

NEW FOREST PLANNING REGULATIONS

4/1/05

CWS

- The new planning regulations were signed in late December of 2004, and published in the Federal Register roughly a week later, in 2005. We are officially referring to them as the 2004 Regulations.
- These new regulations do not change the way we manage the Forests; however, they do substantially change the way we document our planning process, and the ways in which we hold ourselves accountable for the results of our Forest management actions.
- Because forest plans will focus entirely on strategic direction for the future, they will not make any commitments to on-the-ground project actions
- The new regulations provide a combination of accountability with flexibility. Accountability comes in the form of:
 - (1) Desired Conditions for specific geographic locations,
 - (2) Objectives with measurable outcomes and specific accomplishment time frames, and
 - (3) a Monitoring Program that provides for corrective actions if measured outcomes indicate that we are significantly deviating from our path toward the Desired Conditions.

Flexibility comes with the ability to deviate from otherwise binding environmental protection Guidelines if we can demonstrate how conditions justify that deviation, and how the replacement measures also meet the environmental protection intent of the original guideline.

- In addition to on-going public dialogue, we will release a draft plan for a 90-day public comment period before completing the final plan. We will also provide a 30-day period for people who disagree with our final plan to file formal Objections. The final decision will be made after any Objectives have been considered and resolved by the Regional Forester.
- In May will begin a public dialogue on the rough mapping of our preferred future conditions for the three revision Forests. We fully expect there will be changes as various groups and individuals debate the pros and cons of our preferred option and share their concerns.
- Details of our public involvement program will be posted on our web site as they become available.

Here is our projected timeline for the remaining part of the plan revision process:

Release Mapping of Preferred Option for Public Consideration	Late May, 2005
Interactive Public Discussion	May through August 2005
Release Draft Plans and Begin 90-Day Public Comment Period	October 2005
Release Final Plans and Begin 30-Day Public Objection Period	May 1, 2006
Begin Process of Resolving any Objections Raised	June 1, 2006
Issue Decisions and Final Plans Upon Resolution of Objections	

Timeline for WMPZ Forest Plan Revision If 2004 Planning Rule is Followed

Phase	Task	Date
Transition	Identify Preferred Option/Preferred Alternative - 3 Forest Lead Teams	February 25, 2005
	Confirm Preferred Option with Regional Forester	March 14, 2005
	Complete New Management Area map of Preferred Option	March 31, 2005
	Regional Forester Decision about the New Planning Rule	April 7, 2005
	Continue internal and external education about the new planning rule	March - July, 2005
Work with the public to discuss and refine our proposal	Release completed portions of Forest Plan Chapter 1-Vision, along with NOI, Management Area map & descriptions, for public discussion	May 15, 2005
	Establish Initial EMS Strategy	July 1, 2005
	Release completed portions of Forest Plan Chapter-2 Strategy, for public discussion (includes Objectives and Suitability)	July 15, 2005
	Suggested Changes to Forest Plan due back from forests	September 1, 2005
90 Day Review Period	Update Draft Forest Plan based on changes identified and release for 90 public review, along with other plan documents such as guidelines and monitoring	October 15, 2005
	Comment period ends	January 15, 2006
Final Plan	Complete response to comments	March 15, 2006
	Finalize and release Plan and CE Begin 30 day objection period	May 1, 2006
Decision	End objection period	June 1, 2006
	Try to Resolve Objections, Take instructions from Reviewing Official, adjust the Plan, and issue a decision	