



## Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

### Improving Species Recovery under the Endangered Species Act

### Improving Cultural Resources Protection under the National Historic Preservation Act Fact Sheet

#### What is Environmental Analysis and Decision Making?

The goal of the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) effort is to improve the health, diversity, resilience, and productivity of our national forests and grasslands by increasing the efficiency of our environmental analysis and decision-making procedures to accomplish more work on the ground. All Forest Service branches—the National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, Research and Development, and Business Operations—are fully engaged and committed to improving the processes and policies that guide environmental analysis and decision making.

Part of the EADM effort is identifying and implementing changes that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Doing so will allow the agency to spend more time on building partnerships, designing projects, and monitoring outcomes to recover listed species and improve the conservation of at-risk species on National Forest System lands.

The EADM effort is also working to identify ways to protect and improve the condition of cultural resources, as required under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). A NHPA task force is developing policy and procedures that allow the agency to better apply available information to inform the design of large projects and to streamline the compliance process.

Throughout the EADM effort, the Forest Service will continue to deliver safe, science-based, high-quality outcomes that honor the Forest Service's stewardship responsibilities.

#### Sense of Urgency – Species Recovery

A century of fire suppression, invasive species, drought, increasing temperatures, and other environmental changes and development of the wildland-urban interface are challenging ecosystem health and resiliency. The need to improve ecosystem health and resiliency on national forests and grasslands is critical now to ensure the recovery of threatened and endangered species and the sustainability of at-risk species.

Using previously identified issues and challenges and examples of success from across the country and from other federal agencies, an ESA task force recommended improvements for the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species on National Forest System lands. Additional feedback to help refine implementation of the initial high priority action items and other recommendations will ensure that regional and forest-level needs are addressed and will help build a strong foundation of support.

#### Protect and Improve – Cultural Resources

Improving the health, diversity, resilience, and productivity of national forests and grasslands involves activities that have the potential to effect cultural resources. The agency's robust knowledge base and strong relationships with Tribes, State Historic Preservation Offices, and other historic preservation advocates provide opportunities to develop more effective and meaningful ways to protect and improve the condition of cultural resources on National Forest System lands.

Improved procedures and policy will emphasize enhanced collaboration, partnership, and integration of cultural resources concerns into project designs. Application of the procedures will address costly delays incurred when compliance under the NHPA and State Historic Preservation Office consultation occurs after project design. The well-developed Forest Service Heritage Program supports the NHPA task force effort to improve historic place protection and create better outcomes for both cultural and natural resources.

