



United States Department of Agriculture

Welcome



FOREST PLAN REVISION JUNE 2014



Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

Forest Plan Revision Key Points

- 2012 Planning Rule vs. 1982 Planning Rule
- Early Adopter Forests (Sierra, Sequoia, Inyo)
- 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- 3 separate Forest Plans
- 3 Records of Decision (ROD)
- Responsible Official = Forest Supervisor



What is a Forest Plan?

- **Broad guidance for how natural resources, projects and activities will be managed**
- **Can be amended and must be revised periodically**
- **Planning Rules guide how plans are developed and their content**

What is the purpose of this meeting?

- Outline the plan revisions we are considering
- Hear your thoughts on proposed changes
- Provide information on topics associated with the plan revision process
- Offer one-on-one access to Forest Service staff

How can you provide feedback?

- Provide feedback on the specific plan revisions we are considering and desired conditions
- Provide feedback on the quality and availability of the supporting materials
- Provide written feedback electronically or by mail by June 30, 2014
- Participate in the public scoping process in August

How is your feedback used?

- **Help set priorities for plan revisions or project activities**
- **Suggest ways we can more effectively involve you in the planning process**
- **Provide new or technical information that supports the environmental impact statement analysis**

What sets the pace of Plan Revisions?

- We are committed to streamlining the process
- We want to produce quality, timely, and cost-effective assessments
- We want to divert more resources to restoring resilient forests on public lands

What is the revised timeline?

- Extended from December 2015 to September 2016
- August 2014 – *Notice of Intent*, begin public scoping
- April 2015 – *Notice of Availability of Draft EIS and Draft Forest Plans*
- March 2016 – *Notice of Availability of Final EIS*
- September 2016 – *Notice of Plan Approval*



Provide your feedback by June 30, 2014

- **Submit your feedback here at the meeting**
- **E-mail:**
 - R5planrevision@fs.fed.us
 - include the topic you are providing feedback on in the subject line
- **Mail:**
 - Mike Dietl, Regional Planning Team
U.S. Forest Service
1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592



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Updated “Need to Change”



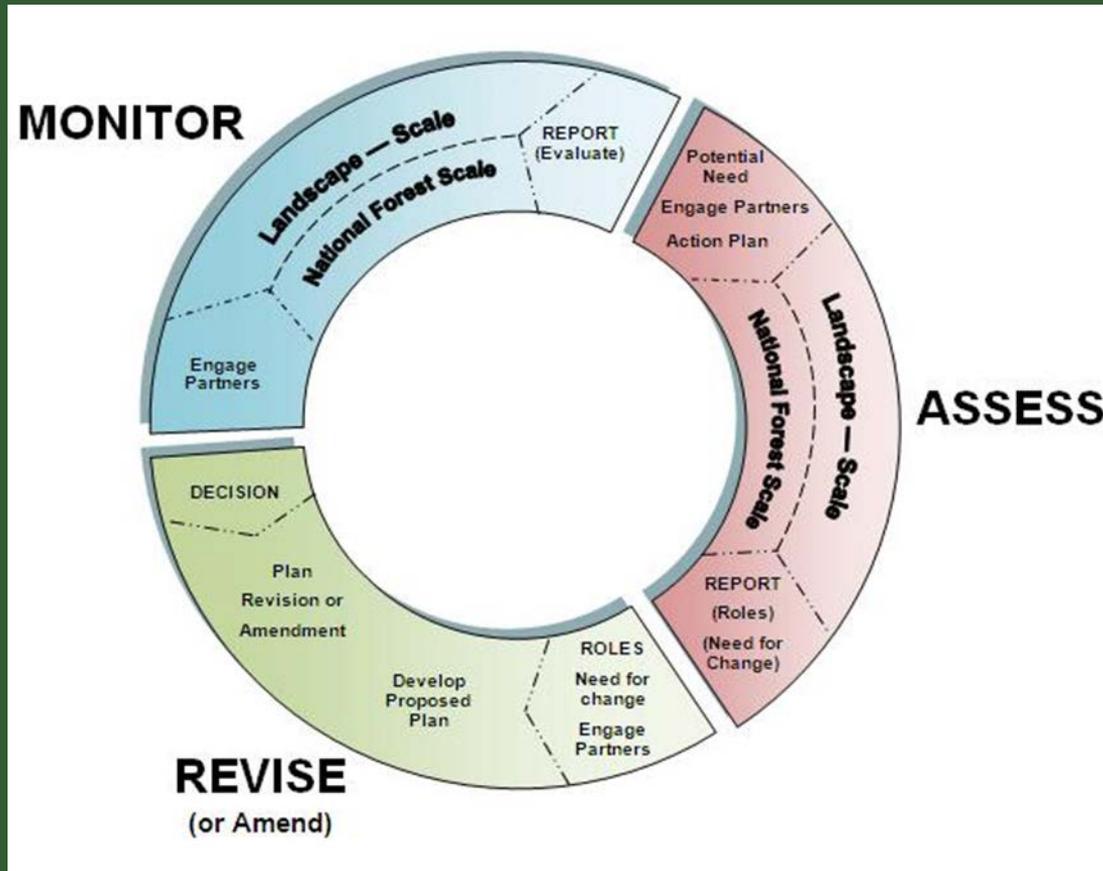
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Updated “Need to Change” Overview

- Overall plan revision process
- What is the “Need to Change”?
- Where did we come from?
- What did we hear?
- Updated “Need to Change”
- What changed?
- Where do we go from here?
- How you can help

Plan Revision Process



What is the “Need to Change” ?

- **Link between Forest and Bio-Regional Assessments and forest plan revisions**
- **Clearly identifies areas we believe require new plan direction**
- **Gives focus to the forest plan revision process**

Where Did We Come From?

- **Assessments and Science Synthesis**
- **Preliminary Need to Change**
- **January Workshops**

Assessments and Science Synthesis

- **Assessment reports finished in Dec 2013**
 - Synthesized existing information related to social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends
 - Conducted rapidly, using readily available information and existing data
 - Organized around 15 topic areas
- **Draft Science Synthesis online Mar 2013**
 - Summary of relevant science to support plan revision in the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades

Preliminary Need to Change

- A rapid, criteria-based approach to identify areas potentially needing change
- Six emphasis areas were identified:
 1. VEGETATION, RESILIENCE, WILDLIFE AND FIRE
 2. EASTSIDE VEGETATION, RESILIENCE, WILDLIFE, INVASIVE PLANTS AND FIRE EMPHASIS
 3. WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE
 4. MEADOWS
 5. AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN
 6. SUSTAINABLE RECREATION



January Workshops

- Preliminary Need to Change available for feedback Dec. 31, 2013 – Jan. 31, 2014
- Tribal and public workshops
- Received a wide variety of feedback:
 - Outside of Need to Change
 - Need to Change process
 - Need to Change content



What Did We Hear?

- **Concerns about “Need to Change” process**
 - Unclear, not transparent
 - Not clearly linked to Assessments
 - Did not highlight uniqueness of each forest
 - Did not relate to current management direction

Updated Need to Change

- Revised process that starts with Assessments and Science Synthesis report
 - Which resource conditions and condition trends are of concern?
 - Could changed plan components improve conditions?
 - How would that contribute to sustainability?
- Documented in Need to Change Analysis Supplement

What Changed?

- **Format to improve clarity and show rationale**
 - **Three Sections and Supplement**
 - Section 1 – Required by Planning Rule
 - Section 2 – Recommended for Change
 - Section 3 – Not Recommended for Change
 - **Supplement – Rationale for recommendations**
 - **Organized around key topics and subtopics of the Assessments**
 - **More details and identify differences between forests**

Content-Based Feedback

- Resources and areas of tribal importance and tribal engagement (in update)
- Post-Fire salvage (in update)
- Connectivity (in update)
- Use of Fire versus Herbicides (no change identified)
- Holistic fire management (in update)
- Wildlife conservation (Planning Rule)



Content-Based Feedback (continued)

- Wild horses and burros (via sage-grouse – Inyo NF)
- Grazing and meadows (in update)
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), recreation settings, opportunities, and impacts (in update)
- Recreation uses and partnerships (in update)



Other Updates

- **Better integration across topics**
- **Include groundwater and drought**
- **Include climate adaptation opportunities**
- **Identify needed updates since original plans**
- **Better integration of social and economic contributions**

Where Do We Go From Here?

- Public feedback on updated need to change considered by Forest Supervisor
- Need to Change informs the Purpose and Need and development of the Proposed Action
- Next milestone is Notice of Intent to prepare the environmental impact statement for plan revision

How Can You Help?

- **Learn more at the Open House**
 - **Fill out Need to Change Feedback Forms**
 - Prioritize Need to Change topics
 - Approaches to improve resilience to changing climate and uncharacteristic wildfire
 - Approaches to improve recreation partnerships
 - Clarify the Need to Change and rationale
 - Identify missing Need to Change items from Assessments
 - Suggested improvements to the Need to Change rationale
- **Submit feedback by June 30, 2014**



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Break



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Open House Sessions

- **Timber Suitability**
- **Wilderness Inventory**
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers**
- **Fire Risk Assessment**
- **Species of Conservation Concern**
- **Desired Conditions**
- **Need to Change Rationale**

Timber Suitability

- To determine acres suitable for long-term timber harvest
- A required step in developing a plan revision
- This is a work in progress; only determining suitable acres, not volumes available
- Determine acres for silvicultural activities in meeting objectives, desired conditions

Wilderness Inventory

Process for Identification, Inventory and Evaluation of areas that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

1. Inventory
 - Preliminary Inventory
 - Final Inventory
2. Evaluation
3. Analysis
4. Decision



We are
Here

Wilderness Inventory

- National Forest lands that meet the size and improvements criteria in the proposed Forest Service Handbook
- We want your feedback on the preliminary inventory
- The feedback will be used to assist the Forest Service in developing a final inventory

Wilderness Inventory - Evaluation

- Evaluate the wilderness characteristics of areas identified during inventory:
 - Appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable
 - Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation
 - Contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values
 - May be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Wilderness Inventory - Analysis

- The Forest Supervisor will review the evaluation, public input and staff recommendations and then identify which specific areas to carry forward
- Not all lands included in the inventory are required to be carried forward
- Plan components will be developed for any areas included in one or more alternatives in the analysis

Wilderness Inventory - Decision

- Forest Supervisor may recommend wilderness as part of the Forest Plan Record of Decision
- If a wilderness recommendation is made, it is a preliminary administrative recommendation
- Congress has the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- We will follow the process outlined in the proposed Forest Service Handbook for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation
 - Inventory (Required)
 - Eligibility (Required)
 - Classification (Required)
 - Suitability (Optional)

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- **We are:**
 - **Evaluating previous inventories completed**
 - **Identifying gaps in geographic areas where additional inventory will need to be completed**
 - **When we complete these two steps, we will share the results and solicit feedback on our inventory and findings**

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- **Previously inventoried areas (eligible and ineligible) will be reviewed for changed conditions and new information**
 - **If there is, then adjustments will be made to previous findings**
 - **If there isn't, then we will document and reaffirm previous findings**

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Eligibility determination for new inventory made through a resource assessment
 - If eligible, analyzed for current level of development and recommended for one or more classes:
 - Wild
 - Scenic
 - Recreational
- Suitability
 - We are seeking ways to complete this in a timely manner

Fire Risk Assessment

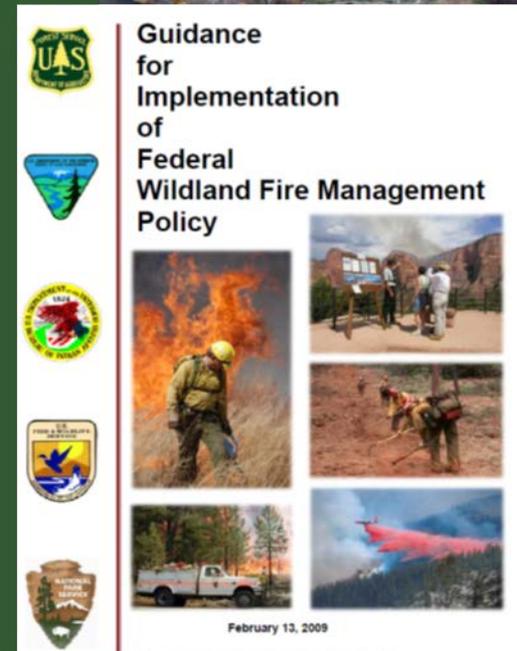
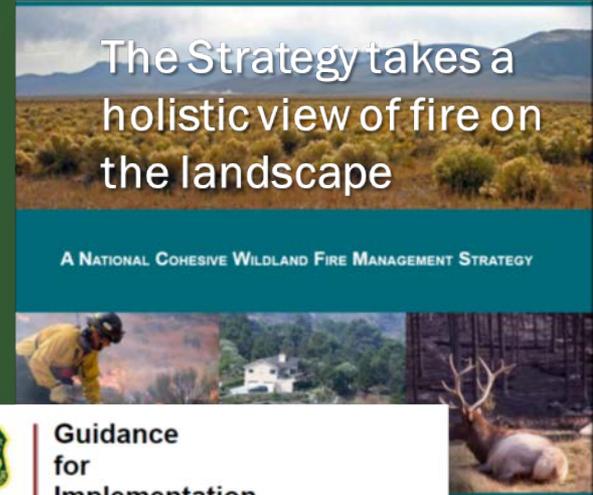


- Susceptibility +
of Values

Fire Risk Assessment

“Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities”

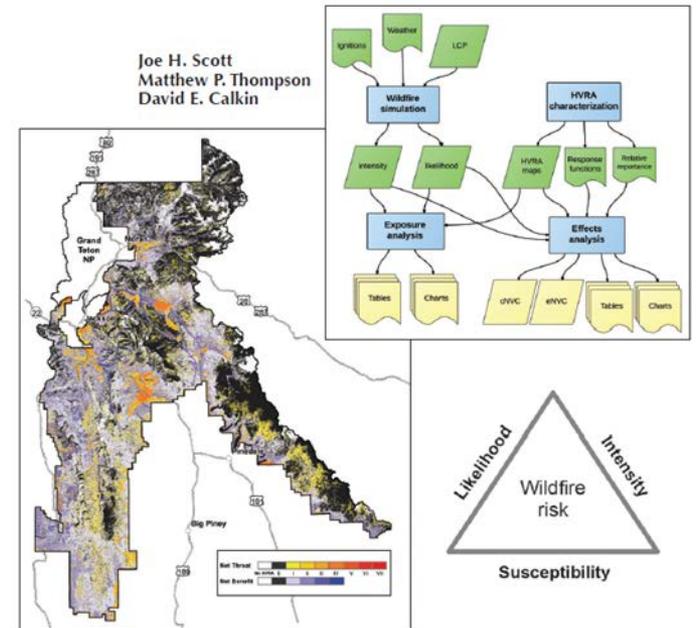
- National Cohesive Strategy
- 2009 Wildland Fire Policy



Fire Risk Assessment

- Assessment Framework
 - RMRS-GTR-315
 - Joe H. Scott
 - Matt P. Thompson
 - David E. Calkin

A Wildfire Risk Assessment Framework for Land and Resource Management



Species of Conservation Concern

- **2 categories of At-Risk Species under 2012 Planning Rule**
 - **Federal Endangered Species Act**
 - **Species of Conservation Concern (SCC)**
- **Purpose is to manage ecosystems and habitats**
 - **Reduce the need to list species as Threatened or Endangered**

Potential SCC List

- Developed potential list in the Assessments
- Three criteria:
 - Global and State concern ratings
 - Known to occur on the forest
 - Substantial long-term concern on the forest
- List will continue to be refined throughout the plan revision

Relationship to Forest Plan

- **Contribute to recovery of federally listed species**
- **Consider conservation assessments and conservation strategies**
- **Manage for sustainability and key ecological conditions**
- **Coordinate with state and federal partner agencies to streamline planning**

Draft Desired Conditions

Various resource specialists including:

- Cultural / Tribal
- Terrestrial / Aquatic/ Riparian
- Fire
- Recreation
- Hydrology
- Range / Grazing



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Need to Change Rationale



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