

## Background of the Forest Plan Revision Process

The process to revise the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs) 1987 forest plan began with public and Forest Service employee meetings back in 2006. Those meetings posed the question “what needs to change in the current forest plan or current forest management.” Public and employee input were supplemented with science-based planning documents including the Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment, Ecological Sustainability Report, and the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER). The CER summarizes the existing conditions, trends, and risks to sustainability that would indicate where the 1987 forest plan does not provide adequate guidance for the present and future management of the ASNFs. The CER also describes changes needed to bring the 20+year old management plan up-to-date. The reports were later supplemented to meet requirements of the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), a component of the revision process specified under the provisions of the 1982 planning rule.

Forest Plan Revision Accomplishments	
Spring-Fall 2006	Public and Forest Service employee meetings to identify need for change
January-February 2007	Public and Forest Service employee meetings to obtain more information on the issues and topics we have heard so far, as well as input on what they felt was most important
March 2007	U.S. District Court in California enjoined the Forest Service from using the 2005 planning rule
November 2007	Meeting to provide technical information regarding the processes and science used in the development of the Comprehensive Evaluation Report
April 2008	The 2008 planning rule is published in the Federal Register
August 2008	The initial set of draft desired conditions are made available for review and comment
September 2008	Public meetings to gather feedback on the draft desired conditions
December 2008	Comprehensive Evaluation Report and related documents (Ecological Sustainability Report and Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment) are available for review and comment
December 2008	Notice of Initiation (to revise the forest plan) is published in the Federal Register
June 2009	The Working Draft Land Management Plan is available for review and comment
June 2009	U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California enjoined the Forest Service from using the 2008 planning rule
December 2009	Notice of Intent (to revise the forest plan and to prepare an EIS) is published in the Federal Register; revision efforts proceed following the provisions of the 1982 planning rule

Forest Plan Revision Estimated Timeline	
Spring 2010	Public and Forest Service employee meetings to gather feedback on draft alternatives
Summer 2010	Finalize alternatives and begin analysis and development of the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) and Proposed Plan
Spring 2011	WALLOW FIRE – 538,000 acre fire on the Apache National Forest
Summer 2011	Planning team begins to inventory, assess, and document the changed conditions caused by the Wallow Fire. This information will be used to update the DEIS.
January 2013	Publication of the DEIS and Proposed Plan for 90-day comment period.
	Currently evaluating public comments to the DEIS and proposed Plan