

## Collaboration Outline

Source documents 36 CFR 219.9, FSH 1909.12 Chapter 30, FSM 1921.6.

### I. Definition found at FSH 1909.12 Chapter 30.5

- **Collaboration.** People working together to share knowledge and resources to describe and achieve desired conditions for NFS lands and for associated social, ecological, and economic systems in a plan area. Collaboration applies throughout the planning process, encompasses a wide range of external and internal relationships, and entails formal and informal processes.
- **Public Participation.** Activities that include a wide range of public involvement tools and processes such as collaboration, public meetings, open houses, workshops, and comment periods (36 CFR 219.16). For the purposes of planning, public participation activities fulfill requirements regarding meaningful opportunities for the public to engage in the development, review, and revision of land management plans (16 U.S.C. 1604, 36 CFR 219).

### II. Objectives (FSH 1909.12 31.02)

1. Build and maintain working relationships, trust, and collaborative capacity with people of diverse values, backgrounds, and incomes, including members of underserved and low-income populations, and with federal, state, and local governments, American Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, private landowners, interested individuals, and organizations.

2. Encourage a shared understanding of both the values, concerns, roles, and the responsibilities of all participants while establishing a common base of understanding about the existing plan and relevant available social, ecological, and economic information.

3. Document the timing and methods of public involvement, including public participation and collaboration that may have occurred as part of developing and reviewing plan components, developing plan options, designing the monitoring program, or evaluating and monitoring changing conditions, science, and other relevant information.

4. Apply an iterative approach, taking into account the best available science, through which the Forest Service and the public develop a plan option and then work collaboratively to improve it.

5. **Recognize that a collaborative process does not fit every situation and that some participants may prefer to contribute in other ways.** Work collaboratively with those willing to do so and allow participants to contribute in other ways, especially for

stakeholders that are outside the planning area and are unable to attend collaborative meetings.

### **III. Guidance for selecting methods of public participation and collaboration**

1. Ensure the public can access and assess plan components during formative stages.
2. Build internal and external capacity to carry out, evaluate, monitor, and change the plan.
3. Use best available information from individuals inside and outside the agency.

### **IV. Milestones requiring public participation / notification.**

- The Responsible Official shall involve the public in
  - developing and updating the comprehensive evaluation report,
  - establishing the components of the plan, and
  - designing the monitoring program.

The Responsible Official has the discretion to determine the methods and timing of public involvement opportunities. (36 CFR 219.9(a))
- As a minimum, the Responsible Official shall involve the public in developing and updating the comprehensive evaluation report, plan components, and monitoring program. (FSM 1921.61)
- Direction for notification is provided at 36 CFR 219.9(b)(1). “public notification must be provided at the following times:
  - Initiation of development of a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision;
  - Commencement of the 90-day comment period on a proposed plan, plan amendment, or plan revision;
  - Commencement of the 30-day objection period prior to approval of a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision;
  - Approval of a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision; and
  - Adjustment to conform to this subpart of a planning process for a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision initiated under the provisions of a previous planning regulation.

### **V. Desired public participation outcomes of for each of the required milestones.**

- **Comprehensive Evaluation Report** - The CER is collaboratively developed with those entities that may be affected. All entities involved feel that their comments and suggestions were heard, valued and taken into consideration. The final resulting report would include outcomes of all pertinent interactions with all internal and external parties involved.
- **Components of the Plan** - Develop the Proposed Plan through a collaborative process.

- **Monitoring Plan** - Attain widespread involvement in the minimum monitoring needs to obtain sufficient information to apply to adjustments in the approved Forest plan in vision, strategy and/or design criteria.