

Indirect and Cumulative Effects Task Group

Cumulative Effects Evaluation

General Process Steps

(Defined by 2004 Task Work Group)

1. Identify natural, cultural or sociocultural resources of concern.
2. Define the area of effect.
3. Document rationale used to determine area of effect.
4. Use the EST to locate projects/resources within/near the area of effect.
5. Review available results of direct and indirect effect evaluations for each transportation project in the planning area.
6. Review aerial photography, FLUCFCS (Florida Land Use Cover and Forms Classification System) map to evaluate past history and development trends. Review land use plans, DRIs, urban service areas and consider the effect of future land use decisions to the resource in question.
7. Review additional resources (e.g. protected species resource recovery plans or studies) that are not on the EST that will aid in the assessment of cumulative effects on resources.
8. Consider the carrying capacity of the resource in an attempt to assess “resource sustainability”. ETAT should evaluate the cumulative effects to the resource that their agency is responsible for protecting/ managing.
10. Provide commentary on cumulative effects of all transportation/land use actions to the natural, cultural, or community resource in question. Comments should include methods to avoid/minimize negative effects and describe potential mitigation/compensation opportunities, as applicable.
11. Comment forms and summary reports should be similar in look and function to those used for direct effects evaluations.

Considerations

1. Where during the planning process does cumulative effects evaluation occur?
2. Who is responsible for each step in the process?
3. Can the area of effect be defined (digitized) on the EST? How do we address areas of effect that cross multiple jurisdictions?
4. What standard analyses on the EST will support cumulative effects evaluations? Are buffers needed or should analyses be performed for non-standard geographical areas?
5. Are the results of standard analyses for direct and indirect effects for all projects in the study area needed? Can they be summarized on the EST?
6. What other analyses (off of the EST) are required to perform cumulative effects evaluation?
7. What data is needed to support these evaluations? Is the data currently on the EST? If not, is it feasible to include data on EST? Of these data needs, what are our priorities?
8. Is the future land use data on the EST sufficient to assist in cumulative effects evaluation? Should “build out” conditions on the Future Land Use Maps be considered in the evaluation?
9. Who has the final say on assignment of degree of effect? ETAT, FDOT, MPOs
10. What functional revisions to the EST are needed to accomplish cumulative effects evaluations? How will evaluation results be summarized and reported?
11. How are the results of cumulative effects evaluations used to influence the development of Long Range Transportation Plans and Comprehensive Plans? How are results communicated to agencies responsible for developing these plans?