



## Why should I care about forest planning?

- Clean water and fresh air
- Food (grazing and hunting)
- Economic opportunities
- Wood products
- Cultural and religious practices
- Recreation



## What is a Forest Plan?

Comprehensive document guiding management for all resources on the National Forest for the next 15 years or more.



## How can the Forest Plan Revision be Important to You?

An opportunity...

- for your knowledge and suggestions to be heard and shape the Gila's future management
- to build on your relationships with other users and with Gila staff in a shared vision



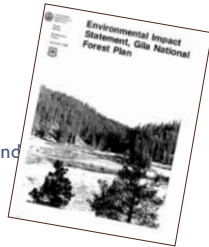
*"A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle."*  
-Khalil Gibran

## WHY DOES THE FOREST PLAN NEED TO BE REVISED?

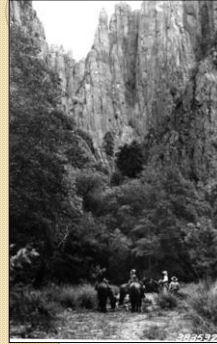
- The National Forest Management Act (1976) requires that forest plans be revised periodically

- Gila NF Plan approved 1986

Even though the Forest Plan has been amended at various times; the Forest and surrounding areas have experienced significant changes since 1986.



## So What has Changed?

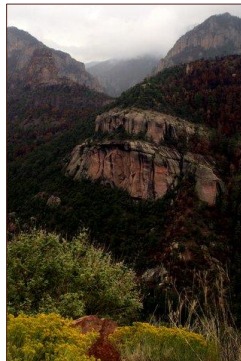


- Conditions
- Uses and demands
- Social and cultural influences
- Science and technology
- Threats

## What is Included in a Forest Plan?

### Plan Components

- Desired Conditions
- Objectives
- Standards
- Guidelines
- Suitability



*"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now."*  
-Alan Lakein

**Forest plans are consistent with, and do not override existing law, policy or regulation.**



### Why does the Revision Process Matter?

- Confirm what is working with the 1986 plan, and identify where there is a need for change
- Site-specific decisions are not made in the Plan, but are shaped by it
- All subsequent proposals, projects and activities must be consistent with the approved forest plan.

### 2012 Planning Rule

National direction for the forest plan revision process.

Features include increased emphasis on:

- collaboration and public engagement
- sustainability and ecosystem services
- cross-jurisdictional coordination

Continued emphasis on:

- multiple use management
- use of best available science



### Public Participation and Collaboration

Goals throughout the process:

- Transparency
- Enhance opportunities to participate
- Identify desired social, economic, and ecological conditions together



### Coordination with Other Planning Efforts

Coordinate with plans and policies of Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments

Seek opportunities to:

- create joint objectives
- resolve or reduce conflicts



## Plan Revision Process

### THREE PHASES

1. Assessment (1 year)
2. Plan Revision and NEPA Analysis (multiple years)
3. Implementation and Monitoring (15+ years)



## Assessment Phase

- 15 important ecological, social, and economic resource topics
  - What is out there?
  - What is the trend?
  - What is potential for future?
  - What is at risk?
- Use of best available science, local information, national perspectives, and native knowledge
- Identify how the 1986 Plan needs to be updated and revised (aka “Need for Change”)

## Important Ecological Resources

- Ecosystems
- Air, soil, and water resources
- Natural processes
- Carbon stocks
- At-risk species



## Important Social and Economic Influences

- Social, cultural and economic conditions
- Benefits people obtain from ecosystem services
- Multiple uses and their economic contributions
- Recreation
- Energy and minerals



## More Important Social and Economic Influences

- Infrastructure
- Areas of tribal importance
- Cultural and historical resources
- Land ownership and use
- Existing and potential designated areas



## Plan Revision Phase

### Develop a draft Forest Plan

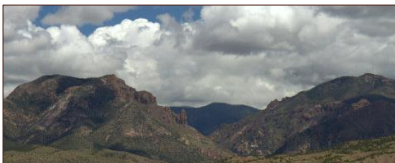
- ✓ Develop a vision for the forest based on Need for Change
- ✓ Evaluate areas that may be suitable for special designation
- ✓ Develop a draft plan and alternatives using the NEPA process

### Finalize Forest Plan

- ✓ Review the draft plan and analysis
- ✓ Respond to comments and revise the draft Forest Plan
- ✓ Consult with US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ✓ Objection Period
- ✓ Record of Decision and Final Forest Plan

## Special Designation Process

- Identify areas that **may** be suitable for special designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
- At most, the forest decision-maker can only recommend to Congress designations for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers



Looking into the Gila Wilderness

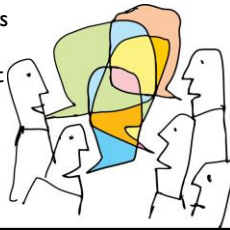
## Implementation and Monitoring Phase

- Monitoring is the basis to determine if meeting desired conditions and objectives or whether changes are needed



## How can you help?

- Be an active participant in developing a future vision for the forest
- Tell us what you value about the forest
- Share your knowledge and data
- 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://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>

With links to:

- 2012 Planning Rule
- Final Directives
- Region 3 Planning

Email:

[gilaplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:gilaplan@fs.fed.us)



Questions?



## Next steps

- Distribute Meeting Summary
- Develop a Public Engagement Strategy from input
- Start the Assessment Phase
- Hold public meetings to discuss the assessment in more detail
- Provide knowledge and data
- Present at organizational meetings
- Review the draft forest assessment of conditions, trends, and risks
- Collaborate to determine needs-for-change

How?

- Self-convening groups
- Public meetings & collaborative work sessions
- Input through electronic media or traditional means

Then...

- Publish a notice of intent to revise the forest plan in the *Federal Register*

