



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Forest Plan Revision Participation Plan

## Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming

Update September 14, 2024

This document is tiered to the Bridger-Teton National Forest [Public Engagement Strategy](#) for the Forest Plan Revision  
Tribal Engagement and Consultation is conducted separately

# Pre-Assessment Participation Plan (Prior to Federal Register Notice of Assessment Initiation – NOI)

---

## Phase Objectives

Identify, Inform, and Consult are the objectives during the Pre-Assessment phase. Identify the interested parties, and then Inform about the upcoming Land Management plan revision process with emphasis on what an Assessment Report is. Begin to Consult with interested parties to obtain relevant/available information and find out what they need from us to be involved and be kept informed throughout the process.

The specific objectives of engagement are to:

- Identify interested parties, build relationships to foster meaningful engagement, and share information to develop an understanding of the planning process. Identify entities interested in obtaining cooperating agency status.
- Gather information from interested parties to identify how to develop engagement and participation opportunities throughout the plan revision process.
- Begin to gather local and regional knowledge on current resource conditions and trends – what has changed, what might change in the future, what topics are important, what role the Forest plays within the broader landscape?

## Questions

### **General**

- *Who.* What groups, organizations, public, partners, tribes, governments, etc. should be involved in this plan revision process? Who may be interested? Who are they connected to? Who is impacted? How do they get information? What information could they provide that would benefit this process? How can they support this plan revision process?
- *Connections.* What resources, values, and connections does the forest provide that are important to community “sense of place”? What does the Forest provide that is particularly unique or distinctive compared to the larger region?
- *Topics.* What are the most important issues, concerns, and opportunities in the Forest area over the next 20 years?
- *Trends.* What are the current and anticipated future trends that will affect activities/uses on the Forest and in the broader region? What are the major drivers or “stressors” for anticipated trends?
- *Engagement.* How would you like to be engaged and kept informed?

### **Questions for State, County, and Federal Agencies (general questions also apply)**

- What geographical areas, resource values, and multiple uses (areas, values, and uses) are known to be of importance to governmental entities?
- What is the role of the Forest in supporting other planning efforts? (community wildlife protection plans, local and regional tourism strategies, ecological or watershed restoration plans, climate action plans, environmental justice initiatives, wildlife plans, invasive plans, county comprehensive plans, economic development plans, state outdoor recreation plans, or other plans and strategies)

- What are the most important issues, concerns, and opportunities related to governmental relations? What are the desired outcomes of governmental entities?
- What do you need from the Forest Service to be engaged and kept informed? Are you interested in obtaining cooperator agency status?

## Engagement Opportunities

Timing	Activity	Purpose	Audience	Remarks/Details	Status
<b>Spring 2023</b> (February-May)  <b>Focus:</b> <b>Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit every district and SO to introduce forest planning with focus on the Assessment.</li> <li>• Provide updates on every all-employee call.</li> <li>• Prepare talking points for district rangers and facilitate discussion with FLT.</li> </ul>	<b>Inform;</b> <b>Build relationships</b>	Employees	Prepare powerpoint slides tailored to each unit	COMPLETE. Six employee presentations plus one FLT presentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold in-person meetings with county commissions, conservation districts. Identify points of contact</li> <li>• Hold virtual meetings with state departments and federal agencies. Identify points of contact</li> <li>• Arrange 1-on-1 meetings with key state and local leaders.</li> </ul>		County commissions, Conservation Districts, Wyoming State departments, Federal agencies	Prepare powerpoint slides with pictures tailored to each county	COMPLETE. Five presentations. Chad met with Kate Barlow (State)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide briefing for Congressional staff.</li> </ul>		Congressional staff	Quarterly in-person meeting	COMPLETE. 2.3.2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand up public webpage for FPR (May), with update to include gov.delivery sign-up for email alerts (Feb 2024).</li> <li>• Issue press release announcing “soft” launch</li> </ul>		External Public	Coordinate with public affairs	COMPLETE. Press release 5.11.2023
<b>Summer 2023</b> (June-September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold 10-12 “listening booths” at community events across the Forest.</li> <li>• Work with Jessica Western, counties, and state to fund and conduct social survey through UW (Aug. – Dec. 2023)</li> </ul>	<b>Inform</b>	General public with focus on county residents	Request employee assistance for event staffing. Produce posters and handouts.	COMPLETE. Staffed tables at 13 community events. Survey conducted
<b>Winter 2023 – 24</b> (October – February)  <b>Focus:</b> <b>Forest Plan Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold virtual meeting to introduce cooperating agency agreements and provide follow-up from meeting in Spring 2023</li> </ul>	<b>Inform</b>	County commissions, Conservation districts, Wyoming State departments	Prepare powerpoint slides	COMPLETE. Meeting held 12.12.2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for and host moderated Forest Plan Symposium with panel of planning “experts”.</li> <li>• Release symposium recording of panel, synopsis, and Q&amp;A responses.</li> <li>• Prepare and release Story Map, Public Comment form.</li> </ul>	<b>Inform; Learn</b>	External public	Work with FBT as co-host (agreement) to support event planner and publicity Coordinate with RO on Story Map	COMPLETE. Symposium held 1.16.2024. Follow-up products released 2.14.2024 Story Map released 2.22.2024

Timing	Activity	Purpose	Audience	Remarks/Details	Status
Spring 2024 (March – May)  Focus: Build Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with NEPA staff to host in-person zone meetings (or virtual meeting) for all employees (Forest Plan 101, Forest history, input on engagement plan)</li> <li>Continue to provide updates on every all-employee call</li> </ul>	Inform; Listen; Learn	Employees	Prepare meeting materials and format	COMPLETE. Three meetings held April 15, 22 and 30, 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold in-person meetings with county commissions and conservation districts to share results of social survey and provide update on planning effort to date. Hold virtual meeting with state departments.</li> <li>Connect with federal agency leaders one-on one</li> <li>Participate in state NEPA training and connect with leaders 1-on-1.</li> </ul>		County commissions, Conservation Districts, Wyoming State department, Federal agencies	Prepare agreement with FBT to support Jessica Western time and travel	COMPLETE. Five meetings held with CAs to share social survey results March 19, 20, 26, April 16 State NEPA mtg held May 2-3 Agreement executed with FBT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide briefing for Congressional staff.</li> </ul>		Congressional staff		??
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key external publics and schedule informal “coffee chats” to provide assessment updates, build relationships, and get feedback on future outreach</li> <li>Outline topics for a monthly <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletter</li> <li>Identify potential participation at community events</li> </ul>		External public		COMPLETE. Held 2 coffee chats May 17, 20 Released first newsletter April
May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish FRN (notice of intent to prepare Assessment)</li> <li>Send email blast to subscribers</li> <li>Press release and social media with link to FRN</li> </ul>	Inform	External public	Provide key elected, cooperators, and NGO leaders with heads up	COMPLETE. NOI and press release published May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.

## Phase I Assessment Participation Plan (NOI published May 29, 2024; Draft Assessment anticipated for release in November 2024)

---

### Phase Objectives

Inform and Consult are the objectives during the Assessment phase. Inform interested parties about Land Management plan revision with emphasis on continued learning about what a Forest Plan does and does not do, the forest planning process, the Assessment Report, and subsequent concurrent processes. Consult with interested parties to gather input and relevant information to improve the Assessment, initiate discussions around the need for change, and gather feedback on draft WSR eligibility and wilderness inventory/evaluation products. It should be noted that some of the objectives of the Assessment phase are a continuation of the Pre-assessment phase.

The specific objectives of engagement are to:

- Continue to build relationships and gather feedback to improve communication and outreach. Reach out to communities or interests that might be missing.
- Continue to improve understanding about the current Forest Plan, clarify expectations around what a plan can and cannot do (decision space), and the timeframe/steps associated with the planning process.
- Explain the components of the Assessment and provide guidance on what feedback will be most helpful and how to provide feedback. Focus discussion on what has changed in relation to 1990 Forest Plan (both positive and negative) and what is important to address for the future. Follow-through to let people know how their input was or will be used.
- Introduce the planning requirements associated with concurrent processes – Wild and Scenic River eligibility and wilderness inventory/evaluation. Anticipate concerns and provide guidance on what feedback will be most helpful and how to provide feedback. Follow-through to let people know how their input was or will be used.

### Key Questions (add in specific assessment and concurrent process questions)

Reference all the questions under Pre-Assessment section (still apply)



## Engagement Opportunities

Timing	Activity	Purpose	Audience	Remarks/Details	Status
<b>Summer 2024</b> (June - September)  <b>Focus: Build relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief employees on assessment status at monthly all-employee calls</li> <li>Distribute forest plan revision “rack cards” to every district office</li> </ul>	<b>Inform; Listen; Learn</b>	Employees		COMPLETE.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct check-in with county commissioners and conservation districts in four counties plus meet with state agencies in person</li> <li>Check-in with county commissioners informally once per month (phone or breakfast get togethers) (District Rangers)</li> <li>Check-in with federal agency counterparts informally at GYCC biennial science conference (Sept 3-6)</li> </ul>		County commissions, Conservation Districts, Wyoming State departments, Federal agencies	Prepare slides for check-in meeting and suggested MOU language for cooperating agreement	COMPLETE. Fremont County (July 1), Lincoln and Sublette Counties (July 2), Teton County (July 3), TCD (July 23), State agencies (July 8-9)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congressional briefing (quarterly check-in)</li> </ul>		Congressional staff		COMPLETE. Held Sept 11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold informal “coffee chats” to provide assessment updates, build relationships, and get feedback on future outreach</li> <li>Produce monthly <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletter</li> <li>Staff tables at selected community events</li> <li>Present update at Greys River Collaborative meeting</li> <li>Update Forest Plan Revision webpage</li> <li>Produce FPR “rack card” and distribute widely</li> </ul>		External Public	Staff tables at Mountain Festival in Alpine, Lincoln County Fair, JH Town Square, and Discovery Day in Kemmerer	COMPLETE. Five “coffee chats” meetings held. <i>Two Forest Futures</i> newsletters published. Staffed tables at 4 community events Updated webpage launched in June Presented at GRC meeting August 28
<b>Fall 2024</b> (October - December)  <b>Focus: Assessment release</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief employees on assessment status at monthly all-employee calls; distribute <i>Forest Forests</i> newsletters</li> <li>Hold in-depth assessment briefing for FLT, invite staff</li> </ul>	<b>Inform; Consult</b>	Employees	Work with MPSG to finalize scope of work with UW and prepare public meeting materials. Prepare executive summary and series of short video PSAs based on <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletters.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host five kick-off meetings with each county/conservation district plus meeting with state to release assessment, go over review instructions, and preview follow-up meeting</li> <li>Attend NEPA training with counties and state October 17-18</li> <li>Informally talk with federal agency counterparts</li> <li>Hold facilitated workshop with counties and state to hear concerns/suggestions for improvement</li> <li>Provide feedback to validate what we heard and how we will respond, outline next steps</li> </ul>		County commissions, Conservation Districts, Wyoming State departments, Federal agencies		

Timing	Activity	Purpose	Audience	Remarks/Details	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold three open houses (Jackson, Afton, Pinedale) to kick-off assessment review with different topics highlighted at each open house. Engage specialists.</li> <li>Assess the interest in topic-specific workshops. Respond to requests for updates from public groups to extent possible</li> <li>Produce a recorded video about the assessment and info on commenting. Translate and release Spanish version</li> <li>Publish press release along with link to recorded video about the assessment – update webpage</li> <li>Produce monthly <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletter and complement newsletter with short video PSAs for social media</li> <li>Contact radio stations to schedule interviews or air recorded FPR info updates</li> <li>Encourage collaboratives and non-profit partners to share newsletters and short video PSAs via social media</li> </ul>		External Public	For open houses, focus on 3-4 different topics per event plus a station on current Forest Plan with examples of how it is used in projects (decision space) and station on planning process, effective comments	
Winter/ Spring 2025 (January-May)  Focus: Assessment feedback;  WSR eligibility and wilderness inventory/ evaluation release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief employees on assessment feedback, WSR, and wilderness at monthly all-employee calls; distribute <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletters</li> <li>Provide briefing for FLT and discuss WSR roll-out (January) and wilderness inventory/evaluation (March/April)</li> </ul>	Inform; Consult	Employees		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host 5 kick-off meetings with each county/conservation district plus meeting with state to release WSR eligibility report (January) and wilderness report (March), go over review instructions, and preview follow-up meeting</li> <li>Host meeting with federal agency counterparts</li> <li>Hold 2 separate facilitated workshops for WSR eligibility and wilderness inventory/evaluation with counties and state to hear concerns/suggestions for improvement and alternative development (wilderness)</li> <li>Provide feedback to validate what we heard and how we can respond, next steps</li> </ul>		County commissions, Conservation Districts, Wyoming State departments, Federal agencies	Work with MPSG and UW to prepare public meeting materials. Prepare WSR eligibility and wilderness public meeting materials (recorded videos, open house). Prepare recorded video PSAs based on <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletters	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold open houses to kick-off WSA eligibility review and wilderness inventory/evaluation review.</li> <li>Respond to requests for presentation/update from public groups to the extent possible</li> <li>Produce a recorded video to let public know what we heard about assessment and what the next steps are</li> <li>Publish press release along with link to recorded video about WSR eligibility review – update webpage</li> <li>Public press release along with link to recorded video about wilderness inventory/evaluation review – update webpage</li> <li>Produce monthly <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletter and complement newsletter with short video PSAs for social media</li> <li>Contact radio stations to host interviews or recorded PSA</li> <li>Encourage collaboratives and non-profit partners to share newsletters and short video PSAs via social media</li> </ul>		External Public	Finalize agreement with CTNF regarding Palisades WSA evaluation	

Timing	Activity	Purpose	Audience	Remarks/Details	Status
Summer 2025  (June-September)  Focus: Finalizing Assessment  WSR eligibility and wilderness reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief employees on assessment status, WSR, and wilderness at monthly all-employee calls; distribute <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletters</li> <li>Conduct formal check-in with county commissioners and conservation districts in four counties plus state agencies</li> <li>Check-in with county commissioners informally once per month (phone or breakfast get togethers) (District Rangers)</li> <li>Check-in with federal agency counterparts informally</li> <li>Hold informal “coffee chats” to provide assessment updates</li> <li>Respond to requests for presentation/update from public groups to the extent possible</li> <li>Consider hosting a few field trips related to WSR eligibility and/or wilderness evaluation (with partner help)</li> <li>Produce monthly <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletter and complementary recorded video PSAs with focus on public comment feedback; encourage distribution through collaborative and non-profit partners</li> <li>Staff tables at selected community events</li> </ul>	Inform; Listen	Employees  County commissions, Conservation Districts, Wyoming State departments, Federal agencies  External Public	Much of the work during the summer will focus on editing the assessment and WSR eligibility and wilderness reports	
Fall 2025 (October-December)  Focus: Need for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief employees – final assessment and need for change</li> <li>Hold meetings with county commissioners, conservation districts, state agencies, and federal agency counterparts to discuss need for change and how to prepare for plan development phase</li> <li>Finalize cooperating agency agreements</li> <li>Publish press release with link to recorded video that discusses the need for change. Update webpage</li> <li>Produce <i>Forest Futures</i> newsletters and complementary recorded PSAs and/or short videos – encourage distribution through collaboratives and non-profit partners</li> </ul>	Inform; Listen; Consult	All – Employees, Cooperating agencies. Public		

The Participation Plan for Phase II of the Forest Plan Revision process (Plan Development and documentation of alternatives and environmental effects in an Environmental Impact Statement) will be developed in summer 2025 incorporating feedback and lessons learned regarding engagement activities conducted in Phase I.