

Summary of Public Comments

Table Exercises, March 2015

Expectations on How to Communicate and Work Together

In March of 2015 the Lincoln National Forest held a series of Collaboration Workshops with the public to discuss the plan revision process and determine how best to communicate with one another. This document summarizes the findings of the “Expectations” from the public on how all of us work together. It is a quick summary of the items found in the forms provided.

The public was asked to provide suggestions and comments from their point of view in reference to other groups. These expectations were grouped under the following four categories:

1. Expectations from the Community of the Agency (Lincoln NF)
2. Expectations from the Agency (Lincoln NF) of the Community
3. Expectations from the Community of the Community, and
4. Expectations the Agency (Lincoln NF) and other Agencies/Groups

In summarizing the information below, multiple pieces of information were sometimes grouped into one comment where similar ones were concerned. Further and much more in depth interpretation of the comments will take place and be presented within the Assessment document later in the summer/fall of 2016.

If you would like to view the original forms submitted, please follow the link below to our website. Personal and private information (names, emails, contact information) has been removed.

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd487179.pdf

Community of Agency

- Transparency
 - Web – shared share point site - BLOG
 - Newspaper articles
 - Get information out
 - USFS Goals and projects
 - What do you want the LNF to be like?
 - My comments are heard and I know/see what you’ve done with them
 - Follow through / Responsiveness
 - Realistic Deadlines
 - Communicate progress
 - Be kept informed about decisions made
- Community involvement
 - Move meetings around
 - Engage small communities
 - Involve public in the developing of alternatives
 - Consideration of all perspectives / all stakeholders
 - Listen – do not just “check the box”
 - Spend time in building “relationships”
 - Civility

- Employees more involved with the public – more accessible
- Information
 - Share
 - Get information out
 - Invitations to events (calling, mailing, email)
 - Education
 - Utilize local knowledge
 - Constant and instant information
 - Clear and understood expectations
 - Define the process
 - Define how decisions will be made
 - Apply common sense to decision making
- See forest walk the walk
 - Demonstrate integrity
 - Be truthful
 - Consistency in positions (keep people around)
- Create smaller working committees
 - Suitability for different uses is developed together
 - Accessibility: the ability to share and explain concerns
 - USFS hears the public's concerns
 - In person discussions
 - More local control / response to local issues and perspectives
 - Honest and open discussions

Agency of Community

- Coming to a place of compromise
 - Be realistic with expectations
 - Understand the limitations the agency works under
 - Have community come to some sort of consensus
- Communication
 - Community communicates what is/isn't working (websites, or other)
 - Communicate issues as a whole
 - Participate
 - Provide suggestions on ways to fix
 - Provide information and input
 - Feedback
 - Honesty and respect / be respectful of our obligations
 - Civility
 - Keep lines of communication open
 - Keep leadership and others informed
 - Long-term commitment from stakeholders

Community of Community

- Manage expectations
 - Understand common interests
 - Understand differences
- Participation

- Get the word out
 - More advertising / PR
 - Word of mouth – get friends and neighbors involved
- Relationships
- Come together as a community
 - Communicate with each other and partner on common issues
 - Share and explain individual needs in a respectful manner
 - Honest and open conversations
- Common front to work with the USFS
- We all want the same thing – a healthy forest
- Be open to hearing all subjects and all points of view
- Respect all points of view
- Address everyone’s questions and concerns
- Outreach all groups, especially underserved
- Consider what is working in other similar areas/agencies
- Bring different forest users together to understand different roles
- Disseminate information
 - GIS Data
 - Other Data

Relationships between the Agency and Others

- If one group gets what they want, things can get unhealthy
- If you live here, take responsibility for conditions
- Working with other agency’s programs more effectively
- Honest and openness
- Host communication or other type of “session”, “workgroup”, etc
- Have congress get more funding for thinning activities.
- Partner with other agencies
 - Work on common goals together
 - Share plans and understand each other’s goals

Miscellaneous Items:

- What are the Lincoln’s goals?
- What is ‘baseline’ or ‘reference condition’?
- What do you want the Lincoln to be like?
- How do you evaluate the science?
- Local control of lands
- Law enforcement can be threatening – trust issue
- Issues stated
 - Private land rights
 - Water rights
 - Good stewardship
 - Ranchers are stewards of the lands and better than any environmental agency.