



Relationship of the 2006 Draft Plan Revision to the Upcoming Revision for the Lolo National Forest

Revision of the Lolo National Forest Plan was previously initiated in 2003. A proposed action and draft plan was developed under the 2005 Planning Rule. The 2005 rule was struck down in court in 2007, and the draft plan was never completed. The 2006 proposed action received many public comments. Issues included access and travel management, vegetation management, biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, roadless area management, and recreation.

Key elements of the 2006 draft

- 60,00 acres of recommended wilderness.
- Roughly 700,000 acres of lands suitable for timber production.
- Twelve management areas and 8 geographic areas.
- Riparian conservation areas.
- Vegetation desired conditions to provide ecological integrity and habitat.
- Six wildlife species of interest.
- Recreation opportunity spectrum settings.

What planning rule will be used for the Lolo Plan revision effort?

The 2012 Planning Rule. The 2012 rule has withstood legal challenges and has been used to complete the revision process on multiple forests.

How do the 2005 and 2012 Planning Rules compare?

Both rules emphasize providing ecological and economic sustainability, adaptive management, best available scientific information, and using a complementary ecosystem and species-level approach to biodiversity. However, the rules differ in several aspects, as compared in the following table.

Table 1. Examples of Key Differences

2005 Planning Rule	2012 Planning Rule
Environmental management system required	No environmental management system requirement
NEPA categorically excluded	An EIS is prepared
Guidelines instead of standards	Both guidelines and standards
Species of concern & interest	Species of conservation concern
Timber sale program quantity and long term sustained yield	Projected timber sale quantity and sustained yield limit
Riparian conservation areas	Riparian management zones, priority watersheds, conservation watershed network

How will the 2006 draft revision inform the new revision effort?

The Forest Service values the public input given during the 2006 revision. As we re-initiate the revision process, staff will communicate the differences in processes and strive to use the foundations provided in the 2006 effort where appropriate, such as:

- The need for change identified in 2006 and the issues that drove alternatives provide information for the preliminary need to change.
- Resource summaries in the 2006 analysis of the management situation may be used where data is still relevant. Previous analyses will help us evaluate new assumptions and results.
- The intent of 2006 plan components may provide the basis for new plan components.
- Management areas, geographic areas, and suitability determinations in the draft 2006 plan will provide a launching point for land allocation development.