



Working together to plan for the future

Work Group: Environmental Review Workgroup (ERWG)
Staff Liaison: Liisa Itkonen

Purpose:

The purpose of the Environmental Review Workgroup is to share data, consider environmental goals and community values early in the long-range planning process, and identify potential environmental mitigation strategies to help restore and maintain environmental functions affected by projects in the long-range transportation plan. The environmental review is aimed at creating a seamless decision-making process that minimizes duplication of effort, promotes environmental stewardship, and reduces delays in project implementation.

Tasks:

1. Share (provide access to) the most up-to-date regional data available about the environment and natural resources in Ada and Canyon Counties that could impact, or be impacted by, transportation projects.
2. Provide input into regional ecological goals and priorities.
3. Advise about potential impacts to protected resources or conservation and restoration priorities associated with “what if” transportation scenarios.
4. Help identify strategies to avoid or minimize direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of transportation projects.
5. Help identify areas where partners may be able to work together to mitigate transportation impacts across multiple resources of concern.

Deliverables, Schedule:

1. Data updates. (ongoing)
2. Ecological goals and priorities for the region. (December 2019)
3. Description of potential environmental impacts associated with “what if” scenarios. (March 2020)
4. Draft of strategies to avoid or minimize direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of transportation projects. (September 2020)

Membership:

Membership in the ERWG will be drawn from federal, state, and local environmental and resource agencies, and member agency staff with appropriate expertise.

Charter recommended by Executive Committee: June 4, 2019

Charter approved by COMPASS Board: August 26, 2019

Next planned review of charter by Executive Committee: June 2020

All decisions and recommendations of COMPASS workgroups are reached through consensus and there are no quorum requirements for workgroups. All workgroup meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Individuals interested in attending should contact the staff liaison to obtain the scheduled meeting dates and planned agendas.