

FOREST PLAN REVISION PRIMER

Santa Fe National Forest's **Land and Resource Management Plan**, otherwise known as the **Forest Plan**, will be revised, beginning in 2014. The plan will guide all management activities for the next 10-15 years.

The Forest Plan is a very important document! Along with serving as **our vision**, it provides clear direction for managing the land and its resources. Once approved, all work projects and proposals must comply with the Forest Plan, or the plan must be amended.



WHY REVISE?

Current Forest Plan Fast Facts

- Published in 1987
- 260 pages
- 13 amendments

Even though the Forest Plan has been amended 13 times, the Plan does not reflect the current needs of the forest, adjacent communities, and other stakeholders. Public perceptions, uses, and values also have changed.

In revising the Forest Plan, we will follow the Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule, which provides guidance for revising and amending Forest Plans. Some features of the 2012 Planning Rule include:

- A stronger focus on *outcomes* rather than *outputs*
- Basing actions on the best available science and local knowledge
- Ability to adapt to changing conditions and stressors over time
- Enhanced public participation throughout the plan revision process

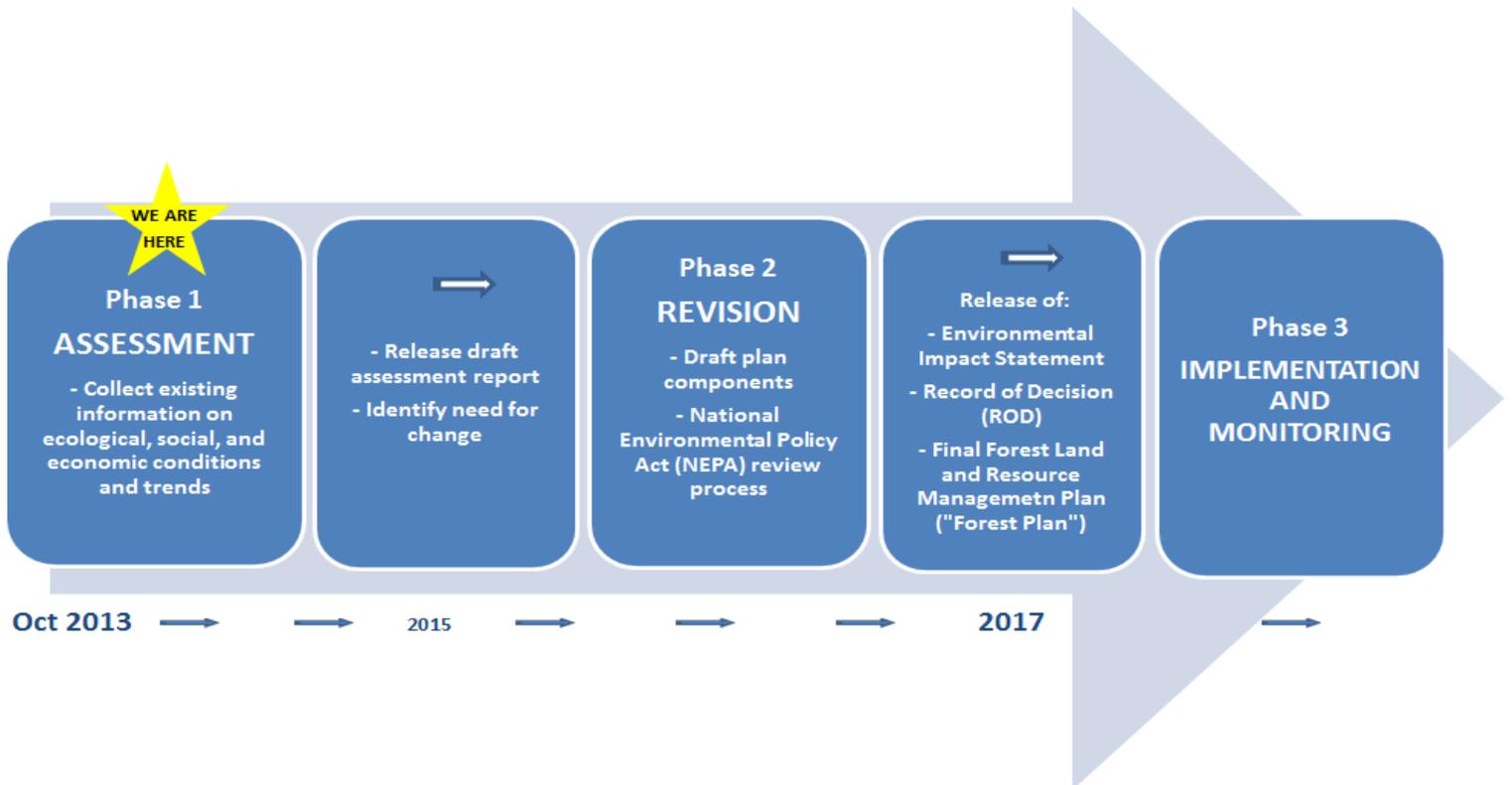
Participation in the Forest Plan revision process presents a unique opportunity to influence how the forest will be managed over the long-term. We need **your help** to create a Forest Plan that improves ecological, social, and economic sustainability, provides vital ecosystem services like clean air and water, and ensures that people can continue to enjoy the many uses and resources that Santa Fe National Forest offers. **Thank you!**



Questions? Contact:

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FOREST PLAN REVISION TIMELINE:



1) ASSESSMENT (*Now through Spring 2015*) —The Forest Service will rapidly collect and compile existing information about environmental, economic, and social conditions and trends affecting the forest.

- One year rapid process focused on current conditions and trends
- Covers 15 topics, some of which are wildlife, fire, water quality, wilderness inventory, and cultural heritage

2) REVISION (*Spring 2015 through 2017*) —Develop our vision for the forest in the future and the standards and guidelines that will help us get there.

Phase 1—Develop a draft Forest Plan

- Develop vision for the forest (i.e., desired conditions and objectives) and standards and guidelines to help achieve this vision
- Determine areas that may be suitable for special designation (i.e., research areas, wilderness)
- Evaluate draft plan and alternatives using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Develop monitoring plan

Phase 2— Finalize Forest Plan

- Collect comments on plan and analysis as part of the formal NEPA comment period
- Use comments and finalize Forest Plan
- Record of Decision and Final Forest Plan

3) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING—Once the Forest Plan is finalized, all projects and actions that will be implemented on the ground must comply with the Forest Plan (or the Plan must be amended).

- Monitor resources to determine if we are meeting Forest Plan desired conditions and objectives
- Forest Plan can be amended as monitoring indicates a need
- Monitoring reports will be produced every other year