



Environmental Analysis and Decision Making Develop New Performance Standards—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 their processes and policies that guide environmental analysis and decision making, as well as developing performance standards that strengthen agency accountability and ensuring a commitment to and focus on agency goals.

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.

Develop New Performance Standards

The Forest Service wants to achieve outcomes rather than count outputs, while simultaneously reducing the time and resources devoted to environmental analyses and decision making. Well-designed performance standards can help line officers make choices leading to increased decision-making efficiencies that authorize management activities that result in desirable outcomes. In 2018, the following performance standard was developed for Forest Service line officers to help improve the health, diversity, resilience, and productivity of our national forests and grasslands:

Decrease the cost and completion time of environmental analysis and decision making by 10 percent as compared to Fiscal Year 2017.

The Fiscal Year 2018 performance standard will use existing data and information to track the level of effort devoted to environmental analysis and decision-making processes in the past and improve upon the quantity and quality of data and information collected in the future. Policy and guidance supporting the new performance standard encourages line officers to consider innovative and efficient ways to achieve the standard, ranging from reducing the amount and type of data and information collected during environmental analysis, to exploring new ways to engage and collaborate with partners and Tribes, to being more comfortable with perceived decision-making risks.

The agency is continuing to gather ideas on the nature and design of performance standards from line officers and key staff and seeking informal input from its partners. Forest Service Research and Development is providing technical assistance to identify the most productive management activities, and it is designing policies and programs that encourage improvements in EADM activities. Experts in the field of behavioral economics and behavioral science are being identified for discussions about the latest science and its applicability to the needs of the Forest Service.

