

Political Savvy

A black bear is the central focus, looking directly at the camera. It is surrounded by a dense thicket of trees and shrubs. The foliage is in various stages of autumn, with some leaves turned bright red and orange, while others remain green. The background is a soft-focus mix of these colors, creating a rich, textured environment.

Partnership & Community
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Managing by Network
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OMB Definition

Political Savvy (Leadership)

Individual identifies the internal and external politics that impact the work of the organization. Approaches each problem situation with a clear perception of organizational and political reality, recognizes the impact of alternative courses of action.

Eight Tips: GET R DONE

Gain a clear understanding of your authority

Enlist the advice and support of colleagues with expertise/
responsibilities

Think before you speak

Research before you communicate (meetings or email)

Develop relationships of trust on behalf of your agency

On-going communication that keep decision-makers “in-the-loop”

No one works alone

Expect the unexpected



Lessons Learned

Share an example with the discussion group about a situation that involved the use of your political savvy skills related to external or internal politics?

“MAKE IT WORK”

Politically Savvy Skills

Anticipate resistance to agency positions on issues and take proactive steps to address opposing arguments through constructive dialog.

Establish connections with diverse organizational interests to effectively communicate priorities and strategic direction, build organizational credibility, and generate external support for conservation goals.

Adapt strategies to preserve important partnering relationships based on changes in organizational capability and capacity.

Inspire public appreciation and trust in the agency’s mission activities through personal example and agency policies, procedures, products and services.