

The Public Process Get Involved

NEPA Explained

January 20, 2005

Las Vegas, NV

The Public Process

NEPA Explained

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Public Process

- Public Participation is Key to Developing Land Management Policies and Procedures
- Public Participation is Through:
 - Public Comment Meetings
 - Public Comment Periods

Public Process

- Participation in the planning process provides legal standing -- a prerequisite to successfully sue -- should a final plan or rule result in personal harm.
- Silence Implies Consent

Public Process

- Public Process is a Political Process
 - Complete with Bureaucrats and Politicians
 - Get to Know Them, Meet with Them, Work with Them, Talk with Them

Public Process

- Know Your Local Public Land Managers
 - Find Out Their Concerns
 - Let Them Know Your Concerns

Public Process

□ Know About Your Public Lands

- The Flora and Fauna
- The History
- The Routes

The Process ...

- NEPA Establishes the "Process"
 - National Environmental Policy Act
 - Signed into Law - January 1, 1970
- Outlines Land Manager Responsibilities
- Guides Public Involvement

NEPA - An Overview

- Process of Assessing the Impacts of Actions on the Physical, Biological, and Human Environment
- Provides for Public Involvement and Notification of Federal Actions
- Documents the Decision Making Process

NEPA Begins With a Proposed Agency Action

- Federal policies require agencies to consider economic and social issues
- Anyone who could be harmed by a final rule or plan should comment in writing
- Silence Implies Consent

NEPA Begins With a Proposed Agency Action

- Not Necessary to Wait for a Formal Planning Process to Submit Comments
 - Get to Know Your Land manager
 - Get to Know your Representatives
- Submit Your Comments and Concerns Frequently

NEPA - An Overview

Proposed Agency Action

(Public Comment Opportunity)

Categorical Exclusion or Other Exemption

Agency
Action

Environmental
Assessment

EIS

Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Finding of No
Significant Impact
(FONSI)

Environmental
Impact Statement
(EIS)

Agency Action

Notice of Intent
(NOI)

Environmental Impact Statement

Notice of Intent

- Define Issues

Scoping Process

(Public Comment
Opportunity)

- Social, Economic,
and Environmental
- Develop Alternatives

Draft EIS

- Define Mitigation
Measures

Scoping Period

- Identifies Issues:
 - Social, Economic, and Environmental
- Determines the Range of Alternatives
- Public is Asked to Provide Comments, Concerns, and Suggestions

Scoping Period

□ Scoping Period will Produce:

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Open to Public Comment for 30-120 Days
- Ends With Record of Decision (ROD)

Comment Period

□ EA/EIS Comment Period

- Identify Incomplete or Incorrect Information
- Offer a New Idea or New Alternative
- Describe Why an Alternative or Element Would or Would Not Work

Comment Period

□ EA/EIS Comment Period

- Point Out Conflict with Legal Mandates
- Highlight Deficiencies in the Analysis
- Explain How You Use the Area and How the Proposal Would Affect Your Use

Comment Period

□ Comments May Include:

- Your Concerns About Conditions or Activities
- Suggestions for Improvement
- How You Feel About Agency Actions
- Quality of Your Visit

NEPA - An Overview

Agency and Public
Review and Comment

(Public Comment
Opportunity)

Final EIS

Record of Decision

Agency Action

- Decisions and Appeals
- Reviewed Every 3-5 Years
- Ongoing Monitoring
- Can Lead to Plan Amendment

NEPA - Get Involved

Three Opportunities for Public Involvement

Proposed Agency Action

Scoping Period

- EIS Only

Comment Period

- EA and EIS

Effective Comments

□ Effective Comments Address

- How the Area is Used
- How the Project Might Affect that Use
- Your Concerns about Conditions or Activities
- Suggestions For Improvement

Effective Comments

□ Effective Comments Address

- Alternative Approaches and Ideas
- Other Projects that Affect the Project
- Environmental and SocioEconomic Issues
- Related Information and Research

Effective Comments

- Keep Your Comments Relevant to the Proposal
- Be Specific and Detailed
- Suggest a Solution
- A Little Emotion is Okay

Public Process Is ...

- Your chance to Express YOUR Concerns
 - To Public Land managers
 - To Your Elected Representatives
- Your chance to Be Involved

NEPA Process is ...

- Process of Assessing the Impacts of Actions on the Physical, Biological, and Human Environment
- Requires that federal agencies disclose the environmental effects of their actions and identify alternatives and mitigation measures.

NEPA Process is ...

- NEPA does not require agencies to implement environmentally preferred alternatives or mitigation measures
- NEPA was meant to produce a reasonable balance of the human and natural environment

Get Involved - Be Involved

- With Public Land managers
- With Elected Officials
- With Local Clubs
- With Regional/State Associations
- With National Associations

Questions, Comments or Concerns???

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