

CONCLUSION

As with all Planning/NEPA Forums, today's program will be posted to our Knowledge Resource Center website and to the NEPA Training Corner Google site. And on the Google site, you can comment on how you think it went, specifically how your Livestreaming or satellite viewing experience was and then you can comment through the Metrics That Matter evaluation that you will get in your email, if you registered in DOI Learn.

And then the third part of our NEPA Problem-Solving series will be February 5th, and we'll have a new set of resource-specific NEPA questions. And so far our categories are: Grazing, Cultural, and Socio-econ. So if you have any questions on these topics or if you have any other resource-specific questions, for NEPA, send them to me.

And just one more thing I want to mention is -- soon we have a NEPA Training Assessment coming out so keep your eyes out for that. Because we want to see what your knowledge is on NEPA and see what other trainings we need to build for you. Okay. So that is it for housekeeping.

And now I would like to give our panel members one last shot at sharing some thoughts on NEPA problem solving. What I would like to do is start with Gloria, Gloria Tibbetts, Phoenix District Office. Do you have any practical pointers?

G. Tibbetts: Yeah, one little tidbit of advice that I would give is **Don't feel pressured to know all the answers right off the top of your head.** As NEPA practitioners you are never going to be able to answer all the abundant amounts of questions we're going to get throughout our careers. It's important to raise your awareness and be familiar with policy, regulations, training from the NTC, but, you know, go back and refer to those sources rather than trying to memorize everything and psyching yourself out. Because it's often better to go back and look at the actual language sometimes anyways. Sometimes we don't remember it exactly how it says and that wording can be very important sometimes.

>> C. Humphrey: Definitely. Thanks, Gloria.

And next to Michael Williams, of the Santa Fe unit of the Southwest Region of the Solicitor's Office. Any words to the wise?

M. Williams: Yes. If you are feeling lost or scared or twitterpated or if your manager says your analysis has to be exactly 10 pages, no more, no less, then I guess I just want you to know that you are not alone, and that there are people out there that can help you. Reach out to your state office P&EC, who can reach out in turn to the solicitor's office and we can work on these questions together. **NEPA should be collaborative and we should never feel alone with these issues.**

>> C. Humphrey: Thank you Michael.

And then now to Jerry Magee, Oregon/Washington State Office. Do you have any important insights?

Magee: We often get so caught up in the nuts and bolts of NEPA that we sometimes forget why we do it. It's worth re-familiarizing ourselves with Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act and that's often referred to as the Spirit of NEPA. The early drafts of the Act, of the National Environmental Policy Act, only focused on the spirit of NEPA before professor Caldwell was persuaded to add teeth in the form of Section 102's EIS requirements and all of our attention tends to focus just on that section. Let's take some time to periodically review the statements of national purpose, goals, and aspirations behind NEPA. **Remembering why we do what we do will increase our effectiveness, and promote doing the right thing for our environment, and by association, for our own well-being.**

>> C. Humphrey: Thanks, Jerry.

Now let's head to Washington, DC, to Leah Baker. Do you have any helpful hints?

L. Baker: Well, I don't know about helpful hints, but my final thoughts today are first of all, thank you very much, Cathy, for allowing me to participate with this group. As always, having these discussions helps me continue to strive to be a better NEPA practitioner and make me feel less lost and alone as Michael has said a few moments ago. [LAUGHTER]

And I think the theme of this broadcast that we keep coming back to, in addition to working with other NEPA practitioners and asking questions of all of those other great minds out there, is we also need to **reach out to our other program specialists and really take advantage of the ID teams both at our local, regional, state and national offices.** Because where NEPA ends, there is this whole world of program rules and regulations and they need to work in concert together, and sometimes they inform each other and sometimes they don't. So it's just to highlight the importance of working well with others in our big BLM family.

>> C. Humphrey: That was beautiful Leah.

And finally to Kerry Rodgers, our national BLM NEPA lead. Do you have any crucial clues to doing better NEPA?

K. Rodgers: I'm not sure about crucial clues, but building on Leah's thoughts, I would really encourage you, as you work through the significance challenges you face and some of the ones we discuss today to **engage with your ID teams and use Significance as a way to do that.** Input from specialists working in different programs can be invaluable as you try to determine whether a proposed action's impacts are significant. And working through tough questions on significance to determine the appropriate level of NEPA analysis can really give your ID team experience that will carry over to all of your NEPA work in terms of working

together and applying the NEPA requirements. So with that, I would also thank you for joining us today, and hope we'll see you at the February broadcast.

>> C. Humphrey: Thanks, Kerry.

And I hope each and every one of you out there were able to take away at least one tidbit of information to use in your future NEPA endeavors.

Thanks to Michael Williams, Jerry Magee, Gloria Tibbetts, Leah Baker, and Kerry Rodgers for participating today and especially thanks to you, to the audience, for your time and attention. We will see you back here in February for more NEPA problem solving.

>> This broadcast has been a production of the BLM National Training Center.