

NEPA SCOPING

Overview

Council on Environmental Quality Says:

- “The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our basic national charter for the protection and restoration of the environment.
- A ‘detailed statement’ is required of major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment (e.g. EIS)
- As part of the preparation of the EIS, NEPA requires that there be an **early and open process for determining the scope of the issues to be addressed by a study.**”

First Step

- “Scoping is often the first contact between proponents of a proposal and the public. This fact is the **power of scoping** and of the **trepidation** that it sometimes evokes.”
- “...people will not come forward unless they believe their views and materials will receive **serious consideration**. Thus, scoping is a **crucial first step in building public confidence** in a fair environmental analysis and ultimately a fair decisionmaking process.”

A Process, Not an Event

- “Scoping is a **process**, not an event or a meeting. **It continues throughout the planning for an EIS.**”
 - ▣ A listening process
 - ▣ You talk, Forest Service listens
- Doesn't end until the Decision Document (Record of Decision)

Why do Scoping?

- Determines the **scope** of the NEPA analysis
 - Good scoping leads to focused, analytical, concise NEPA documents and **facilitates good decisions** and faster schedules.
- Meets a primary purpose of NEPA:
 - **public involvement**

Scoping Can Help Define:

- Public & agency concerns, suggestions, data
- *Purpose & Need* for the action
- *Proposed Action*
- *Alternatives* to the Proposed Action
- *Affected Environment*
- *Possible Environmental Consequences*
- *Consultation* requirements
 - Tribes, US Fish & Wildlife Service, State Historic Preservation Office, etc.

There are no rules for Scoping comments...

Opportunity for anyone interested in the project to offer information, concerns, suggestions, issues that need to be considered in the EIS