



Relational Engagement: Practical strategies for building trust

May 22, 2025

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Cost: \$25

Successful forest management depends on more than technical expertise—it requires meaningful engagement with the public and key interest holders. This session will explore the steps and strategies to move beyond checkbox engagement to cultivate trust and create impactful interactions with any community.

Tannis Topolnisky is Principal at Topent Ltd. is a Certified Public Participation Professional (CP3) and International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Licensed Trainer. Tannis has managed over 300 different local, national, and international projects aimed at bringing together organizations, partners, staff, and the public to build relationships, establish trust, and work together to make decisions. Impacts on health, livelihood, relationships, well-being, and community are common in most of the engagement projects she has worked on.



Tannis Topolnisky

Learning Objectives | By the end of this 1-hour webinar, participants will be able to:

- Define engagement, what it is and isn't, what it can and cannot do
- Explain the difference between transactional and relational engagement
- Outline the fundamental steps involved in effective engagement process
- Establish the focus for engagement to link input to real opportunities for influence
- Understand simple ways to meaningfully measure and evaluate success of engagement
- Describe considerations for closing the loop and reporting back

