



Sherwins Working Group

Process Description

Objective: Collaboratively developed proposal for trails and public access in the Sherwin Area Trails Special Study area (SATSS).

Proposed Process Steps: At each step, the Working Group will hold a facilitated meeting to discuss relevant matters and develop draft products. Between meetings, it is imperative that Working Group members review materials and discuss matters with concerned parties in order for subsequent discussions to be productive. Each meeting will provide time to share concerns identified since the last meeting and to revise products accordingly. The overall process is iterative and products will evolve based on reflection and constructive dialogue. The Inyo National Forest will ensure plans are made for implementation of the Working Group's proposal by undertaking appropriate next steps upon completion of the Working Group's efforts.

Step 1 – Identify Issues and Concerns

- Purpose is to identify those public issues and managerial concerns that relate to distinctive features and characteristics of the Sherwin area.
 - Sherwin Draft Special Study provides a framework for identification of public concerns and issues.
 - Primary task of step 1 is review and validation of SATSS data.
- Product is a narrative write-up addendum to SATSS identifying unique values and special opportunities in management of the Sherwin area and problems requiring special attention.

Step 2 – Define and Describe Opportunity Zones

- Purpose of this step is to define a series of opportunity zones for the Sherwin area. An opportunity zone provides a qualitative description of the kinds of resource and social conditions acceptable for that zone and a description of the type of management activity considered appropriate.
 - Opportunity zones provide an opportunity to focus discussion on trade-offs from an interest-based perspective rather than an emphasis on individual uses. This step allows us to begin building a framework for collaboration.
 - Opportunity zones provide a finer-scale container for discussion of interests and a determination of appropriate uses.
- Product is a narrative description of resource, social and managerial conditions defined as appropriate and acceptable for each opportunity zone.

Step 3 – Select Indicators/Threshold for Resource and Social Conditions

- Purpose of this step is to identify indicators – specific variables that, singly or in combination, are indicative of overall opportunities.
 - This step provides an opportunity for a discussion about limits of acceptable change and to clarify expectations (i.e., dog walker may desire a location with specific characteristics, equestrians with different characteristics, and so on; however, each interest will have a threshold of acceptability).
- Product is a map/narrative of existing conditions for each indicator.

Step 4 – Inventory Existing Resource and Social Conditions

- Purpose of this step is to validate assumptions/conclusions in the first two steps with the broader public.
 - This step has the people at the table in a collaborative process to engage the broader public and ensure perspectives are broad, inclusive and account for the concerns of those who may have entered the process late or have been unable to participate.
- Product is a refined map and list of existing conditions for each indicator throughout the Sherwin area.

Step 5 – Identify Alternative Opportunity Zone Allocations

- Purpose of this step is to decide what resource and social conditions are to be maintained or achieved in the Sherwin are. This is a prescriptive step – it is concerned with establishing what should be, and input from the public and Forest Service informs this step.
- Products are maps and tabular summaries of alternative opportunity-zone allocations.

Step 5 – Identify Management Actions for Each Alternative

- Purpose of this step is to identify the differences, if any, that exist between current conditions and objectives in opportunity zones by alternative.
- Product is a list or map of management actions by alternative needed to meet opportunity-zone objectives.

Step 6 – Evaluate and Select a Preferred Alternative

- Purpose of this step is to identify a preferred alternative. This will be the Sherwin Working Group’s collaborative proposal.
- Product is a proposed final allocation of opportunity zones and selection of management/facilities program for analysis in NEPA and implementation.