



Land Use Planning, Organization, and Management (E2) Working Group

October 2006

The E2 Working Group was developed to promote the understanding of how an organization anticipates the future, and how it adapts its activities, structure, and function in order to become an effective land management organization.

The Working Group's web site is: <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/Warnell/Bettinger/saf/e2.htm>

E2 Working Group News

Working Group assists with review of USFS Northern Region scheduling process

The USFS Northern Region asked the SAF to conduct a blind, external, independent review of their process for scheduling of vegetation management activities in their recent forest plan revisions. The process concerns the seven National Forest plans in Montana, Idaho and Washington. Dr. Pete Bettinger (University of Georgia) was asked to coordinate the reviews, using experts in the field of forest planning and management. A synthesis of the blind reviews was provided to the Forest Service in September.

The review was designed to:

- Focus primarily on the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology, as well as uncertainties and limitations of information.
- Take into account variables such as time, staffing, and budget of the U.S. Forest Service.
- Determine whether the best available science is used in the forest plan revisions.
- Determine whether the substantial uncertainties and risks are acknowledged.
- Determine whether science was appropriately interpreted and applied.

Working Group Activity

2006 National Convention

On Thursday, October 26, the Working Group facilitated a technical session at the National Convention entitled "Influence of Information Technology on Land Management Planning."

The presenters and their topics were:

- Technology advancement in land management planning: a dual-edged sword
Pete Bettinger, University of Georgia
- Influence of information technology on land management planning - the Maine perspective
Jeremy Wilson, University of Maine
- Influence of information technology on land management planning - the Virginia perspective
Richard Oderwald, Virginia Tech

2006 Working Group Meeting

The annual Working Group meeting was held at 5 PM on October 26, at the convention center in Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting was short.

2007 National Convention

The 2007 National Convention will be held in Portland, OR on October 23-27, 2007. The call for papers opens November 15, 2006 and closes February 14, 2007. Please visit the SAF website (http://www.safnet.org/natcon-07/presenters/Call_presenters.pdf) for instructions on submitting a presentation (or poster) abstract for potential inclusion on the program.

The E2 Working Group will coordinate a Program Track of technical presentations in the area of "Measurement Technology for Management and Planning." Land management relies on accurate resource measurements. Technological advancements improve the ability to make resource measurements efficiently, including using LIDAR, aerial photography, and ground-based GPS, in support of management and planning activities. We expect to develop several technical sessions around this theme. Please contact Michael Wing for more information on this Program Track.

Future Conferences of Interest

INFORMS Annual Meeting

November 5-8, 2006 - Pittsburgh, PA
<http://www2.informs.org/Conf/Pittsburgh06/index.htm>

Decisions for Sustainability: Forest Estate Models for the Future

June 12-14, 2007 - Victoria, British Columbia
<http://www.femc2007.net/>

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