



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Mature and Old-Growth Forests: Define, Identify, Inventory

Executive Order 14072 Section 2(b)

Public Information Session

July 21, 2022

Technical Support

For technical support contact:

mardell.murrillfisher@usda.gov

Audio cutting in and out?

You might try calling into the meeting by phone by dialing

1-202-650-0123

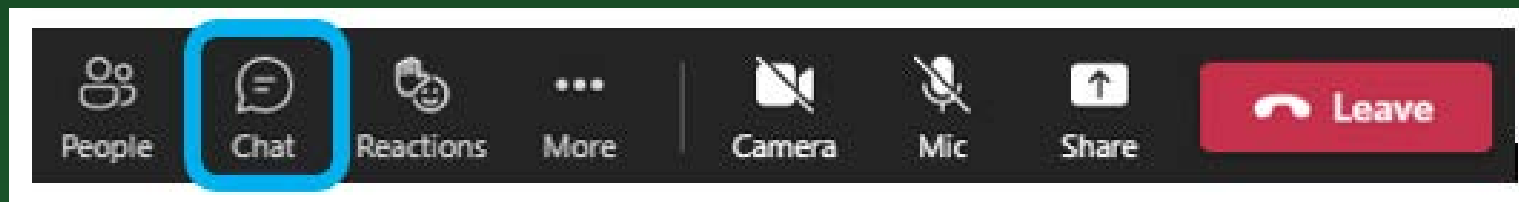
Enter the meeting PIN 20722168# using your phone keypad when the voice requests it on your phone.

Chat Box

Chat is disabled until Q&A sessions begin.

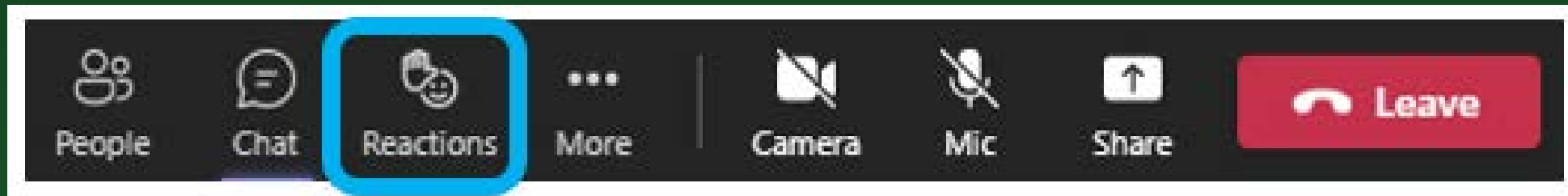
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Select the *Show Conversation* button in the meeting control bar to participate in the chat conversation.



Hand Raise

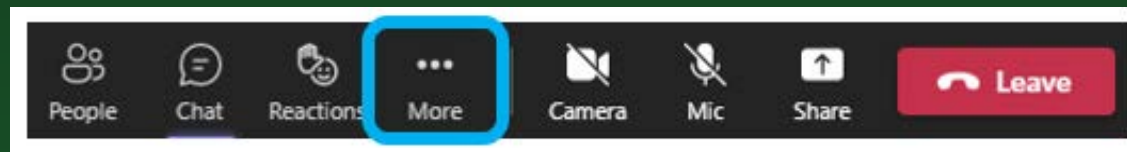
To raise your virtual hand during the session, select the Reactions button in the meeting control bar and then select the Raise hand button.



Captioning

Live captioning is available during the session.

If you would like to view captioning on your computer, please select the three little dots in the Meeting control bar and then select Turn on Live Captions.

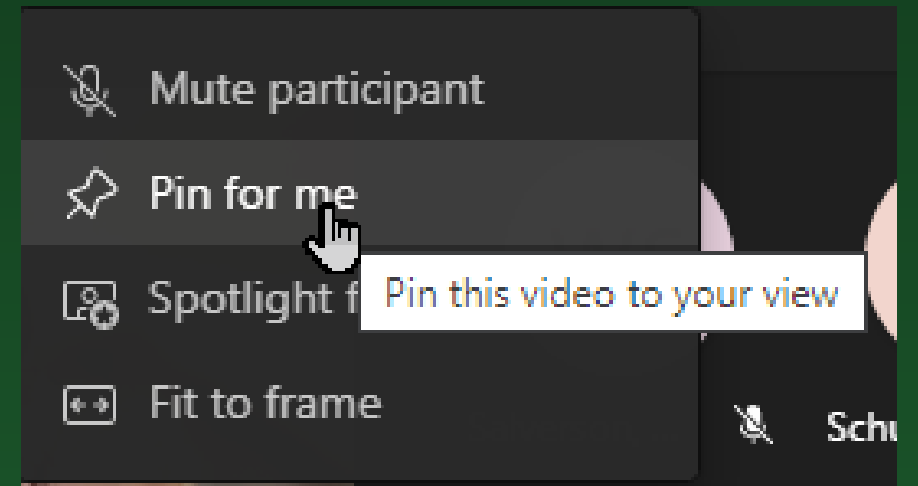


Live captioning will begin displaying at the bottom left in the meeting window.

ASL Interpretive Services

You might notice that American Sign Language interpreters appear in the video feeds of the session.

You may Pin the translators' video by selecting the ASL interpreter's live video feed, select the three little dots located to the right of their name and then select Pin for me to keep them prominent.



Agenda

Opening Remarks

Why We Are Here

Request for Information

Questions?

Session Objectives

- Describe effort
- Get your questions answered
- Understand how to provide input
- Understand how we will use your input

Session Ground Rules

- This is an information session
- Submit comments via CARA website before due date
- Agency core values, This Is Who We Are

Opening Remarks

- David Lytle, USDA Forest Service, Director, Forest Management, Range Management, and Vegetation Ecology
- Nada Wolff Culver, DOI Bureau of Land Management, Principal Deputy Director

Why Here, Why Now:

- Executive Order 14072: Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies (22 April 2022)
- Section 2(b): Requires USDA and DOI to define, identify, and complete an inventory of old-growth and mature forests on Federal lands, accounting for regional and ecological variations, as appropriate, and make the inventory publicly available
- Within one year, or by April 2023

Why Here, Why Now, continued:

- Executive Order 14072 Section 2(b): Define, Identify, Inventory are first steps and will inform future steps:
 - Section 2(c): Risk reduction activities, analysis of threats, policy
- Secretary's Memorandum 1077-004: Climate Resilience and Carbon Stewardship of America's National Forests and Grasslands (issued June 23, 2022) specifically references E.O. 14072 implementation and other actions

Defining Mature and Old Growth Forests

- Defining old growth and mature forests has evolved over time
- Most scientists agree that old-growth forests differ widely in character with age, geographic location, climate, site productivity, and characteristic disturbance regime
- Mature and old-growth forests also reflect diverse spiritual and cultural values for these special places

Defining Mature and Old Growth Forests

Objective:

- **Develop a mature and old growth definition framework** that considers the important values provided by old forest conditions, recognizes existing and evolved definitions to provide an improved picture for land managers to guide sound, science-informed, decision-making

Definition Framework – Principles

- **One framework for old growth and mature forests**
- **Framed in ecosystems**
- **Evidence-based, data driven, grounded in Indigenous Knowledge**
- **Describes key components such as structure, composition, extent, processes**

Definition Framework – Possible Criteria

- **Measurable and repeatable**
- **Compatible with adaptive management**
- **Recognizes ecological variation to promote resilience**
- **Spans vegetation types, species, disturbance processes**
- **Implementable**

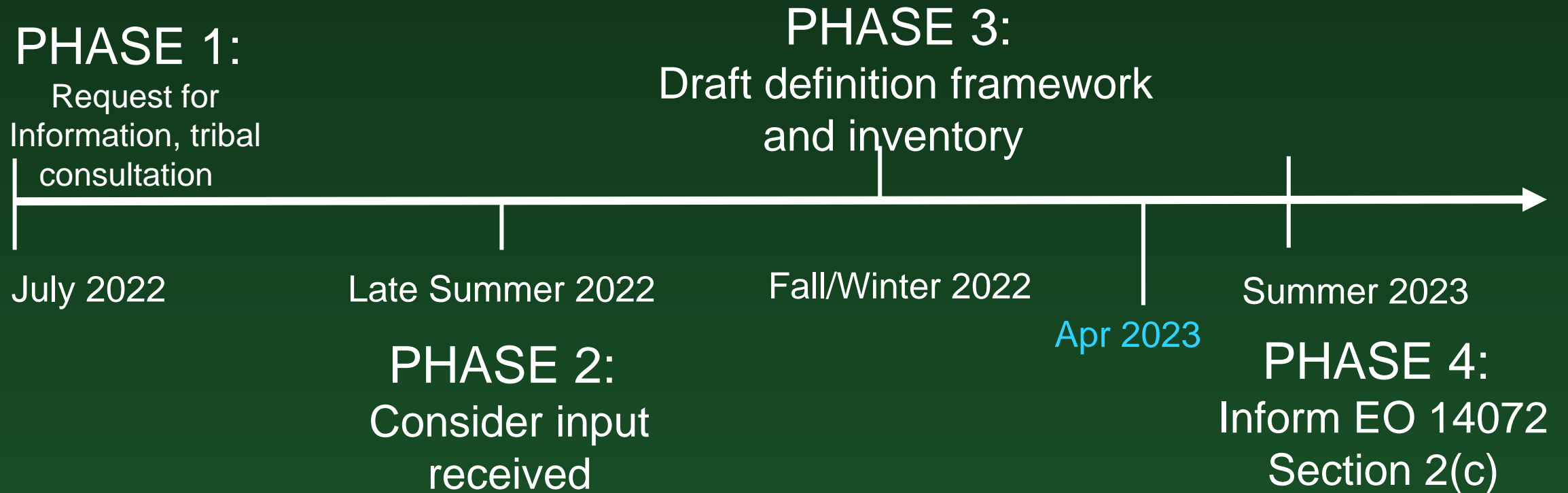
Request for Information

1. Which criteria are needed for a universal definition framework that motivates mature and old-growth forest conservation and can be used for planning and adaptive management?
2. What are the overarching old-growth and mature forest characteristics that belong in a definition framework?
3. How can a definition reflect changes based on disturbance and variation in forest type/composition, climate, site productivity, and geographic region?

Request for Information, continued

4. How can a definition be durable but also accommodate and reflect changes in climate and forest composition?
5. What, if any, forest characteristics should a definition exclude?

Definition Development Timeline





How to Submit Comments

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/old-growth-forests>

**Provide your input via
the Comment Analysis
and Response
Application (CARA)**

[US Forest Service NEPA
Projects Home
\(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/forestservice/NEPA-projects)

by August 15, 2022.

CARA Web Form

First Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I officially represent an organization			
Address 1	<input type="text"/>	Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>
Province/Region	<input type="text"/>	ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="United States"/>	Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>	How would you like to be contacted about this or similar projects in the future?	<input type="text" value="Contact me via e-mail"/>

Enter your comment in the textbox below. **Do not enter any personally identifiable information (PII) such as address or email in the text editor below.** Your name and all information entered into the text box below may be published on this website. Enter contact information in the form fields above.


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Letter Text

Attachments

File 1

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<input type="checkbox"/> I'm not a robot	 reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms
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What's Next:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/old-growth-forests>

- Post link to session recording to website by July 25
- **Post written answers to any pending questions to website within 1 week**
- Add recording and session outcome summary to record for team awareness and use
- Consider all comments submitted by the 30-day due date to inform definition framework development and other EO 14072 implementation efforts

Input Requested Reminder

What criteria are needed for a universal definition framework that motivates mature and old-growth forest conservation and can be used for planning and adaptive management?

What are the overarching old-growth and mature forest characteristics that belong in a definition framework?

How can a definition reflect changes based on disturbance and variation in forest type/composition, climate, site productivity and geographic region?

How can a definition be durable but also accommodate and reflect changes in climate and forest composition?

What, if any, forest characteristics should a definition exclude?



Questions?





For more information

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/old-growth-forests>



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Point of Contact

Jamie Barbour

Assistant Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination

roy.barbour@usda.gov



Close

Thank you for joining us today!

