

Social and Economic Aspects of Planning

Issues and Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Examples

PRESENTER: Okay. We're going to step back into the planning steps now, and this is the plan criteria is basically what happens in step 2.

Planning criteria, we used to make it very simple and all it said was that we were going to follow laws and regulations, but it's gotten a lot more complicated, and I think the big thing for social and economics is it can establish that these things are important and so putting some of these ideas in the planning criteria for social and economics is really a good idea.

I think the place that it gets the best is establishing standards and analytical techniques and also identifying factors and data to consider in decision makings.

So what I've done here is I've gone through RMP's and I've pulled out some examples of planning criteria. The headings on these are a little bit screwed up, and so we've got more in places that we shouldn't. You'll see that later.

Anyway, these are some social planning criteria that we have come up with, and I don't need to read these, but the first one, looking at local, statewide and national interests, if you're going to do something like that, I would suggest that you include all the levels because we'll get into one being included in the Upper Missouri where we said we would listen to local interests and we got a lot of heat on that. So we need to make sure we're covering all our bases when we come up with different types of planning criteria

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because we'll hear about it in comments on the draft if we don't.

Just some more social planning criteria. The first one is out of the King Range, which is the document that we're going to be reviewing, and again this is the one that had a lot of emphasis on social to begin with. So they had social planning criteria as well.

That second one here under lifestyles and concerns of area residents was the one that got me in a lot of trouble, and I was responsible for putting this together, but we had over 70,000 letters on this. It was international response to the draft on this area, and I could tell people that because of NEPA we had to look at all the different groups that would be affected, but people did not appreciate the fact that in the planning criteria there was a certain group that was pointed out to be the ones that were going to be considered. So you need to be careful when you're doing that that you don't make it look like you're looking at one group and not others.

These are some examples of economic planning criteria that I was able to come up with. For a while it seemed like we had a lot of social planning criteria but there wasn't much economic planning criteria that actually was in the documents. The first one is interesting because as you will learn later, the economic profile system is not a way to evaluate impacts, but in this planning criteria, they're kind of implying that it is. So I'm not saying that all these planning criteria make good sense, but they are ones that we did find in documents.

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I like this example, not because of what they're doing, but because it's very specific, and it says what type of technique that they're going to use as opposed to some type of very qualitative thing. So I think it's a good example of saying you're going to do something very specific or use a very specific technique in the document.

And these last planning criteria here are the ones that the economists teaching the class made up because we didn't have any good examples. But in terms of looking at these and looking at the other social criteria that we've come up with, do you have any comments on these criteria and how useful they might be in a planning effort?

CLASS PARTICIPANT: [inaudible] there's only been a couple that I read through that actually I would consider planning criteria that are going to help drive or focus your evaluation. Also these -- I mean, consider, what does that mean? That's really vague. That's not going to help us foster a decision in the end. All we're doing is saying, yeah, we're going to look at this, but it's not helping to point the direction where our decisions are going.

PRESENTER: I would agree with that. When I look at it, that's exactly what -- I think it's better to have it there than not have it there, but it would be very difficult to say whether you were actually doing some of these things.

CLASS PARTICIPANT: [inaudible] all those things, we got guidance to say we're going

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to consider all that stuff. So reiterating it is no more than saying we're going to follow the law, and it need to go a step beyond that to have planning criteria. It needs to folk us a little bit more.

PRESENTER: The other reason that it's important to have it, even though it's vague, is that, especially with plans that are contracted out where the person who is doing the work doesn't get involved until the very end, it's another step that somebody could be involved with so that they're engaged with the plan. Because we really have an issue of people not being engaged until we do impact analysis, and I think that's a real problem.

CLASS PARTICIPANT: A lot of those things probably are more appropriate showing up in your statement of work if you're going to contract things so you're very clear on what you need to see come back, but as far as actual planning criteria, they're probably not.

PRESENTER: And I think that that's probably true of a lot of stuff that's not social and economic either. A lot of planning criteria is very general, which doesn't justify that.

But...

Any other comments on this? Yes?

CLASS PARTICIPANT: Isn't the last one on that page a little bit dramatic? Because it presupposes that you're degrading the land and water before you complete your impact analysis? How do you know that?

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PRESENTER: Could be.

CLASS PARTICIPANT: You might suppose that you would, but...

PRESENTER: Yeah, these are just examples we came up with. You could interpret it that way, and certainly the public might interpret it that way.

That's it for planning criteria.