

Santa Fe National Forest Forest Plan Revision 101

Forest Facts:

- Santa Fe National Forest, in northern New Mexico, is more than 1.5 million acres in size. It encompasses mountains, forests, alpine lakes and rivers, meadows, wilderness, ski hills, miles of trails, and diverse plant and animal life
- Santa Fe National Forest is a forest of many uses, from hunting, hiking, camping, and skiing to grazing and firewood collecting
- The Santa Fe National Forest provides opportunities for recreation and solitude and is the source of water for communities throughout the area



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What is a Forest Plan and why does it matter?

- It is a comprehensive document that guides forest management, use, and protection for a period of 10-15 years
- It aims to balance multiple-uses and the restoration and maintenance of forest and water ecosystems
- It identifies areas that may be suitable for special designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
- Once approved, all subsequent proposals and projects must comply with the Forest Plan

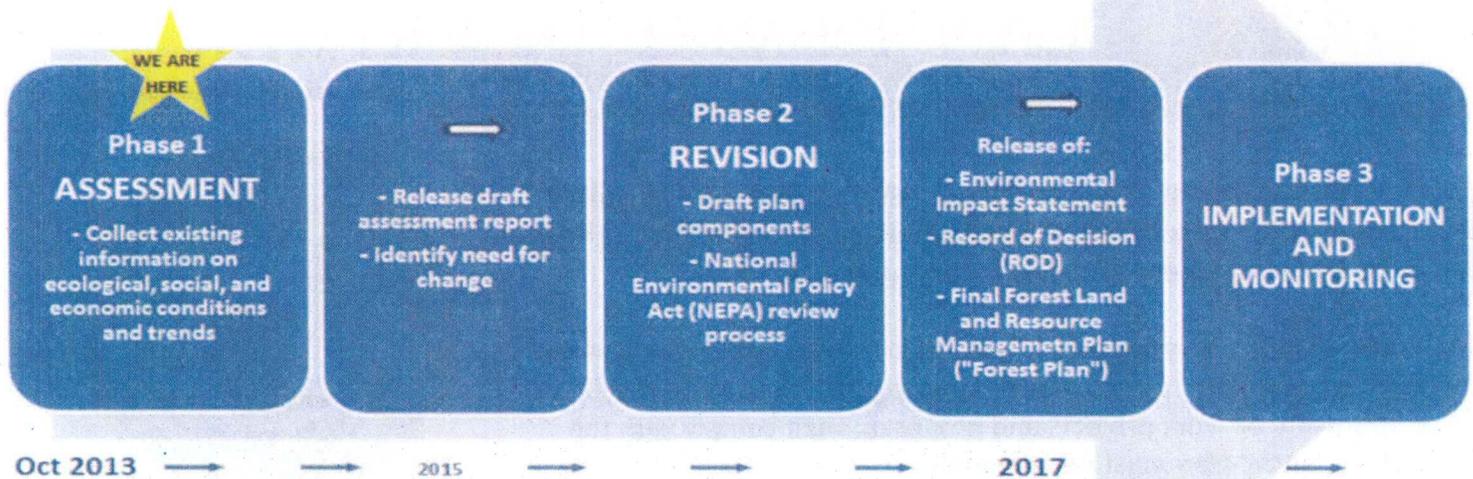
Why are we revising our Forest Plan?

- The forest and surrounding areas have witnessed significant environmental, social, and economic changes since the current plan was published in 1987
- We will follow the “2012 Planning Rule” which includes new policy and analytical requirements, enhances public participation, and incorporates the best available science
- This is an opportunity to incorporate new science, knowledge, and public input

How can I be involved?

- There will be many opportunities to get involved in the multi-year revision process, from public meetings and workshops to virtual engagement and communication
- Upcoming meetings and collaborative workshops will be posted on our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe> - please stay tuned
- Email santafeforestplan@fs.fed.us with questions and for more information

FOREST PLAN REVISION TIMELINE:



1) ASSESSMENT (*Now through Spring 2015*) —The Forest Service will rapidly collect and compile existing information about environmental, economic, and social conditions and trends affecting the forest.

- One year rapid process focused on current conditions and trends
- Covers 15 topics, some of which are wildlife, fire, water quality, wilderness inventory, and cultural heritage

2) REVISION (*Spring 2015 through 2017*) —Develop our vision for the forest in the future and the standards and guidelines that will help us get there.

Phase 1—Develop a draft Forest Plan

- Develop vision for the forest (i.e., desired conditions and objectives) and standards and guidelines to help achieve this vision
- Determine areas that may be suitable for special designation (i.e., research areas, wilderness)
- Evaluate draft plan and alternatives using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Develop monitoring plan

Phase 2— Finalize Forest Plan

- Collect comments on plan and analysis as part of the formal NEPA comment period
- Use comments and finalize Forest Plan
- Record of Decision and Final Forest Plan

3) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING—Once the Forest Plan is finalized, all projects and actions that will be implemented on the ground must comply with the Forest Plan (or the Plan must be amended).

- Monitor resources to determine if we are meeting Forest Plan desired conditions and objectives
- Forest Plan can be amended as monitoring indicates a need
- Monitoring reports will be produced every other year



Assessment Topics



Existing data on the following topics will be collected to help us determine how well Santa Fe National Forest's ecological, social and economic systems can persist in the future:

- Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds
- Air, soil, and water resources and quality
- System drivers, including natural changes in vegetation communities and precipitation patterns; and stressors, including wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of the forest to adapt to change
- Carbon stocks, which is the amount of carbon the Forest can store or release
- Wildlife species that are at risk, including threatened and endangered species
- Social, cultural, and economic conditions
- Benefits that people obtain from Santa Fe National Forest
- Multiple uses such as recreation, range, timber, watershed, fish, and wildlife
- Recreation settings and opportunities, access, scenic character
- Renewable and nonrenewable energy, mineral resources
- Infrastructure such as roads, recreational facilities, utility corridors
- Areas of importance to Native American tribes
- Cultural and historical resources
- Land status and ownership, land use, access patterns
- Existing specially designated areas such as Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, and opportunities for additional designated areas

Your Forest, Your Voice!

Information for the assessment will be gathered from multiple sources, including other agencies and members of the public who use and value Santa Fe National Forest. We have hosted a series of public meetings, and will continue to collect this information for the next few months. We want to hear from you! Please visit our website and click "Get Involved."

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