



Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts

Forest Plan Revision FAQs



What is a Forest Plan? A Forest plan provides a general, conceptual framework to guide a forest in managing its forest resources, goods, and services. Described as “the view from 30,000 feet,” forest plans are intentionally strategic and broad in scope and provide guidance in the decision-making process involved with site-specific projects. Forest plans have desired conditions, objectives, standards and guidelines, identification of suitability of areas for certain uses, and monitoring programs. Forest plans are consistent with and do not override law, regulation, or established policy.

Why does the Cibola’s Forest Plan need to be revised? The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires that forest plans be periodically revised -- usually every 15 years. The Cibola is revising its 1985 Forest Plan (Land and Resource Management Plan) for the Sandia, Mountainair, Magdalena, and Mt. Taylor Ranger Districts.

Revisions to the Cibola’s 1985 Forest Plan are overdue, and a lot has changed on the forest and surrounding areas. Scientific understanding and technology have evolved, social and cultural influences and demands have changed, and stressors and threats to sustainability have increased. In addition, there is new guidance for how forest plans are to be revised. The Forest Service’s 2012 Planning Rule directs forest plans to be science-based and developed with extensive public involvement and collaboration throughout the revision process.

Where is the Cibola on the Forest Plan Revision process? The Cibola released the Resource Assessment on April 14, 2014. This report assesses the ecological, social and economic conditions and trends of the resources, goods, and services provided by the Forest and risks to sustainability.

The Cibola scheduled a series of public meetings and collaborative sessions in May, June and July 2014 where staff discussed the draft assessment report, provided updates, and captured public input on the

assessment and needs for change in management direction for the Forest. The information gathered at the public meetings, collaborative sessions and from electronic submittals and postal mail will help identify the areas in the 1985 Forest Plan that need to be changed.

How can the public be involved? The Cibola National Forest is committed to involving the public in a meaningful, substantive dialogue to help form the development of a forest plan that will result in sustainable management of its resources, goods and services for the next 15 years.

Interested members of the public may be involved throughout the planning process in a number of ways, including:

- Participating in public meetings or collaborative work sessions. These sessions will be announced through press releases and will be posted on the Cibola’s forest plan revision web site: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev3_065627
- Hosting a staff member from the Cibola’s Planning staff to make a presentation and answer questions at your organization’s meeting. Contact Champe Green, Forest Planner, at 505.346.3889.
- Joining or hosting a self-convening workgroup for a specific topic of interest, and bringing the group’s ideas forward to a Cibola-hosted meeting or work session.
- Sharing your suggestions, comments and information by:
 - Via the web: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=NP-382>
 - Send an email with your comment to cibolamtnsplanrevision@fs.fed.us
 - or mail it to Cibola National Forest Plan Revision, 2113 Osuna Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113.

Tentative Schedule for Cibola Forest Plan Revision Activities

Dates	Activity
April 14, 2014 - Done	Released the draft resource assessment for review and comment
May 12-21, 2014 - Done	Holding public meetings to discuss the resource assessment. Meetings will be held in Albuquerque, Grants, Magdalena, Socorro, Santa Fe, Tijeras, Torreon and Mountainair
May/June 2014 - Done	Meeting with intertribal forums
June 9-23, 2014 - Done	Two rounds of collaborative work sessions to identify the needs for change to the existing forest plan. Meetings will be held in Gallup, Grants, Socorro, Albuquerque, and Mountainair
July/August 2014	Processing public/tribal input on draft assessment report and preliminary needs for change statements
August 2014	Finalize assessment report and needs for change statements and publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the <i>Federal Register</i> .
Late August-September 2014	Begin a collaborative process on identifying, inventorying, and evaluating potentially suitable lands for wilderness consideration. Introduction to the online Collaborative Mapping Tool and 1 st round of meetings in Albuquerque, Mountainair, Socorro/Magdalena, and Grants. Dates TBD.
Fall 2014	Begin collaboration on the development of desired conditions and other plan components for the revised plan; meeting dates TBD.
Summer 2015	Public review of the DEIS, draft forest plan and decision
Summer 2016	Notice of objection period.
Fall/Winter 2016	Plan approval and final EIS
Early 2017	Implementation and monitoring of the revised forest plan

For more information about the 2012 Planning Rule and related topics go to:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/planningrule/faqs>