

Pathways to Address Concerns

This Pathways document is attached to the SG Plan as a summary reference but is not incorporated as part of the SG Plan. Therefore, the SG Plan controls with respect to any conflict between this document and the SG Plan.

There are 4 potential paths to elevate the Plan, each with its own trigger and voting protocol, but for all, the elevation includes an option for mediation, a Review Committee with non-binding guidance, and GC follow-up to review next steps or terminate the Plan.

Four Paths to Elevate the Plan:

1. Failure to Meet ORV Indicators - (SG Plan §§ IV(C) and (D) and VI(J)).

Trigger: Data affirmatively demonstrating that an ORV has been impaired by virtue of an ORV Indicator not being met.

Step 1: GC vote: at least 5/6 vote that further action is NOT warranted. (SG Plan § VI(J)(4)(2))

YES. **Elevation stops.** (SG Plan § VI(J)(4)(2))

NO. **Go to Elevation Steps.**

2. Significant Risk of Impairment

Trigger: When “one or more of the ORVs is faced with an imminent risk of material diminishment due to circumstances under the control of the Plan.” (SG Plan, Definitions)

Step 1: Any stakeholder may raise this to the SG pursuant to the “Tier 3 SG Deliberation Process.” This requires submission of a written request with supporting information. (SG Plan § IV(C))

Step 2: GC deliberates: 6/6 resolution of the issue, or 6/6 determination that there is no significant risk. (SG Plan §VI(J)(3))

YES. **Elevation stops.**

NO. Go to Step 3.

Step 3: Is there at least 5/6 vote that there is a Significant Risk of Impairment?

NO. **Elevation stops.**

YES. **Go to Elevation Steps**

3. Unresolved Concerns and Failure to Reach Consensus

Trigger: Unresolved concerns “material to implementation of the Plan or to the status of the ORVs.” (SG Plan § IV(C))

Step 1: Any stakeholder may raise an issue for the SG to address an unresolved concern “material to implementation of the Plan or to the status of the ORVs.” (SG Plan § IV(C)). This requires submission of a written request with supporting information. (SG Plan § IV(C))

Step 2: GC deliberates, and a) 6/6 vote agrees it does not warrant resolution; b) 6/6 vote agrees to resolve the concern; or c) ends up in disagreement. (SG Plan IV(C)’s “Tier III elevation”)

Deliberation ends

OR issue goes through “Failure to Reach Consensus procedure.” Go to step 3

Step 3: If any Interest Group is dissatisfied with a concern ending in disagreement, any Interest Group may opt to follow the “**Failure to reach consensus procedure.**” (SG Plan § VI(I))

Trigger: failure to reach consensus on a disputed issue. (SG Plan § VI(I))

Step 1: Within 10 days of a disputed issue, any Interest Group can request the dissenting Interest Group to provide a written summary when there is not consensus on a disputed issue.

Step 2: The dissenting Interest Group must set forth the issue, views, and identify options available to resolve the disagreement.

Step 3: Following the dissenting Interest Group summary, any Interest Group may request the SG to revisit the issue and a proposal at the next SG meeting.

Step 4: After the SG meeting, upon the request of any Interest Group, the GC shall deliberate whether the unresolved concern should be elevated. The views of the appropriate federal agencies (BLM and/or USFS) shall be considered. Deliberations shall also take into consideration other relevant factors, including external conditions or other conditions outside the control of the Plan.

Step 5: GC vote: 6/6 vote to elevate?

NO. **Elevation stops.** Provide written summary of measures that fail to achieve consensus in the Annual Report.

YES. **Go to Elevation Steps.**

4. Material Change in Circumstance

Trigger: When a change “undermines the value of one of the Long-Term Protection Measures....” (SG Plan, Definitions). Examples are identified in Attachment A, Part II of the SG Plan.

Step 1: Any member of the GC may raise this by written request. (SG Plan § VI(J)(2))

Step 2: GC Vote: 6/6 that a Material Change in Circumstances exists?

NO. **Elevation stops.**

YES. Go to Step 3

Step 3: GC vote: 6/6 resolution on how to address the Material Change in Circumstance?

YES. **Elevation stops.**

NO. **Go to Elevation Steps.**

Elevation Steps:

Step 1: GC vote: 6/6 vote to skip mediation for issue to go straight to the Review Committee?

YES. Skip to Step 3.

NO. Refer concern to mediator for 45-day facilitation for non-binding options toward resolution. (SG Plan §VI(J)(3)(a))

Go to step 2.

Step 2: GC vote: 6/6 agreement on the facilitated resolution?

YES. **Elevation stops.**

NO. Within 30 days, concern is referred to Review Committee. (SG Plan §VI(J)(3)(b))

Go to Step 3.

Step 3: The Review Committee provides non-binding guidance within 15 days. (SG Plan §VI(J)(3)(b))

Step 4: Within 90 days, the GC adds the underlying cause/guidance to the agenda for the next regular or special meeting, where the GC discusses the Review Committee's non-binding guidance and determines appropriate follow-up actions or votes to terminate the Plan with at least a 5/6 vote. (SG Plan §VI(J)(3)(c))