

## INTRODUCTION

>> The Bureau of Land Management presents live from the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona, the latest Planning/NEPA Forum on NEPA Problem-Solving I.

And now, the host of your program, Cathy Humphrey.

>> C. Humphrey: Good morning in the western states and good afternoon in the eastern states. Welcome to our latest Planning/NEPA Forum. We're going to try something new today. We're not only broadcasting this through our usual BLM satellite network, we're also live streaming it. It's so exciting.

If you start having any kind of streaming problems, like if it's stopping, then it might be best if everybody groups around one computer. If there're a lot of people in one office looking at it, it might slow down the lines.

And I hope you have your NEPA handbook with you, because the panel will be referring to it and it will enhance your experience.

We want your feedback on what you are watching, whether it's -- whether you are watching by satellite or live stream, since we are doing this for the first time, we want to see how it's working for you. And if you want to comment anonymously, you can use the Metrics That Matter evaluation form and that will be emailed to everyone who registered in DOI Learn. And if you want to comment in a more open way, then there's a page for today's program on the NEPA Training Corner Google site, and it's under the Broadcast tab.

On your screen right now, you should be seeing a screen shot of the Google page so you can see what it looks like.

Now, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, we will do Part 2 of this NEPA Problem-Solving Forum. So your comments today on today's show will help us make any tweaks if we need to do anything.

And if you want credit on your BLM transcript for watching today, or when it's recorded, you need to be registered in DOI Learn. And if you forget to register, you can send me an email and I will get you registered.

In the past, we have presented information to you for an hour or longer on these broadcasts and then we'd give you some time at the end to ask questions, but we're doing everything a little bit differently today, and what we have done is over the past few months, we gathered NEPA questions from you guys out in the field and we sorted them into categories. So for the next 90 minutes, you will just hear the panel answering questions and there will be no up-front presentation. Yay! Alright.

So we have only allotted 90 minutes to this program and based on our run through yesterday,

it looks like we'll be using that entire time. So although it really pains me to say this, deep to the bottom of my soul, we won't be able to take any additional questions from the field today. But hopefully we will next time.

If you have any clarifying questions or if you think of new questions, you can email them to me and then we'll answer them **in of course** and we might make the program a little bit longer so we can have some more interactions.

Now, today's questions we grouped into these categories:

- NEPA Process
- Streamlining the Process
- a category calling Tiering, Incorporation by Reference, and Adopting Other Agencies' Analyses
- Public and ID Team Involvement, and
- Alternatives.

And then the next broadcast on October 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll talk about:

- Significance
- Effects
- Decisions
- Litigation, and
- Any Resource-specific Questions Related to NEPA that you have.

So without further ado, it's time to meet our panel of experts. Let's start with Gloria Tibbetts. She joins us from Phoenix, Arizona, where she is the District Planning and Environmental Coordinator working on everything from RMP implementation plans to a multitude of NEPA products in all program areas. You might recognize Gloria from before; when she was with us before, she worked in Battle Mountain, Nevada where she served as project manager for various EIS and EA projects. She's a Super User in ePlanning and has been with the BLM since 2010. It's good that you could come over here.

>> G. Tibbetts: Thank you for having me.

>> C. Humphrey: Next we have Leah Baker. She works in the Washington office. She works with those states that are developing resource management plans. She leads the resolution of RMP protests and she is assistant project manager of Planning 2.0. And before she was in D.C., Leah worked right here in Phoenix at the District Office. She was a district Planning and Environmental Coordinator for four years and before that, she was an ePlanning specialist with the NOC in Denver for a couple of years. You might remember Leah. She was the first ePlanning trainer we ever had at the BLM. Hi, Leah.

>> L. Baker: Hi, good morning. Thanks for having me.

>> C. Humphrey: And also we have Jennifer Montoya. She's been with the BLM since 2008. She

works in the Las Cruces, New Mexico, office where she's the team lead for the Tri-county RMP and the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument RMP. Glad you could join us today, Jennifer.

>> J. Montoya: Thanks, Cathy. It's really nice to see you.

>> C. Humphrey: And finally, last but not least here in Phoenix, we have Chris Carlton. Chris started with the BLM in 2008. He's the district Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the Spokane District since 2013, and he was a Planning and NEPA program lead at the Wyoming State Office for five years before that. Chris is currently the lead for the Eastern Washington RMP revision and the San Juan Islands National Monument RMP, which sounds like a great job! Maybe the best job in the BLM. So y'all might recognize Chris. He's been with us a few times before. Nice to see you.

>> C. Carlton: Thanks, Cathy. It's great to be back.

>> C. Humphrey: Now we'll move north to Denver, Colorado. Phil Lowe is an attorney-advisor with the Office of the Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region in Lakewood, Colorado. Phil is formerly a hydro-geologist and environmental scientist and he was an attorney in private practice for 20 years before joining the Solicitor's office in 2007. He advises BLM legal and policy matters related to land use planning and conventional and renewable energy development. It's great to see you, Phil.

>> P. Lowe: Thanks very much. It's good to see you from cold and rainy, Denver, Colorado.

>> C. Humphrey: And now let's head way up north to Mike Gieryic. He's the attorney-advisor from the Office of the Solicitor, Alaska Region, in Anchorage; and apparently Denver is colder than Anchorage today! So for the last eight years, he has been providing the BLM and other bureaus with NEPA-related legal advice associated with large and controversial oil and gas, pipeline, road and mining projects in undeveloped areas of Alaska. He advises BLM Alaska on all the land use planning efforts. Because some of technical challenges, we can only see Mike's face in the pictures but we'll be hearing his voice. Can you hear us, Mike?

>> M. Gieryic: I sure can. Hello, everyone!

>> C. Humphrey: Great to have you.

Alright, that's our great panel for today. And as a reminder, one more time--we are going to answer questions about the NEPA Process, Streamlining the Process, Tiering / Incorporation by Reference / Adopting Analysis, Public and Interdisciplinary Team Involvement, and Alternatives.