



Tonto National Forest Plan Revision

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a Forest Plan? A Forest Plan provides a planning and policy framework to guide a forest in managing its forest resources, goods, and services. Described as “the view from 30,000 feet,” Forest Plans are strategic and broad in scope and provide guidance in the decision-making process involved with site-specific projects. Forest Plans have desired conditions, objectives, standards and guidelines, identification of suitability of areas for certain uses, and monitoring programs.

Why does the current Forest Plan need to be revised? The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires that plans be revised every 15 years. The Tonto National Forest is currently revising the 1985 Forest Plan (Land and Resource Management Plan).

Revisions to the Tonto’s 1985 Forest Plan are long overdue, and a lot has changed on the forest and surrounding areas. In addition, there is also new guidance for how forest plans are to be revised. The Forest Service’s 2012 Planning Rule directs Forest Plans to be science-based and developed with extensive public involvement and collaboration.

The 2012 Planning Rule provides for an adaptive, flexible framework that allows national forests to meet their current and future needs, taking into account a new understanding of what constitutes forest health and how science can help inform land managers. The 2012 Rule is designed to ensure that forest plans maintain and restore ecosystems while providing for multiple uses. The Rule also emphasizes an all-lands approach to planning, while recognizing that many management issues, such as wildfire, water resources and wildlife, require an understanding of conditions across jurisdictional boundaries.

How can the public be involved? The Tonto National Forest is committed to involving the public in a transparent, meaningful dialogue to help shape a Forest Plan that will result in the sustainable management of resources, goods, and services through the year 2022.

During the initial assessment phase, the forest will work with federal and state agencies, tribes, local governments, communities, private landowners, and other partners to develop a mutual understanding of the context for forest plan revision, and of current and desired conditions of the Forest.

We aim to provide multiple opportunities for individuals or interest groups to contribute comments, suggestions, and ideas to help the Tonto develop an effective, implementable plan, including:

- Participating in public meetings or workshops. These sessions will be announced through press releases and posted on the [Tonto National Forest web site](#)
- Hosting Tonto National Forest staff at your organization’s meeting to make a presentation or answer questions. Contact Ken Born, Forest Planner at (602) 225-5280 if you’re interested.
- Joining a work group. Please send an e-mail that includes your contact information and topics of interest to tontoplan@fs.fed.us.
- Sharing suggestions and comments by:
 - Downloading the comment form that’s posted on the web and e-mailing it to: tontoplan@fs.fed.us or mailing it to Tonto National Forest Plan Revision, 2324 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85006
- For more information on the 2012 Planning Rule, please refer to the [Planning Rule Frequently Asked Questions](#)