

# USDA Forest Service: Science Forum for the Planning Rule

## Background

On Feb.24, 2010 USDA Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced a series of events to provide opportunities for collaborative discussion with the public on the development of a new Forest Service Land Management Planning Rule (planning rule). The Forest Service will host a national Science Forum, three National roundtables and nine Regional Roundtables. The National Science Forum will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC on March 29 and March 30 of 2010.

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## **Science Forum, March 29-30: Draft Agenda**

Facilitator: Booz Allen Hamilton

### SCIENCE FORUM - DAY ONE

9:00 – 10:00	Opening  Welcome from USDA and FS Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ann Bartuska, R&amp;D Deputy Chief</li><li>• Hank Kashdan, FS Associate Chief</li><li>• Harris Sherman, NRE Under Secretary</li><li>• Tony Tooke, FS Director of Ecosystem Mgmt. Coordination</li></ul> Review Forum Objectives
10:00 – 11:10	<b>Panel 1: Drivers of Ecosystems -- the state of the science</b>  Panelists will discuss the ecological processes that function at the landscape level across multiple ownerships and suggest ways that a planning rule might better consider these processes. Panelists include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tom Sisk, Northern Arizona University - Landscape ecology/land use patterns</li><li>• Jim Vose, Southern Research Station – Watershed science</li><li>• Connie Millar, Pacific Southwest Research Station – Climate change and forest ecosystems</li><li>• Max Moritz, University of California, Berkeley - Fire</li></ul>

11:10 - 12:20	Panel discussion and collaborative dialogue/questions to Panel members from the audience.
12:20 – 1:20	LUNCH
1:20 – 2:30	<p><b>Panel 2: Using Current Science to Plan, Manage and Measure at the Landscape Level</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss science as it relates to planning, managing, monitoring, and adapting at the landscape scale and explore ways that a planning rule could address these topics. Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Gustafson, Northern Research Station – Projecting impacts of management alternatives</li> <li>• Steve McNulty, Southern Research Station – Water and climate change at the landscape level</li> <li>• B. Ken Williams, US Geological Survey – Adaptive management</li> <li>• Sam Cushman, Rocky Mountain Research Station – Quantitative landscape ecology</li> </ul>
2:30 – 3:40	Panel discussion and collaborative dialogue/questions to Panel members from the audience.
3:40 – 3 :50	Closing

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### **SCIENCE FORUM - DAY TWO**

8:00 – 8:10	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recap of Day One</li> </ul>
8:10 – 9:20	<p><b>Panel 3: Identifying the best science behind maintaining plant and animal diversity and identifying the best science to plan and monitor.</b></p> <p>Panelists will talk about the current science behind planning for, managing to maintain and restore, and monitoring plant and animal diversity. Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin McKelvey, Rocky Mountain Research Station – Quantification of diversity</li> <li>• Marilyn Stoll, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Endangered Species</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Morishima, MORI-ko LLC – All lands approach to maintaining diversity</li> <li>• Bill Zielinski, Pacific Southwest Research Station – Biological Diversity and Species Response to Management Actions</li> </ul>
9:20 - 10:30	Panel discussion and collaborative dialogue/questions to Panel members from the audience.
10:30 – 10:50	BREAK
10:50 – 12:00	<p><b>Panel 4: Social, cultural and economic dimensions across the landscape</b></p> <p>Panelists will look at the relationship among social, cultural, and economic sustainability and explore how planning for national forest management should address these dimensions. Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Dockry, Forest Service liaison to College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute – Sustainable management of natural resources</li> <li>• Rodger Sedjo, Resources for the Future – Ecosystem services</li> <li>• Randall K. Wilson, Gettysburg College – Socio-environmental context to the management of National Forests</li> <li>• Spencer Phillips, The Wilderness Society – Balancing recreation carrying capacity and ecosystem health</li> </ul>
12:00-1:10	Panel discussion and collaborative dialogue/questions to Panel members from the audience.
1:10 – 2:10	LUNCH
2:10 – 3:35	<p><b>Panel 5: Incorporating the best available science into an implementable and durable planning rule.</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss how to incorporate the best available environmental science and monitoring methods into an implementable and durable planning rule using the core principles of contemporary, professional planning. Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare Ryan, University of Washington – Rule process to incorporate the best science</li> <li>• Martin Nie, University of Montana – Bottom-up lessons for the planning rule</li> <li>• Tony Cheng, Colorado State University – Making Judgments in the Face of Risk and Uncertainty</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chris Liggett, Forest Service Southern Region – Tools for Forest Plan Development</li><li>• Mike Harper, American Institute of Certified Planners – All lands approach to planning on national forests</li></ul>
<b>3:35 – 4:45</b>	Panel discussion and collaborative dialogue/questions to Panel members from the audience.
<b>4:45 – 5:00</b>	Closing