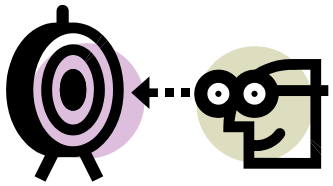
Unit 3.6.
Data Gathering

Unit Objectives

- Address the role of data in the planning process
- Identify types of data used in planning
- Evaluate the process of conducting a data gap analysis
- Describe IT applications for collecting data



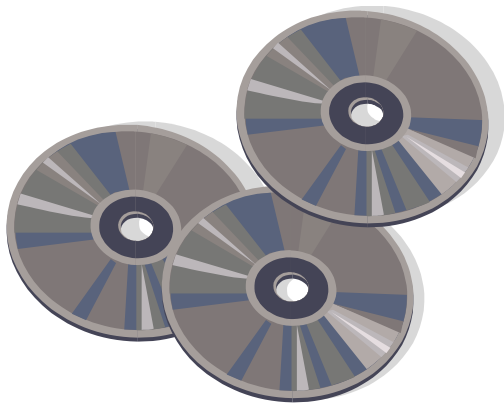
Role of Data in Planning

- Basis for support of plan decisions
- Indicator of hard look, required by NEPA
- Interdisciplinary team unifier
- Fundamental part of the administrative record
- Importance not confined to scientific approach and product. Greater importance is the role it plays in giving credence to the process
- BLM Planning Handbook, Appendix G

3.6 - 2

Important Distinctions

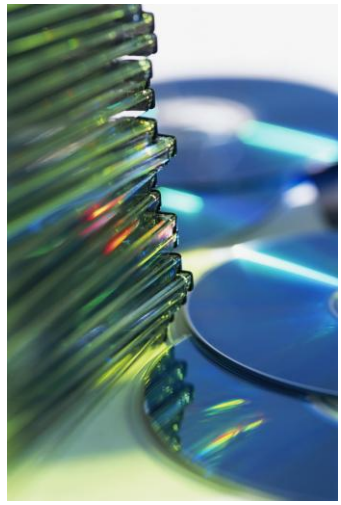
- Data
- Information
- Knowledge
- Wisdom



3.6 - 3

Where Are We with Regard to Data?

- What we have
- What we need
- What we want
- Who will gather it?
- How much will it cost?
- When do we need it?
- When will we get it?



3.6 - 4

Dealing with Incomplete or Unavailable Information

- If cost of obtaining information not exorbitant, include information in EIS
- If cost of obtaining information exorbitant, EIS must
  - State that information is incomplete or unavailable
  - State relevance of information to evaluating reasonable foreseeable significant effects
  - Summarize credible scientific evidence about impacts
  - Use methods accepted by scientific community
- "Worst-case analysis" not required

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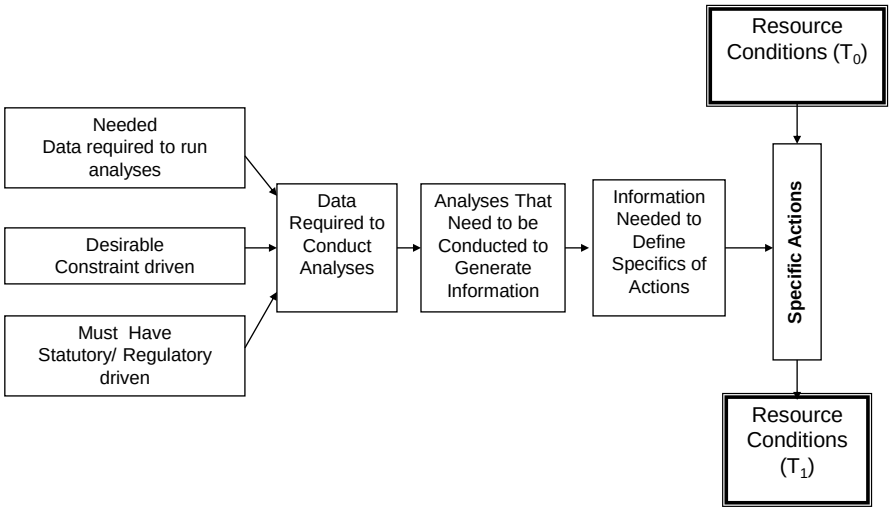
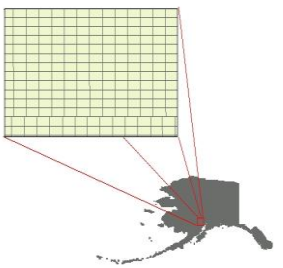
Data-to-Information-to-Decisions



3.6 - 6

IM 2003-238—Guidance for Data Management in Land Use Planning

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Characterizing and Managing Data
- Metadata Requirements
- Data Standards



IM 2003-238 (this replaces IM 2001-202)

3.6 - 7

Information Technology Opportunities for Data Collection

- Collaboratively furnished data
  - Inform collaborators early in process what data BLM has available and needs
  - Determine the veracity of collector's process
  - Data must be consistent, have suitable delivery format and meet data standards
  - Collaborators must meet process time constraints

3.6 - 8

Data Analysis

- Use of standardized techniques where possible
  - Statistical
  - Quantitative
  - Qualitative
  - Professional judgement
- Peer review of results and conflict resolution
- IDT review
- How to deal with data uncertainty
- How to deal with conflicting data

3.6 - 9

Data Stewardship and Consistency

- Data stewards
  - Subject matter experts
  - Identify planning data requirements
  - Implement data standards
- Data administrators
  - Technical experts
  - Coordinate data stewards
  - Develop data standards
  - Promote exchange of information
- Make both part of planning team at beginning

http://web.blm.gov/data_mgt/datastewds.htm **3.6 - 10**

Data Standardization Issues

- BLM standards
  - Create consistent quality
  - Create common "look and feel"
- FGDC (mandatory federal standards incorporated into BLM standards)
  - Federal Geographic Data Committee
  - Spatial and nonspatial metadata standards must be followed.
  - You are responsible for meeting metadata standards; get IT professional help

IM 2003-125 **3.6 - 11**

Data Standardization Issues
(Cont.)

- Metadata: What is it?
  - Summary and index of the data itself: how, where, when, who
  - Requires a resource specialist to identify:
    - the data standards
    - any limiting circumstances
    - whether data is outdated or new
  - After metadata is identified, GIS takes over
  - GIS coordinator will identify projection, size, etc.
  - Resource specialists need to stay involved in the metadata process

Data Standardization Issues
(Cont.)

- If you identify that your data is outdated, perform a risk analysis
  - Can your decision be based on old data?
  - If no, continue looking for better data
  - If yes, use the data and document where you got it.

Exercise I. Data-Gathering Process

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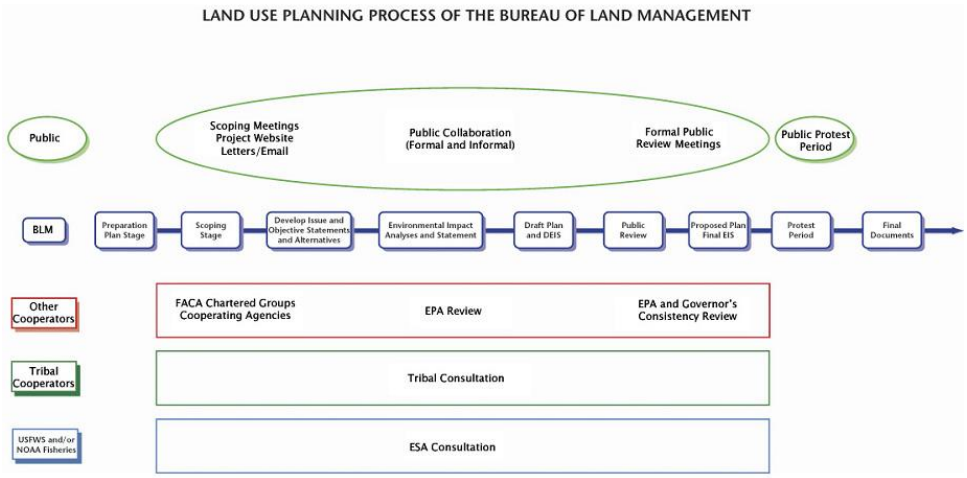

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