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Forest Summit - Wolcott/Peterson EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] Comments - February 26,  
1993

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FAX 456-2710

To: Katie McGinty  
From: Rob Wolcott/Tom Peterson EPA  
Subject: Comments on Forest Summit Process Outline  
Date: February 26, 1993

Dear Katie:

Please accept these comments regarding the summit process.

Tom and Rob both are available over the weekend for additional assistance. Tom can be reached at (703) 207-9674 or 1 (703) 364-1683, Rob at (301) 587-5725.

Some of general principles that might be helpful to consider during planning include:

- be comprehensive in terms of focus on all the relevant species, business sectors, markets, communities, and natural resources
- keep the process integrated by linking ecology, social concerns, economics, political analysis, management science, and law into a single policy framework; there is a compelling need for a comprehensive framework which incorporates the multiplicity of concerns for the President and Vice President
- think about tomorrow by recognizing what is wanted for the future in addition to what has occurred in the past
- recognize the interdependencies of resources, citizens, and organizations
- be collaborative in terms of participation among agencies and publics
- use transitions to minimize social costs of change instead of allowing them to be a binding constraint to change; make smart and moral changes in smart and moral way

With respect to the outline, please consider the following thoughts:

**GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE**

In selecting geographic scope, it might be helpful to consider overall goals of biodiversity protection, shared sacrifice, sustainability, and others in terms some of the following issues:

- Salmon runs extend into Eastside areas. It may not be possible to adequately address this biodiversity issue - either in ecological or legal terms - purely from the west side. The legal ramifications of a west side only approach should be examined in this regard (i.e. NEPA, ESA, CWA, NMFA, FLPMA).
- Significant timber supplies exist in the Eastside (although it is not entirely clear how merchantable they are). This increases the likelihood that Eastside timber harvests could be used to mitigate short term economic impacts of logging restrictions on the Westside.
- Use of Eastside timber areas would acknowledge that "regional" timber and labor markets functionally include these areas, and that it is analytically naive to assume otherwise.
- Employment and economic impacts could be distributed over a wider area, and perhaps dilute certain negative impacts.
- Errors in the analytical portion of the solution become smaller (more dilute) over a wider area.
- More resources are available on the broad scale, and therefore more options for achieving any specified end.
- With respect to western Idaho and Montana, it seems that these areas are similar to Eastside Oregon and Washington insofar as salmon migrations and forest ecosystems are concerned.

**OVERALL PROCESS**

One way to approach overall planning for the summit process might be to convene three interagency work groups to cover:

- press/media
- logistics/mechanics of the event(s)
- technical issues

Each of these might have subgroups as necessary and play a specific role during the pre-summit, summit event and post summit process.

## ANALYTICAL PROCESS

### Goals

It may help to set some broad goals at the outset to guide analysis. These could include achievement of:

- economic sustainability
- environmental sustainability
- improvements over baseline sustainability levels
- maintenance or enhancement of social equity

### Technical issues

One way to approach the analytical process might be to divide it into functional disciplines as follows:

- **ecology:**
  - ecology specific to individual species and populations (e.g. owls, salmon, Douglas fir)
  - for species groups and or communities (e.g. salmon runs by watershed)
  - and for ecosystems (e.g. old growth forest network, river systems)
- **economics:**
  - relevant natural resources (forestry, wildlife, fisheries, water, agriculture, energy)
  - relevant industries
  - regional economic functions
  - labor and employment
  - commercial technology and R&D

- trade and international impacts
- law:
  - legal compliance with all relevant laws (NEPA, NFMA, ESA, FLPMA, CWA, etc.)
- agency management and operations:
  - institutional issues of operating strategy, organizational structure, skill configurations, operating and incentive systems, corporate culture
  - interagency coordination and cooperation
  - EPA, FS, BLM, FWS, NMFS, Commerce, Labor, Education at both the D.C. and Regional level

#### Expert Work Groups

Expert working groups for the above areas could be organized quickly with the tasks of:

- providing a technical briefing for the President and Vice President, which includes:
  - policy framework (both technical and strategic)
  - key areas of focus
  - best available facts to fill in the framework (this might be a good way to resolve some of the factual disputes and inadequacies)
  - short and long term action plans for filling in facts where they are not currently adequate
- recommending and reviewing summit testimony
- acting as an advisory panel at the summit to assist the President and Vice President on site
- developing an integrated solution planning process
- advising and reviewing post summit solution planning
- conducting post summit planning

Depending on the circumstance, these expert work groups could be comprised either of federal agency experts, outside

experts, or a combination. Interagency workgroup members could coordinate and or lead these groups as appropriate.