

Why should I care about forest planning?

- Clean water and fresh air
- Food
- Economic opportunities
- Wood products
- Cultural and religious practices
- Recreation



What is a Forest Plan?

Comprehensive document guiding management for all resources on the National Forest for the next 15 years or more.



How can the Forest Plan Revision be Important to You?

An opportunity...

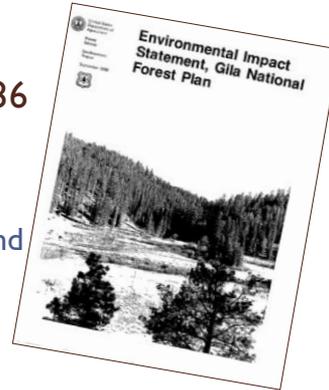
- for your knowledge and suggestions to be heard and shape the Forests' future management
- to build on your relationships with other users and with Gila staff in a shared vision



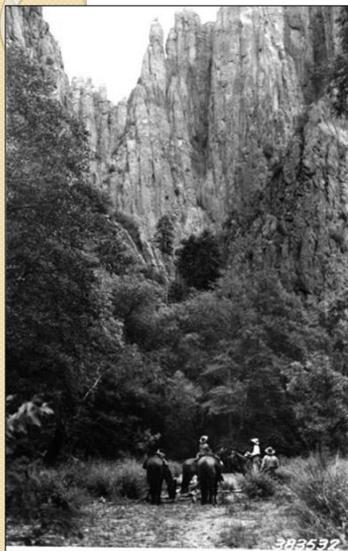
WHY DOES THE FOREST PLAN NEED TO BE REVISED?

- The National Forest Management Act (1976) requires that forest plans be revised periodically
- Gila NF Plan approved in 1986

Even though the Forest Plan has been amended at various times; the Forest and surrounding areas have experienced significant changes since 1986.



So What has Changed?

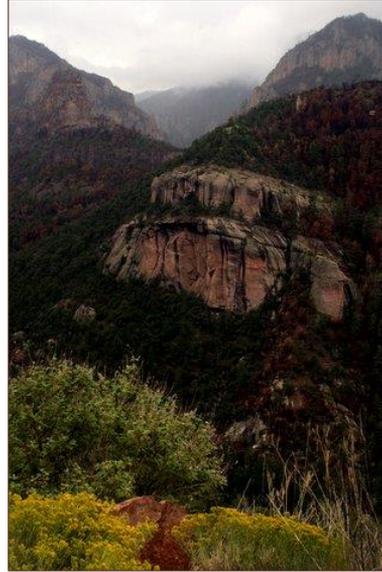


- Conditions
- Uses and demands
- Social and cultural influences
- Science and technology
- Threats

What is Included in a Forest Plan?

Plan Components

- Desired Conditions
- Objectives
- Standards
- Guidelines
- Suitability



2012 Planning Rule

National direction for the forest plan revision process.

Features include increased emphasis on:

- collaboration and public engagement
- sustainability and ecosystem services
- cross-jurisdictional coordination

Continued emphasis on:

- multiple use management
- use of best available science



Plan Revision Process

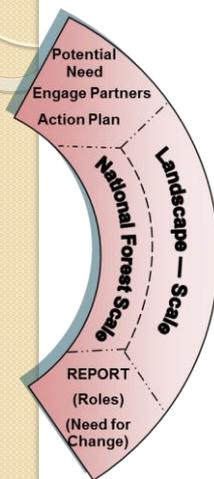
THREE PHASES

1. Assessment (1 year)
2. Plan Revision (multiple years)
3. Implementation and Monitoring (15+ years)

The Gila National Forest is currently in the middle of the Assessment Phase



Assessment Phase



- 15 important ecological, social, and economic resource topics
 - What is the condition?
 - What is the trend?
 - What is at risk?
- Use of best available science, local information, national perspectives, and native knowledge
- Identify how the 1986 Plan needs to be updated and revised (aka “Need for Change”)

Why is the Assessment Important?

- It's the foundation for establishing "needs-for-change" to the 1986 Gila Forest Plan
- Helps everyone understand existing and predicted future conditions
- Principal document that supports plan revision and future management direction
- Opportunity for stakeholders to contribute information for later use in plan development

The assessment report is not a decision document

Important Ecological Resources

- Ecosystems
- Air, soil, and water resources
- Natural processes
- Carbon stocks
- At-risk species





Assessing Plant Communities

The previous five topics are important to assessing the overall ecological sustainability, and the ability of the Gila NF to maintain its diversity of plant and animal communities.



Aquatic Ecosystems, Water Resources
Willow Creek
Reserve District

The assessment will characterize and evaluate the status of watersheds and water resources and their role in sustaining ecosystems within the plan area.

Important Social and Economic Influences

- Social, cultural and economic conditions
- Benefits people obtain from the Gila
- Multiple uses and their economic contributions
- Recreation
- Energy and minerals



Assessing Multiple Uses

Recreation Uses – Silver City District

Recreation, timber, grazing, minerals, and other multiple-uses provide jobs and income to communities, and help maintain social cultures and long standing traditions.

Other Important Social and Economic Influences

- Infrastructure
- Areas of tribal importance
- Cultural and historical resources
- Land ownership and use
- Designated areas



Information Sources

Consider relevant existing information from governmental and non-governmental sources

- Gila NF data: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, Scenery Management System, Infrastructure data, Mid-Scale Existing Vegetation Mapping, Forest Inventory data, Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory, GIS layers, National Visitor Use Monitoring, Watershed Condition Framework analyses, Ranger District Program Files
- US Fish & Wildlife Service and NM Depart. Game & Fish Wildlife Survey Data
- NM State Air & Water Quality Data
- US Geological Survey Physical, Hydrological, & Biological Data
- US Census Data
- National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture
- Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, Sierra Cos., & Other Local Governments' Socioeconomic Data
- University publications, research station reports, or academic studies
 - University of New Mexico Forest-wide socioeconomic assessments
- Federal agency, state, county, community, or non-governmental organization reports
- Monitoring information
- Local Community Botanists & Ornithologists (Amateur & Professional)
- Tribal knowledge
- Relevant analysis or information offered by the public

***Please suggest other information sources or specific publications to consider using the blank cards on the table by the poster**

Coordination with other planning efforts

- Review the plans of Tribes, Federal agencies, and State and local governments
- Consider how the Revised Plan can contribute to compatibility and reduce conflict

Identified the following plans to review so far...

- Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Sierra County Master Plans
- Cities of Lordsburg, Truth or Consequences, & Town of Silver City Comprehensive Plans
- New Mexico Department of Game & Fish Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- New Mexico State Implementation Plan (Air Quality)
- New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Plan
- New Mexico State Water Plan
- Socorro-Sierra Regional Water Plan
- Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan
- New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan and Nonpoint Source Management Plan
- Soil and Water Conservation District Management Plans
- Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans
- Neighboring National Forests' Land and Resource Management Plans and Plan Revisions
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans

***Please suggest other plans to consider using the blank cards on the table by the poster**

Plan Revision Phase

Develop a draft Forest Plan

- ✓ Develop a vision for the forest based on Need for Change
- ✓ Evaluate areas that may be suitable for special designation
- ✓ Develop a draft plan and alternatives using the NEPA process

Finalize Forest Plan

- ✓ Review the draft plan and analysis
- ✓ Respond to comments and revise the draft Forest Plan
- ✓ Consult with US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ✓ Objection Period
- ✓ Record of Decision and Final Forest Plan

Special Designation Process

- Identify areas that may be suitable for special designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
- At most, the forest decision-maker can only recommend to Congress designations for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers



Looking into the Gila Wilderness

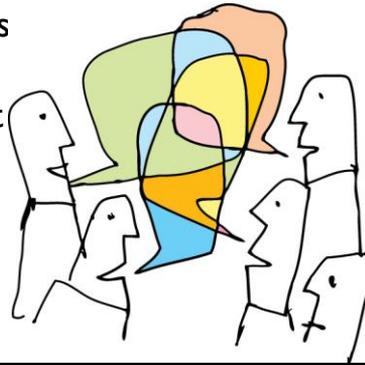
Implementation and Monitoring Phase

- Monitoring is the basis to determine if meeting desired conditions and objectives or whether changes are needed



How can you help?

- Be an active stakeholder in developing a future vision for the forest
- Tell us what you value about the forest
- Share your knowledge and data
- Offer your ideas on forest management with us.
- Build on existing partnerships
- Explore new ways to accomplish land management goals



For more information...

Forest Plan Revision website

<http://go.usa.gov/h88k>

With links to:

- 2012 Planning Rule
- Final Directives

Email:

gilaplan@fs.fed.us

Forest Plan Revision

Welcome! The Forest Plan is an important document that guides all of our management actions. It is time for us to revise our existing plan from 1986. We invite you to work with us to develop a vision for a new plan that provides a healthy, diverse, and productive Gilia National Forest. Our goal is to remain inclusive as we move through the collaborative planning process.

The Gilia National Forest is in the early stages of plan revision under the **2012 Forest Planning Rule** (24 CFR 212) that will describe the strategic direction for management of forest resources for the next 10 to 15 years.

Public Participation

Public input, feedback, and collaboration are some of the effective ways members of the public can participate in the forest plan revision process. In March of this year the Gilia will hold six Community Conversations around the Forest to learn how people value the forest and why it is important to them, and get your ideas about how to organize our outreach and implementation efforts.

Community Conversations will occur at the following locations:

Ranger District	Location	Date	Time
Quonset RD	Quonset School	March 9	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Revere RD	Fair Hill, Canton City Fairgrounds	March 10	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Elmwood RD	Elmwood Community Center	March 10	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Silera City RD	Grant County Conference Center	March 11	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Walden RD	Little Lead Creek Inn (Lake Roberts)	March 12	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Black Range RD	Silera County Fairgrounds	March 12	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Members of the public may be involved throughout the planning process in a number of ways, including:

- Participating in community meetings or collaborative work sessions. These sessions will be announced through press releases and will be posted on this web site.
- Inviting one of the Gilia's Core Planning Team members to make a presentation and answer questions at your organization's meeting. Contact Matt Schultz, Forest Planner, at (270) 268-8200 if you're interested.
- Sharing your suggestions, comments and information by:
 - Sending an email to gilaplan@fs.fed.us
 - Sending mail to Gilia National Forest Plan Revision, 3003 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NH 88001-7983.

More detailed information will go out to the public and be posted on this website for future public meetings.

Plan Revision Process

Next steps



- Continue presenting at organizational meetings
- Release draft assessment report for feedback in 2016
- Revise draft report based on feedback
- More community meetings to discuss key findings and collaborate to determine needs-for-change

Then...

- Publish a notice of intent to revise the forest plan in the *Federal Register*

Questions?