

Lincoln National Forest Plan Revision Newsletter

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Latest News

Public Comments

Back in November we met with you to get your concerns and ideas about the past, present and future condition of the Lincoln National Forest.

At these meetings we asked:

- *What are your concerns?*
- *What were the past and present conditions associated with your concerns?*
- *What future trends are developing?*
- *What suggestions do you have for managing these concerns?*

We've put together a summary of your input and posted it on our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814310>.

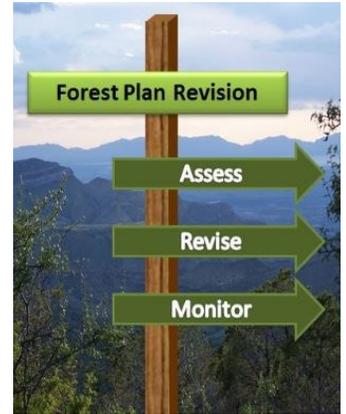
We grouped your feedback into categories by our 15 Areas of Interest (AOI) (ie: recreation, infrastructure, etc.). We further assigned like themes into 'issues' within each AOI.

Also on the site you will find a spreadsheet of the ratings you gave about your area of interest (poor, fair, good) and a list of your suggestions for the future.

Something missing?

If you have something that hasn't been addressed, we want to hear it! Please email comments and suggestions to inf_fpr_comments@fs.fed.us.

To help us look at all public input as we write the assessment, **please send your comments by June 30, 2016**. This will give us time to review and address them in the

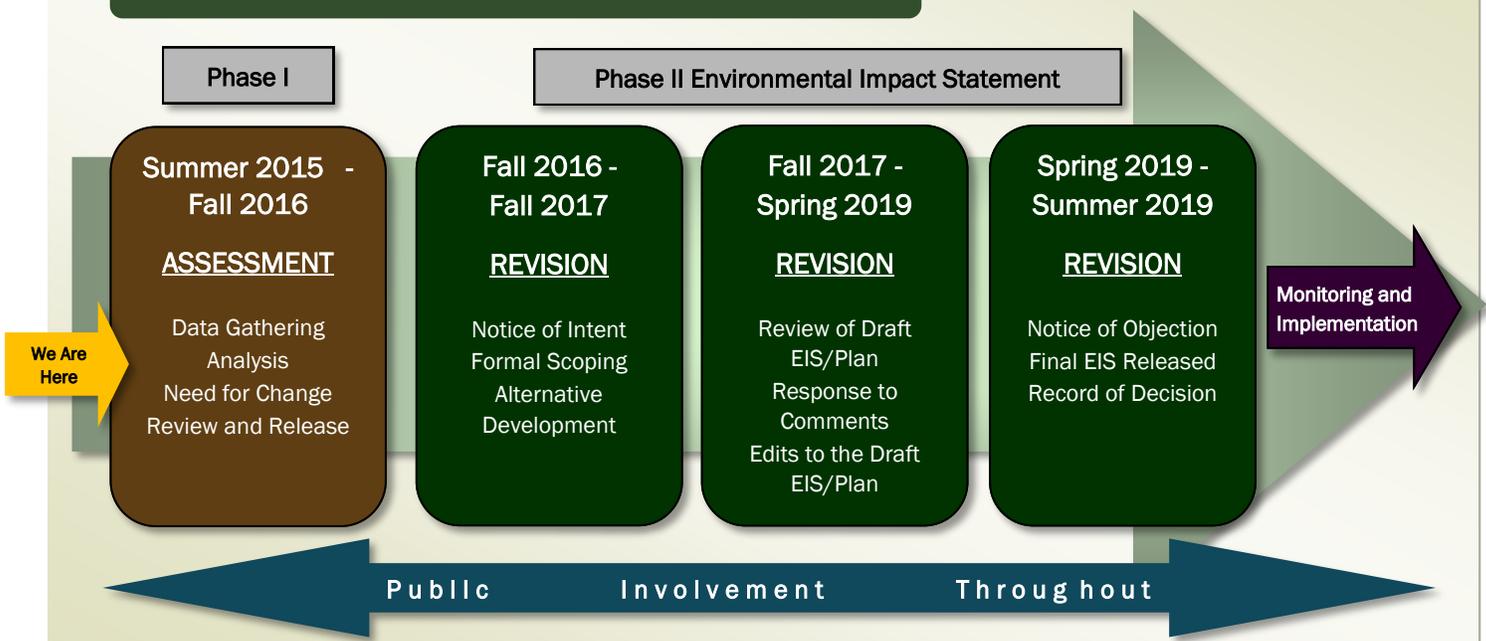


Forest Plan Revision Logo showing the three phases: Assessment / Revision / Monitoring

assessment.

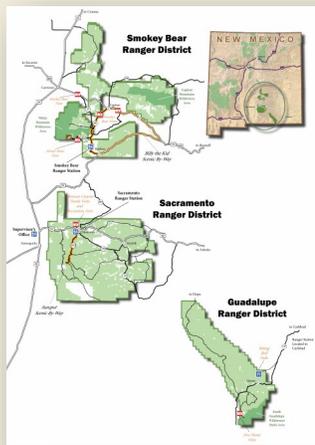
For more information on public comments and how you can let us know what you think, check out the Looking Ahead section on page 3 of this newsletter.

Our Overall Timeline



The Lincoln at a Glance

The Lincoln National Forest is 1,103,411 acres of public land across four counties in southern New Mexico. Elevations range from 4,000 to 11,500 feet and pass through five different life zones from Chihuahuan desert to sub-alpine forest. Vegetation and wildlife vary widely between the different ecosystems. The forest is home to two designated wilderness areas, one wilderness study area, world-class cave systems, and a national solar observatory.



Trivia

1. In what year did the Lincoln National Forest supply the Christmas tree for the White House?
2. What are the names of the two wilderness areas on the Lincoln?
3. What are the six mountain ranges that are found on the forest?

Answers

1. 1956
2. White Mountain, Capitan
3. Guadalupe, Sacramento, White, Jicarilla, Carrizo, Capitan

Assessment Concepts

Ecosystem Services

During the assessment portion of the forest plan revision, the planning team will be looking at benefits the forest provides to surrounding communities and its role in the greater landscape. To help understand the contributions and impacts of forest resources, Lincoln National Forest staff are using the concept of “ecosystem services.”

What Are Ecosystem Services?

1. **Provisioning Services** or the provision of food, fresh water, fuel, fiber, and other goods;
2. **Regulating Services** such as climate, water, and disease regulation as well as pollination;
3. **Supporting Services** such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
4. **Cultural Services** such as educational, aesthetic, and cultural heritage values as well as recreation and tourism.

What Do These Mean for the Lincoln?

These are services that provide “public goods” but have benefits that often exist outside of formal markets. The goal of this holistic approach during the assessment is to capture all of the economic, ecological, social and cultural benefits the forest provides and identify a sustainable approach to managing these resources for present and future generations.



Provisioning



Cultural



Supporting



Regulating

Meet the Assessment Team

The assessment phase of the planning process is being carried out by a group of Lincoln National Forest employees with a wide range of backgrounds and expertise. This ‘interdisciplinary team’ is working hard to make sure the assessment uses the latest information and

scientific techniques to create an accurate, unbiased picture of current and historical conditions, along with future trends for the forest.

As a part of this group, please help us welcome our new forest planner,

Charlie Sharp. Charlie previously worked for the Forest Service in Colorado. He has extensive experience in forest planning and working within the guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

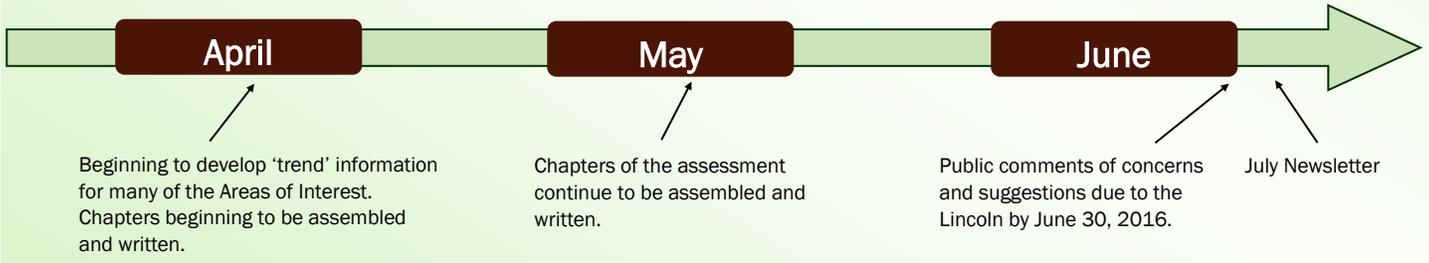
| Resource/Title | Name | Resource/Title | Name |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Forest Planner | Charlie Sharp | GIS | Linda Cole |
| Ecologist | David Baker | Roads and Facilities | Rafael Castanon |
| Range | Ralph Fink | Soils | Jennifer Hill |
| Wildlife | Phillip Hughes | Hydrology | Peter Haraden |
| Fire and Fuels | Kim Kuhar and Tony McWilliams | Recreation and Socio-Economics | Heather Berman |
| Collaboration | Peg Crim | Lands and Minerals | Clyde King |
| Public Affairs | Loretta Benavidez | Timber | Marissa Bowen and David Baker |
| Writer-Editor | Brendan Morgan | | |

CURRENT STATUS & LOOKING AHEAD

Status

1. We formally entered into the 'assessment phase' (phase 1) of plan revision in early July of 2015
2. We have assembled much of the existing condition information for our internal analyses, moved into developing reference conditions (historical) where appropriate and compiling public comments and concerns into our year 1 assessment study.
3. We are beginning to compile and write our chapters for the assessment document and will continue to add and edit them through July and August of 2016.
4. In April or May we will begin analyzing future 'trend' information where appropriate which will help lead us to identifying the 'need for change.'

Our Timeline: Next 3 Months



Looking Ahead: We Want to Hear from You!

Our assessment document will begin taking shape in the next few months and there is still time for public input.

Analysis of your comments will be complete by the end of June, so if you have anything you think we're missing, please let us know by then. To date we have compiled the data but not made any further interpretations or analysis of the comments. This latter analysis will be taking place after June 30th, 2016.

Your ideas help us figure out "What Needs to Change". So far, we've put together public comments begun to summarize and analyze what you've told us.

We looked at everything you provided us and organized

them by chapter such as soils, water, socio-economic, etc. We have also grouped comments further by Issues. These issues are based on 'like themes' received to date from public concerns and suggestions. This list may change based on new data if needed.

- **General**
- **Recreation General**
- **Trail Use**
- **Travel Management**
- **Trail Condition**
- **Roads**
- **Watershed Conditions**
- **Wildlife**
- **Thinning and Treatments**
- **Forest Health General**

- **Fire Safety**
- **Grazing and Range**
- **Permits**
- **Invasive and Noxious Weeds**
- **Partnerships**

What we heard from you varied greatly within each issue and topic. To see all of the concerns voiced so far, please visit:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814310>



Public meeting



Public Meeting in Ruidoso, NM

Questions and Answers

Q: Who is actually doing the analyses for the assessment and for the environmental impact statement?

A: A team of specialists and experts from the Lincoln National Forest has been assembled to conduct all of the analyses internally. Some contracting has been done to gather support data, but the analyses will be done by Lincoln employees.

Q: When will the assessment be done?

A: We are expecting to have the assessment finalized by the fall of 2016. This will also include a summary document breaking down the 'need for change' into a more concise format for the public to review.

Q: Will the assessment propose new areas for special designation (wilderness)?

A: The assessment will look at the condition of the two wilderness areas and one wilderness study area currently on the Lincoln National Forest. As part of the next phase of the forest plan revision, we will be looking at areas that meet the criteria for special designation. Public involvement will be a part of this process, so stay tuned!

For other commonly asked questions, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814313>

Have additional questions?



How Can I Participate?

Public participation may take on a number of aspects including providing input and comments, understanding the process, staying informed and more. Throughout this process, we will offer many different avenues for you to get involved including formal public meetings, presentations and discussions with groups and chatting with individuals.

1. Sign up to our mailing list and we will keep you informed as events and our process continues.
2. Request a meeting/presentation and we will come and meet with your group.
3. Attend a public meeting or workshop.
4. Email us at: Inf_fpr_comments@fs.fed.us
5. Call us at 575-434-7200 and we'd be pleased to speak with you.



Public Meeting in Ruidoso, NM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Our web address for Plan Revision:
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lincolnforestplan

Our email address for Plan Revision
Inf_fpr_comments@fs.fed.us

Our physical mailing address:
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3463 Las Palomas Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-434-7200

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln>

