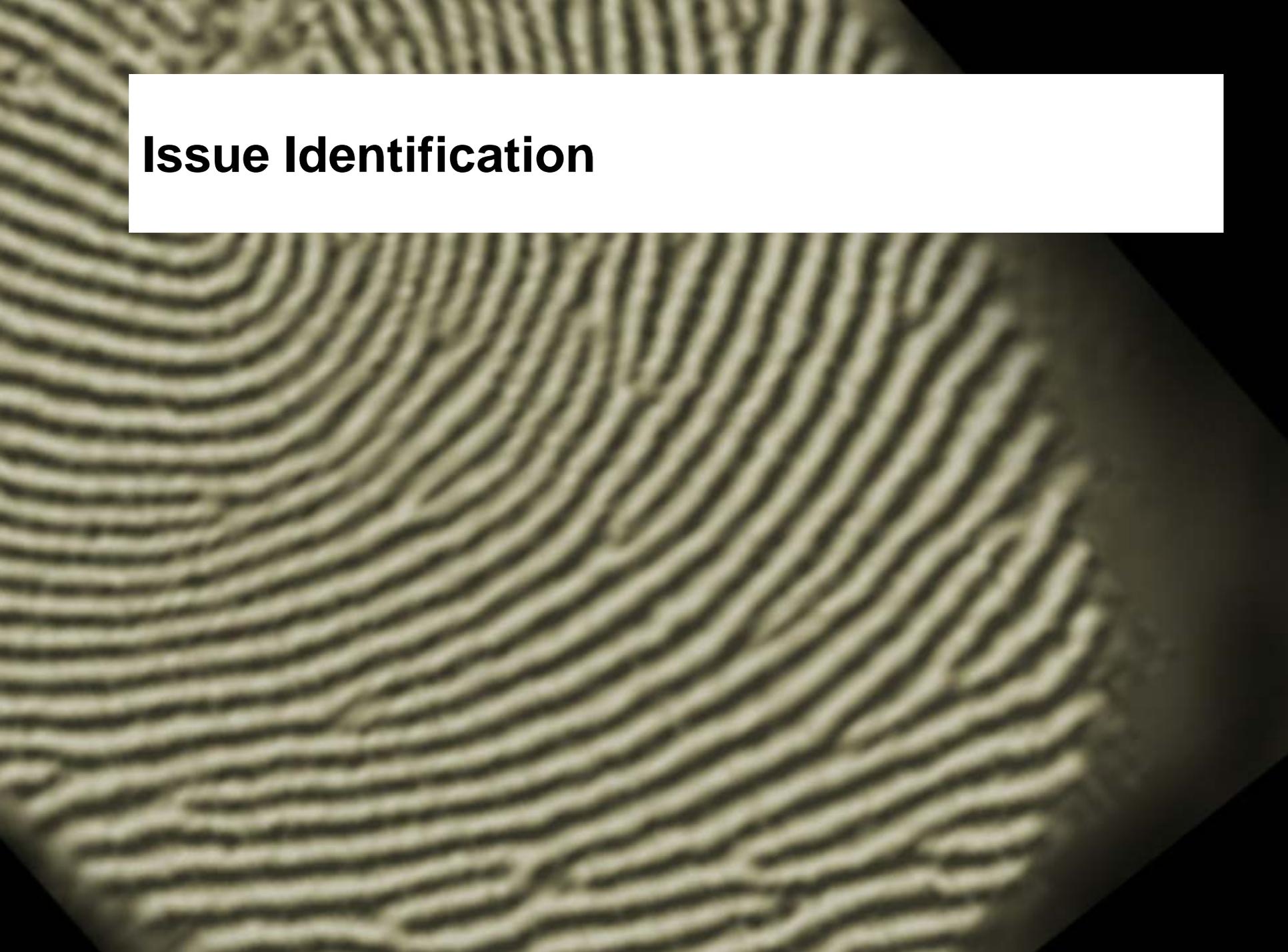


Issue Identification



Objectives

- Identify the significant planning issues to be addressed in your land use plan.
- Distinguish between interests and positions.



Characteristics of Issues

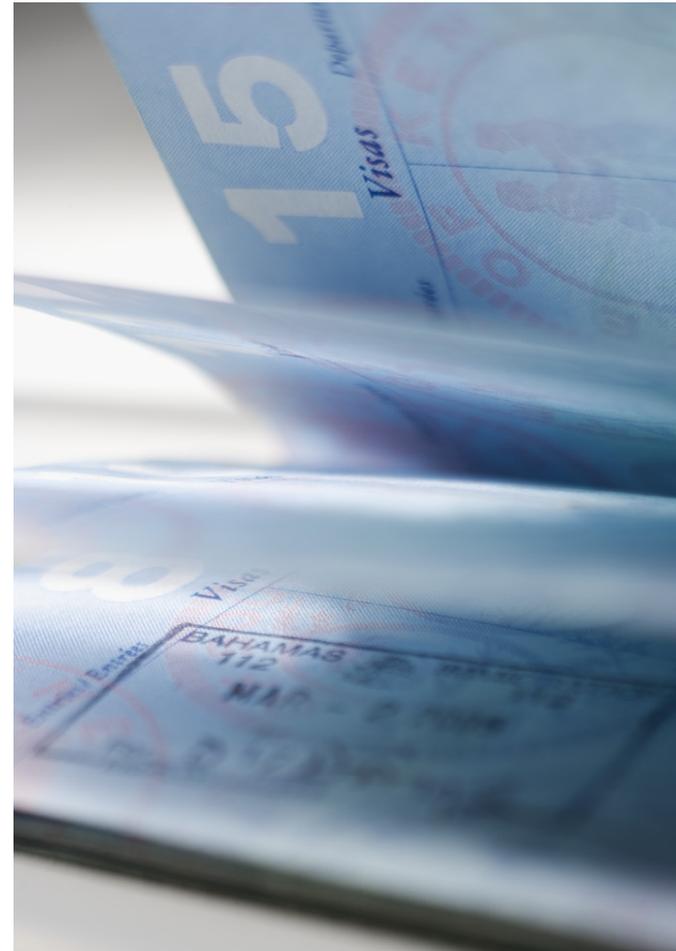
In a planning context, issues are...

- 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.



Why Issue Identification Is Important

- Issues set the tone and scope for the 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.



Identifying Issues and Developing a Shared Vision

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

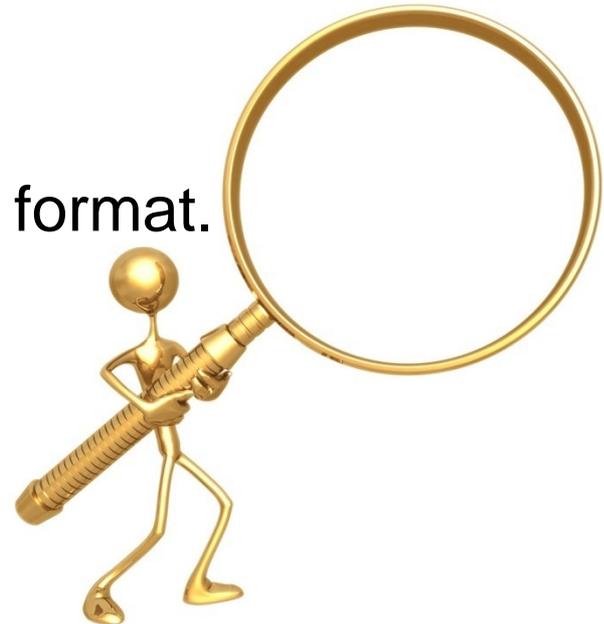


Getting to Issues

- **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?)

How to Capture and Frame Issues

- Ask the public what they're concerned about.
- Distinguish interests from positions.
- Include range of collaborator views when framing issues.
- Focus on effects, not causes.
- Use a question vs. statement format.



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.



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?



Exercise 6: Identifying Planning Issues

Now it's time for your interdisciplinary team to do an exercise!

You can find the exercise by going to the exercise tab following this lesson.

Good luck!

