather than the Forest Service Manuals.

...the USFS has added onerous detail to its environmental analyses. This has added years to planning processes and resulted in lengthy analyses that are difficult for the public to understand.

Governor Bullock - Montana
Our Goal

The goal of the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making effort is to increase the diversity, health, resilience, and productivity of our national forests and grasslands.

Reduce the time and cost of project analysis and decision making.

Increase the scale of analysis and the amount work to accomplish more work on-the-ground.

Boldly, and creatively design new ways to care for the land and the people we serve.
Our Commitment

The Forest Service will follow all laws, regulations, and policies to deliver scientific-based, high-quality environmental analysis that leads to sound land management decisions and honors our stewardship responsibilities.

The agency is committed to working with employees at all levels of the Forest Service, along with engaging the public, our partners, and tribes.
More than 6,000 special use permits impacting more than 7000 businesses

More than 80 million acres at risk from fire and disease.

Watersheds, Habitats, and Infrastructure are declining
Workforce

Non-fire workforce at lowest capacity in years.
Average Days to Decision

Days vs. Fiscal Year

- Years: 2005 to 2016
- Days to Decision: 183 to 1373
- Trends: Increase over time

Days:
- 2005: 185
- 2016: 183

Fiscal Year:
- 2005: 817
- 2016: 1373
Examine and Reform Forest Service Policy

Train Our Employees

Improve Efficiency through Technology
Change the Way We Do Business

Improve Consultation with Other Agencies

Develop New Performance Standards
Decrease in cost and an increase in efficiency by 20%.

Comprehensive, national environmental analysis and decision making improvements by 2019.
Experience and skill of experts in across all agency levels.

Challenging employees to innovate.

Collective learning opportunities with partners and tribes.
Get Involved

Rulemaking Roundtables:

https://nff.wildapricot.org/page-1693922

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