

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clear space for the text.

What should the federal  
environmental assessment  
process look like?

# Guiding question

- ▶ What option does the most good
  - ▶ *Good = sustainability, respect, contributing to the envisioned future*

VS

- ▶ How can the harm be mitigated [will there be significant adverse environmental effects, after mitigation measures are implemented]

# Test

- ▶ Science based, precautionary principle
- ▶ Climate
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Envisioned future [regional plan, cumulative impact]
- ▶ Consent [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent; community]
- ▶ Comparison of options [including no action]

VS

- ▶ Threshold of harm [no significant harm that cannot be mitigated]

# Assessment

- ▶ Independent & impartial
- ▶ Meaningfully inclusive
- ▶ Consistent with overarching values & goals [long term public interest, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, climate change targets, envisioned future]
- ▶ Full cost accounting; lifetime assessment
- ▶ Inclusion of community and intrinsic values, and traditional knowledge
- ▶ On-going: throughout planning, and during and after implementation

VS

- ▶ Narrow & rigid focus
- ▶ Proponent gathered data
- ▶ Little follow-up/enforcement

# Public Process & Decision Making

- ▶ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- ▶ Community/public input can change the outcome
- ▶ Citizens can meaningfully participate [support; citizen science or independent expertise weighted according to merit]
- ▶ Community & human values, and traditional knowledge has true weight
- ▶ On-going dialogue [input can change the outcome at each step where meaningful decisions can be made]

VS

- ▶ Technical information, quantity of information and timeline are barriers to public participation
- ▶ Lack of trust in process
- ▶ Omission of values and knowledge important to nations and communities
- ▶ Decisions made without full information

# Outcome

- ▶ Nation-nation relationships
- ▶ Community support & trust
- ▶ Contributes to envisioned future and overall goals for climate and sustainability
- ▶ The overall impact = greater environmental, social, and economic sustainability

# Contact

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