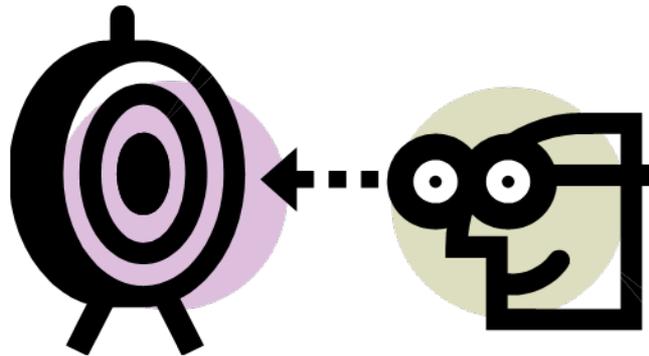


Data



Objectives

- Address the role of data in the planning process.
- Identify types of data used in planning.
- Conduct 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

Where Are We with Regard to Data?

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



Dealing with Incomplete or Unavailable Information

- If the cost of obtaining information *is not* exorbitant, include information in the EIS.
- If the cost of obtaining information *is* exorbitant, the 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” is not required.

Information Technology Opportunities for Data Collection

- Collaboratively furnished data
 - Inform collaborators early in process what data BLM has and what it 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.

Data Analysis

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



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
- Include data stewards and data administrators in the planning team.

Data Standardization Issues

- BLM data standards
 - Create consistent quality.
 - Create common "look and feel."
- FGDC standards (Federal Geographic Data Committee)
 - Mandatory federal data standards that are incorporated into BLM standards.
 - They follow spatial and nonspatial metadata standards.
 - You are responsible for meeting metadata standards.
 - Involve IT professionals.

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:
 - data standards
 - limiting circumstances
 - if data is outdated
 - After metadata is identified, GIS takes over.
 - GIS coordinator will identify projection, size, etc.
 - Resource specialists are responsible for the metadata.

Data Standardization Issues (Cont.)



- If your data is outdated, then perform a risk analysis: Can your decision be based on old data?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