



Thanks for joining us today.

As many of you might know the Gila NF is in the process of revising its Forest Plan from 1986.

This comprehensive document that will guide management for all resources on the National Forest for the next 15 years or more.

And revision is an opportunity for your knowledge and suggestions to be heard and shape the Forests' future management

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity to learn about and provide input on the next steps in the Plan Revision process. So thanks for attending today.

As you can see from this diagram, we are have just begun the plan revision phase.

## Where we are now

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- Wrapped up the assessment phase
- Posted final versions of the assessment report and need for change document to the website
- Published Notice of Intent (began next phase and NEPA)

The assessment was developed with stakeholder involvement and includes an evaluation of ecological, social, and economic resources.

The need-for-change document describes the strategic changes in current management direction necessary to address conditions, trends, and risks to sustainability identified by the assessment.

We revised draft documents released earlier based on stakeholder feedback.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to help us improve these documents.

With this notice, we are initiating formal plan revision and invite other governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, and the public to contribute.

## Plan Revision Phase

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- The need for change statements provide focus for the next phase of planning
- Develop plan providing vision, strategy, and guidance
- Develop plan components to meet desired conditions
  - Desired Conditions
  - Objectives
  - Standards
  - Guidelines
  - Suitability

We will be develop plan components to help ensure management meets desired conditions for each resource

Desired Conditions are drivers of the plan, and describe a picture of the desired outcome of land management

What do we want our Ponderosa pine forest to look like? What do we want our trails to look like?

And you'll get a chance to write your own desired conditions later in the meeting

Desired conditions are achievable social, economic and ecological conditions on the Forest, or a portion of the Forest to maintain or move toward.

All the other plan components feed into achieving desired conditions

Objectives are measurable statements of progress towards the desired condition.

Suitability, standards and guidelines clarify how and where certain kinds of uses projects and activities may or may not occur.

## What else is Included in Forest Plan Revision?

- Management approaches
- Management/Geographical Areas
- Distinctive Roles and Contributions
- Monitoring Plan
- Timber Suitability
- Priority Watersheds
- Identify lands that may have potential wilderness characteristics
- Wild and Scenic River eligibility study
- Significant Issues and Alternatives
- Environmental analysis



We will be discussing and requesting input on these components and processes at this and future meetings.

We will want your input to make sure the plan is reflective of the land and it's people.

These conversations will lead to better understanding of multiple perspectives, areas of alignment or potential alignment, and areas of disagreement.

Through these discussions and input, we can develop and refine some of the later planning products such as draft plan components and range of alternatives.

So the Forest Supervisor can make an informed decision based on the environmental analysis of the range of alternatives for the good of the land and the people we serve.

## Integrate Plan Components

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- Together provide for multiple use, sustainability, ecological integrity, and ecosystem services.
- Strategic and practical framework for managing the Forest
- On balance, best meet the needs of the people
- Are within FS authority, inherent capability of the Forest, and fiscal capacity

Ecosystem services are benefits people obtain from the Forest and we'll have a station devoted to those tonight.

## Stakeholder engagement

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- Engagement helps develop a plan with broad support essential to successfully implement the plan.
- Inclusive and transparent process
- For this phase, we are currently planning:
  - Community meetings
  - Technical Meetings
  - Open Houses
  - Field Trips
  - Desired Conditions workshop (early August)
  - Review/comment periods

Our vision is to create opportunities for all stakeholders to provide meaningful input in an inclusive and transparent process.

Discussions on what should go into the Draft Forest Plan which will be written over the next year.

Hopefully through this process we will strengthen relationships so when the plan is finalized there is a whole host of partners willing to implement it, and it is not plan that collects dust somewhere. And with our budget situation, we need all the partners we can get.

There will also be review and comment periods for process papers, initial plan components, preliminary range of alternatives, and the draft environmental impact statement.

## Timeline

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Initial Plan Components – Winter 2017/18 for feedback

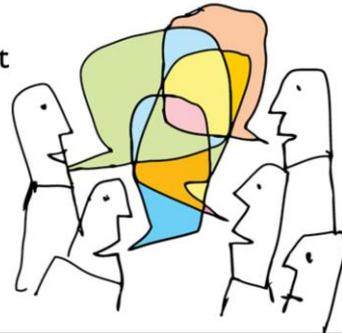
Develop Preliminary Alternatives – Early 2018

Environmental Analysis (EIS) – 2018/2019

Record of Decision – 2019

## How can you help?

- Be an active participant in developing a future vision for the forest
- Tell us what you value about the forest
- 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>

Email:

[gilaplan@fs.fed.us](mailto: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 1996. We invite you to work with us to develop a vision for a new plan that promotes a healthy, diverse, and productive Gila National Forest. Our goal is to involve you as we move through the collaborative planning process.

The Gila 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 Gila will hold six Community Conversations around the forest to share the people value the forest and why it is important to them, and get your ideas about how to improve our outreach and involvement efforts.

**Community Conversations will occur at the following locations:**

State	City/Town	Location	Date	Time
Montana	Billings	Duane School	March 9	9:00 a.m.
Arizona	Pat	Pat Bill, Cotton City Fairgrounds	March 20	9:00 a.m.
Idaho	Shoshone	Shoshone Community Center	March 22	9:00 a.m.
Utah	Silver City	Utah County Conference Center	March 23	9:00 a.m.
Idaho	Little Lost Creek	Little Lost Creek Inn (Lake Roberts)	March 23	9:00 a.m.
Black Range	Black Range	Black Range Fairgrounds	March 23	9:00 a.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.
- Involving one of the Gila's Core Planning Team members to make a presentation and answer questions at your organization's meeting. Contact Paul Schultz, Forest Planner, at (575) 368-8268 if you're interested.
- Sharing your suggestions, comments and information by:
  - Sending an email to [gilaplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:gilaplan@fs.fed.us).
  - Sending mail to Gila National Forest Plan Revision, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88131-7943.

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

[File Revision Process](#)

## Next Steps Stations

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# Thank you!

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...for your willingness to participate in these collaborative meetings and for your future engagement in developing the revised Gila Forest Plan