

Governor's Task Force
on Forests
Stakeholder
Assessment

Purpose of Assessment

- Understand the task force members' perspectives on the health of Wyoming's forests, as well as what actions could be taken to benefit these forests
- Understand participants' desired outcomes from the task force
- Identify potential areas of conflict and craft strategy to address these areas productively



Questions

- What does “forest health” mean to you? How do you perceive the health of Wyoming’s forests?
- What do you think are some actions that the task force should recommend that will benefit Wyoming’s forests?
- What are your desired outcomes from this task force in one year? Five years? Ten?
- Do you have any logistical constraints regarding your participation on the task force?
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Findings

- A wide spectrum exists among task force members' perceptions on the health of forests within Wyoming
- This difference of opinion on the current health of the forests leads to differing opinions on what management actions should be recommended
- Several task force members have of a strong sense of urgency and want to see management actions taken immediately, while others feel that an assessment period must first be undertaken



Findings

- Task force members have differing opinions on the appropriate scope of the recommendations, i.e. local versus federal management
- Many task force members expressed a lack of certainty and understanding on the science and regulatory framework associated with forests in Wyoming
- Participation on the task force is a high priority for most task force members, but advanced scheduling will be necessary.



Recommendations

Task Force should address areas of potential conflict early on in the process. These issues include:

- Evaluation of available data and remaining information needs
- Timelines for developing and implementing management actions
- The scope of the recommendations
- The purpose, methods, and scale of forest treatments and other human interactions with the forests

