

Allegheny National Forest



Transition EIS

Public Meeting 3

Meeting Outline

- Safety Message
- Introductions
- Ground Rules
- Presentation
- Question and Answer Period
- Meeting Adjourned

Ground Rules

- **HONOR TIME:** We have an ambitious agenda. In order to meet our goals it will be important to follow the time guidelines given by the facilitator.
- **THINK FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD:** We are here to move forward. Past events cannot be changed. We can only move forward, together, to overcome them. Be positive and work together in a forward thinking manner!
- **APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR REQUIRED, USE COMMON CONVERSATIONAL COURTESY:** Be respectful of all meeting attendees. Don't interrupt; use appropriate language, no third party discussions, etc. Personal attacks on other meeting attendees and other related behavior are unproductive, inappropriate, and will not be tolerated.

Ground Rules

- **ALL IDEAS AND POINTS OF VIEW HAVE VALUE:** You may hear something you do not agree with or you think is "wrong." All ideas have value in this setting. Simply listen, you do not have to agree.
- **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER IF YOU DON'T WANT TO:** You are not required to defend your ideas nor agree or disagree with others.

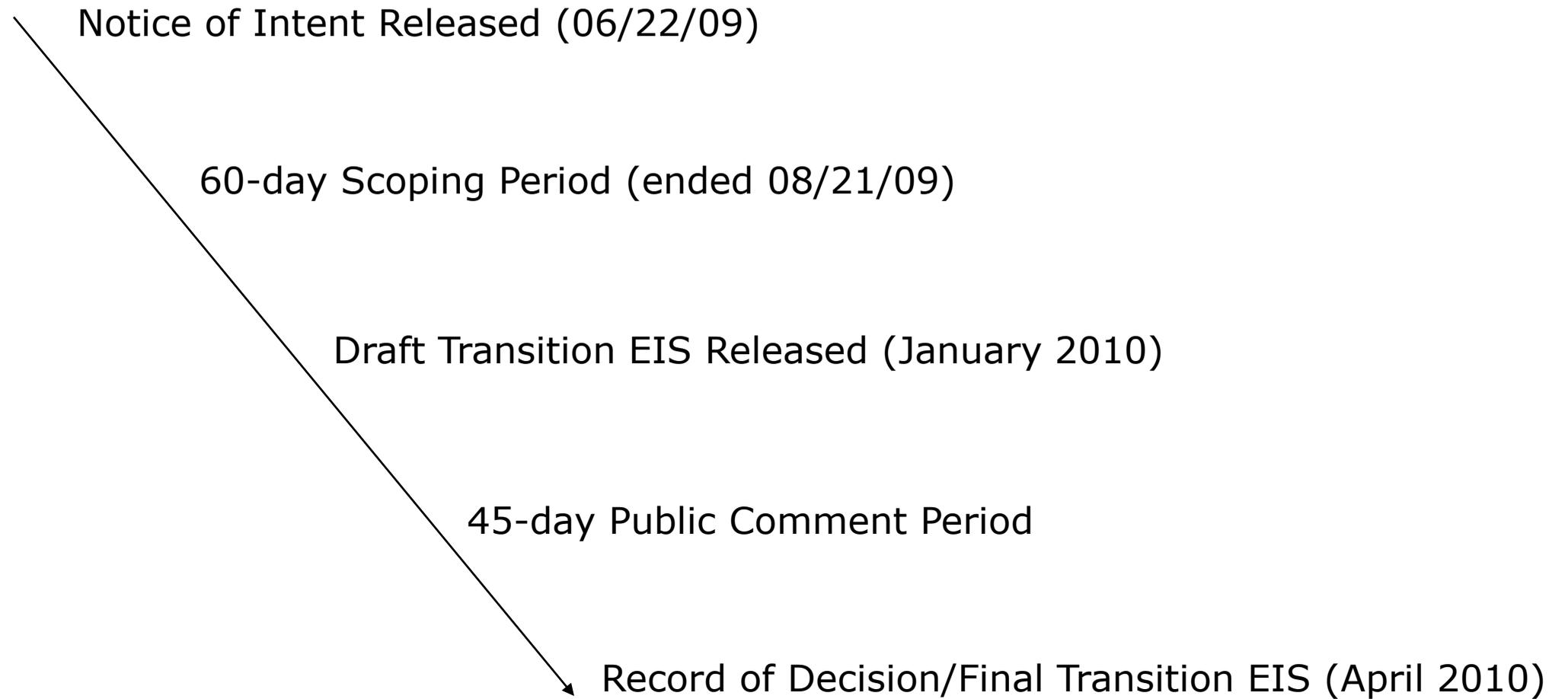
Ground Rules

- **BE COMFORTABLE:** Please feel free to help yourself to refreshments or take personal breaks. If you have other needs, please let the facilitator know.
- **PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND PAGERS!!!**

Presentation Overview

- Transition EIS Process and Timeline
- Notice of Intent
- Scoping
- Alternative Development

What Process is Required by Law, Regulation, or Policy for completing the Transition EIS?



How will the Public be Involved in Transition EIS?

- Continued public conference calls to provide updates.
 - 1-877-939-0384, passcode 9408961, #
 - Look on the ANF website for call dates
 - Next call is October 13, 2009, at noon.

- Public meetings in early November to present the Preliminary Alternatives that will be considered in detail.

Transition EIS Notice of Intent



Posted June 22, 2009

Purpose and Need

- To authorize reasonable access for forest-wide site-specific proposals to develop reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the ANF, with provisions to mitigate impacts to surface resources.

Proposed Action

- Proposing to authorize reasonable access for site-specific proposals for development of reserved and outstanding oil and gas rights within the ANF, with provisions to mitigate surface impacts **(Part I)**.
- Proposing to use design criteria and a site-specific review process through this decision to authorize reasonable access for future proposals for development of reserved and outstanding rights within the ANF, with provisions to mitigate surface impacts **(Part II)**.

Refinements made to the Proposed Action since June 22, 2009

- **Part I:** Area 12 (4 deep well proposal) removed from the Transition EIS in coordination with the company that proposed the development.
- **Part II:** Part II Area Refined.
- Deep well and Marcellus shale development proposals will not be included in Part I or II of the Transition EIS.

Decision to be Made

- What mitigations, if any, to apply in the authorization of reasonable access for site-specific proposals to develop reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the ANF.
- What design criteria, review process, and mitigations, if any, to apply in the authorization of reasonable access for future site-specific proposals to develop reserved and outstanding mineral rights within the Allegheny National Forest.

Scoping



The Purpose of Scoping

- To have an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed related to a proposed action.
- Scoping is conducted to identify issues, which lead to the development of alternatives to the proposed action and focus for the environmental, social, and economic effects analysis.

Issue Identification Process

- Step 1: Is the public comment an issue or non-issue?
- Step 2: Are the resulting issues significant or non-significant?

Screen 1

- Issue: A point of disagreement, debate, or dispute about the proposed action based on undesirable effects identified through scoping.
- Non-issue: General concerns or opinions received through scoping that are not related to the current proposed action's effects, and, therefore, cannot be resolved through an alternative or mitigation.

Screen 2

- An issue is Non-Significant when:
 - It is beyond the scope of the proposed action.
 - It is irrelevant to the decision to be made.
 - It is already decided or required by law, regulation, or policy.
 - It is conjectural in nature or not supported by scientific evidence.

Screen 2

- ❑ An issue is considered a Significant Issue if it makes it past the criteria for determining issues that are Non-Significant.
- ❑ Significant Issues are used to formulate alternatives to the proposed action, or prescribe mitigation and monitoring measures.
- ❑ Significant Issues may also be used to focus the environmental, social, and economic effects analysis.

Key Points

- Just because an issue is not determined to be Significant, does not mean it is not important or reviewed and discussed.
- We do not count the number of similar comments to determine their importance or significance. Significance is based solely on the criteria described in the previous slides.

What we heard

- Received 11 individual letters. All letters provided multiple comments.
- See handout to discuss.

Preliminary Significant Issues Identified

- ❑ There is concern that proposed development in Area 1a will adversely impact the recreational experience in the National Recreation Area, Proposed Wilderness Study Area, and Tracy Ridge Campground.
- ❑ There is concern that the proposed development in Area 4c will adversely impact the recreational experience at Rimrock.
- ❑ There is concern that proposed development will have an adverse affect (noise, visual, traffic, etc.) on the recreational experience pertaining to recreational trails, Concern Level 1 and 2 travelways, Scenic Integrity Levels, developed recreation sites, remote recreation areas.
- ❑ The use of directional drilling methods could be utilized to minimize surface disturbance.

Preliminary Significant Issues Identified

- ❑ There is concern that noise from OGDs could adversely impact wildlife patterns and behavior.
- ❑ There is concern that shallow well development across broad landscapes has the potential to adversely affect terrestrial and aquatic species viability (i.e. core areas, corridors, connectivity, biodiversity).
- ❑ There is concern that Part II of the Transition EIS does not include public notification or comment.

Alternative Development



Requirements for Developing Alternatives

- ❑ Evaluate all reasonable alternatives and explain reason for eliminating some alternatives from detailed study.
- ❑ Include the No-Action alternative.
- ❑ Identify the Preferred Alternative.

Requirements for Developing Alternatives

- All reasonable alternatives to the proposed action will:
 - Meet the identified Purpose and Need.
 - Address the Significant Issues.

Possible Alternatives for the Transition EIS

- (1) No-action: existing condition – no future development authorized.
- (2) Part I and II, applying only the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan Draft SEIS Alternative 3 as mitigations (preferred alternative).
- (3) Part I and II; applying the Forest Plan Draft SEIS Alternative 3 as mitigations (preferred alternative), plus other strategies to address the significant issues.

Next Steps

- Complete development of the Alternatives.
- Conduct analysis of social, economic, and environmental effects of each alternative.
- Identify a Preferred Alternative and release the Draft Transition EIS for official public comment.

Question and Answer Session

- ❑ We will not be recording comments. You may fill out the comment form or comment as described in the Notice of Intent.
- ❑ Questions need to be relevant to the presentation – where information can be found, how to comment, the process, and other questions of clarification.
- ❑ Questions will be recorded and briefly responded to.
- ❑ Questions from all 3 public meetings will be recorded, and more detailed responses will be posted on the ANF website.