



Forest Plan Revision Sierra National Forest

April 2013

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER(S)
1 pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor
	Agenda Review and Meeting Ground Rules	Veronica Garcia, Public Affairs Assistant
	<p>Overview of the Forest Plan Revision Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Planning Rule • Efforts to Date 	Dave Martin, District Ranger, Bass Lake Ranger District
	<p>The Collaboration & Communication Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Participation Opportunities • How to Provide Feedback • Questions 	Rebecca Garcia, Public Affairs Officer
	<p>Overview of Indicators/Trends & Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Topic Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wildlife (Greg Schroer) ○ Ecosystem Restoration (Cindy Whelan/Dave Martin) ○ Recreation (Suzie Burkindine) ○ General – All (Tom Lowe) • Indicators/Drivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions 	Cindy Whelan, Forest Planner
	<p>Discussion Topics</p> <p><i>Approximately 20 minutes allotted per topic area to ask questions and provide feedback on Indicators & Trends.</i></p> <p>Guiding Questions for Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific conditions on the Sierra National Forest are changing? • How are conditions changing through time on the Sierra National Forest (increasing, decreasing or staying the same)? 	All participants
	Open Forum – Q & A	
TBD	ADJOURN (staff available after the meeting for questions)	

Outline

- What is a Forest Plan?
- What is the timeline for this process?
- What is an Assessment Report?

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What is a Forest Plan?

- Required for all National Forests & Grasslands
- Describes broad management direction for the National Forest
- Plans are programmatic in nature and do not make site specific decisions
- Forest Plans have a 10 – 15 year life span
- All management activities and uses must comply with Forest Plan Direction

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Timeline

2012	Bioregional Science Synthesis Stakeholder Assessments Communication & Collaboration Plan
2013	Forest Assessment Reports (Sierra, Sequoia, Inyo) Bioregional Assessment Identify Need for Change
2014	Identify the Need for Change NEPA process -> Draft EIS
2015	Public Review of DEIS Final EIS
2016+	Decision Monitor -> Assess -> Adapt -> Revise Plan

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What is an Assessment?

A report synthesizing existing information related to social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends

Goals:

- Develop an understanding of conditions & trends
- Build a common understanding of existing information
- Develop Relationships

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15 Assessment Topics

- Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds;
- Air, soil, and water resources and quality;
- System drivers (dominant ecological processes, disturbances, etc.);
- Baseline assessment of carbon stocks;
- Threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area;
- Social, cultural, and economic conditions;

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15 Assessment Topics

- Benefits people obtain from the NFS planning area (ecosystem services);
- Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies;
- Recreation settings, opportunities and access, and scenic character;
- Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources;
- Infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors;

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15 Assessment Topics

- Areas of Tribal importance;
- Cultural and historic resources and uses;
- Land status and ownership, use and access patterns;
- Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas.

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Assessment Milestones

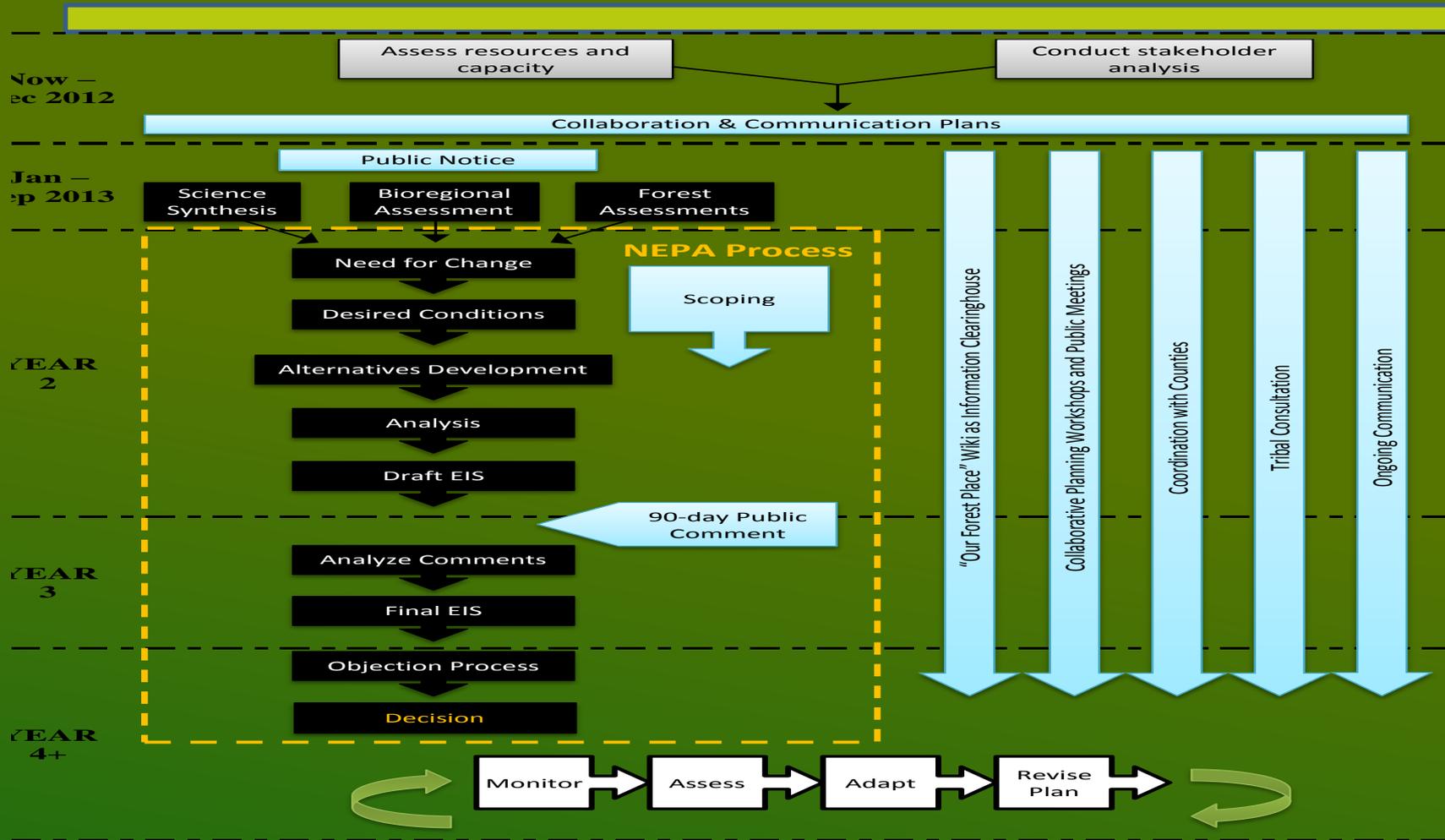
- Jan 1st Draft of Forest Assessment Topic Papers
- Feb Collaborative Meetings (review existing conditions)
- Mar 2nd Draft of Forest Assessment Topic Papers
- April Collaborative Meetings (review trends & drivers)
- July Snapshot taken of Wiki for draft report
- Aug Collaborative Meeting (review Draft Assessment Report)
- Oct Finalize Assessment Report

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Timeline



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Communication & Collaboration Plan

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Communication & Collaboration

Background/History

- Media contact regarding Forest Plan Revision
- Convene Sierra National Forest Planning Team (consisting of Forest Service personnel)
- Brief tribal governments and regional Tribal Forum
- Brief state legislative and congressional representatives
- Brief county government
- Brief collaborative groups
- Conduct stakeholder interviews
- Conduct tribal government interviews
- Draft and finalize Collaboration and Communication Plan

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Communication & Collaboration

Background/History, cont.

Stakeholder Interviews conducted by CCP

- Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy
- Bass Lake Realty
- Sierra Resource Conservation District
- Yosemite Gateway
- Yosemite Sierra Visitor's Bureau
- Highway 168 Fire Safe Council
- Eastern Madera Fire Safe Council
- Sierra Forest Products
- American Forest Resources Council
- California Forestry Association
- California Land Management

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Communication & Collaboration

Background/History, cont.

Stakeholder Interviews conducted by CCP

- Wild Turkey Federation
- Sierra Forest Legacy
- John Muir Project
- The Backcountry Horsemen
- The Wilderness Society
- Sierra Club
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Madera County Supervisor
- Mariposa County Supervisor
- The Stewards of the Sierra National Forest (interviewed in 2013)

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Communication & Collaboration

- Attend Public Meetings & Workshops.
- Sign up for *Interested Stakeholder* email list.
- Participate in the environmental review:
 - Email comments: public_affairs@fs.fed.us
 - Mail comments:
 - Sierra National Forest (Planning)
 - 1600 Tollhouse Rd., Clovis, CA. 93611
 - ourforestplace.ning.com
 - livingassessment.wikispaces.com/
- Host a briefing/workshop at your organization.
- Visit the forest web site:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sierra/home>.

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Communication & Collaboration

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS IN AUG

1. Technical In-Person Meeting

Date: Friday, Aug 16

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Location: Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611

2. General Public Meeting

Date: Saturday, Aug 17

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn – Fresno Airport, Fresno, CA. 5090 E. Clinton Way, Fresno, CA 93727

3. Public Meeting via webinar

Date: Tuesday, Aug 20

Webinar address will be announced at a later date.

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Communication & Collaboration

Meeting Layout

- Ecological Restoration
- Recreation & Infrastructures
- Wildlife
- General

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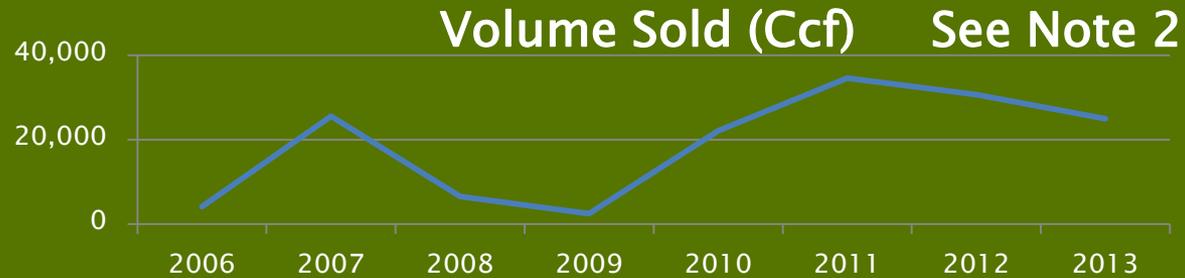
Communication & Collaboration

Questions?

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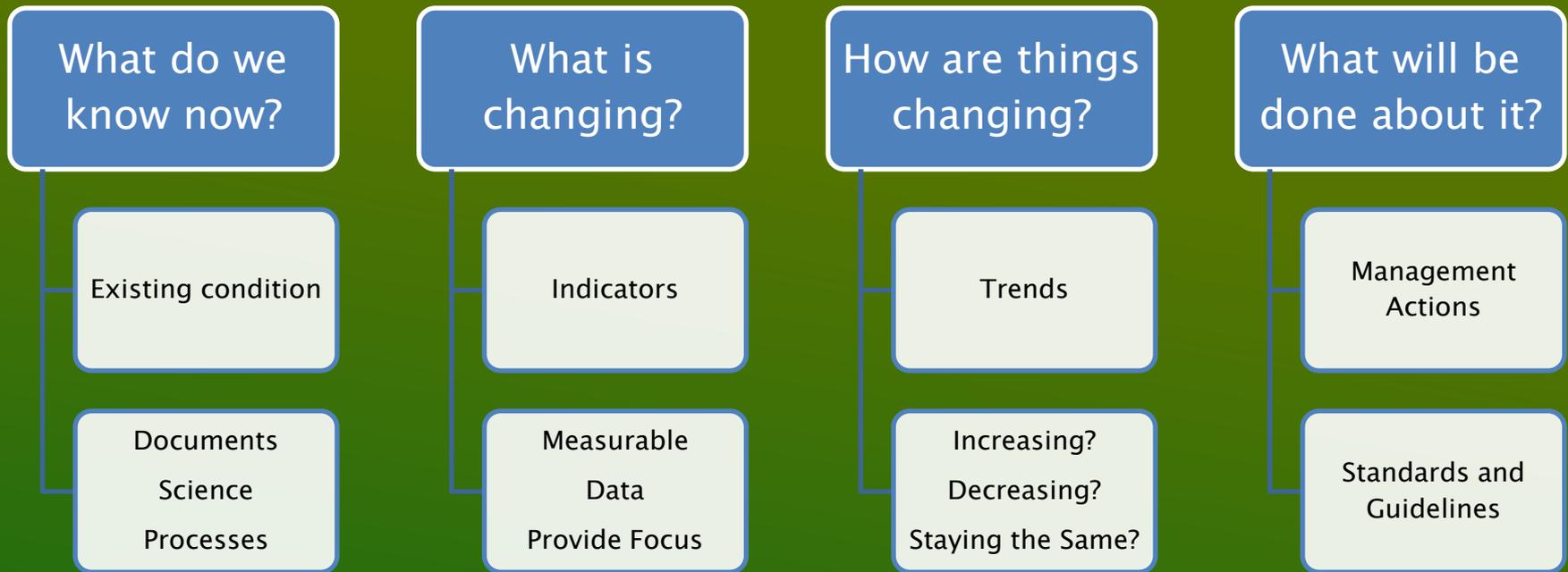


Indicators and Trends

Cindy Whelan
Sierra National Forest
Forest Planner

Indicators and Trends

Parts of the Assessment



Indicators and Trends

What do we know now?

Existing Condition on
Sierra National Forest

- Science
- Processes
- Maps
- Wiki <http://livingassessment.wikispaces.com>



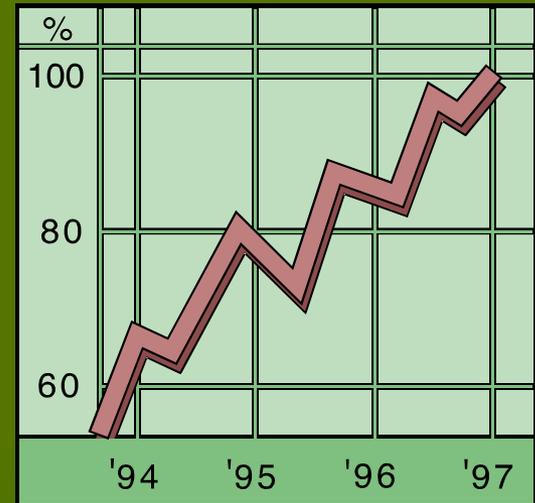
Topics at our First Collaboration Meeting

Indicators and Trends

What is changing?

Indicators are:

- Measurable
- Focused
- Data can be measured
- Long term
- Specific to the Sierra National Forest



Example: Fires on the Sierra National Forest

Indicators and Trends

How are things changing?

Trends

- Long Term over time, past and future
- Patterns
- Broad Terms
 - Increasing
 - Decreasing
 - Stable



Example: What do fires look like now, compared to 30 years ago? What will fires look like in the future?

Indicators and Trends

What will be done about it?

Management Actions –

Later Public Meetings to discuss:

- Standards and Guidelines
- Prescriptions
- Things to get closer to a desired condition sometime in the future
- Sierra National Forest Specific

Example: How do we manage the fire? Put it out (When, where, how) ?



Indicators and Trends

Four Table Discussions: Wildlife, Recreation, General, and Restoration

What do we
know now?

Existing
Condition

What is
changing?

Indicators

How are things
changing?

Trends



Questions?

Cindy Whelan,
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Sierra National Forest

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