

# **Innovative Trends in Strategic Environmental Assessment in the United States:**

**Federal Land Management Agencies  
Are Leading the Way**

**IAIA 2004**

**Vancouver, British Columbia**

**by**

**Ronald Bass  
Jones & Stokes**

**PA-134**





# **Ronald Bass, J.D., A.I.C.P.**

Jones & Stokes

78 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Ashland, Oregon, USA

Telephone: (541) 488-5767

Fax: (541) 488-3278

Email: [rbass@jsanet.com](mailto:rbass@jsanet.com)



# Federal Land Management Agencies

## U.S. Forest Service

- ♦ National Forests

National Forest Management Plans



## U.S. Bureau of Land Management

- ♦ Resource Areas

Resource Management Plans



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- ♦ Wildlife Refuges

Comprehensive Conservation Plans



## National Park Service

- ♦ National Parks

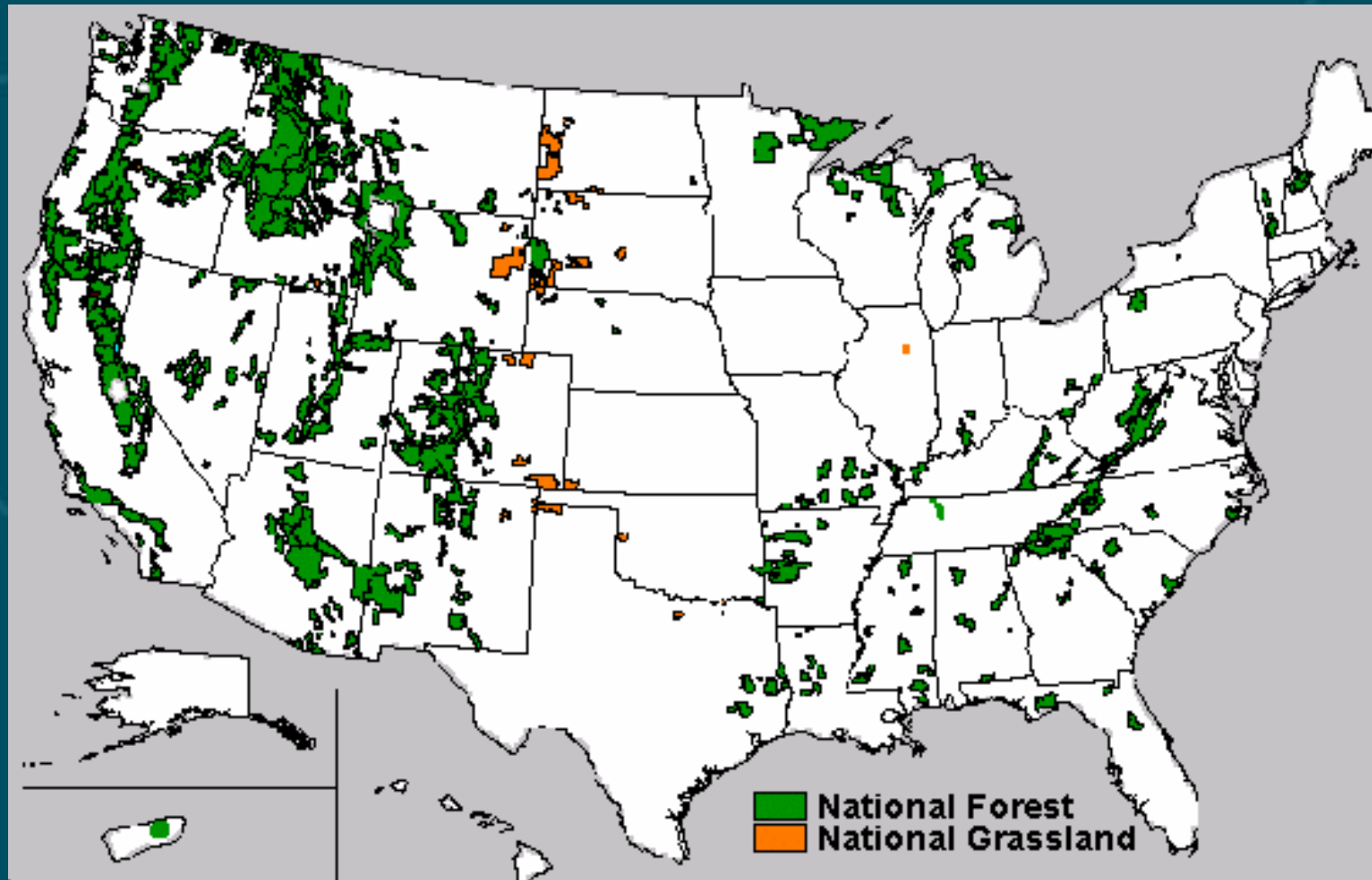
General Management Plans



# Legal Framework for Federal Land Management

Agency	Acres Managed (Approx in millions)	Type and number of planning units	Planning Law	Planning Handbook And web site
U.S Forest Service	200	Forests 156 Grassland 20	National Forest Management Act	<a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/">http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/</a> NFMA New Land and Resource Management Prototype
Bureau of Land Management	270	Resource Areas 59 Monuments 15	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	<a href="http://www.blm.gov/planning/policy_flpma.html">http://www.blm.gov/planning/policy_flpma.html</a> BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1
National Park Service	83	Parks 54 Historic Sites 103	National Park Service Organic Act	<a href="http://planning.nps.gov/tools.cfm">http://planning.nps.gov/tools.cfm</a> Director's Order # 2 of National Park Planning Guidance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	90	Wildlife Refuges 530	National Wildlife Refuge System Administrative/Improvement Act	<a href="http://refuges.fws.gov/policyMakers/NWRpolicies">http://refuges.fws.gov/policyMakers/NWRpolicies</a>

# U.S. Forest Service National Forests and Grasslands

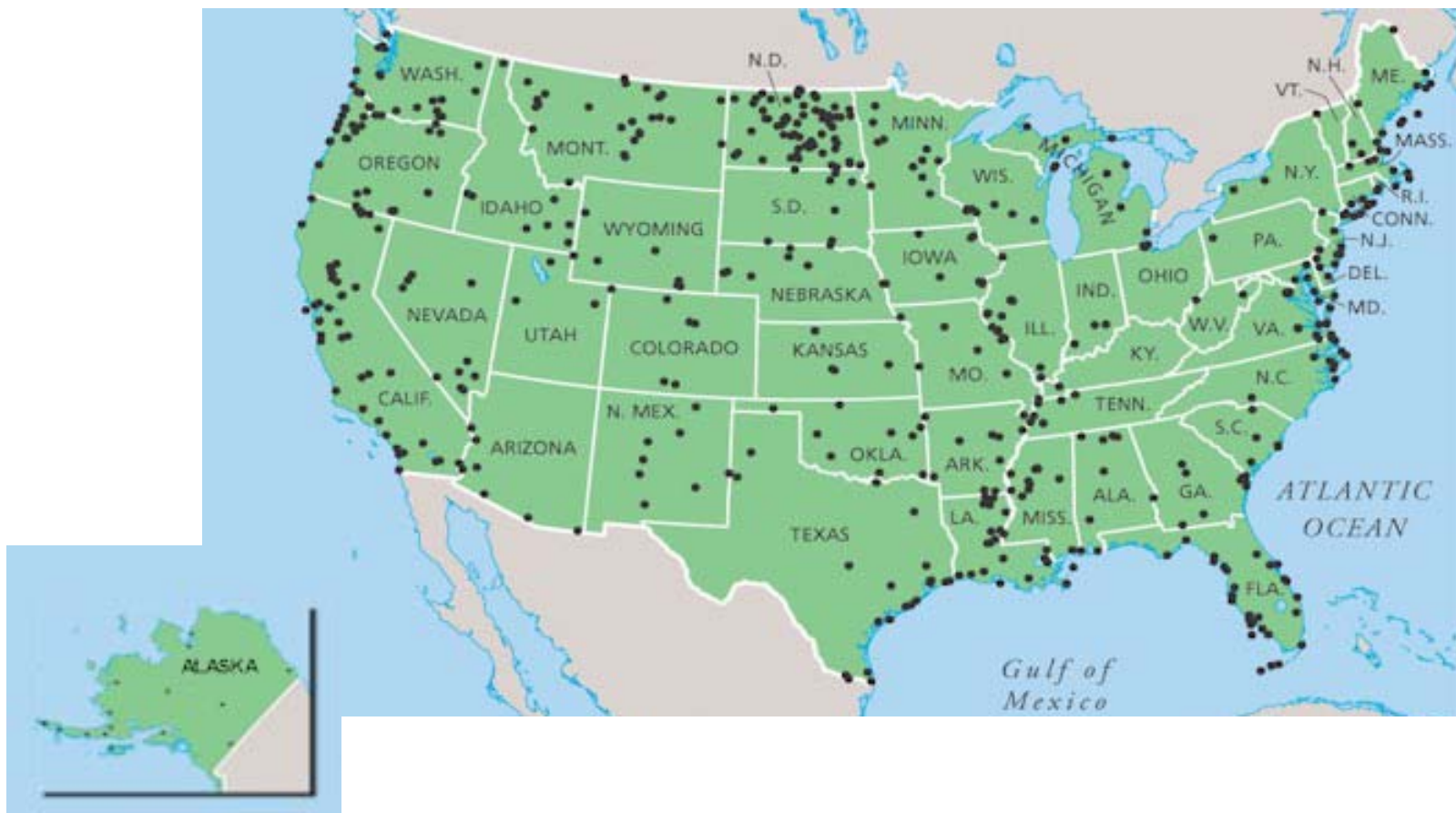




# National Park Service National Parks Map



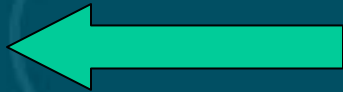
# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges



# Under NEPA

## Definition of “Federal Action” Includes:

- Policies
- Programs
- **Plans**
- Projects
- Funding
- Approval of private activities



# Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements on Land Use Plans (Submitted to EPA for Review in 2003)



USFS

14



BLM

20



NPS

23



USF&WS

0 \*

**USF&WS typically prepares a comprehensive conservation plan relying on Environmental Assessment rather than an EIS**

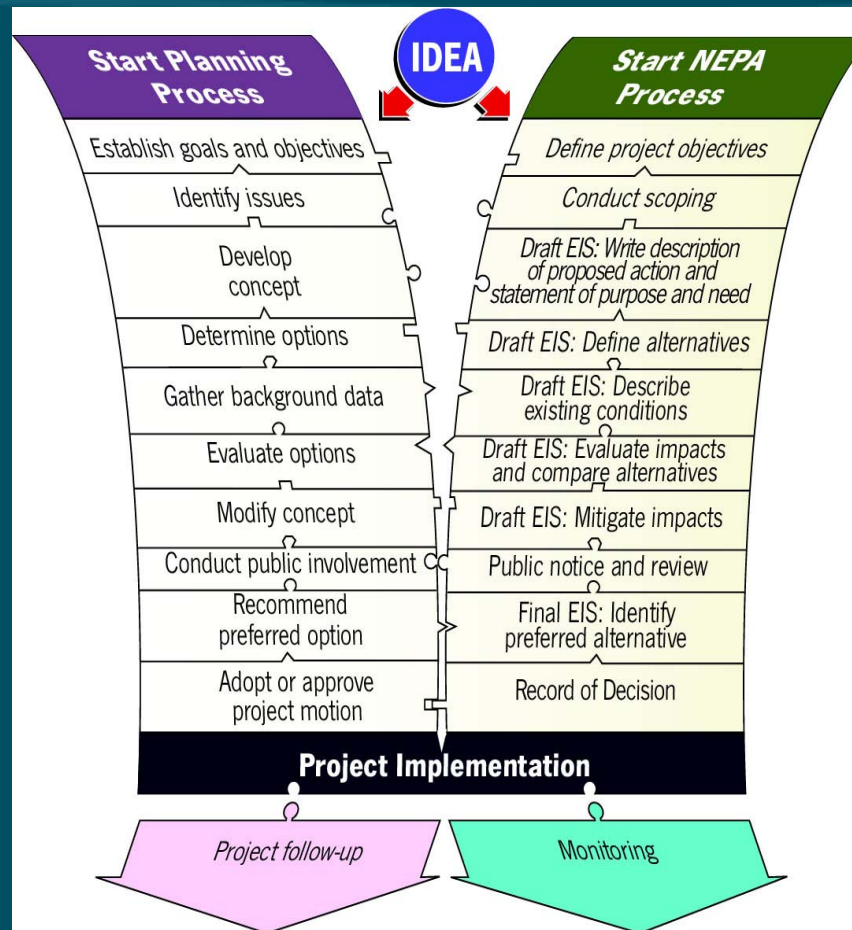
# Trends

## Collaborative Planning

- ◆ Increased involvement of State and Local agencies
- ◆ Increased involvement of Native American Tribes
- ◆ Increased use of:
  - Scoping
  - Public Meetings
  - Task Forces/committees
- ◆ Consensus-based management

# Trends

## Total Integration between EIA and Land Use Planning



# Trends

## Integration between Planning and Other Laws

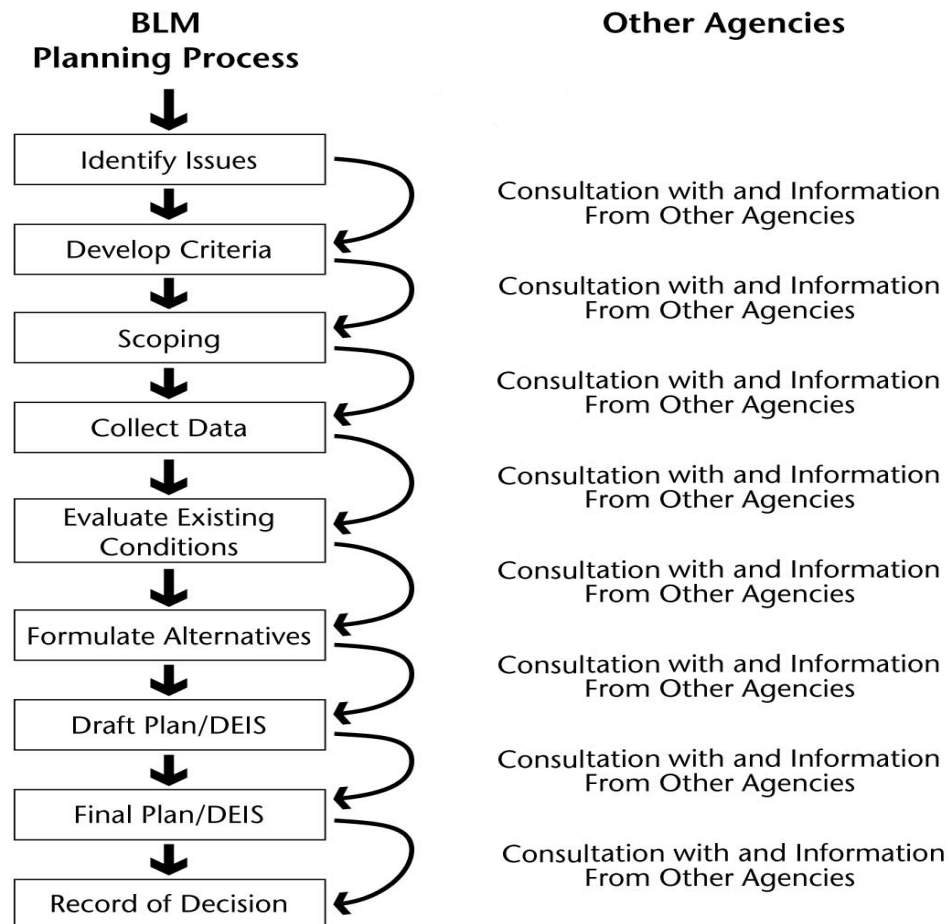
- ◆ Endangered Species Act
- ◆ Clean Water Act
- ◆ Clean Air Act
- ◆ National Historic Preservation Act
- ◆ Wilderness Act
- ◆ Wild and Scenic Rivers Act



# Trends

## Integration with Other Laws

### What Does Integration Mean



# Trends

## Distinguishing Program-Level Analysis from Project-Level Analysis

NEPA Requirement	Programmatic Documents	Project-Level Documents
Tier	First-tier	Second-tier
Proposed Action	The entire plan including goals, objectives, actions, and maps	Specific proposed activity or facility
Alternatives	Built into the plan; typically have different objectives	Differing ways to meet the same objective
Affected Environment	Broad geographic area	Individual site and surroundings
Main impact focus	Cumulative Effects	Direct and Indirect Effects
Mitigation Measures	Conceptual and built-into the plan	Specific and typically added to a proposed action





# Trends

## Use of Prototypes and Models

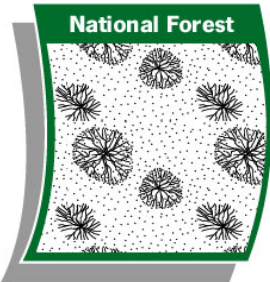

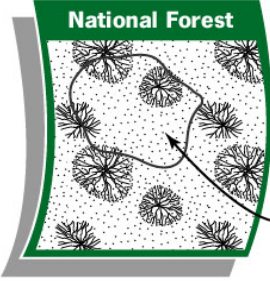
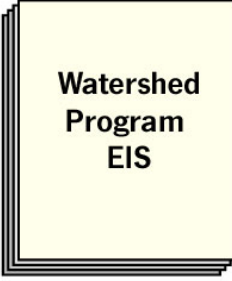
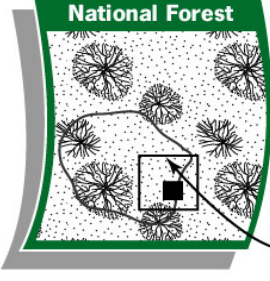
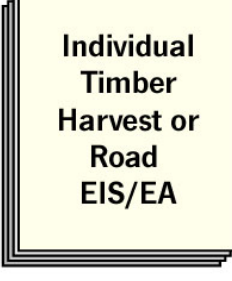
### U.S. Forest Service

<http://maps.fs.fed.us/fp/r2/arnf/>

1. **Model Principles** of National Forest Planning
2. **Prototype** NFMA Forest Plan—Charting a New Path (Power Point Presentation)
3. **Foundations of Forests Planning**—Vol. 1, Model of a Forest Plan
4. **Foundations of a Forest Planning**—Vol. 2, Building a Forest Plan
5. **Plan Example**—The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

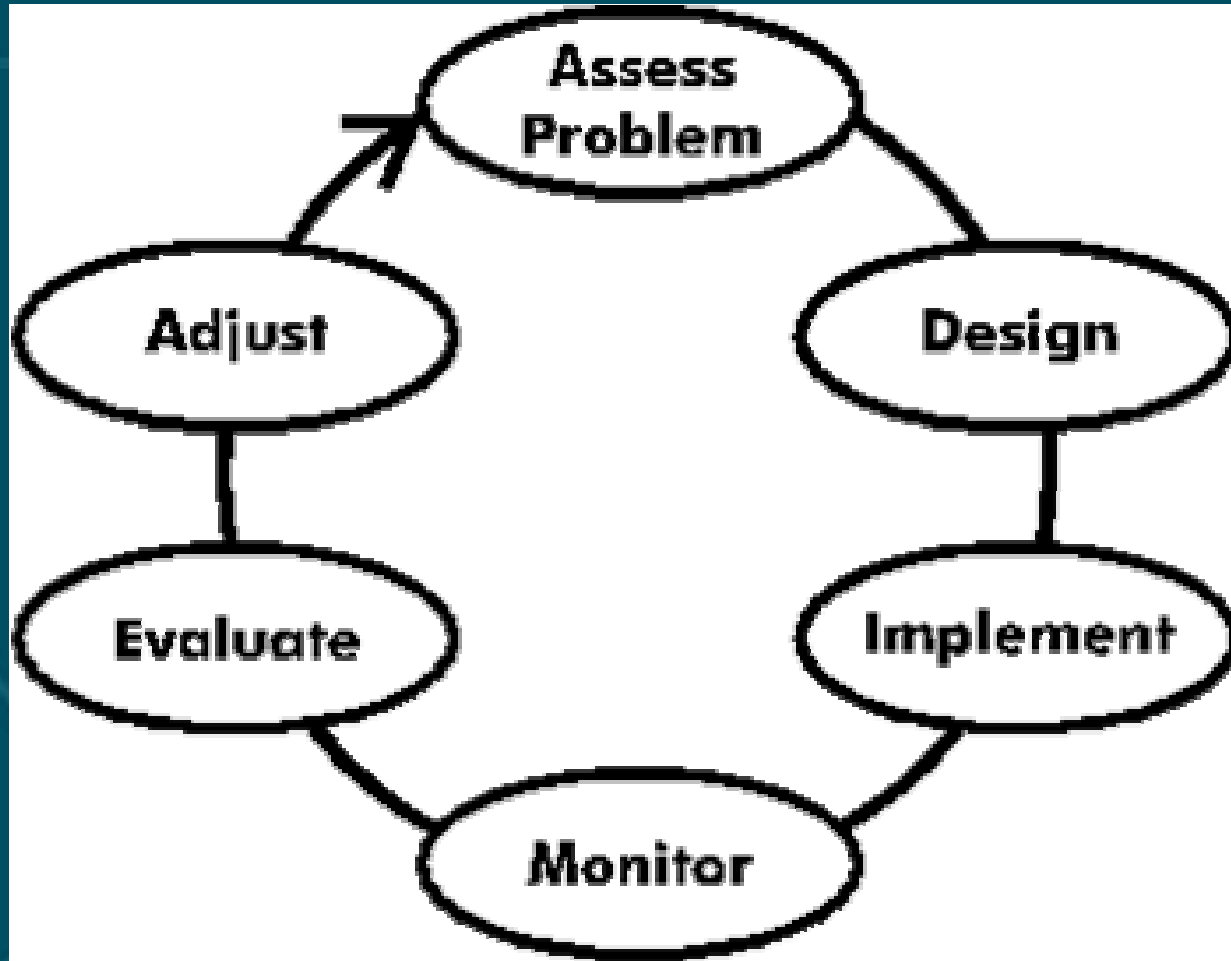
# Trends

## Tiering and Other “Streamlining” Tools

Tier	Study Area	Document	Focus of Document
Tier 1			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jurisdiction-wide affected environment</li> <li>• Jurisdiction cumulative impacts</li> <li>• Jurisdiction-wide mitigation measures (policies and programs)</li> </ul>
Tier 2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation by reference</li> <li>• Program area setting</li> <li>• Program area impacts</li> <li>• Program-level mitigation performance criteria</li> </ul>
Tier 3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation by reference</li> <li>• Project site setting</li> <li>• Project site impacts</li> <li>• Project-specific mitigation measures</li> </ul>

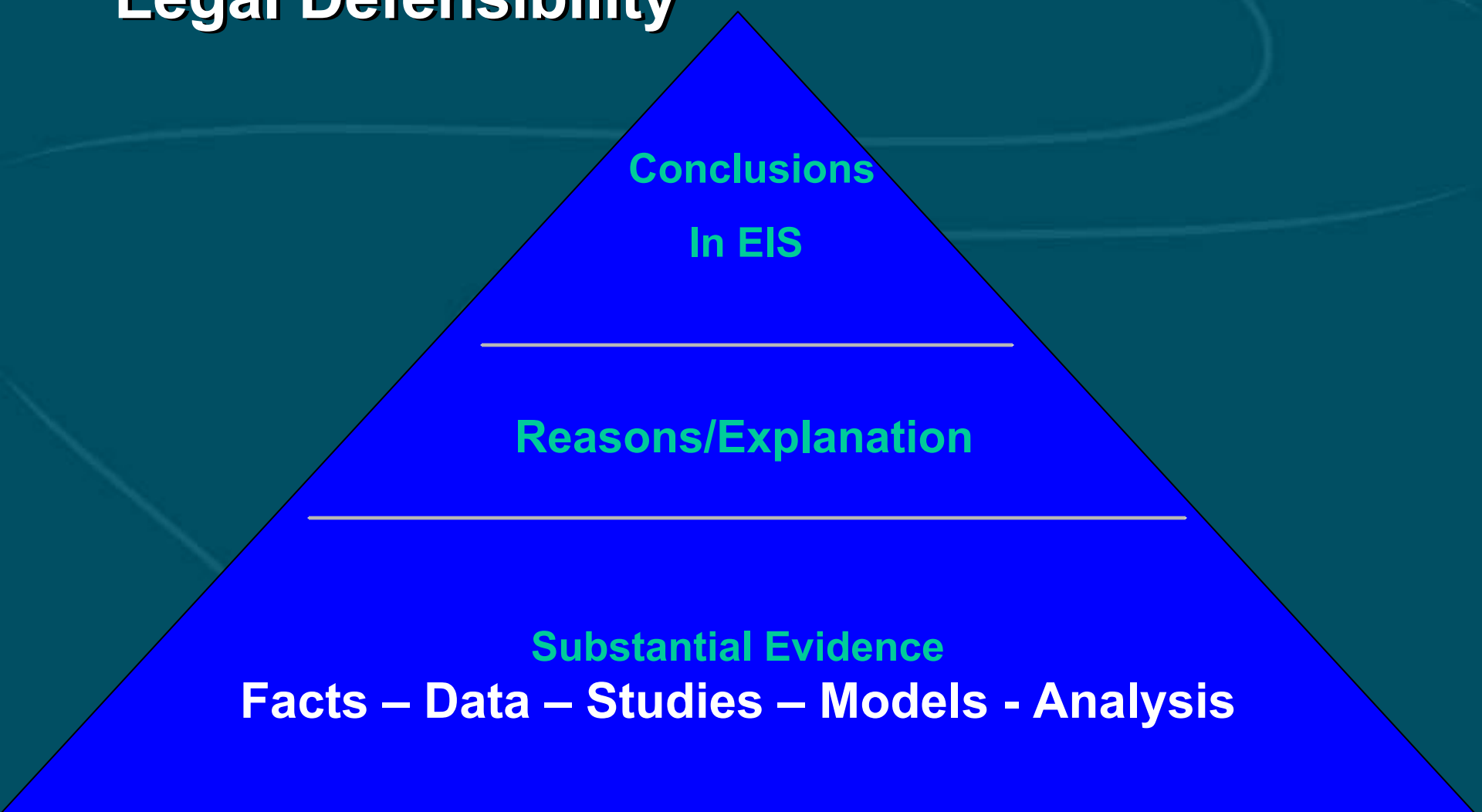
## Trends

# Adaptive Management



# Trends

## Legal Defensibility



Conclusions  
In EIS

Reasons/Explanation

Substantial Evidence  
Facts – Data – Studies – Models - Analysis

# Trends

## Use Information Technology, Especially GIS



## Trends

# Evaluating “Environmental Justice”

Environmental Justice: “Fair and equitable treatment of people, regardless of race and income level, in the implementation of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”

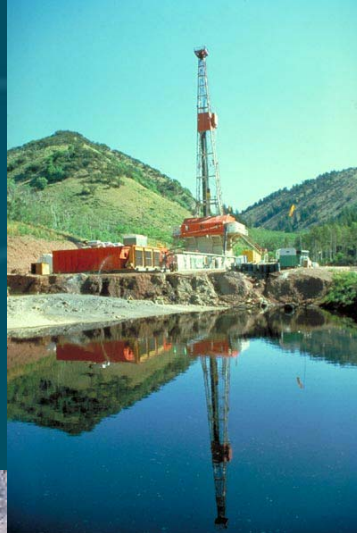


# **Environmental Justice: The Fundamental Question**

Would the proposed action result in environmental impacts to low income or minority populations that are disproportionately high or adverse as compared to the impacts on the general population?

# Trends

## Contemporary Land Use Issues Facing Facing Federal Land Managers



Thank you for attending

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## Innovative Trends in Strategic Environmental Assessment in the United States

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U.S.



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### Office Locations



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