

FOREST PLAN REVISION SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

SEPTEMBER 2013



Outline

- What is a Forest Plan?
- What is the timeline for this process?
- What is an Assessment Report?
- How can I provide input?

What is a Forest Plan?

- 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

Timeline

2013	Forest Assessment Reports (Sierra, Sequoia, Inyo) Bioregional Assessment Identify Need for Change
2014	Identify the Need for Change Scoping Plan Development and Alternatives NEPA process -> Draft EIS
2015	Public Review of DEIS Final EIS Decision
2016+	Monitor -> Assess -> Adapt -> Revise Plan

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
- Set the stage for the Need for Change

15 Assessment Topics

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

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15 Assessment Topics

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

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12. Areas of Tribal importance;
13. Cultural and historic resources and uses;
14. Land status and ownership, use and access patterns;
15. 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

- August 12 – Sierra publishes Draft Assessment Report (feedback period begins)
- August 16,17 and 20 – Collaborative Meetings (review Draft Assessment Report)
- September 19 – Closing of Feedback Period
- End of Calendar Year 2013 – Finalize Assessment Report

How Does the Sierra Assessment Fit In?

- The Bio-regional Assessment is a document that Forests can use to illuminate their forest assessments; it does not direct the forest assessments.
- Forest assessments draw upon the conditions and trends identified in:
 - Bio-regional Assessment,
 - Bio-regional and Forest-level topic papers in the Living Assessment, and
 - the Pacific Southwest Research Station's Science Synthesis.

Communication & Collaboration

- Attend Public Meetings & Workshops.
- Sign up for *Interested Stakeholder* email list.
- Host a briefing/workshop at your organization.
- Contact Judi Tapia – jetapia@fs.fed.us or 559-297-0706 ext 4938
- Visit the forest web site:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sierra/home>.

Communication & Collaboration

Questions?