



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

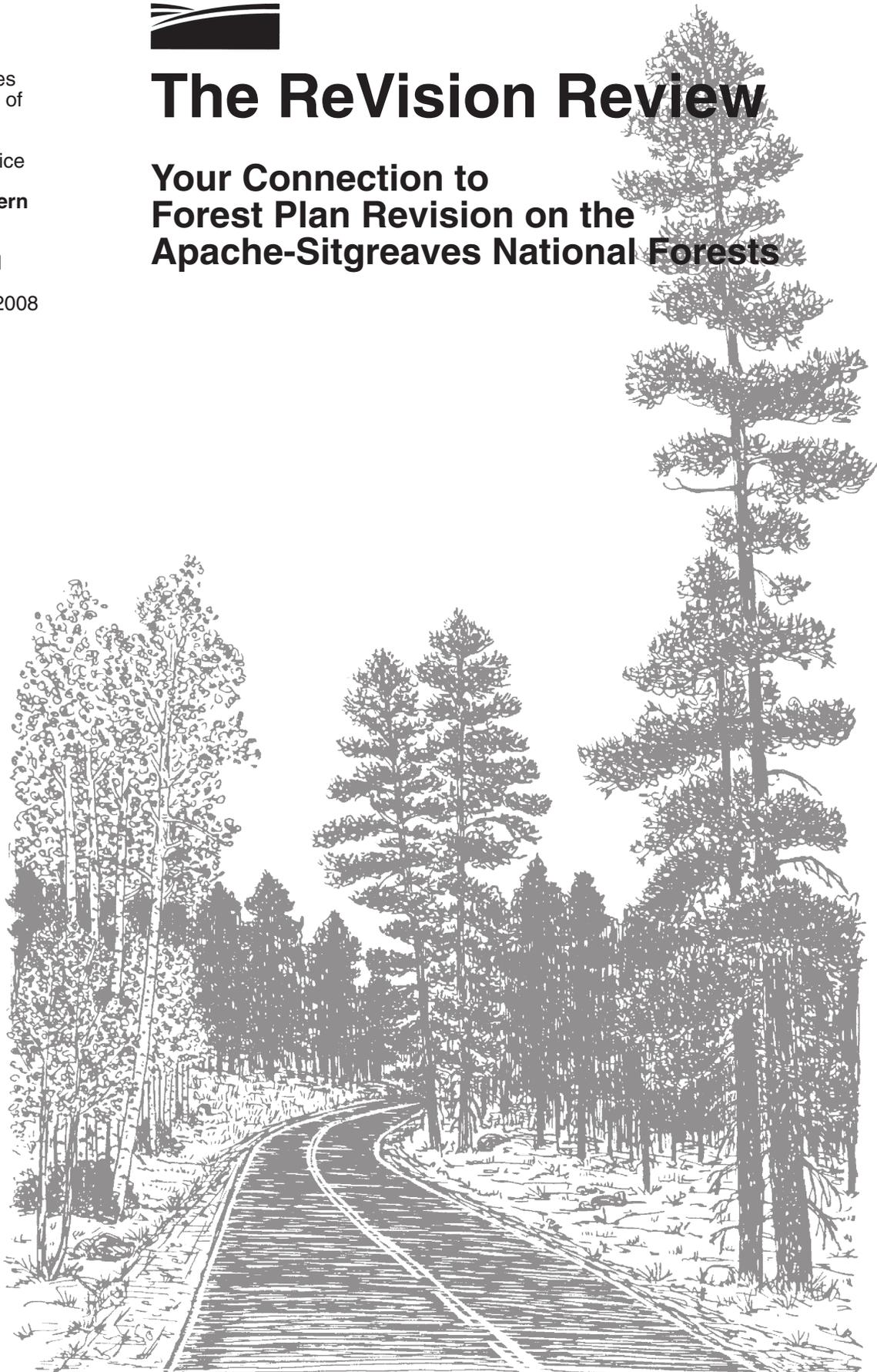
Southwestern
Region

MB-R3-01-1

December 2008

The ReVision Review

Your Connection to Forest Plan Revision on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests



A Message from the Forest Supervisor

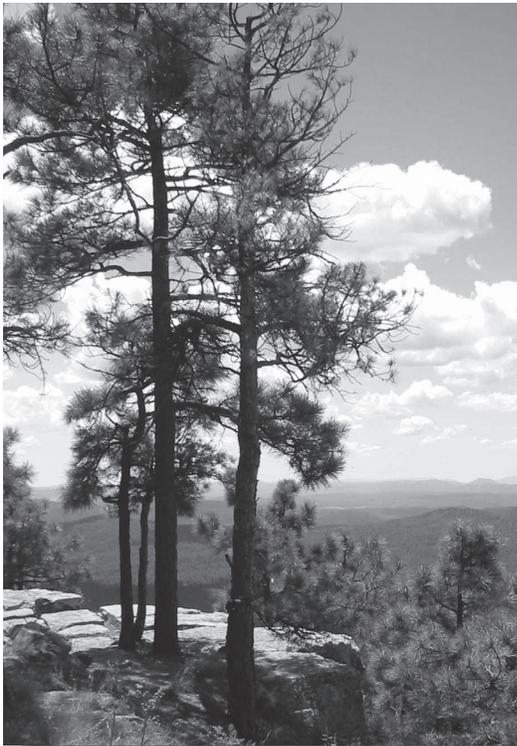
First of all, let me introduce myself. I am Chris Knopp, the new forest supervisor for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs).

I'm excited to be here and I'm enjoying getting settled in Springerville, starting the new job, and getting to know the people and places around the forests.

In my last assignment, I served as the deputy director of Ecosystem Conservation in the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service in Vallejo, California. I have over 30 years experience with the Forest Service and have worked in several western states and Washington DC. Along with my management experience, I have a scientific background in forestry and hydrology.



*Chris Knopp, Supervisor
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests*



*View from the Mogollon Rim,
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests*

Like most forests in our Nation, the ASNFs face many challenges as we move into the future. I thank you for working with the planning team to identify those issues that are important to you. I look forward to developing a revised plan that will address the topics of maintenance and improvement of ecosystem health, managed recreation, and community-forest interaction. With publication of the notice of initiation in the Federal Register, we have formally initiated the plan revision process and are ready to work with you to build the proposed plan.

I encourage you to stay engaged in the forest plan revision process. I look forward to meeting you and better understanding your concerns and interests. Feel free to contact me at (928) 333-4301.

Chris Knopp
Forest Supervisor

“Caring for the Land and Serving People”

The ReVision Process . . .

Where Are We in the Plan Revision Process?

Since 2006, we have focused on the “need for change”—what needs to change in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and its management. Based on your input and our science-based evaluations, this “need for change” is summarized in the “Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests’ Comprehensive Evaluation Report” (CER).

As 2009 approaches, we are entering a new phase in the process – development of the proposed plan. We actually started this work by developing a set of initial draft desired conditions. These were made available for your review this past summer. We received hundreds of comments and have updated these draft desired conditions (on our Web site).

Based on your feedback, the planning team is going to develop a more complete version of the draft proposed plan. You told us that you would like something more substantive to comment on than just the desired conditions. The draft proposed plan will contain all of the five required plan components (desired conditions, objectives, suitability of areas, special areas, and guidelines).

We anticipate having a draft proposed plan available for your review and hosting public meetings to gather your feedback in spring of 2009. This will give us time to gather your comments and incorporate them prior to issuing the proposed plan. The pre-decisional proposed plan will be available for a formal 90-day comment period in the fall.

Key Steps in the Forest Plan Revision Process

Step	What You Can Do	When
Initial Public Meetings	Learn about the planning process and let us know what we need to focus on during plan revision.	July 2006 - January 2007
Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER)	Provide input to the CER—including current conditions and trends on the forests. Help review the draft CER.	Winter 2008
Develop the Proposed Plan	Let’s work together to develop desired conditions, objectives, special areas, suitability of areas, guidelines, and a monitoring plan.	Fall 2008 - Summer 2009
90-day Comment Period	This is your chance to provide formal written comments regarding the proposed plan you’ve helped to build.	Fall 2009
30-day Objection Period	A chance to file a formal objection regarding the proposed plan.	Summer 2010
Approve Plan	Forest supervisor approves the plan, help us implement the revised plan.	Fall 2010

The Need for Change . . .

“Need for Change” Documents Available for Review

The “Comprehensive Evaluation Report” (CER) and its associated documents are available for review. The CER, “Ecological Sustainability Report,” and “Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment” provide the science-based background regarding “need for change” or why we need to revise the forest plan.

These documents outline the background and findings related to the forests’ contributions to ecological, economic, and social sustainability. The “need for change” is summarized under three revision topics: maintenance and improvement of ecosystem health, managed recreation, and community-forest interaction.

The documents are located in the plan set of documents section on our Web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/documents.shtml>.

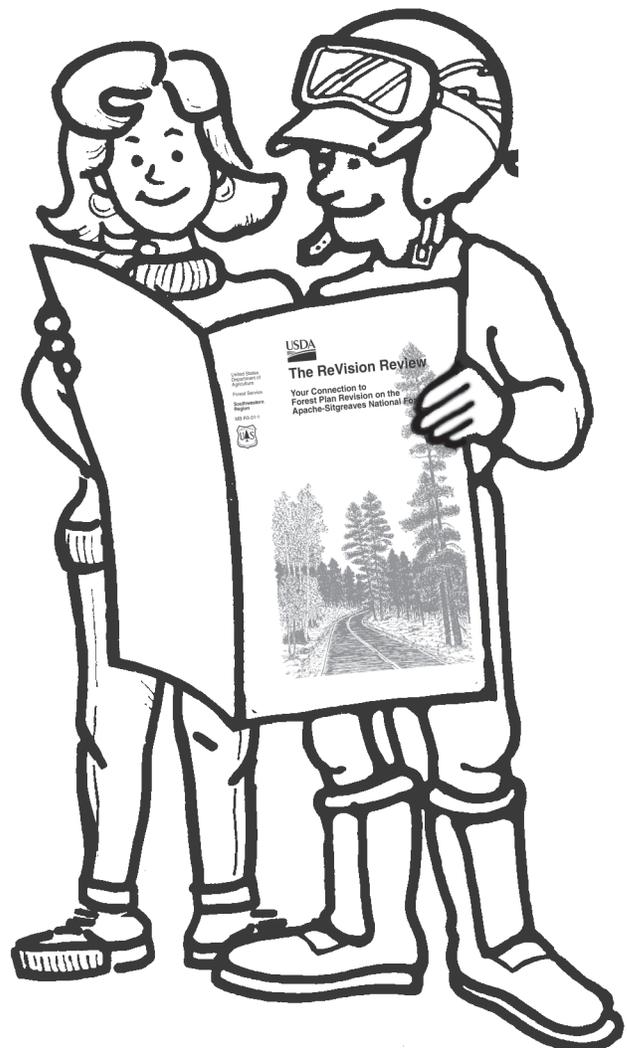
The Components of a Revised Forest Plan

It is important to realize that desired conditions (see next page) are only one of five components that provide a framework to guide on-the-ground management of projects and activities. The additional components will be in the form of objectives, special areas, suitability of areas, and guidelines.

Objectives describe how we move toward achieving desired conditions. Special areas are designated for the special or unique characteristics that contribute to desired conditions. Areas of the forests will be identified as generally suitable for various uses. Guidelines provide the sideboards within which projects or activities may occur. These other plan components will be developed collaboratively as we move through the revision process. The revised plan will also contain a monitoring program.

NOI - A Major Milestone

The notice of initiation (NOI) to revise the “Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests’ Land and Resource Management Plan” (forest plan) is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register in December 2008. This notice formally initiates the forest plan revision process. It describes the comprehensive evaluation report and invites review. The NOI also summarizes the need to change the forest plan and provides an estimated schedule for the planning process. Once published, a copy of the NOI will be posted on our Web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/documents.shtml>.



Developing Draft Desired Conditions . . .

Thanks for Your Input on the Initial Draft Desired Conditions

A big THANK YOU to those who attended the public meetings in September and to everyone who sent in comments regarding the initial draft desired conditions.

As you may recall, this summer we asked for your feedback on the initial draft desired conditions. Desired conditions are just one of five required components of a revised plan. Desired conditions are the “social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources is to be directed” (36 CFR 219). Basically, desired conditions “paint the picture” describing what the forests should look like or what goods and services can be provided. The other plan components to be developed include objectives, suitability of areas, special areas, and guidelines.

We received hundreds of comments related to the initial draft desired conditions. The planning team reviewed each comment and made changes, where appropriate.

Although we received many comments that resulted in a change to the draft desired conditions, we also received several comments that are not desired conditions, but may be useful in the future to develop other plan components. We will utilize those comments as we develop a more complete draft of the proposed plan. Some examples of comments that are not desired conditions include:

- Wildlife and livestock grazing, logging and fire are natural tools for healthy biodiverse ecosystems and result in a decrease in money spent in an attempt to mimic natural controls (objective).
- The juniper trees need to be removed and thinned to increase the grasses to protect the soil (objective).
- Road density—no more than 1 mile of motorized route per square mile (guideline).
- Reduce sediment—install water bars or sediment traps (guideline).

- Riparian areas—should be strictly off limits to motorized vehicles (suitability of areas).
- Disturbance of wildlife should not be used as a reason to justify motorized recreation and access closures (suitability of areas).
- Preservation of some areas for old growth (special area).
- Landscape designations such as “wilderness,” “critical habitat,” etc., are removed allowing the FS’s founding stewardship purpose to occur (special area).
- Monitoring and evaluation must be made consistent with and pursuant to the best available scientific information, techniques and methods, and any conclusions based on these evaluations must be statistically significant (monitoring program).

The planning team also reviewed the initial draft desired conditions. We, too, had included text that was really not desired conditions. For example: *Livestock carcasses are not available for scavenging within the Mexican Wolf Recovery Zone*. This statement is actually one method for achieving the desired condition that *livestock and wolf conflicts are minimized*. We also removed text that was already present in existing law, policy, or regulation (*i.e. theft of forest products does not occur*) since there is no need to repeat these existing requirements.

The latest version of the draft desired conditions can be found on our Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/documents.shtml>. There is currently a regional effort underway to develop desired conditions for forest and woodland types that apply to all national forests in Arizona. Once this effort is complete, these desired conditions will be incorporated and another draft version of the desired conditions will be posted to the Web site (anticipate this to be in January 2008). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a planning team member.

Get Involved in Your National Forest . . .

Plan Revision Team – At Your Service

A core team has been dedicated to complete the revision of the forest plan. This team is based out of the supervisor's office in Springerville, Arizona. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact one of the team members. Many other resource specialists are sharing their expertise and skills in the revision efforts as well. These extended team members come from a wide range of specialties, including archeology, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, engineering, transportation systems, lands, fire and fuels, geographic

information systems (GIS), timber, range management, and public affairs.

Forest Plan Revision Core Team		
Planning Staff Officer	Deryl Jevons	(928) 333-6261
Plan Revision Team Leader	Michelle Davalos	(928) 333-6334
Ecologist	Mitchel White	(928) 333-6348
Recreation Planner	Evelyn Treiman	(928) 333-6322
Watershed and Soils	Chris Nelson	(928) 333-6303
Wildlife Biologist	Genice Froehlich	(928) 368-2104
Silviculture	Jerry Drury	(928) 333-6312

Let us know if you have other ideas that will better help us work together!



Participate in Forest Plan Revision . . .

Your participation and comments are encouraged and welcomed. There are several ways to participate in the forest plan revision process:

Public Meetings: a chance to interact and work with Forest Service representatives and other members of the public. Look for our next public meetings in the spring of 2009.

Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/>—a place to find more information about the revision process and opportunity to provide comments.

E-Mail: asnf.planning@fs.fed.us—contact us with your questions or comments.

Phone: (928) 333-4301—ask for a planning team member.

Fax: (928) 333-5966

TTY: (928) 333-6292

Regular Mail: USDA Forest Service
Attn: Plan Revision Team
P.O. Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938

The 2009 Capitol Christmas Tree . . .



Arizona's Gift

from the Grand Canyon State
CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE 2009

Arizona and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests have been asked to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree in 2009.

Finding the perfect Christmas tree to celebrate the holidays is an American tradition shared by many, but it can be a daunting task. So imagine trying to find the perfect Christmas tree to display in front of the Nation's Capitol.



The 2005 Capitol Christmas Tree, from New Mexico and the Santa Fe National Forest

This is the task of the ASNFs as it prepares to host the 2009 Capitol Christmas Tree.

Asking a national forest to provide "the People's Tree" as the Capitol Tree is often called, is a tradition that started in 1970. Each year since then, a different national forest and the state in which the forest is located, are asked to provide a very special tree and all of the trimmings, as a gift to our nation.

We have the opportunity to showcase all that is special and unique about Arizona, the beauty and diversity of our natural resources, the richness of our cultures, the products and services of our businesses, and the talents and generosity of our people.

The opportunity is a special one, and we hope Arizonans will take on the project with enthusiasm and pride. It is going to take a lot of work to find this perfect tree—60 to 70 feet tall, perfectly shaped and easy to get to. ASNFs' officials need to identify potential trees within the next year. There will also be quite a bit of work to create the tree's ornaments and to transport the tree to Washington, DC.

If your group or organization would like to partner with the ASNFs in this very special event, please call 928-333-4301 and ask for Rick Davalos, or e-mail Rick at rdavalos@fs.fed.us.

For additional information and activity updates over this next year, be sure to visit the Web site at: <http://www.capitolchristmastree2009.org>.

Help Shape the Future of Your National Forest!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Printed on recycled paper • December 2008

**Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
Supervisor's Office
Forest Plan Revision Team
30 South Chiricahua Drive
P.O. Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938**

We're on the Web!

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/>