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Forest Threat Facts

Comparative Risk Assessment Framework and Tools (CRAFT)

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The **Comparative Risk Assessment Framework and Tools (CRAFT)** is a planning system that provides forest managers with a structured approach to making complex decisions. Developed by the *USDA Forest Service Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC)* in partnership with the *University of North Carolina Asheville's National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center (UNCA's NEMAC)*, CRAFT improves the quality of forest management decisions and helps stakeholder groups recognize the uncertainties they face in decision making.



CRAFT provides a series of solutions for complex decision making.

CRAFT assists users in examining the values placed on forests and how these values are likely to be affected by the interactions of management decisions and future uncertainties. The CRAFT process includes—

- A simplified procedure for identifying and clarifying objectives;

- A way to identify a feasible set of alternatives;
- An ability to match real-life problems to existing models and tools; and
- A method of calculating the risks and tradeoffs associated with different management scenarios.



CRAFT can bring diverse groups of people and ideas together.

CRAFT is designed for a team decision making environment that allows forest managers, concerned stakeholders, groups, and individuals to be included in the decision making process from the beginning. CRAFT enables people with a variety of needs and interests to reach agreement while ensuring transparency in decision making.

Designed with planning teams in mind, CRAFT follows the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); however, aspects of the CRAFT method can be widely adopted by other audiences.

CRAFT provides a suite of resources to help guide the decision making process.

CRAFT's unique toolset includes—

Project Portal

A password protected Web page hosts all the web tools a team needs to complete the CRAFT process as well as a repository for documents and graphics, an action item application to keep team members on task, a team list for tracking contact information, and a calendar of team events and deadlines.



CRAFT Wizard

Users can work together through a step-by-step process for researching and gathering information pertinent to the decision at hand. The Wizard records each step to produce a printer-friendly document that can be saved in the Project Portal for future reference.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Viewer

A Web-based resource allows teams to remotely share and view geospatial data (maps) from any computer.

CRAFTiPedia

A “wiki”-style tool allows CRAFT users to search terms, definitions, case studies, and other resources that may be helpful during the CRAFT process.

Learning Modules

An interactive web tutorial illustrates the CRAFT process and allows users to explore key CRAFT concepts at their own pace.

CRAFT training and assistance are available.

To request demonstration and training sessions, please contact **Steve Norman** (EFETAC) at stevenorman@fs.fed.us or (828) 259-0535 or **Karin Lichtenstein** (UNCA's NEMAC) at klichten@unca.edu or (828) 250-3892.



For Additional Information

Visit <http://www.craft.forestthreats.org> to learn more and begin exploring CRAFT.

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