

# Round Table Session

Deborah Chavez, Compiler

The round table session was designed for interaction between the presenters and other round table participants. Nine round tables, each capable of holding 10 participants were set up in one room. Presenters for the sessions were encouraged to lead discussions on one of many topics in these areas: visitor issues, human dimensions, management tools, and research issues. The session was moderated by Arthur Magill, USDA Forest Service.

## Visitor Issues

Four round tables addressed visitor issues. Carolyn Daugherty and Sidney Blunner led a discussion entitled **“Visitor Impacts: An Examination of Public Land Management Strategies,”** which focused on alternatives to lessen the impacts from the growing numbers of visitors to public lands. Topics included user fees, visitor quotas, national policies, funding alternatives, and other mechanisms. Geneen Granger led a discussion entitled **“Subsistence Use and Abuse in National Forests.”** The discussion focused mostly on impacts in Alaska.

Thomas Spencer led a group discussing **“ECO-Teams.”** Most of the discussion focused on the ECO-team approach on the Angeles National Forest and the impending startup of the team approach to environmental education on the San Bernardino National Forest.

Donald Stickers led a discussion entitled **“Social Issues in Conflict Resolution: The Case of Mountain Bikes.”** Information was shared on the status of conflict and ideas on what is working as this issue evolves. Participants generally agreed that conflicts are working themselves out as interaction between the groups improves with mutual understanding of goals.

Other issues discussed included wildlife conflicts, displacement of other users, the need for trail maps, and trends.

## Human Dimensions

Two groups discussed some current agency issues. Alan W. Ewert led a discussion entitled **“Human Dimensions Research in Federal Agencies”** and Robert Laidlaw and Harold Belisle led a discussion entitled **“Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Management.”**

## Management Tools

A discussion entitled **“Using a Geographic Information System (GIS) as an Analytical Tool for Decision Making”** led by Dorothy Albright and Robert E. Pfister focused on social, economic, and recreational values that may be added to GIS models. The goals of adding layers to these models is to give resource managers more information from which to make management decisions.

## Research Issues

Two discussions focused on research issues. The first, led by Elwood L. Shafer was entitled **“The Challenges of International Ecotourism Research.”**

The second discussion, led by Richard Hansis, Susan Lampe, and Ann Shlisky was entitled **“Methods for the study of a Social Assessment for the Lewis IRA Area.”**

The discussion centered on the methods used to discover the social values users have for the Integrated Resource Analysis (IRA) area. The methods included interviews and focus groups. Both methods helped bring stakeholders into the planning process at the earliest stages before any projects had been proposed. One issue raised in the discussion was accessing publics who are potential users or participants. The participants concluded that a random sample of the regional population would be the best method.