

CRM Guidelines

1. Above all we must emphasize the following four cardinal rules of CRM.

- Management by consensus - The entire CRM committee must reach a unanimous agreement on management decisions.
- Commitment - The entire CRM committee must be committed towards the process.
- Involvement - All natural resource managers, users, and owners of the proposed CRM areas must be invited to participate in the process.
- Express needs not position - Management decisions must be based on sound technical knowledge and expertise rather than by political or emotional decisions. Management decisions are based on resource needs and not by agency policies or positions.

2. Planning is done with people, not for people. Participants in CRM should be involved from beginning to end.

3. Make sure the entire group is involved on the consideration of each resource. The group should follow an outline format listing each small area of interest (for example, "nesting habitat for sage grouse"), listing problems, reaching consensus on objectives and making decisions as to what to do about them. Determinations should be written in longhand at the meeting, so consensus is not garbled as a result of post-meeting editing. (See Coordinated Resource Management Checklist).

4. State problems clearly and specifically, make objectives specific, make actions measurable and practical. Refer to stated goals regularly to keep the group going in the same direction and to diffuse "petty" arguments. (See Coordinated Resource Management Checklist)

5. Emphasize natural resources, land management and related problems:

vegetation - include production, use, conservation and quality of forage, habitat, timber, etc.

soil - erosion, fertility

water - quantity, quality, timing, use, distribution

wildlife - population levels, migration, critical areas

land use - livestock grazing, cropping, recreation, intensive development

Include other issues or problems in the planning area as they occur and affect the listed items. (See Coordinated Resource Management Checklist)

6. When problems such as zoning, roads and people management are present on the planning area:

- The CRM committee can refer these problems to county government for action by majority decision.
- If decisions on these problems are major issues and directly affect plan progress,

county government officials may be invited to become part of the planning group.

7. If a problem is recognized that is:

- outside the expertise of the local planning group;
- one that is highly technical or specialized;
- something that needs to be extensively researched,

and needs to be considered as a part of the coordinated plan, seek outside assistance and have this item handled by a separate subcommittee. Do not let the planning process get "side tracked" on complex, controversial or other issues beyond the plan goal and objectives. Have the subcommittee chairman gather facts, propose alternatives, outline their impact on the plan and present this information for consideration by the entire planning group.

8. Emphasize the soil/water/animal/plant inventory approach and consider the ecosystem on a physical rather than political unit basis: (See Coordinated Resource Management Checklist)

- Identify resources, values and uses, soil, vegetation, topography, water, structures, wildlife, livestock, other;
- Assess their condition and potential
- Assess natural and political limitations;
- Evaluate how management can be improved to solve problems given these factors
- Determine how demands on resources by all interest groups can be met on the planning area;
- Try to establish a total resource management plan for the area.

9. Concentrate on management issues that occur on the planning area and that can be solved within the planning area.