

Talking Points

Purpose:

These talking points are provided for line officers, RAP coordinators, public affairs officers and workshop facilitators to assist in their communication efforts with internal and external audiences regarding road analysis activities.

Other uses could include employee awareness to assist in their communications with personal outside contacts and in developing specific key messages for target audiences.

Talking Points:

- 1) Declining budgets have reduced our ability to maintain the forest roads currently in the system. There is a significant need to manage the size of the Forest transportation system.
- 2) Right now we are working on Forest level analysis.
- 3) We want your help.
- 4) The objective of the Road Management Policy is to determine and provide the minimum forest transportation system to best serve current and anticipated management objectives and public uses of National Forest lands as identified in existing land management plans and through the Roads Analysis Process. The interdisciplinary, science-based process provides responsible officials with critical information needed to identify and manage a minimum road system that is safe and responsive to public needs, is affordable, and has minimal adverse effects on ecosystem health.
- 5) The policy provides guidance for transportation planning, a framework from which sound management decisions can be made, but it does not dictate local land management decisions. Road management decisions are not a product of roads analysis. Rather, road management decisions must be informed by roads analysis and disclosed in an appropriate NEPA document.
- 6) The roads analysis is designed to be scaleable, flexible and driven by road-related issues important to the public. It uses a multi-scaled approach to ensure that these issues are examined in context. The scope and intensity of the road analysis is commensurate with the scope of the road management issues or concerns.
- 7) There are basically three scales of analysis: large scale (multi-forest or eco-region assessments), Forest scale (major transportation routes) and watershed/area scale (Level 1, 2 and unclassified roads). We have not scheduled large scale RAPs in this province at this time.
- 8) The policy includes objectives that specify social, economic and environmental values must be considered as part of the roads analysis.
- 9) Public and interagency involvement is an important part of the process at all scales.