

U.S. Forest Service

Region 5 Tribal Roundtable on Developing a New Planning Rule

Location:

Humboldt Area Foundation
373 Indianola Road
Bayside, CA 95524

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Summary Report Prepared By:

Merv George, Region 5 Tribal Liaison

mgeorge@fs.fed.us

Debra Whittall, Region 5 Social Scientist

dwhittall@fs.fed.us

Executive Summary

Meeting participants in the U.S. Forest Service, Region 5, Tribal Roundtable in Bayside, CA represented a range of interests and concerns from 12 Tribal representatives. Over the course of this meeting Tribal participants provided valuable input on proposed principles and the Planning Rule (Rule) revision. Attendees provided in-depth discussion on each of the eight suggested principles for the Rule. Input on the principles varied, but several key themes occurred. These themes included:

- Native knowledge needs to be incorporated in a planning rule.
- Tribal ecological knowledge (TEK) needs to be included in research.
- Consultation and collaboration leads to better restoration efforts which result in better water and watershed health, diversity of plants and animals, and will contribute to vibrant local economies – all are inter-related.

Principle 1 (Restoration)-

-Native knowledge needs to be incorporated in planning rule

-National Forests are sick/ecosystems are out of balance/low animal populations are indicators

-Concerned with how long this new rule will live?

-Question of what's the difference between a law and a rule?

-What are the consequences if a rule is not followed? Accountability is key.

-CA State Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process is a good example of a frustrating procedure

-Rule needs to be thinking long term and not short term with results

-Tribes are part of the ecosystem

-Forests are more than trees....includes prairies/wildlife habitat

-Restoration is for who? People.....should be for all living things including animals

-Prescribed burning is restoration

-Tribal stewardship should be given deference with modern management techniques

-Need to consider historical conditions of forests under tribal stewardship/pre-contact with non-native people as a model of success

-Consider timber encroachment on prairies/meadows

Principle 2 (Climate Change)-

-Tribal ecological knowledge needs to be included in research

- Consider changes in snowmelt patterns

-Availability of funding for climate change research

-Acknowledge need of climate change/not priority now

-Not enough is known about climate change now

- Climate change is controlling us not the other way around
- Climate change is overarching and touches all suggested principles
- Climate change is not just one principle and should not be seen that way

Principle 3 (Water and Watershed Health)-

- If collaboration is done then this leads to better restoration efforts which result in better water and watershed health, diversity of plants, and will contribute to vibrant local economies - all are inter-related**
- Water and watershed health is the key to life for ecosystems

Principle 4 (Diversity of Plants and Animals)-

- All life species need to be considered in ecosystem restoration

Principle 5 (Contribution to Vibrant Local Economies)-

- Ways to enjoy the land instead of abusing the land
- Eco friendly economic development
- Needs economic support for tribal land management
- There needs to be a balance between competing external groups to encourage vibrant local economies

Principle 6 (Collaboration Coordination & Consultation)-

- Important for success/progress
- Incorporate language reflecting FS policy/regulations
- Needs to be more than just words
- Collaboration should encourage tribal co-management with the FS
- MOUs with tribes should be encouraged in planning rule

Principle 7 (All Lands Approach)-

- Ecosystem restoration needs to include private lands too
- Restoration knows no jurisdictional boundaries
- Land ownership should not be an obstacle to all lands approach

Principle 8 (Plans Based on Latest Science)-

- More descriptive versus less descriptive
- Flexible vs restricted
- Balanced approach to science is a must...should just be one factor in the decision making process
- Science should also be peer reviewed by elders
- Science should be a part of the planning process
- Needs to include tribal deference to tribal science...traditional ecological knowledge is science

Suggested New Principles-

- Native connection to land...traditional knowledge needs to be separated from other proposed principles.... "tribal cultural way of life"
- Tribal cultural traditional practices (gathering) and management (traditional burns)

Bin Items-

- Tribes are not stakeholders...they are political entities with a unique government to government relationship with the United States
- Tribal consultation/collaboration could be better served by having tribal advisory groups at the local forest level with tribes that have ancestral territory within that forest
- Tribal forest management plans should be reviewed by local forests to see tribal concerns and management techniques