



What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

Understanding the Northwest Forest Plan

Environmental Impact Statement

Federal agencies prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if a proposed major federal action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The regulatory requirements for an EIS are more detailed and rigorous than the requirements for an Environmental Assessment.

What is included in an EIS?

The environmental impact statement will explain the purpose of and need for action, describe the proposed action (and any modifications as informed by scoping and evolving internal understanding of the potential impacts of the amendment), any action alternatives, and explain any environmental and socioeconomic consequences for each alternative considered. It will also include information that explains what laws and regulations apply and provide rationale that demonstrates compliance with these laws/regulations, to include but not limited to the:

- National Environmental Policy Act;
- National Forest Management Act and the associated 2012 planning rule;
- Endangered Species Act;
- National Historic Preservation Act; and
- Clean Water Act.

For more EIS information visit <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/national-environmental-policy-act-review-process>

THE EIS PROCESS

Notice of Intent

Public notice by Forest Service of intent to prepare EIS.

Public Scoping

Public process to define project alternatives and issues to be analyzed in DEIS.

Alternatives Analysis

Screening and selection of alternatives for study in DEIS.

Draft EIS Preparation

Description of project goals and objectives, alternatives and their impacts.

Publish and Review EIS

Distribution of DEIS and receipt of public comments.

Final EIS Publication

Response to comments on DEIS and identification of preferred alternatives.

Record of Decision

Announcement by Forest Service of selected alternative.

We are here

