



Exercise 2.11

Debate: Cues-to-Care vs. Screening Buffers



Philosophical differences and ethical stances support different views about using cues-to-care and screening buffers with forest harvesting operations. This exercise takes a debate format to help participants explore these issues.

Objectives: Participants will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the importance of visible stewardship in interface forest management.
2. Articulate whether it is a good idea to hide forestry operations with screening buffers.

Materials:

Fact Sheet 2.8: Practicing Visible Stewardship
Presentation 2.3

Time: 30 minutes (15 minutes for group discussion and planning; 15 minutes for debate)

1. Ask participants to provide local examples of different cues-to-care and screening buffers at forest harvesting operations in the region. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each.
2. Use **Fact Sheet 2.8: Practicing Visible Stewardship** and the relevant slides in **Presentation 2.3** to suggest that there are ethical questions and philosophical differences surrounding both practices. Are cues-to-care meaningless window-dressing to appease a naïve public? Are screening buffers hiding something people should not see? Invite the participants to debate these issues.
3. Divide the group into small teams (two to five people per team). Ask half the teams to defend cues-to-care and the other teams to defend screening buffers. Each team should do each of the following (if you have several teams on each side, divide the tasks among the teams):
 - Prepare a brief opening statement making two or three points defending your position.
 - Prepare two questions for the other team that will make obvious the weakness of their position.
 - Prepare responses to the questions they are likely to challenge you with.
 - Provide a simple example where your technique would have made a difference in public relations or where the other technique would not make a difference.
4. After 15 minutes of preparation, arrange the teams and ask one side of the room to start with an opening statement. Then have the other side of the room offer its opening statement and

follow with one question. Let the first side answer that question, giving them several minutes to explain their perspective. Then ask them to conclude with one of their questions, giving the other team time to explain their views. Repeat this format until there are no more questions or relevant points. Then ask each participant to state their personal preference even if it is not their team's assigned position.

Summary

Working and living in the wildland-urban interface is bringing challenges and change to traditional forestry practices. Some of these changes are opportunities to rethink common practices, reconsidering what we do and why. This exercise focused primarily on forest harvest operations. Are there other management practices that deserve similar scrutiny?