

The Lead Partnership Group's Principles of Community-Based Forestry

Process

1. Resource management must be guided by a commitment to environmental health and social well-being.
2. Consensus-based processes and decision making are central to community-based groups; where consensus does not exist, other civil democratic processes must be used.
3. Multiple and public stakeholders—those people who identify themselves and their interests as being linked with forest ecosystems -- have the right and responsibility to be involved in forest management.
4. Community-based groups have the continuing responsibility to encourage a broad diversity of interests within the group.
5. All communities—whether place-based or interest-based—must recognize that all interests (including local communities) have the right to access and use decision-, rule-, law-, and policy-making processes.
6. Communities of interest have a legitimate interest with place-based processes: their participation in community-based processes has the potential to improve social, economic, and environmental health in addition to fostering agency, industry, and community accountability.
7. Management and regulatory agencies should incorporate place-based and interest-based knowledge, skills, and perspectives into their planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
8. Workers' issues are an integral part of community forestry. Forest and watershed workers have the right to living-wage compensation; decent working conditions; worker accountable representation in affairs that affect their health, safety, and terms of employment; and a responsibility to participate in the protection and enhancement of ecosystem integrity.
9. The social, educational, economic, and environmental benefits derived from community-based forestry should be produced in a manner designed to increase the capacity of local communities of place so as to maintain these benefits for local, regional, and national communities.

Policy And Institutions

- 10.A. Community-based groups will uphold environmental laws and regulations, and work to improve environmental and social justice.
 - B. Future environmental laws and regulations should be established with the active involvement of multiple stakeholders—urban and rural, at the national and local levels—while considering international communities.
- 11.A. Public lands should remain public and be managed for long-term sustainability.
 - B. Government agencies whose mission it is to manage these lands should improve their performance and potential as national stewards.
12. Ecosystem management must be responsive to both private and public rights and responsibilities.
13. When communities of place and communities of interest agree, federal agencies have an obligation to facilitate implementation. When there isn't agreement, agencies have a responsibility to facilitate democratic and transparent processes to make decisions.

Monitoring

- 14.A. The choice of monitoring process affects social well-being and environmental health. All-party, multi-party, or third-party monitoring that is open to all should be adopted as a managerial standard.
 - B. Adaptive management should be implemented as a managerial standard. Monitoring that is open and accessible to all is essential to improve learning and future management.
 - C. The effects of land management—active or passive—must be monitored and evaluated at multiple spatial and temporal scales.

Stewardship

15. Forest-based industry that is both responsive and accountable to the needs of forest ecosystems and forest communities is necessary and valuable.
- 16.A. Local knowledge (experience, information, expertise) and perspectives together with sound science can improve management.
 - B. Local residents of forest communities are intrinsic to effective forest stewardship and must have the opportunity to be involved in forest planning, evaluation, monitoring and restoration.
17. It is in the regional and national interest to support local capacity for stewardship.

Reinvestment

- 18.A. Healthy ecosystems benefit society. Reinvesting in maintenance and restoration of ecosystems is the responsibility of all beneficiaries.
 - B. Distant users through government and market mechanisms must also be responsible for reinvestment in maintenance, restoration, and remediation of ecosystems that produce clean water and clean air from which they draw shared social and environmental benefits.
 - C. Exclusive reliance on user fees to maintain ecosystem health is insufficient and inequitable; it changes the fundamental relationship between the public and public lands, and should be avoided.