E Social Science Planning Team and Data Gap Analysis Update

Sarah Marrinan, December 2025

Update on the Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) and the Data Gap Analysis (DGA)

- **Social Science Planning Team**

  - Formed in 2017

  - Charged with strategizing medium- and long-term improvements in the quality and application of social and economic data used in the management process

  - Mission statement on page 1 of memo

  - Meetings have covered several topics: e.g., discussion and recommendations on EDR improvements, sharing of new and relevant research, review of AFSC proposals, feedback on analytical challenges within amendment actions, reviewing social science guidance in other regions, and the DGA

  - Has not met on its regular schedule since 2021

- **Data Gap Analysis**

  - Analysis that highlights gaps in social and economic data necessary to meet key objectives in MSA and other applicable laws

  - Intended to be a first step in identifying (and later, prioritizing and seeking ways to address) social and economic data gaps

Update on the Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) and the Data Gap Analysis (DGA)

- As the SSPT has not convened since 2023, it would be important to reaffirm and resolicit membership prior to tasking.

  - Council may consider the mission statement and scope of work.

  - If the Council wishes to pursue these efforts, staff will canvass current membership and solicit for vacancies.

  - Once membership and commitment have been reestablished, additional work on the DGA could take place.