A flow chart showing the EIS process. First an applicant submits a proposal to a lead agency.

1. The lead agency will then determine whether the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts (and thus requires an EIS).
2. If so, the next step is to determine the scope of the EIS. The lead agency uses input from the public, agencies, tribes, and organizations to decide what should be studied in the EIS. This step includes a public comment period and public meetings.
3. Next, the lead agency collects and analyzes information about potential impacts and develops a draft EIS. This step includes a public comment period and public meetings.
4. Finally, the lead agency considers input from the public, agencies, tribes, and organizations to develop a final EIS. The final EIS is an impartial document used by agencies to consider impacts, alternatives, and mitigation before making permit decisions.