Network Life-Cycle: Six Stages of Development

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Partnership & Community Collaboration Academy
2012 Managing by Network
The Caterpillar

Visioning Stage

Whether initiated by a federal employee or recommended by a stakeholder or partner, network development begins with a vision of how we might work together to steward the nation’s natural and cultural resources.

What is the need?
Why is this need important?
Who shares this interest?
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Conceptual Stage

Build a framework for internally and externally communication, cooperation and/or collaboration

Discuss and define the concept to include who, what, where, when and how this network will operate

Take into consideration an agency’s: authorizations, polices, practices, expertise and financial resources
Research and Development Stage

- Seek internal and external expertise
- Communicate with stakeholders and partners
- Gather information and data
- Review network models
- Confirm and vet network partners
- Describe how the network will operate
- Define roles of participants
- Define goals and objectives
- Assess Risk
The Cocoon Implementation Planning Stage

Create a Work Plan

Connect Tasks to a Timeline

Working with Partners and Stakeholders

Prepare formal agreements or contracts

Assess on-going Communication

Assess Funding

Develop Evaluation Criteria
The Butterfly

Active Stage

Apply Vision, Concept, R&D, and Implementation Planning Phases to on-the-ground action.

Demonstrate the best practices of

✓ adaptive management
✓ moves management
✓ communication
Evaluation & Recognition Stage

Evaluate the performance of the network from the
✓ perspective of the agency
✓ network partners

Evaluate your performance in working with the network
Six Stages of Network Development

- Visioning
- Conceptual

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- Research & Development
- Implementation Planning

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- Active
- Evaluation & Recognition

Butterfly

It’s like skipping rope. You miss a step and you get tangled in the rope.
What stage best reflects the status of your network?
What are next steps you will take to move forward?

- Visioning
- Conceptual

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- Research & Development
- Implementation Planning

**Cocoon**

- Active
- Evaluation & Recognition

**Butterfly**