

Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

“Preliminary” Draft Forest Plan

July-August 2016



United States Department of Agriculture

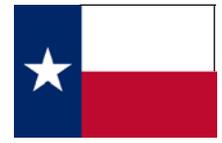
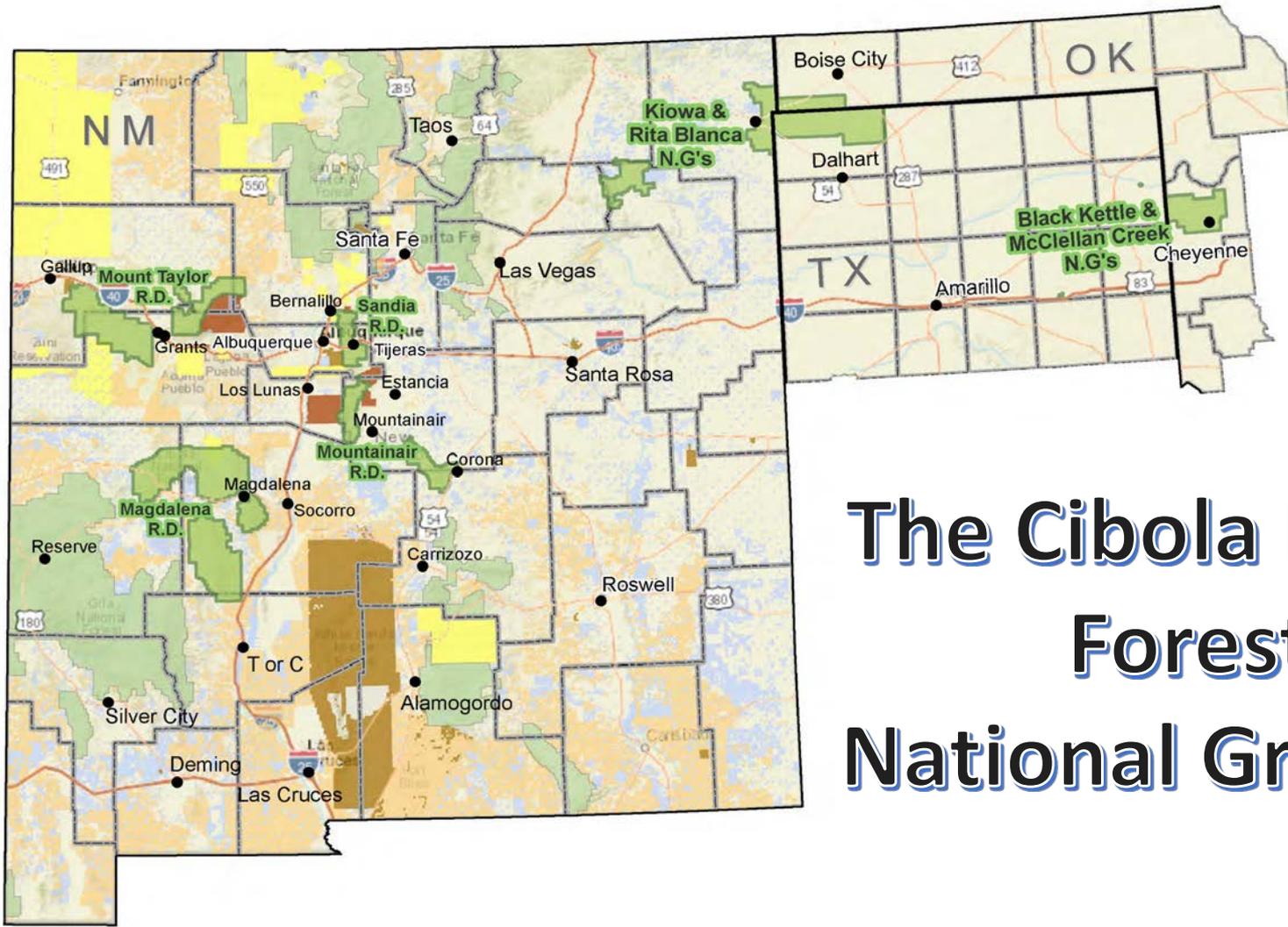
Background on Cibola NF and NGs

Four National Grasslands – 263,261 acres in NM, OK, TX

- Black Kettle, McClellan Creek, Kiowa, and Rita Blanca, in northeastern New Mexico, western Oklahoma, and Texas.
- Forest Plan was completed in 2012 under 1982 rule.

Four Mountain Districts – 1.6 million acres in NM

- Mount Taylor, Magdalena, Mountainair, and Sandia districts.
- Four Wilderness areas – 139,000 acres
- Plan completed in 1985, started revision in fall of 2012.



The Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands

What is a Forest Plan?

- A forest plan provides **broad and strategic management** direction for the national forest land and its resources.
- It provides a 30,000 ft. view and direction to achieve **sustainability of resources, goods, and services** to the public.
- The forest plan **does not select any specific projects**. Future projects will be planned and implemented using the plan.
- The plan includes **vision/niche, roles, desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, management areas (including recommended wilderness); suitability, monitoring.**

Timeline

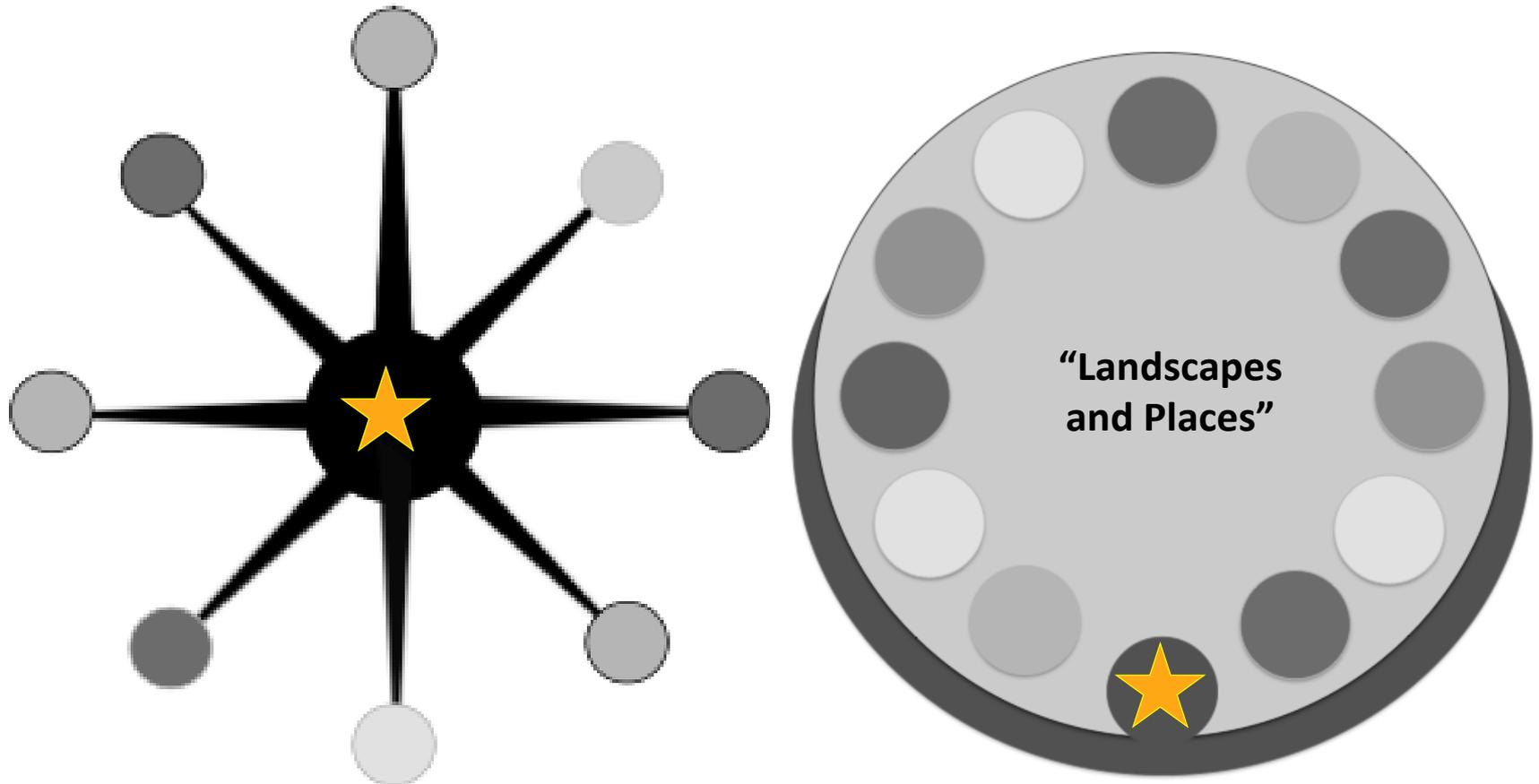
Fall 2012 to Summer 2016

- ***Formed 4 landscape teams (LTs) with oversight team**
- Draft assessment, needs for change, Phase 1, 2 and 3 draft inventory of potential wilderness and evaluation
- “Preliminary” draft plan - opportunity to “preview”

Summer 2016 to Summer 2018

- ***Expand collaborative process to develop common ground**
- Develop draft plan and analysis; 90 day public comment
- Final Plan & decision – 60 day objections, resolve in 90 days
- ***Implement final plan with “shared stewardship” vision, joint resources, all partners & priorities w/common ground**

Moving from FS in the “Middle” to “Shared Stewardship” of the Land as Partner



Forest Service Teams

Core, Supervisors, and District Interdisciplinary Teams

- Develop the draft forest plan, process and products
- Expertise in vegetation, range, fire, wildlife, water, recreation, wilderness, wild & scenic rivers, tribal, heritage, engineering, facilities, mining, lands, special uses...
- FS and LTs make recommendations to Steering Committee

Steering Committee

- Makes decisions on recommendations, final authority
- Work with Points of Contact to develop public process
- Forest Supervisor, District Rangers (4), and Forest Staff (3)

Landscape Teams

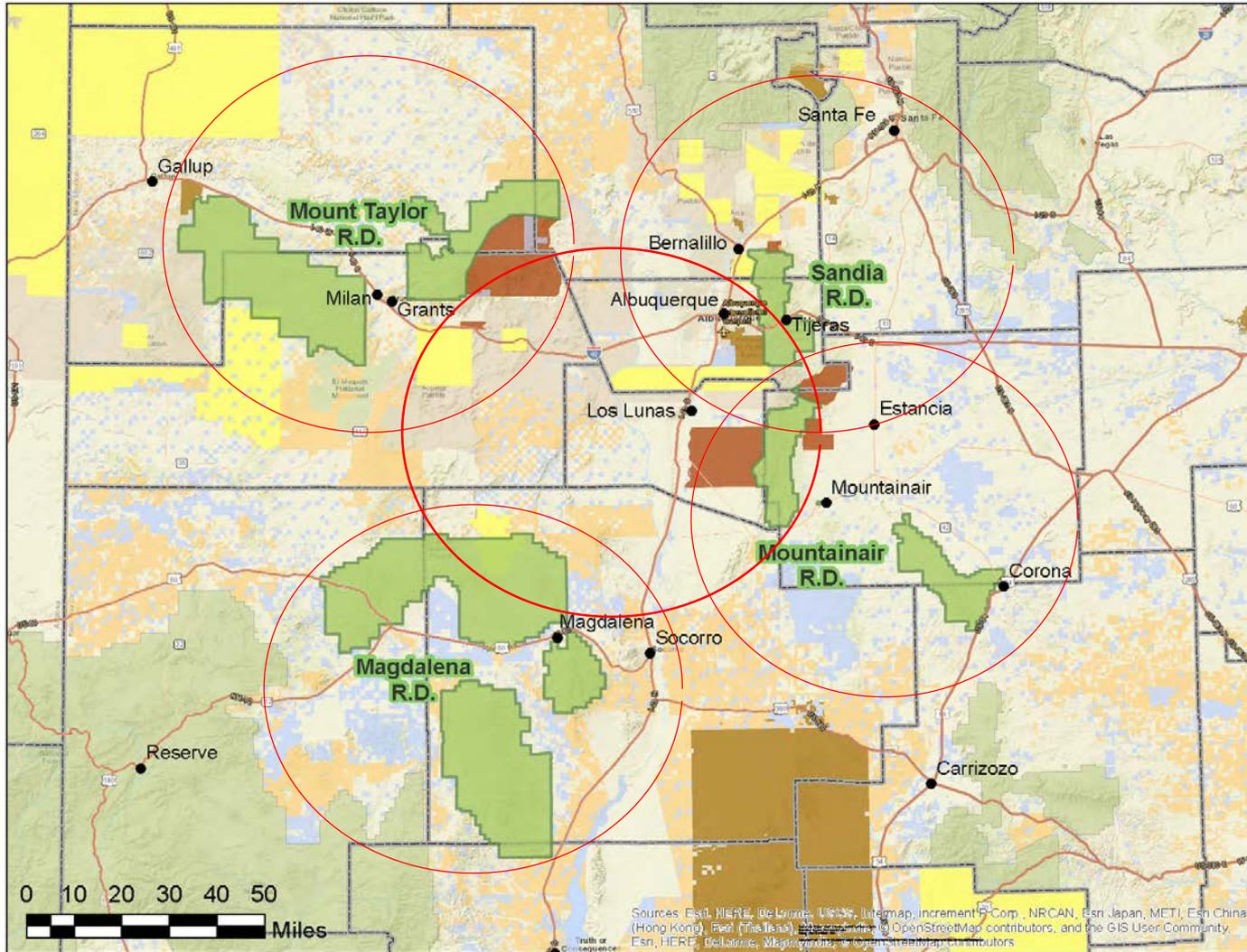
40 Cooperating Agencies - SWCDs, city, county, land grants, state, federal and tribes

- Signed an Memorandum of Understanding per the NEPA regulations
- Co-convene and co-design the public process
- Outreach and inclusive of diverse stakeholders and interests
- Provide relevant information to the Cibola per their expertise
- Participate on the extended interdisciplinary team with the Forest Service Teams
- Point of contacts and “roamers” work for consistency across the 4 landscape teams

Landscape and Oversight Teams



Cibola National Forest
Vicinity
Mountain Districts
&
Other Land Ownership



●	Cities and Towns	■	Tribal Lands
□	Counties	■	Land Grants
■	Cibola National Forest	■	BLM
■	Other National Forest	■	DOD / DOE
		■	State

Working Together...

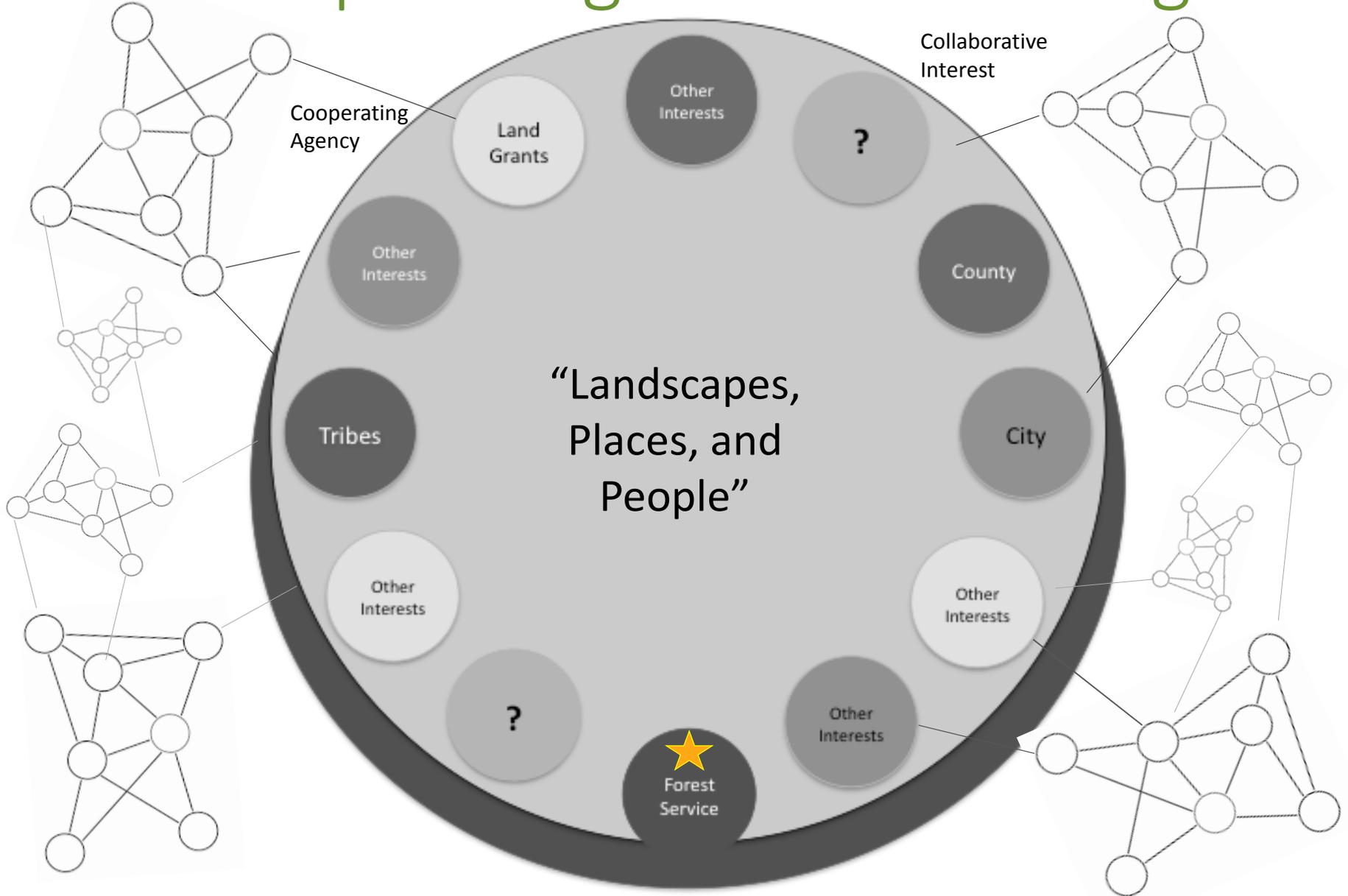
- **Products...**

- Public workshops
- Reviewed public comments
- Developed draft desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines
- Phase 1, 2, and 3 inventories
- Potential wilderness recommendations
- Management areas
- Alternatives
- Preliminary “draft” plan

- **Process....**

- Co-hosting and co-designing
- Countless hours, time and commitment on both sides has vastly improved the process and draft
- Transparency in comments, recommendation & decisions
- Cooperation for better outcomes & resolve conflicts
- Promote a “holistic” view of areas for common ground on shared landscapes

Cooperating → Collaborating



Core Themes from Public

Cultural and Traditional Landscapes and Uses

- Land is a life-sustaining ... rich history...diverse connections to the land.

Water & Ecosystem Health

- Reduce...uncharacteristic wildfire...regenerate capacity of the land and restoration economies.

Unique Places and Features

- Sky islands with...unique and spectacular features...vistas...sense of place.

Sustainable Recreation

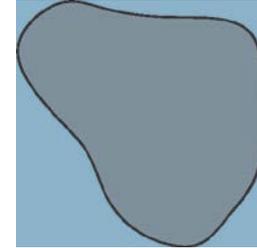
- Recreation...is resilient and relevant for current and future generations...collaborating with local communities and partners...as stewards of the land.

Forest Plan Outline

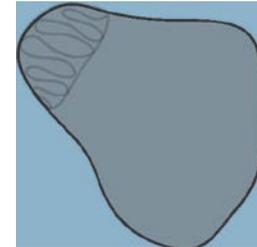
Chapter 1	Introduction, Vision/Niche, Roles and Contributions
Chapter 2	Desired Conditions, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines
Chapter 3	Management Areas and Designated Areas
Chapter 4	Suitability of Lands (not done yet)
Chapter 5	Monitoring

Chapter 3 – Management Areas

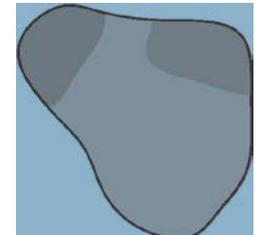
- Alternative with No Management Areas



- Alternative with Management Areas



- Alternative with Management Areas and Recommended Wilderness



“Prelim” Draft Plan = Alt. B

Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
No Action Existing 1985 Plan	Preliminary Draft Plan	No new designated areas	Alternative management areas	Backcountry emphasis
Continue with the current plan	Proposed Action (several new areas by landscape)	No management areas except already designated ones	Variations from Alt. B.	All areas having wilderness character are recommended wilderness

Refer to Appendix D: Proposed Management Areas and Draft Alternatives Alternative concepts came from review of public comments
Alternatives are required part of the NEPA analysis in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS)

Recommended Wilderness

Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
No new	Mount. Taylor: None Magdalena: 48,900 acres Mountainair: 600 acres Sandia: None Total: 49,500 acres	No new	Mount. Taylor: 15,000 acres Magdalena: None Mountainair: 1,200 acres Sandia: 300 acres Total: 16,500 acres	Mount. Taylor: 15,500 acres Magdalena: 73,700 acres Mountainair: 4,200 acres Sandia: 900 acres Total: 94,300 acres

Refer to Appendix D: Proposed Management Areas and Draft Alternatives Alternative concepts came from review of public comments

Alternatives are required part of the NEPA analysis in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS)

Questions, Review & Next Steps

- **Public Comments – by August 31, 2016**
- Chapter 2
 - Vegetation/Fire
 - Water/Air/Soil,
 - Range/Livestock Use
 - Species
 - Infrastructure, Lands, Special Uses
 - Recreation, Scenery
 - Cultural Identity
 - Minerals and Energy
- Chapter 3 - Management Areas
- Chapter 5 - Monitoring