

## Unit 3.4 Identify Issues

### Unit Objectives

- Identify the significant planning issues to be addressed in your land use plan
- Distinguish between collaborator's interests & positions



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## Characteristics of Issues

In a planning context, issues are...

- ♦ Matters of concern about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, production, and related management practices
- ♦ Points of interest and discussion
- ♦ Situations upon which an individual or group can act

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## Positions v. Interests The Tale of Two Kids and an Orange



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## Why Issue Identification Is Important

- Sets the tone and scope for the entire planning process
- Addressing issues is one of the primary purposes of the planning process
- Clear identification of issues directs the amount, type, and detail for data-gathering



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## Issue Identification and Developing a Shared Vision

- Proper issue development creates a more shared vision
- Shifts emphasis from involvement to ownership
- Leads to greater individual responsibility and accountability
- Leads to long-term involvement, interest, and improved understanding

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## Getting to Issues

- **Attitude:** a viewpoint that can't be acted on (e.g., “government is in the pocket of developers, miners, and OHV yahoos”)
- **Position:** a view point or opinion about what uses should be allowed or how a resource should be managed; represents posturing to promote a particular decision (e.g., “keep all uses, especially mining and OHV use, out of the desert”)
- **Interest:** a specific need that underlies the position (e.g., “we need to protect the desert tortoise”)
- **Issue:** a non-judgmental statement about a subject of interest or concern, that can be acted on; often a question (e.g., how should desert tortoise habitat be managed?)

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## How to Capture and Frame Issues

- How to ask for issues
- Distinguish interests from positions
- Issue framing must include full range of collaborator views
- Focus on effects, not causes
- Question vs. statement format

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## Collaborator Involvement in Issue Identification

- Involve public before casting issues in BLM terms
- Help the public understand the planning process (what is an issue and what is its role)
- Remain open-minded when embarking on issue identification



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## Factors that Influence Scope of Issues to Be Evaluated

- Planning criteria (e.g., legal sideboards)
- BLM and collaborator views
- BLM decision space: are issues beyond BLM's authority?

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## Exercise E. Scoping & Identifying Planning Issues

1. Develop a list of key potential collaborators who might be interested in your plan.
2. List the types of formal and informal interactions you would hold during the scoping period to determine their interests. Be creative!
3. Take the position statement that is assigned to you and determine the interest. Write it as an objective, non-confrontational, neutral issue statement or question that would be used for your land use plan.

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