Project Management Office: Scheduling Best Practices

When building a project – follow these steps:

- Enter project information in ND VIEW first applies to all projects \$100,000 or larger
- Create WBS tasks
- Add logical dependencies don't do it based on resources
- Enter duration or effort (hours/work)
- Add resources, then level resource allocation where needed
- Create baseline

Do the following when creating your schedule:

- Project Summary Task enabled
 - o Should be Task 0 in the schedule
 - No need to have a "project name" as Task 1
 - To enable, go to the Format menu and check Project Summary Task
- Summary tasks
 - Should have a milestone task
 - No predecessors, successors, or resources assigned
- Milestones
 - No resources assigned
 - Duration is 0
 - o Good practice is to have all tasks entered as a predecessor and not just the one with the latest date
- Resources
 - Use staff from Enterprise Resource Pool when available all NDIT staff are in the Enterprise Resource Pool
 - Add "cost" resources from Enterprise Pool and add to tasks where appropriate (Contact an ND VIEW admin
 if you need a special cost resource)
 - Review to ensure resources are not overallocated (red dude in the indicators column)
- Costs
 - All costs must be in the schedule
 - Costs are assigned to a resource
- No Constraints
 - No constraints or hard dates
 - This is why we use predecessors
 - Use a Deadline if there is a date you are targeting or want a task to be completed by
- Baseline
 - Current baseline is saved as "Baseline" along with a numbered baseline (e.g., Baseline 1)
 - You should always have two baselines that are the same (e.g., "Baseline" is always your current baseline,
 "Baseline 1" is your original baseline, "Baseline 2-10" would be the current baseline if you have done a rebaseline or an updated baseline)
 - o You can only do a rebaseline due to a scope change
- Actual Start, Actual Finish, and Percent Complete
 - Reflect real start and real finish dates
 - Include percent complete
- Work Hours
 - Work hours should be 0 when using a duration task type

Items Specific to the State or ND VIEW:

- Key Tasks
 - This is a custom field for the State
 - Identify tasks appropriately
 - o Not all milestones are a key task, but most key tasks will be milestones
 - Key tasks are reflected in the project status report
- Publishing the schedule
 - After saving, you will need the publish the schedule for it to update status information and reports

