

Region 2 Planning Rule Roundtable

Cody, Wyoming on April 16, 2010

2. What works now; what concepts would you like to continue into the next planning rule?

Management areas, so people know what/where resources are used.

3. What doesn't work; what concepts would you like to leave behind?

(These came up during discussion of question #2, but they seem to fit here)

Streamline EISs for plans

Streamline forest planning process by focusing on significant issues

Use similar information from national forest A if it applies to national forest B to save time/streamline

4. What kind of information should be included in forest plans, and should they include standards and guidelines? If so, what kind?

Yes, standards and guidelines are important

Make sure standards and guidelines are adhered to, without lawsuits, ideally

There should be some form of enforcement so the Forest Service adheres to standards and guidelines

6. What suggestions do you have for making forest planning faster, simpler, more straightforward, and less expensive?

Effective collaboration should be built in – everybody says they're collaborating, but groups remain polarized

If people won't collaborate, they shouldn't be allowed to participate

Given what's at stake, it's okay to have an expensive process

Collaboration actually slows the process, making it more expensive

Don't rush it – the resource is worth time, effort, and expense

11. What, if any, climate change assumptions should be used when developing forest plans?

Foolish to ignore that the climate is changing, needs to be built into plans that management can adjust, so build adaptive management into plans, based on science

Plans need to be adaptive to all changes

12. How should the Forest Service take into account water availability, and water quality factors, that are outside Forest Service control?

Water is the most important product that forests provide

The Forest Service should consider effects to water quality and quantity for all its actions (implement actions that maintain quality and quantity)

Need cooperation between State DEQ and other state/federal agencies to ensure water quality/quantity

13. How should the planning rule guide monitoring and protection of at-risk species of animals and plants and their habitats?

Health – genetic and physical – should be in the definition, multiple attributes of health

Environmental influences (on health of species) should be considered

Should have to coordinate with Game and Fish

Don't forget about species that, while not listed, are important to local communities, e.g., deer, elk

The rule should guide monitoring and protection of at-risk species of animals and plants and their habitats.

Allow local residents to monitor and provide input

14. What should the planning rule say about how forest plans deal with providing goods and services that contribute to vibrant local, regional, and national economies?

Require forest planning to coordinate with state, local, and county plans

Socio-economic data should be provided to federal agencies by state/county agencies

Counties cannot afford to provide these data

Plans should allow adaptive management as economic conditions change (right now, economic data are gathered at the beginning of the planning process and not updated)

Recognize the tie between economics and ecosystem health

Look at "goods" that are not quantifiable, e.g., aesthetics

15. What should the planning rule say about recreational access, and visitor facilities and services?

Ensure forests provide recreation when balancing all uses – recreation should have a place at the table when considering priorities for uses

Make recreation an integral part of the planning process

The planning rule should address/allow/encourage more partnerships

At the end of the meeting, people were asked for “one thing” the Washington Office should know.

Transparency, compromise, collaboration, no “us versus them” mentality

Continue to balance access to public lands

Transparency and openness

Connectivity and health of T&E species

Willingness to listen to everyone

Long-term sustainability of the land

Forest Service practices should consider conservation of the land for many future generations

Collaboration

Forest management deals with social-biological-cultural together – don’t partition them, integrate socio-bio-cultural

More consistent cooperation with state and local entities (not just from federal agency to federal agency)

Be objective and listen to people who pay your salary and for whom you work

Schedule meetings after work hours so more people can attend

All offices should have better public relations – someone you can talk to

Be objective and listen to the voices of the people