



Vegetation Condition Based Management

DEVELOPING AN ADEQUATE PURPOSE AND NEED & PROPOSED
ACTION

Training Objectives

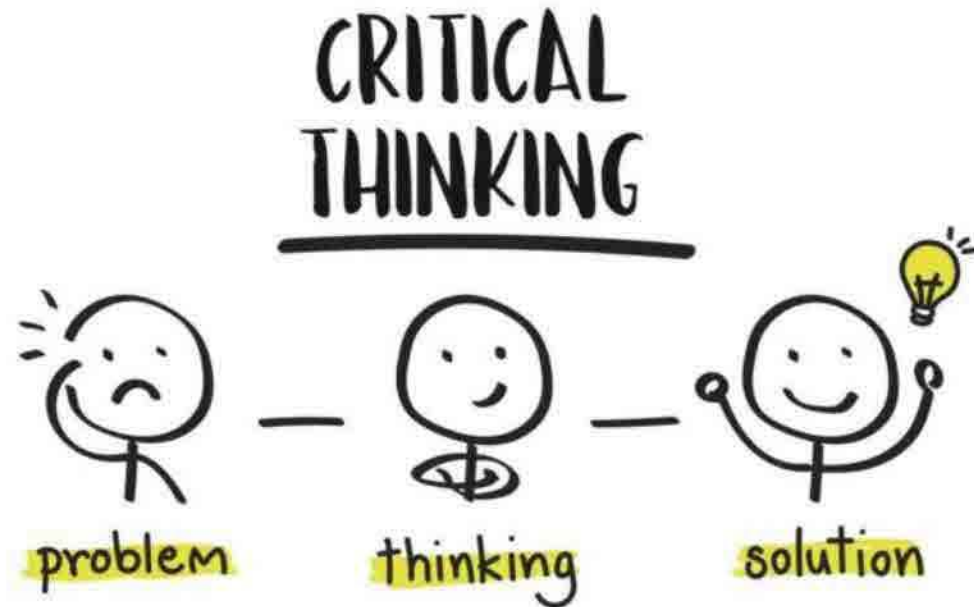
- ◆ Get you to critically (and creatively) think about how to effectively describe the purpose & need and proposed action for condition-based management projects Highlight approaches that address the twin aims of NEPA and support informed analysis and decision-making Identify opportunities to reduce redundant efforts across projects and/or tailor your approach



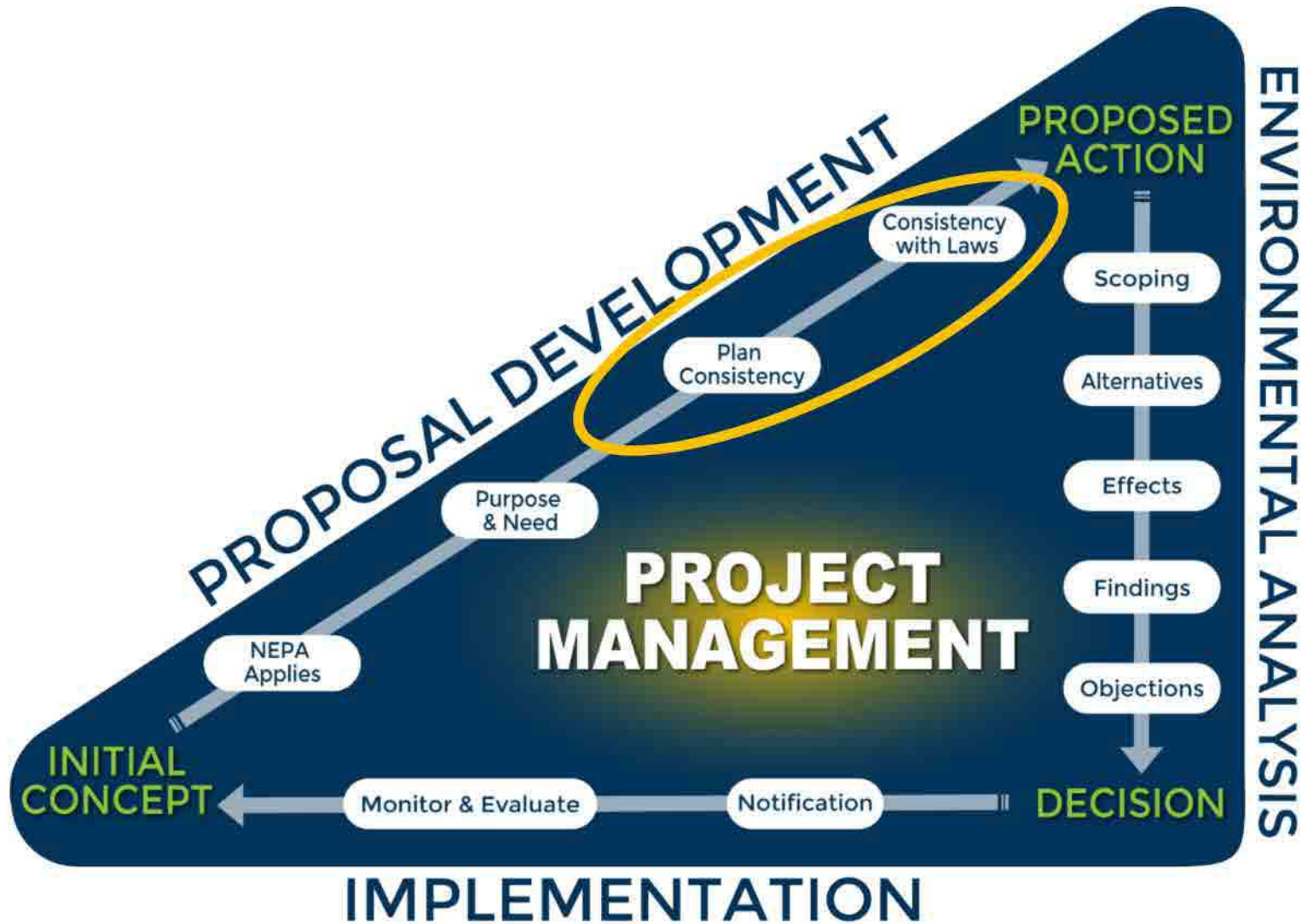
Disclaimer: Critical Thinking Still Required

Stay within the
legal sideboards...

WITH A DOSE OF
CREATIVITY

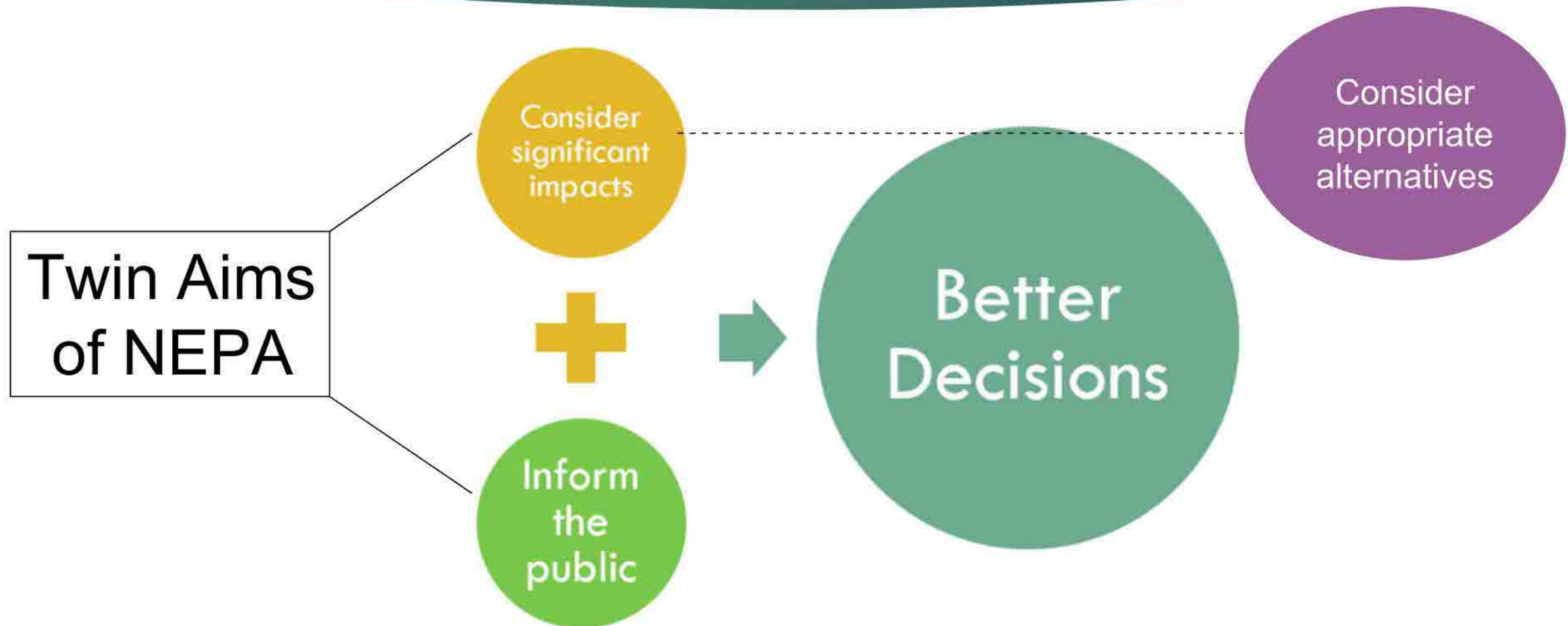


...but don't fall victim to "that's
the way we've always done it".



Consistency
with
Forest Plan
&
Laws

Twin Aims of NEPA



What is CBM and Why Use It?

Supports responsiveness and flexibility between planning and implementation in natural resource management. Allows managers to make landscape-level decisions while reserving flexibility and the ability to respond to change before implementing management activities.

CBM also facilitates strategic use of limited resources



Elements of the **Purpose & Need and Proposed Action**



What



Where



When

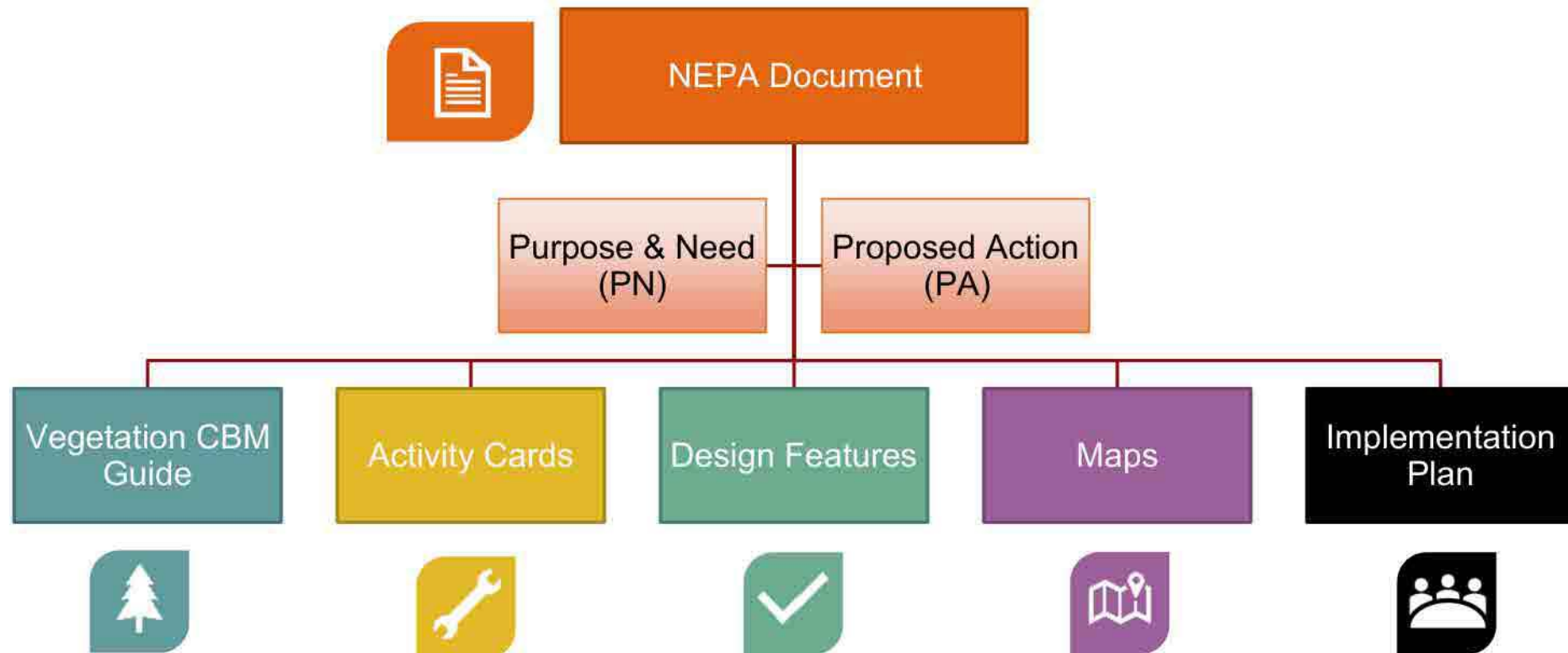


Why



How

Potential Components of CBM PN/PA



NEPA Document (DM/EA/EIS)

PN/PA Requirements by NEPA Level

DM (for CE)	EA	EIS
Rationale for using the category (Purpose & need discussion would support this)	Need for the proposal/project	Purpose & need
Decision to be implemented (Proposed action)	Proposed action and any alternatives	Proposed action & alternatives



Purpose & Need (Why)

LOGICAL STRUCTURE FOR A PURPOSE & NEED STATEMENT: Objective Statement: Simple statement about what we're trying to accomplish. Should tie to the Forest Plan direction for the management area or applicable resource. The objective is expounded on in the desired condition discussion. Existing Condition Description: Relative to the objective statement, describe what is currently happening (types of use, conditions on the ground, species presence etc.). Conclusion (Need for Action to Achieve Desired Condition): Describe the action that needs to occur and the condition (desired) this will help achieve. The action stated here will be carried forward and discussed in more detail in the proposed action discussion. There is a need to [do what? - ACTION] in order to [achieve what outcome? - DESIRED CONDITION].

Example Purpose & Need Statement

Objective: Promote desirable wet and dry meadow function and species diversity. **Existing Condition:** Conifer encroachment into meadows is common throughout the project area, which changes the processes (e.g. hydrology, wildfire, grazing) that maintain meadows and reduces biological diversity at the meadow and landscape levels. **Conclusion:** There is a need to reduce conifer encroachment in meadows to promote diverse natural communities by maintaining unique plant assemblages and providing habitat and forage for birds, small mammals and other wildlife species.



P&N discussions can also refer to the Vegetation Condition Based Management Guide

Address Multiple Objectives

Can the existing condition discussion cover more than one objective? Yes! Objectives could be: Reduce stand density and increase age class, size class and species diversity Reduce hazardous fuel loads and potential for uncharacteristic wildfire events Manage for characteristic landscape diversity With one cohesive existing condition and conclusion discussion supporting all objectives.

See [example purpose and need](#) for *vegetation condition based management*

Justify Appropriate Use of CBM

Explain why the traditional project development approach isn't adequate: Changing environmental conditions are anticipated between planning and implementation; Urgent need for a management action that requires analysis based on mid-scale level data because there is not time to gather more location-specific data prior to making the decision; or Project is developed at a larger, landscape-level scale and there may be considerable time between the decision and actual implementation of management actions on the ground.



Vegetation CBM Guide (Why & How)



- ◆ Can be organized by conditions anticipated to be found in the project area
Should outline both existing and desired conditions
Should describe treatment and considerations for adapting based on certain scenarios that may be encountered
Can be used across multiple projects – but needs to be maintained (master) and modified for project relevancy

Vegetation CBM Guide - Example

CONIFER ENCROACHMENT IN WET MEADOWS

Table 2: Wet Meadow Conditions

Existing Condition	Desired Condition Following Treatment
Conifer and shrub species are encroaching and reducing biodiversity within wet (mesic) meadows. Historically, fire and hydrologic conditions helped maintain the ecotone between meadows and forested stands by killing the conifers. Increased conifer density in the upland and wetlands has lowered the water table and exasperated conifer encroachment. As conifers establish in meadows, soil conditions beneath their canopies change, making seedbeds conducive to establishment of forested species (conifers, shrub and herb species), and less conducive to meadow shrub and herb species. The longer conifers occupy a site within or adjacent to a meadow, the longer it can take to re-establish meadow species.	Meadow species would slowly re-establish through seed dispersal and residual seed bank sources, which over time and space would result in herbaceous diversity within the meadow. The diversity in vegetation composition is reflective of a properly functioning hydrologic system. Water is at or near the surface during most of the growing season following spring runoff. Shrub or tree layers may exist along the meadow perimeter but are generally absent or very sparse within the meadow.



Purpose & Need discussion in the NEPA document can refer to additional existing and desired condition discussions in the Veg CBM Guide

See example [Vegetation Condition Based Management Guide](#)

PRESCRIPTION/VEGETATION TREATMENT: WET MEADOW RESTORATION

Cut trees by hand (chainsaw) or with other manual equipment to remove conifer encroachment to allow for desirable meadow function and species diversity. Whole tree yarding occurs where economically feasible around meadow perimeters and not in conflict with other resource objectives (e.g. conservation of riparian areas) with an activity fuel treatment designed to foster meadow restoration and protect soil from uncharacteristic disturbance. Trees felled interior to meadows remain on site for diversity, microsites, and nutrient input. Use prescribed fire to reduce conifer encroachment, reduce litter, stimulate seed germination, promote establishment and plant growth of meadow vegetation and limit shrub encroachment.

In addition to mechanical vegetation treatments, it may be necessary to restore the natural hydrology of the meadow. This may involve restoration of groundwater recharge areas, beaver reintroduction, use of beaver dam analogs, re-establishment of surface water movement/channels, and/or addressing infrastructure effects to meadow hydrology.

Veg CBM Guide: Tie it to Activity Cards

INTRODUCTION

This document is meant to be used in conjunction with the Forest Plan and the activity cards listed below, as applicable based on the vegetation treatment(s) that is/are decided on during project development (as described in the associated project NEPA document). More than one activity may apply to a prescription. For example, timber harvest will almost always be followed by prescribed burning in fire disturbance driven ecosystems.

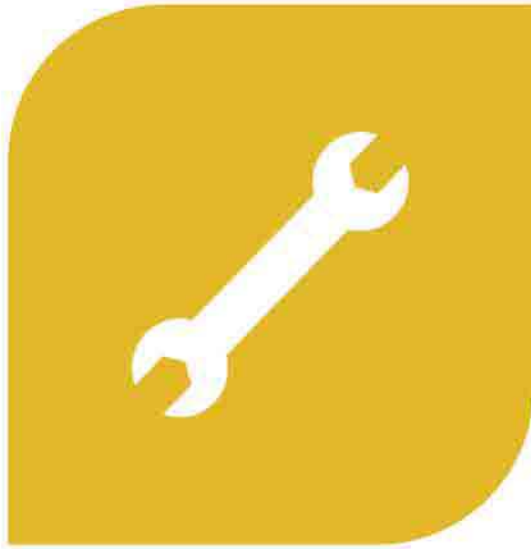
Activity Cards

- Prescribed Burning
- Non-mechanical Hazardous Fuel Reduction
- Mechanical Hazardous Fuel Reduction
- Non-commercial Thinning
- Timber Harvest
- Reforestation

Point of Clarification

Treatment Type ≠ Tool/Activity

Activity Cards (What & How)



- ◆ Describe the management action (or tool) that will be implemented to achieve desired conditions Should be used for routine actions that occur across projects You don't need an activity card for everything – use them only if they create efficiencies

Activity Card Elements

ACTIVITY CARD ELEMENTS Description of the management activity (what the activity entails) Objective of the management activity (what the activity helps accomplish) Condition/situation trigger (conditions or situations that would indicate a need for management) Related actions (interdependent parts of an activity which depend on another activity to occur) (e.g. temporary road construction that would only occur as part of timber harvest activities but isn't always needed) Methods (the way the activity is implemented to accomplish objectives) Equipment used (types of machinery, tools or other equipment that may be used to implement the activity) Timing (time of year when the activity could be implemented) Duration (amount of time the activity could occur for)



Activity Cards - Example

Non-Commercial Tree Thinning Activity Card

Non-Commercial Tree Thinning	
Description:	Tree thinning without product removal (noncommercial). Felling trees to reduce density and improve the vigor of residual trees. This activity typically occurs in plantations, in natural stands where harvest is not economically viable or allowed (e.g. portions of RCA), and following timber harvest to thin the sub-merchantable trees.
Objectives:	Trend vegetative conditions and associated wildlife habitat towards desired conditions, while reducing the risk for uncharacteristic wildfire.
Condition/ Situation Trigger	When tree densities exceed what is needed to implement prescribed fire, what is desired for wildfire, insect and disease hazards, or if needed to improve desired species composition. Also, when there is not a market, or it is not economically feasible, to utilize wood products associated with vegetation treatments.
Related Actions:	Other activities that may occur along with noncommercial tree thinning, on an as-needed basis, include hazardous fuel reduction (mechanical or non-mechanical) and prescribed burning.
Methods:	Use of hand crews to fell trees, typically a service contract
Equipment Used:	Chainsaw
Timing:	Year round, but typically from July 1-Nov. 15 and/or dependent on timing restrictions identified by resource specialists
Duration:	Multiple years

See [Activity Card example & template](#)

Activity Cards – Why use them?

- ◆ They clarify what conditions/situations would trigger use of the activity/management tool
Supports condition-based management concept/approach
They describe routine actions that often apply across projects
Don't need to keep rewriting activity descriptions for every project
They describe methods and equipment used, as well as timing and duration
Helps specialists/biologists – and the public – better understand cause-effect relationships when developing design features, conducting effects analysis or commenting on projects



Design Features (How & Why)



- ◆ Explain constraints/requirements when implementing certain activities (how) May incorporate standards and guidelines from the Forest Plan if they pertain to how activities are implemented on the ground (why) Should be managed separately for the following reasons: If you have to update a design feature, you just update it in one place. Forces identification of project-specific design features. You will have a lot of people editing in the document and may not want them working in the analysis document (DM, EA, EIS) itself. List of DFs can be lengthy so you may want to add it as an appendix in the analysis document. (Appendices don't count towards document length.)

Design Feature Elements

DESIGN FEATURE ELEMENTS

Design Feature – Describe and specify timing or geographic restrictions, avoidance techniques etc.

Watch Out Situations – Describe conditions or scenarios that may be encountered during implementation that have the potential to make the design feature less effective, require additional measures to be put in place (adjusting or forgoing the proposed activity) and/or may need additional review and input by the applicable resource specialist(s).

Procedures if Watch Out Situation Is Encountered – Explain how to proceed if the Watch Out Situation is encountered (e.g. who to contact, information needed for resource specialist to make determinations, determinations that can be made by implementation crew, etc.).

Ensures Compliance With – Identify the law, regulation or policy that makes the design feature necessary. List the applicable standard/guideline if necessary for Forest Plan compliance. Clarify if the design feature is based on recommendations in best available science or professional experience/monitoring.

Applies To Activity(ies): Specify the activity the design feature applies to (should correspond to Activity Cards or other activities described in the NEPA document). Can add clarification if it only applies when certain types of equipment are used or certain conditions are present.

See [Design Features Example Documents](#)

Design Feature Example

Design Feature	Watch Out Situation (if applicable)	Procedures if Watch Out Situation Is Encountered	Ensures Compliance With	Applies to Activity(ies)
WL-2 Protect TEPC/S nesting, denning and roosting sites discovered during the implementation period to prevent disruption of reproductive success. Timber sale contracts shall include provisions that allow for modification if new TEPC/S sites are discovered during the implementation period. Comparable provisions shall be included in all contracts to provide protection for TEPC/S species discovered during implementation.	Wildlife field surveys not conducted or new TEPC/S site discovered during implementation.	Contact the Wildlife Biologist if TEPC/S nest, den or roost sites are discovered during implementation for guidance. Protective measures may include timing restrictions, no-treatment buffers or modifications to planned prescriptions. Development of protective measures will be coordinated with the appropriate resource staff (i.e. Silviculture, Timber, Fuels, etc.).	TEST12, WIST03	<input type="checkbox"/> AOP Improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFS Road Construction & Adding Routes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Reconstruction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Storage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road & Trail Decommissioning <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Plowing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary Road Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Haz Fuels Reduction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Mechanical Haz Fuels Reduction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Burning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Commercial Thinning <input type="checkbox"/> Reforestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timber Harvest

It can be helpful to number design features so they can be referenced in analysis and/or when responding to comments or tracking issue disposition

Design Feature Example

Design Feature	Watch Out Situation (if applicable)	Procedures if Watch Out Situation Is Encountered	Ensures Compliance With	Applies to Activity(ies)
NX-3 Clean all off-road and earth-disturbing equipment to remove all plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds prior to entry onto the Forest, or movement from one Forest project area to another. In areas of extensive noxious weed infestations, designated wash sites may be established as part of project implementation.	<p>Equipment operating off existing roadbeds. Operating in a known weed infested area or operating on soils identified as high weed susceptibility.</p> <p>Contracted work: Requirement to clean equipment is not in the contract .</p> <p>Forest Service Work: Uncertain where equipment has operated.</p>	The Implementation Team and Contract Administrators will coordinate with the assigned Weed Management Specialist for technical guidance, contract specifications, and appropriateness of wash site locations. Technical guidance may include, but not be limited to, guidelines documented in "USDA Forest Service Guide to	Plant Protection Act (PL 106-224); Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004; 36 CFR Subpart A, Section 222.8; EO 13112; FSM 2900; Idaho Plant Pest Act of 2002; Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008; NPST03, NPST04, NPST09, NPST10, NPGU03,	<p>All activities</p> <p>Applies to: Heavy equipment and off-road vehicles operating off existing road prisms, including but not limited to: UTV's, yarder, processor, low loader, rubber-tired skidder, landing tractor, feller-buncher, off-road jammer, Salmon River Blade on tracked dozer or equivalent equipment, excavators, dump trucks, chippers, skid-steers, feller-bunchers, mastication equipment, snowplows, helicopters and associated sling equipment, graders, water truck, and compaction and paving equipment.</p>

Design Feature Example

Design Feature	Watch Out Situation (if applicable)	Procedures if Watch Out Situation Is Encountered	Ensures Compliance With	Applies to Activity(ies)
NX-7 Source sites for gravel, aggregate and borrow materials will be inspected for noxious weeds before materials are processed, used, or transported from the source site into the project area or onto the National Forest. Gravel or borrow material source sites with noxious weed infestations will not be used, unless effective treatment or other mitigation measures are implemented.	<p>Coordination between the implementation team and the assigned Weed Management Specialist or Botanist has not occurred.</p> <p>Contracted work: Requirement for certified-weed free materials is not in the contract.</p> <p>Forest Service Work: Requirement for certified-weed free materials is not in purchase order.</p>	The Implementation Team and Contract Administrators will coordinate with the assigned Weed Management Specialist or Botanist for technical guidance on inspecting for and mitigating noxious weed infestations at source sites. Clean borrow and gravel sources on Forest would be maintained as noxious weed free through an inspection and treatment program. Off-Forest inspections and treatments would be coordinated with county weed agents.	Plant Protection Act (PL 106-224); Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004; 36 CFR Subpart A, Section 222.8; EO 13112; FSM 2900; Idaho Plant Pest Act of 2002; Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008; NPST07, NPST08, NPST09, NPST10, NPGU01, NPGU02, NPGO01, NPGO02, NPGO05, TEST10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AOP Improvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFS Road Construction & Adding Routes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Reconstruction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Storage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road & Trail Decommissioning <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Plowing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary Road Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Haz Fuels Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Mechanical Haz Fuels Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Burning <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Commercial Thinning <input type="checkbox"/> Reforestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timber Harvest <p>Applies to: Acquisition of gravel, aggregate, borrow or fill materials</p>

Design Feature Example

Design Feature	Watch Out Situation (if applicable)	Procedures if Watch Out Situation Is Encountered	Ensures Compliance With	Applies to Activity(ies)
CR-2 Avoid and protect known archeological sites during project implementation.	<p>When no pre-work has occurred between Heritage Program staff and implementation team.</p> <p>Archeologist has not been contacted to flag known sites.</p> <p>Change in project design from what was originally reviewed by the Heritage Program (e.g. moving a road, changing a harvest system).</p>	Set up a pre-work meeting with Heritage Program staff.	<p>Stipulations for No Adverse Effect determination in NHPA Section 106 consultation record with the Idaho SHPO and potentially affected Indian tribes.</p> <p>HPOB09, HPST01, HPST03 (USDA Forest Service 2010, p III-72) Timber Sale Contract - C(T)6.24</p>	All activities except snowplowing

What CBM Isn't...

Condition Based
CBM: ~~Carte Blanche~~ Management

1025

DATE _____

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Responsible Official \$

_____ DOLLARS  Security Features Included. Details on Back.

MEMO For carte blanche management The Powers That Be

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Maps (Where & When)




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- ◆ Provide mapped locations of where activities are anticipated to occur Include rationale for how areas were identified/eliminated for various activities Should also provide rough timing of implementation Also consider providing prioritization discussions in the NEPA document Be specific about activities not utilizing CBM e.g. road/trail construction, developed recreation area improvements or construction

Rationale for Eliminated Areas - Example



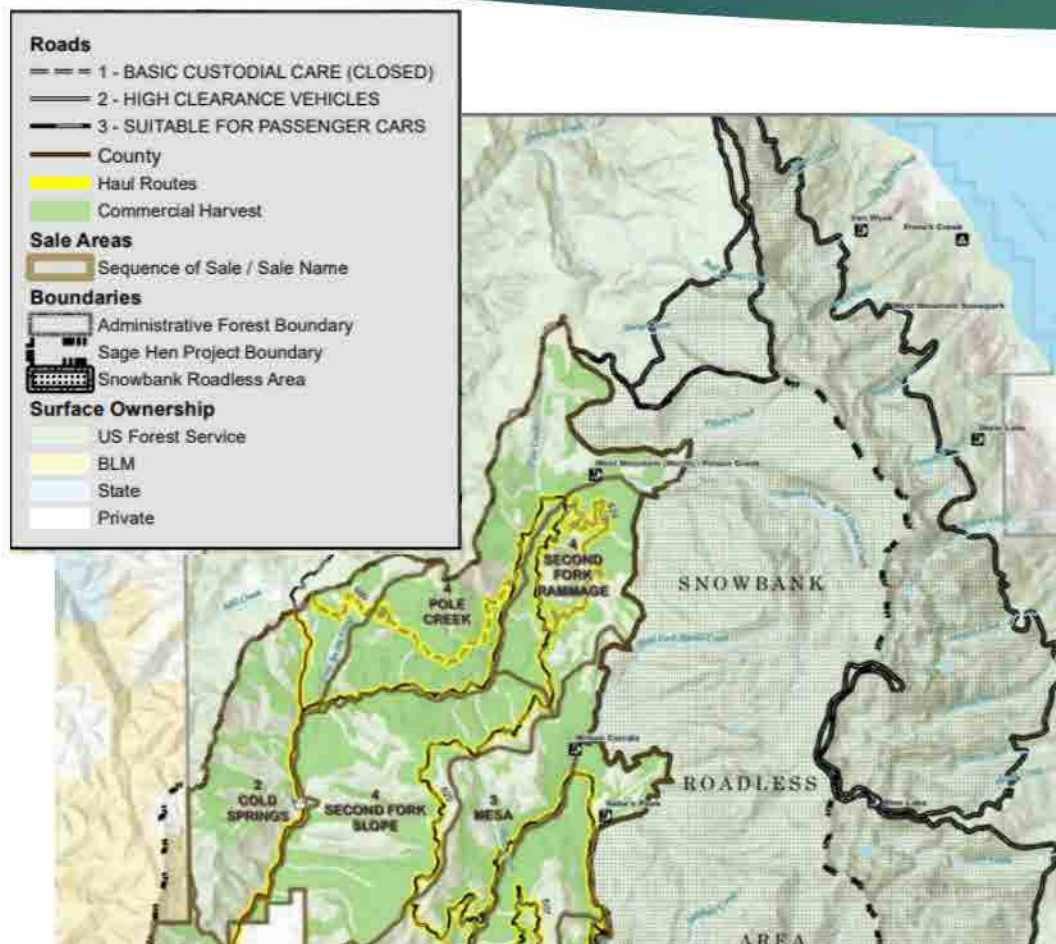
Areas Where Timber Harvest Will Not Occur Some portions of the project area will not be treated with commercial harvest based on the following criteria: Landslide prone areas; Non-forested areas or acres with low timber volume and where commercial harvest would not be economically feasible; Areas where the existing transportation system does not provide adequate access and temporary roads could not be feasibly constructed; Riparian conservation areas (RCAs) where commercial harvest is restricted (see discussion below regarding “Management Activities in Riparian Conservation Areas”); Idaho Roadless Rule “primitive” management area theme (Snowbank Roadless Area); and Areas outside of National Forest System lands. Other areas not likely to be treated with commercial harvest, except in limited instances where existing conditions may warrant this type of treatment, include: Stands identified to be Potential Vegetation Groups (PVGs) 7 thru 11 (as described in the Forest Plan, p. A-8, Table A-5); and Old forest habitat when commercial harvesting cannot be implemented without precluding² the restoration of old forest habitat.

Rationale for Included Areas - Example

Areas Where Timber Harvest May Occur Based on Existing & Desired Conditions Timber harvest is likely to occur in: Medium and large tree size class stands where timber harvest is determined to be the appropriate tool for achieving desired conditions; Stands identified to be Potential Vegetation Groups (PVGs) 1 thru 6 (as described in the Forest Plan, p. A-8, Table A-5); and Where commercial removal is desired to address other resource concerns, such as hazardous fuels reduction.



Max Extent, Timing & Sequencing



When would timber harvest acres be treated and how many acres at a given time? A maximum of 21,500 acres could be treated with timber harvest. Approximately 13 to 15 timber sale contracts could be awarded within the project area. Sale areas have been delineated based on the existing transportation system and primary haul route locations. Other considerations include species composition, logging system and type of vegetation management activity deemed appropriate during development of silvicultural prescriptions. Implementation of these timber sales would occur over an approximate 10 to 15-year timeframe. Approximately 4,300 to 5,400 acres of commercial harvest could be implemented annually. The average contract would be 5 years in length (with some smaller sales having a 3- year contract length) to complete road management activities, harvest and/or other management activities occurring in the same vicinity. The Timber Harvest Map shows the anticipated sequencing of timber sales. Preliminary timber sale layout would begin in 2021. The first timber sale contracts will likely be awarded in 2023, with some roadwork starting in spring/summer of 2024 and harvest beginning in late 2024. While there could be slight changes to sequencing (i.e. sales being moved up or back a year) or dropping of some timber sales if changing conditions make them technically infeasible or economically unviable, the sequence is not anticipated to change much.

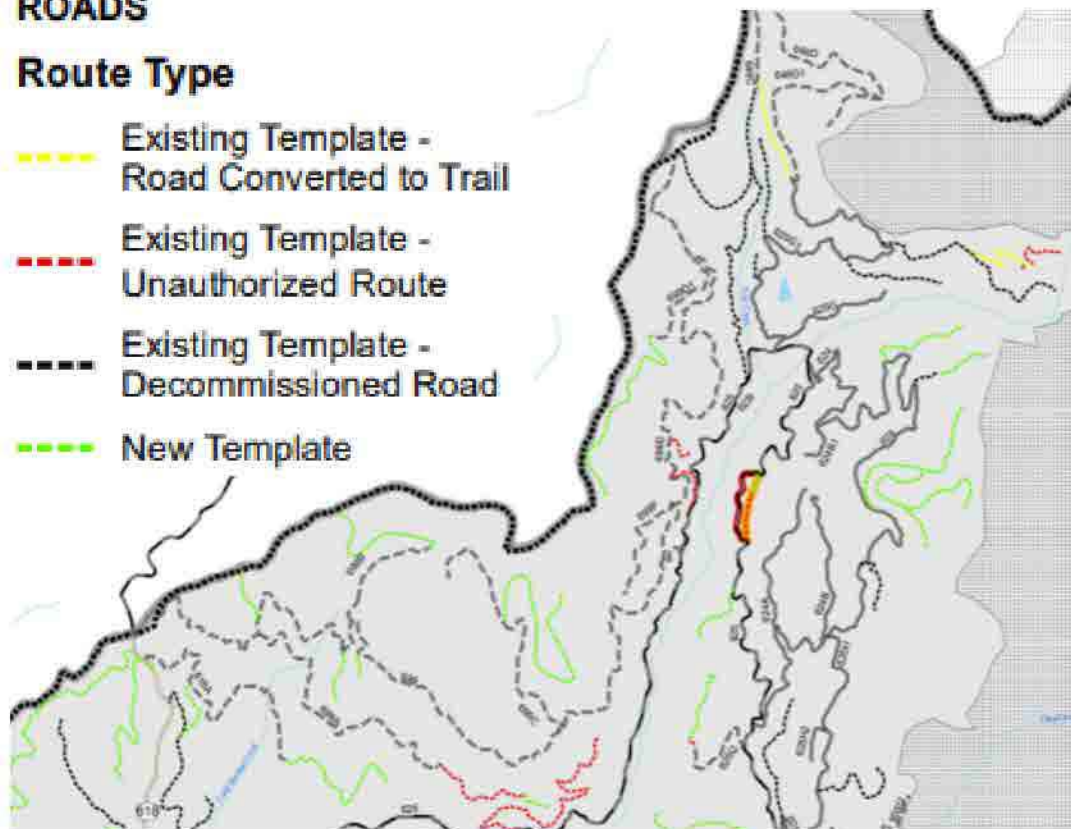
Explain Caveats

Temporary Road Construction A maximum of 125 miles of temporary roads could be needed to implement timber harvest activities. This maximum was determined based on GIS data, to include LiDAR imaging, and current road system locations. Approximately 30% of temporary roads miles would be located on an existing prism (existing routes not managed as part of the National Forest transportation system). If changing conditions preclude timber harvest on some acres within the project area, then the temporary roads associated with accessing those acres would not be constructed, nor would construction occur when temporary roads or segments are determined to be no longer economically viable or resource concerns are identified with temporary road locations. While specific locations may be adjusted based on further ground-truthing, the miles of temporary road constructed for the project will not exceed the maximum identified. These miles of temporary road would not all be constructed and in use at one time as timber sales would be staggered (as previously described). Temporary roads for one harvest area could be in use for up to 3-5 years. Motorized public use is prohibited on temporary roads, with only administrative motorized use occurring as needed to implement management activities. These roads, to include those utilizing existing prisms, would be obliterated (decommissioned) upon completion of management activities in a timber sale area.

SAGE HEN TEMPORARY ROADS

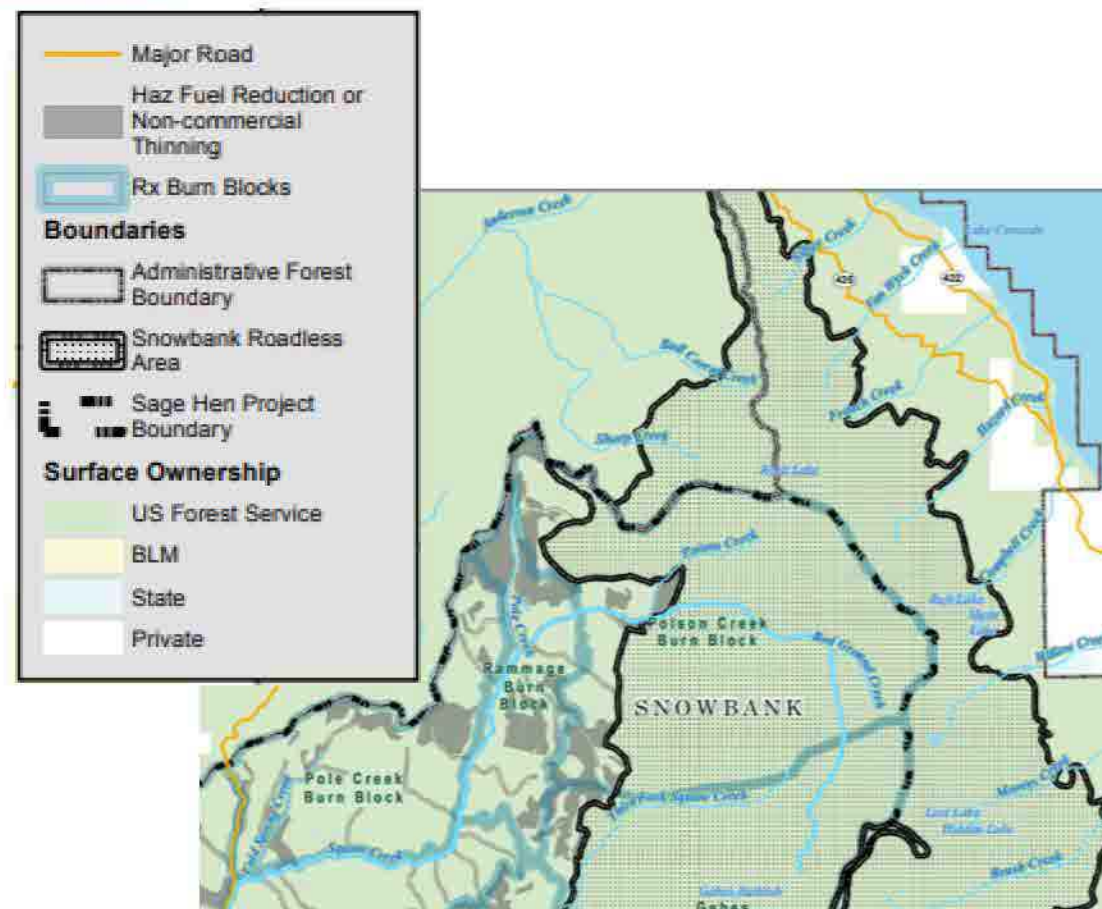
Route Type

- Existing Template - Road Converted to Trail
- Existing Template - Unauthorized Route
- Existing Template - Decommissioned Road
- New Template



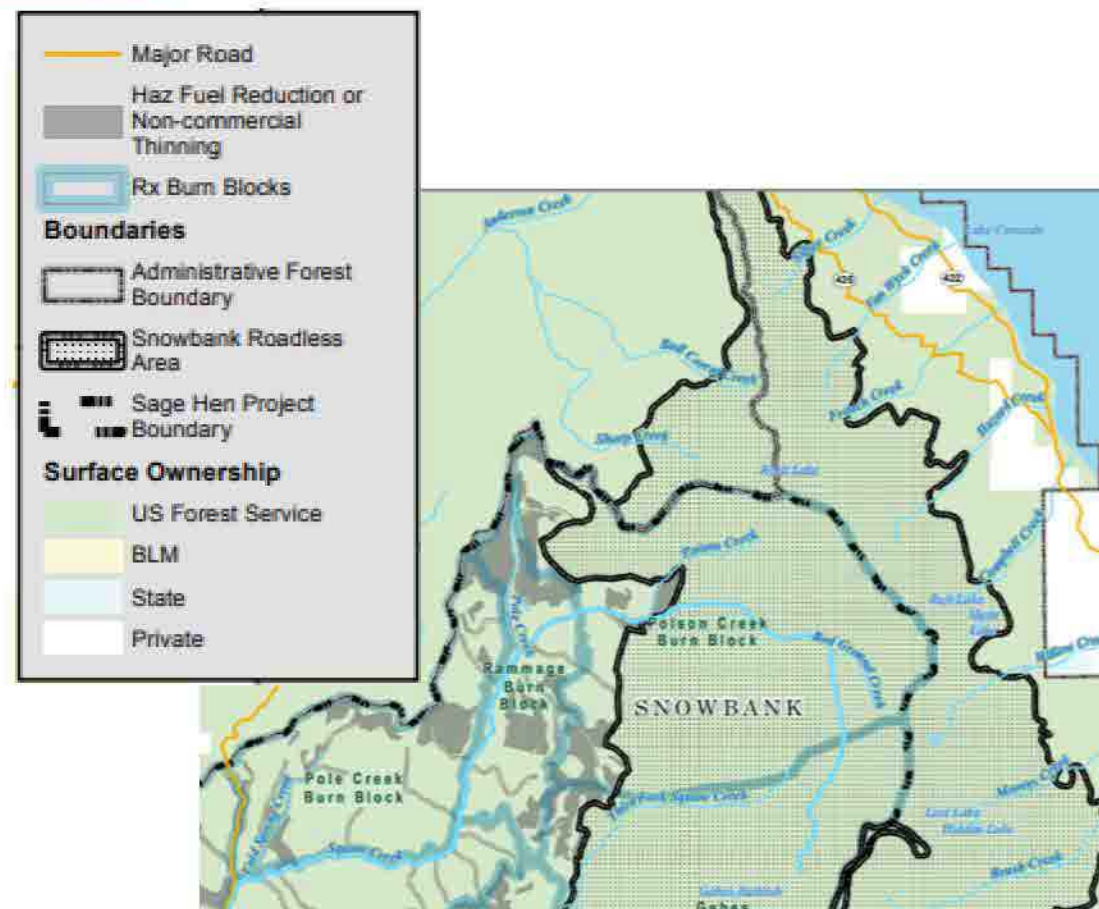
Prioritization & Sequencing

Prescribed Fire Approximately 35,000-45,000 acres of National Forest System lands could be treated with prescribed fire over the next 20 years.... Nearly half or more of these acres would overlap with timber harvest areas. Approximately 500 to 10,000 acres of fire would be applied annually depending on seasonality, resource availability and funding. Prescribed fire treatments would need to be sequenced around other management activities, such as timber harvest or following mechanical hazardous fuel reduction. Prescribed fire only treatment areas, such as in the Snowbank Roadless Area, could be prioritized while other management activities are being accomplished outside of the roadless area. Burn blocks are identified on the Prescribed Burning & Hazardous Fuels Reduction Map and align with the timber harvest areas to the extent practicable. Burn blocks are prescribed fire planning areas that are further refined down to units during the implementation phase. Not every acre in a burn block will be burned or treated due to a variety of factors including, but not limited to: containment issues (e.g. ability to control the burn), resource concerns that drive no treatment buffers, seasonal availability of fuels, air quality/smoke considerations and capacity (budget and personnel). Primary target acres include stands with historically high fire frequencies and lower severities (grasslands and stands dominated by seral species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and western larch (PVGs 1-6)). Secondary target acres include stands with historically moderate to longer fire frequency and mixed to high severities stands comprised of both seral and non-seral species (PVGs 7-11). A mosaic application of fire would be re-introduced to approximately 50-75 percent of primary and secondary target acres. Prescribed burning operations typically occur in spring (April, May, June) and fall (August, September, October).



Prioritization, Sequencing & Flexibility

Hazardous Fuels Reduction & Non-Commercial Thinning
 Mechanical/non-mechanical hazardous fuels reduction and non-commercial thinning could be used on approximately 10,500 acres. The number of acres treated for hazardous fuels reduction could increase if areas considered for timber harvest are dropped based on changing conditions or feasibility issues, meaning the number of timber harvest acres would be reduced. Hazardous fuels reduction and non-commercial thinning treatments would be used strategically as needed along travel corridors and control lines to maintain or improve stand conditions and to ensure firefighter safety in preparation for prescribed fire treatments. These treatments would reduce stand densities and ladder fuels in mature stands, plantations and dense understories. Approximately 500 to 3,000 acres could be treated annually. These management activities would be coordinated to occur simultaneously with timber sale contracts to the extent practicable. For additional information, see Appendix A: Mechanical & Non-mechanical Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Non-Commercial Thinning Activity Cards, Appendix B: Design Features and Appendix D: Prescribed Burning & Hazardous Fuels Reduction Map.

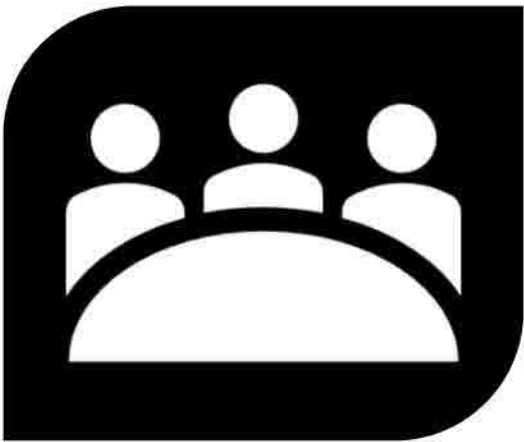


Support Your Data



- ◆ Challengers may attack the lack of location-specific information and field data. Could be helpful to explain that use of mid-scale data is site-specific data and that additional “location-specific data” (e.g. resource surveys, silvicultural stand exams etc.) will be used to refine treatments. Our data doesn’t have to be “perfect” – but we need to explain why it’s sufficient for the way we’re using it. Documentation in the project record should: Clearly disclose the data sources. Explain the robustness of such sources.

Implementation Guide (How & When)

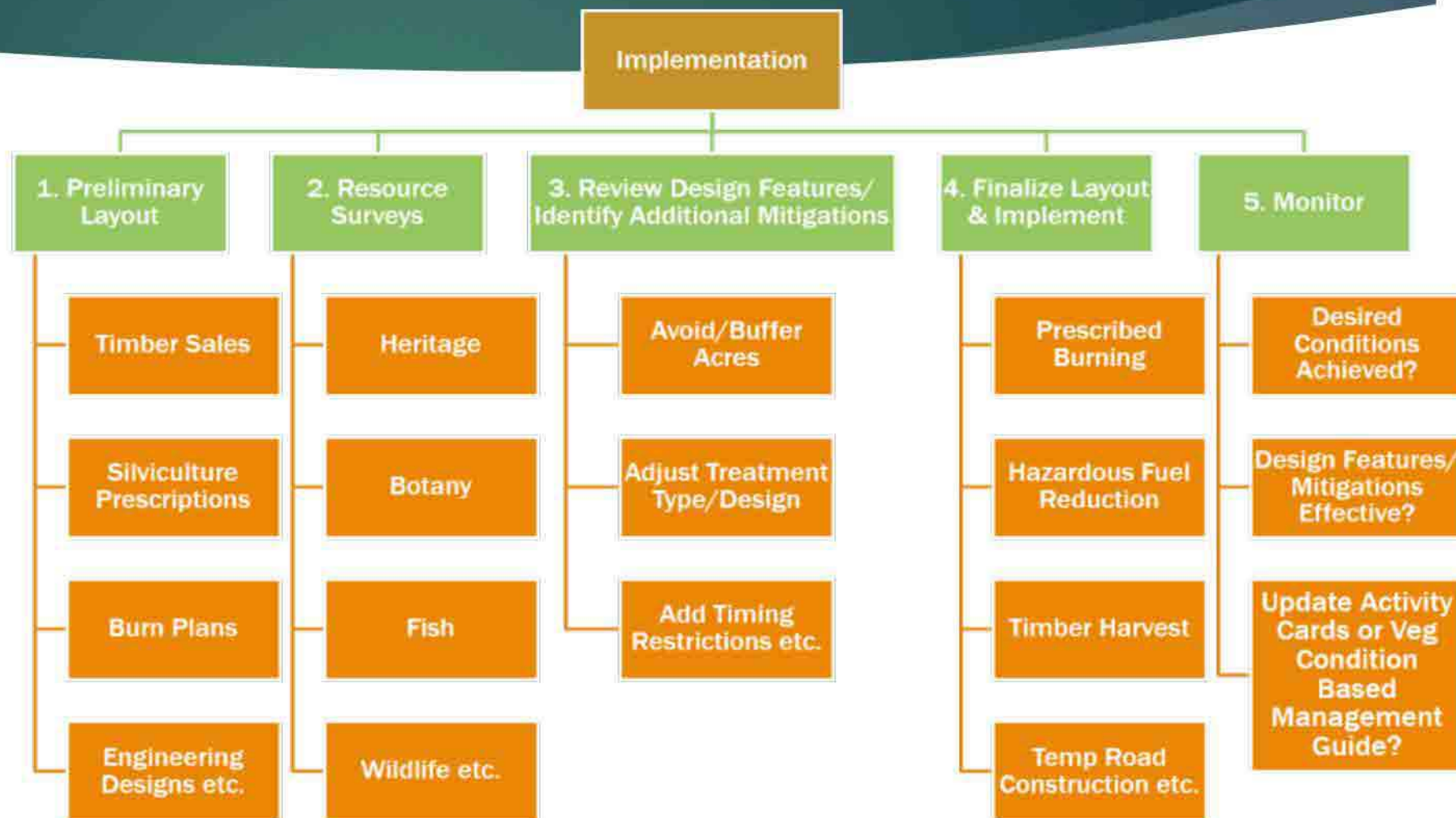


- ◆ Should explain post-decision sequencing of activitiesShould outline how responsible official will validate the final actions/treatments are covered in the NEPA and decision documentsShould clarify how responsible official will coordinate with local governments, interested parties and the public will continue post-decisionShould explain if any monitoring will be conducted

See [example
Implementation
Guides](#)

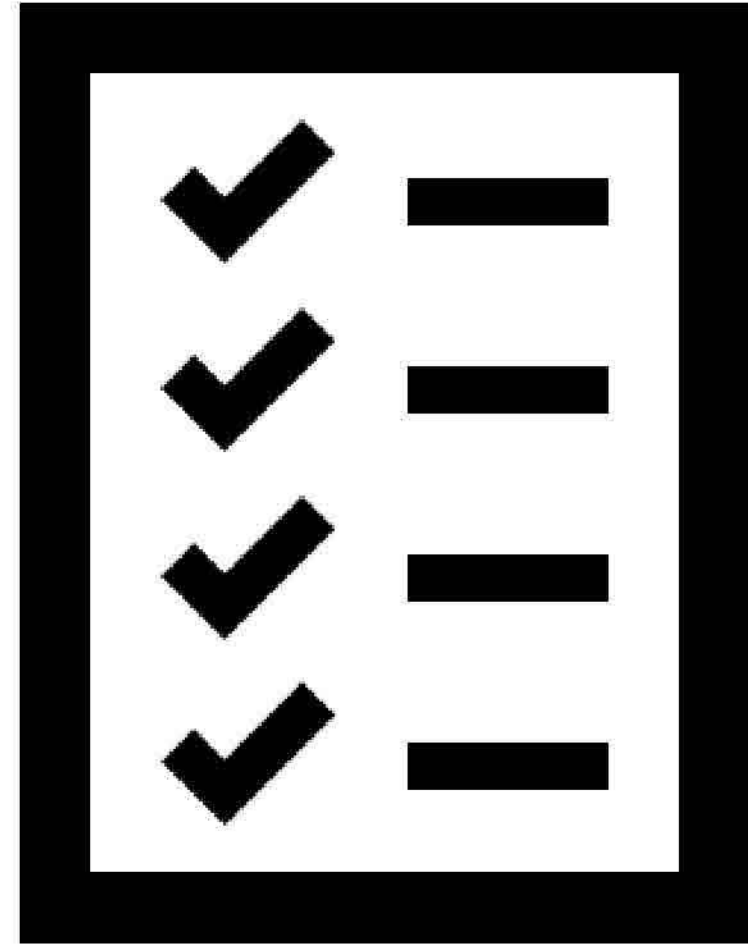
Post-Decision Sequencing - Example

- ◆ How preliminary treatments/actions will be identified and communicated to the IDT; What surveys will be conducted and when; How actions/treatments will be adjusted based on survey findings, etc.



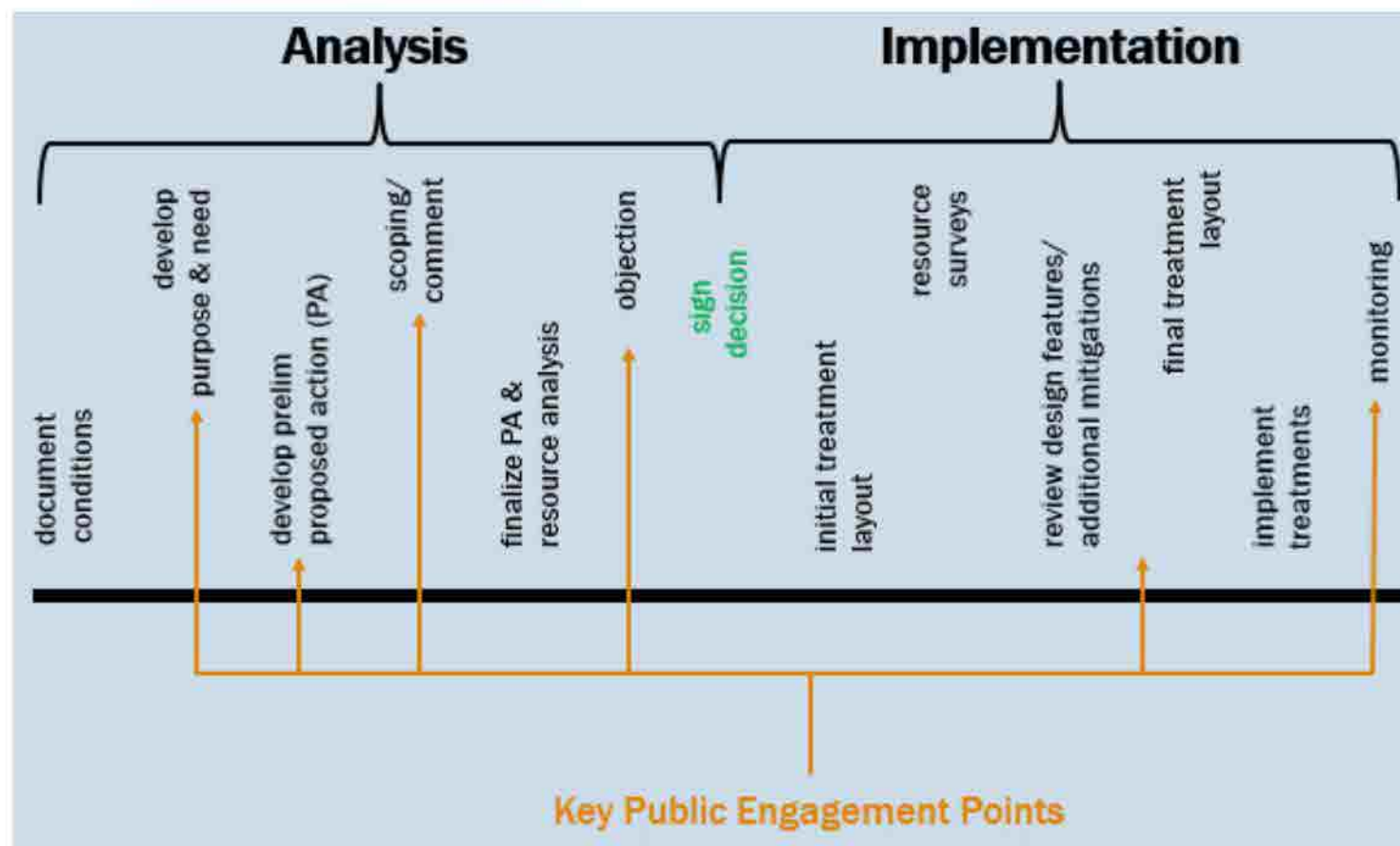
Validation of Actions/Effects

- Validation process could be formal (e.g. checklist, SIR) or informal (e.g. field review with responsible official) What's needed based on the socio-political climate and/or monitoring? Are the action to be implemented, and the likely effects of the action, within the scope of the original decision?



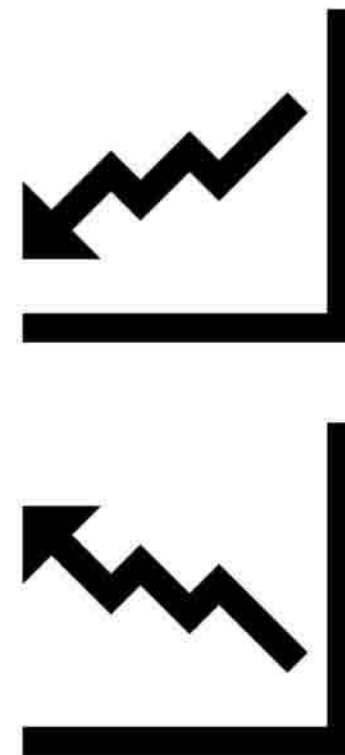
Coordination w/ Interested Parties

- ◆ Informal public involvement at implementation stage cannot substitute for that required for NEPA compliance. As preliminary treatments and timing are better understood, make sure you involve those potentially impacted. Keep agency capacity in mind when partners/interested parties communicate their ideas/requests on how additional coordination should occur.



Monitoring Commitments

- ◆ Keep agency capacity in mind when including monitoring commitments as part of the decision. Different types of project monitoring to consider include, but are not limited to: Determining attainment of desired conditions; Evaluating effectiveness of design features or mitigation measures; If you are also building adaptive management into the project, make sure you adequately describe that. Monitoring that can be done outside of the project/decision: Identifying need to update/modify activity cards, design features and/or vegetation condition-based management guide etc.



If You Have Alternatives

- ◆ **Veg CBM Guide:** Shouldn't need to update this by alternative, although you could have a situation where you may not consider certain treatment types for one or more alternatives* (e.g. eliminate regeneration harvest)
 - Activity Cards:** Shouldn't need to update these cards by alternative, although you could have a situation where you may not consider an activity under one alternative that may be considered under others* (e.g. no permanent road building for one or more alternatives)
 - Design Features:** In the Applies To column, for those DFs that apply to some but not all alternatives, make sure you clarify this.
 - Maps:** Create maps to clearly depict the differences in alternatives; may need maps by activity and alternative to adequately display information
 - Implementation Guide:** Should initially reflect the proposed action; update and finalize to reflect the selected alternative. Could be changes to post-decision coordination and monitoring.*
- Explanation that certain treatments or activities don't apply can be covered in NEPA document when describing and comparing the alternatives

Post-Decision Documentation

Continue to organize and maintain documentation supporting post-decision, pre-implementation and implementation efforts in the project record "Post-Decision" folder

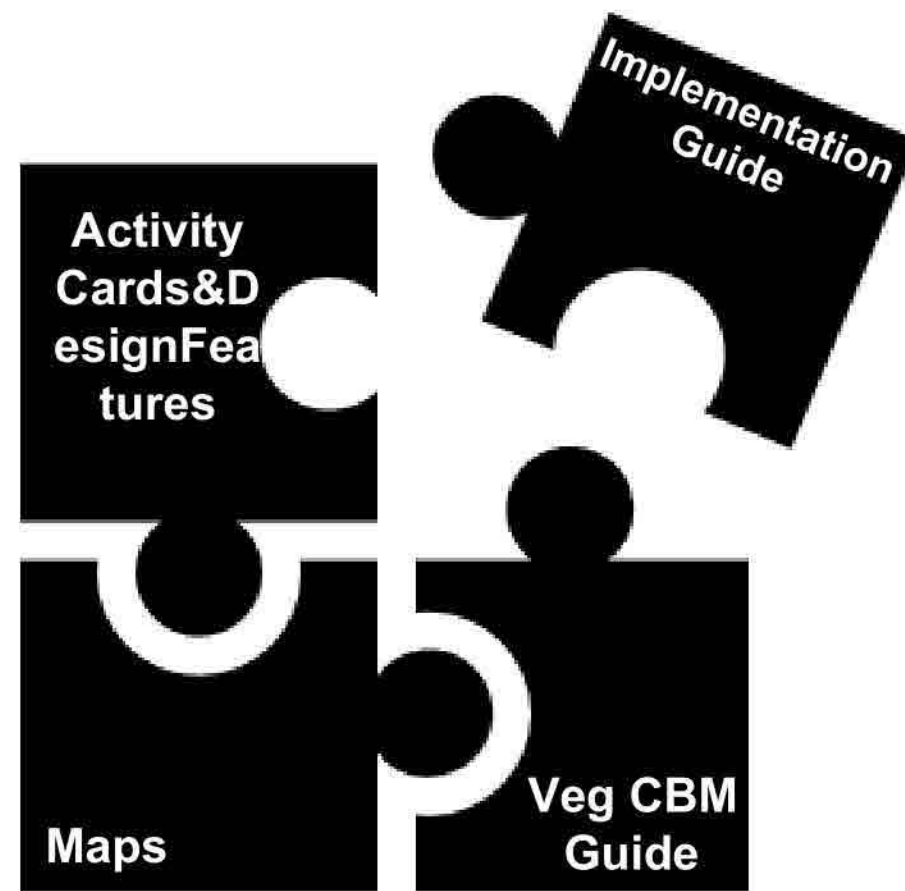


- ☁ 01_NFMA
- ☁ 02_ProjectDevelopment
- ☁ 03_PublicEngagement
- ☁ 04_TribalConsultation
- ☁ 05_ResourceAnalysis
- ☁ 06_GIS
- ☁ 07_Draft-EA-DN
- ☁ 08_ObjectionProcess
- ☁ 09_Final-EA-DN
- ☁ 10_PostDecision
- ☁ 11_PotentiallyPrivileged...
- ☁ 12_FOIA

Support Informed Decision-making

Regardless of how you choose to proceed, choose components that help describe a purpose & need/proposed action that:
Does not overlook evidences warranted by the facts
Is logical
Shows clear judgment

This will help support a decision that does not appear arbitrary or capricious!



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A 5x5 grid maze with a red path starting from a red square at the top right and ending at a red square at the bottom left. The path visits the words: HOW, WHEN, WHY, WHAT, and WHERE.

Doing these things will help demonstrate a hard look was taken!



R4 Condition Based Management Resources