

2016 Southwestern Region Northern New Mexico Forest Plan Revision Timelines

	Cibola National Forest	Carson National Forest	Santa Fe National Forest
JAN-MAR (Winter)	Cibola and Landscape Teams (cooperating agencies) draft wilderness evaluations (Step 2 of Wilderness Process) and draft recommendations for preliminary draft forest plan.	Complete Wilderness Process Step: 1 Inventory	Complete Assessment and Needs for Change based on public input received in Fall 2015.
APR-JUN (Spring)	Cibola and Landscape Teams (cooperating agencies) continue to develop preliminary draft forest plan. Includes vision/niche of each landscape area and overall for the Cibola, forest-wide desired conditions, objectives, standards and guidelines, management areas (including draft wilderness recommendations) and alternatives. Prepare for public rollout and collaborative workshops in July.	Begin Wilderness Process Step 2: Evaluation Provide draft evaluation for public comment and engage Cooperating Agencies in development of the draft evaluation.	Issue the NEPA Notice of Intent to begin revision of the current forest plan with subsequent public scoping period. Begin the Wilderness Process starting with inventory and evaluation, including public involvement. Start drafting the proposed forest plan starting with plan components (desired conditions, standards, guidelines, etc.)
JUL-SEP (Summer)	Release preliminary draft plan to the public mid-July. Collaborative workshops with the public are planned for mid-July through August (45-day public comment period.) In September, Cibola and Landscape Teams review public comments on draft forest plan, and alternatives and make adjustments.	Complete Wilderness evaluation and engage the Cooperating Agencies in the completion of the final evaluation. Continue developing forest plan components and preliminary draft proposed forest plan.	Continue development (with associated public involvement) on the draft proposed plan and its plan components. Continue the Wilderness Process with associated public involvement.
OCT-DEC (Fall)	Begin to prepare draft EIS and draft biological assessment in October. Release Notice of Availability in Winter 2017 for public comment on the draft plan (including draft wilderness recommendations) and alternatives and analyses, and draft biological assessment.	Provide preliminary draft proposed forest plan on website for public comment and engage Cooperating Agencies in the development of the plan and alternatives. The draft forest plan and draft EIS will be available for public comment in late spring 2017 .	Complete Wilderness Process. Develop plan alternatives and begin the EIS analysis for the draft proposed plan.



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	Lincoln National Forest	Gila National Forest
JAN-MAR (Winter)	Continued public outreach and engagement for the assessment phase including informal meetings as requested by groups. Continued gathering and evaluating existing information.	Continue public outreach and engagement for the assessment phase including presentations at the Natural History of the Gila Symposium. Continue gathering and evaluating existing information. Draft chapters on assessment topics for Forest Leadership Team review.
APR-JUN (Spring)	Continue public outreach and engagement for the assessment phase. Continue gathering and evaluating existing information. Internal draft assessment near complete.	Deliver draft assessment to the Regional Office for review. Incorporate Regional Office feedback and prepare the document for release to the public. Begin initial development/drafting of the needs for change for the current Forest Plan, based on the assessment results.
JUL-SEP (Summer)	Deliver draft assessment to the Regional Office for review. Incorporate Regional Office feedback and prepare the document for release to the public. Begin initial development/drafting of the needs for change for the current Forest Plan, based on the assessment results.	Draft assessment report released for public review and input. Conduct internal and external engagement to discuss assessment key findings and collaborate on needs for change. Hold another round of community meetings.
OCT-DEC (Fall)	Draft assessment released for public review and input. Publish Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the plan revision, based on the needs to change the current Forest Plan. Initiate wilderness inventory process and public meetings. Engage the public in developing recommended wilderness inventory and evaluation criteria, and begin identifying potential recommended wilderness areas based on that criteria.	Publish Notice of Intent to begin the plan revision phase based on the needs to change the current Forest Plan. Start drafting the proposed forest plan and associated plan components (e.g. desired conditions). Continue stakeholder engagement. Initiate wilderness inventory process and public meetings. Engage the public in developing recommended wilderness inventory and evaluation criteria.

Please note that these timelines are subject to change

