



Coronado National Forest Forest Plan Revision Update

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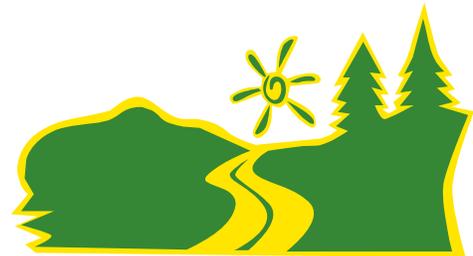
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Message from the Forest Supervisor...

I am pleased to announce that we have reached a major milestone in our journey to revise the Coronado Land and Resource Management Plan, better known as our Forest Plan. The publication of the Notice of Initiation in the Federal Register marks the official start for development and adjustment of Forest Plan components (see definitions of Forest Plan components on page 2 of this update). As many of you know, we have already started developing, sharing, and adjusting draft Desired Condition Statements and also the Suitability component, in the form of draft Land Use Zones. Many of you have helped to develop these components through your participation in the November 2008 Open House meetings, and through your comments (which continue to come in!). I am really impressed with the quality of the information we are getting from your comments, and the most important part of my message today is that I want you continue to stay engaged to help us develop the best Forest Plan possible. We are always available for informal questions or discussions, however, there are some formal comment periods coming up in the future that you will need to pay attention to. Please read carefully the section on page 3 of this update regarding comments. Also, take a look at the timeline for Forest Plan revision and note future public involvement and collaboration opportunities. We plan to have Open House meetings again this fall to introduce the entire suite of draft Forest Plan components. We hope to see you all then, and in the meantime, please contact us any time with questions or ideas.

Jeanine Derby
Forest Supervisor



Coronado NF Plan Revision Website

Find everything you need to know about forest plan revision, upcoming meetings, and opportunities for public involvement at:

www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/plan-revision/

Chronology of Collaboration Activities for the Forest Plan Revision Process

Spring 2005: Focus groups were conducted in locations across the Forest to quantify attitudes, values and beliefs toward Coronado NF lands.

April 2006: Regional Forester Harv Forsgren hosted a question and answer session for the public in Tucson to initiate the plan revision process for the National Forests in Arizona.



June 2006: Six public workshops were held in communities across southeastern Arizona with the purpose of establishing relationships and determining the “Needs for Change” for the current Forest Plan.

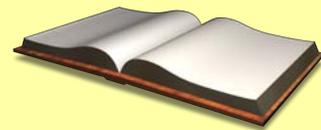
September 2006: Six workshops were held in communities across southeastern Arizona with the purpose of prioritizing the previously identified “Needs for Change.”

October – September 2007: Seven workshops, again geographically distributed, were held to begin to develop “Desired Condition Statements” based on the previously identified priority “Needs for Change.”

November 2008: Seven open house events were held in geographic locations across the Forest with the purpose of presenting initial draft Forest Plan products to the public. They included draft Desired Condition Statements and draft Land Use Zone maps.

What Are Forest Plan Components?

- **Desired conditions** are the social, economic, and ecologic attributes toward which management of the land and resources are directed. Desired conditions are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities, and may be achievable only over a long time period.
- **Objectives** are specific, measurable, management outcomes that contribute to maintenance or achievement of desired conditions within defined timeframes.
- **Guidelines** are design criteria for management activities based on Best Management Practices. They provide information and guidance for the design of projects and activities to contribute to the achievement of desired conditions and objectives. If strict design criteria are required, allowing no variation, then they may be included as **standards**.
- **Suitability** of areas is the identification of the general suitability of an area in a national forest unit for a variety of uses that are compatible with desired conditions and objectives for that area.
- **Special areas** are areas within the National Forest System recognized for their unique or special characteristics with an official designation. Some examples include Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Research Natural Areas.

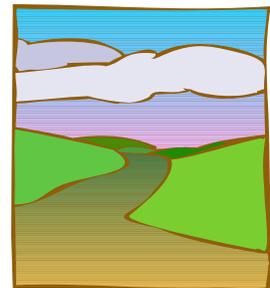


Coronado National Forest Plan Revision Timeline

October 2009	Open houses to begin collaboration with the public to refine Draft Revised Plan
May 2010	Complete Proposed Plan and begin the formal 90-day Comment Period
October 2010	30-day pre-decisional Objection Period
December 2010	Responsible Official signs Plan Approval Document

What is a Notice of Initiation?

The Notice of Initiation for Forest Plan Revision describes important dates, contact information, documents available for review, needs for changing the Forest Plan, opportunities to comment, estimated timeline, and names the responsible official. It is required by 36 CFR 219.9(b)(1) (i) and (2)(i), which require that the public be notified when a plan revision is initiated, and that the notification is published in the Federal Register.



A Few Comments About Commenting



There are some informal and formal comment periods coming up that you will want to pay attention to. The collaboration to refine the Draft Revised Plan is an informal comment period that will run from October through December 2009. Then there will be a formal 90-day comment period after the Proposed Plan has been completed. Most importantly, the Notice of Initiation states that “only those parties who participate following the publication of this notice through the submission of written comments can submit an objection later in the proposed plan development process pursuant to 36 CFR 219.13(a).” This means that even if you have commented in the past, you will need to have submitted written comments after June 22, 2009 (the date of NOI publication) to have standing for submitting an objection during the 30-day pre-decisional objection process.

Coronado National Forest

Contact Us!

Please contact us with questions or suggestions regarding forest plan revision, or to be added or removed from our mailing list. Please also let us know if we should update or correct your mailing information. Here is how we can be reached:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/plan-revision/>



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