

TFW GROUND RULES

Current 6/27/97

Appendix IV: Ground Rules

Each of the participants to these discussions agree to these ground rules:

1. We will attempt to develop a system which provides:
 - a. Minimum guarantees for everyone,
 - b. Incentives which maintain and enhance timber, fisheries, and wildlife resources, and
 - c. Future flexibility, accountability, better management, compliance with regulations and resource goals.
2. All participants in the negotiation are to bring with them the legitimate purposes and goals of their organizations. All parties recognize the legitimacy of the goals of others and assume that their own goals will also be respected. These negotiations will try to maximize all the goals of all the parties as far as possible.
3. This effort will receive priority attention, staffing and time commitments.
4. Give the same priority to solving the problems of others as you will you own.
5. Commitment to search for opportunities; without creativity there will be no plan or agreement.
6. Commitment to listen carefully; ask questions to understand and make statement to explain or educate.
7. All issues identified by any party must be addressed by the whole group.
8. State needs, problems and opportunities, not positions - positive candor is a little used but effective tool. If a caucus does not agree, don't say no without offering reasons why and alternatives.
9. Commitment to attempt to reach consensus on a plan. TFW uses a consensus process, which means that each caucus must agree to each proposal. Acceptance of a proposal means that the caucus can live with all parts of that proposal, and that the caucus will actively implement all parts of that proposal. Caucuses will be polled on each proposal. If all caucuses do not accept a proposal. It fails.

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10. Commitment to be an advocate for an agreed plan.
11. Attempt to protect each other and the process politically with constituencies and the general public.
12. Weapons of war are to be left at home (or at least at the door).
13. Anyone may leave the process and the above ground rules, but only after telling the entire group why. If consensus cannot be reached on an issue or overall proposal after diligent effort, it will either continue to be modified until all can accept it and implement it, or it will be released to go to another forum. Release of an issue is an explicit action on which caucuses will be polled. Release will be accompanied either by (a) a specifically agreed upon statement explaining the status of the issue, including any partial agreement or (b) by the default statement that no consensus was reached on the issue and no caucus is bound by any part of any partial agreement related to the issue. Final acceptance of any proposed major agreement resides with the governing boards of the members of each caucus. Each caucus decides how it will govern itself in reaching caucus decisions.
14. Each caucus should designate one press contact person, and the media will be directed to these designated contacts. Caucuses are free to talk to the press, but they should not negotiate their positions (or lobby their positions) in the press. At the closure of any TFW issue, the caucuses should agree on what message to give out, and not to give out: each caucus should make a good faith effort to respect the agreement. Affirmative statements should be drafted at the end of each Policy Group meeting as a common position to provide the press when needed. Everyone will be mindful of the impacts their public and private statements will have on the climate of this effort. A proactive approach should be used to get the word out to define the problems and explain what TFW is doing to resolve issues. This approach includes taking the message to the editorial boards.
15. No participant will attribute suggestions, comments or ideas of another participant to the news media or non-participants.
16. All rights, remedies, positions, and current prejudices are available to everyone if the effort is unsuccessful.
17. Participants are free to, and in fact are encouraged to, seek the best advice from their friends and associates informed of the progress of the discussions.
18. All of the individuals who are participants accept the responsibility to keep their friends and associates informed of the progress of the discussions.