

Degrees of Collaboration

	INFORM	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	One-way Communication	Two-way Communication		
Description	Agency provides others with information to assist them in understanding the problem being addressed, the options considered, and the final decision made.	Agency informs others about a decision-making process and also seeks their feedback on analysis, options and proposed actions.	Agency works directly with others to ensure their issues and concerns are understood, considered, and directly reflected in the options developed and decisions made. Feedback is provided on how their input influenced the final decision.	Agency works directly with others to share information, explore options and potential solutions, and to seek agreement on decisions and actions. Legal and policy constraints must be considered and addressed in the agreement-seeking process.
Objective	Provide the public with sufficient information to understand the issues being addressed, the action options considered, the analysis conducted, and the agency's final decision.	Provide opportunities for the public and interested parties to provide input at key points in the decision-making process.	Provide opportunities for interested parties to interact directly with the agency at key stages of the decision-making process to provide feedback on draft proposals and convey directly to the agency any concerns and suggestions.	Provide opportunities for other governmental agencies and a balanced range of interested parties to work together with the agency to share information, jointly explore potential solutions, and seek agreement on recommendations to the agency regarding the final decision.
Agency Commitment	Agency will keep the public informed about actions and decisions.	The agency will keep the public and interested parties informed about the decision-making process and take into consideration, before making its final decision, the concerns expressed and suggestions offered during formal or informal public input opportunities provided. The agency will document how input was considered in the final decision.	The agency will interact directly with interested parties to ensure the agency understands parties' concerns and suggestions. The agency will try to address their concerns to the extent possible within legal and policy constraints. The agency communicates back to interested parties how their concerns were addressed in the final decision.	The agency will work directly with other agencies and interested participants to work through issues and seek agreement on as many issues as possible. Agency agrees to implement any consensus-based recommendations.
Examples of Methods	Informational website, electronic newsletter, fact sheets, media campaign, etc....	Public comment submission via website, email and/or mail; web-based surveys; public meetings...	Local, regional and/or national workshops or similar events; direct interaction by phone or electronic means.	Intergovernmental /stakeholder group & sub-groups at local, regional and/or national levels; direct interaction in person and by phone and electronic means.

Agency retains authority for final decision in all degrees of collaboration.