

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Sierra National Forest**



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## **Streamlined Planning Process Announced for Forest Plan Revision in Region 5**

Clovis, CA – In an effort to streamline the Forest Plan Revision Process for Early Adopter Forests in the Pacific Southwest Region, all three Early Adopter Forests will have a shared Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Sierra National Forest (SNF) along with the Sequoia and the Inyo National Forests, will develop one EIS – an efficient and cost effective pooling of resources, along with three Records of Decisions (RODs) and three separate plans under the 2012 Planning Rule.

A combined EIS will provide efficiencies in a number of areas: completing one EIS will be more efficient due to shared landscapes, similar issues and common stakeholders. Public review and comment periods held during the planning process will be combined for the three forests, allowing the public to consolidate comments applicable to all forests, or to submit comments for individual forests. In addition, a consolidated team will conduct the planning process for the forests simultaneously.

While each unit has shared similarities, different challenges and opportunities also exist on each forest; these have been and continue to be addressed at the forest level. As Forest Supervisor, Dean Gould will maintain responsibility for oversight of the process and approval of the final plan for the SNF.

The SNF conducted public meetings throughout the year to collaborate with stakeholders/interested parties on the Forest Plan Revision process. August meetings introduced the Draft Sierra National Forest Assessment Report which will be finalized in December.

The Assessment Report represents the NF's assessment stage of Forest Plan Revision and is designed to more rapidly evaluate existing information on current ecological, economic, social conditions, trends, and sustainability and their relationship to the current land resource management plan within the context of the broader landscape. This Assessment Report is not a decision-making document. It will be used for planning purposes and to inform the need to change the existing forest plan.

The next step in collaboration with interested stakeholders will involve a series of public meetings centered on identifying areas of the existing forest plan in need of change.

For more information about Forest Plan Revision on the Sierra National Forest, please call Judi Tapia at: 559-297-0706 ext. 4938 or email comments: [comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra@fs.fed.us). Comments can also be hard copy mailed to: Sierra National Forest (Draft Sierra Assessment), 1600 Tollhouse Rd., Clovis, CA. 93611.

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