

Meeting Agenda

- Who we are? State Wildlife Management Agency
- Why Are We Here? Land Management Planning 101
 - Questions to ask as you stay engaged in planning
- Broad overview of FS and BLM Planning Efforts
 - Land Management Planning
 - Travel Management Planning
- How to provide effective comments
- Local planning issues
 - How to become involved in local process (timelines)
 - What resources are available to assist in reviews and comments
- Questions, Comments

Why Are We Here?

- **Statewide Federal Planning Efforts**
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
- **What We Have Heard From the Public Regarding Recreation**
 - Wildlife Habitat and Wildlife Populations
 - Access
 - Camping
 - Motorized downed big game retrieval
- **Ensuring Public Involvement**

Wildlife Recreation and Wildlife Habitat

Questions to Ask as You Become Involved in Planning (Handout)

- Wildlife Habitat
- How is wildlife habitat managed to ensure that population needs are met at landscape and site-specific levels?
- What public uses are appropriate to ensure the conservation of wildlife habitat?

- Access
- Where do I go to enjoy the outdoors, and how do I access those areas?
- Will these areas be available to me in the new plan?
- What areas are important to access for hunting, wildlife viewing, etc.?
- What modes of transport do I use to access those areas?

- Camping/Recreation
- Where and how do I camp now?
- Where and how will I be able to camp once these plans are final?
- Will I be able to choose my own campsite, or will I be limited to identified sites only?
- Will I be able to collect firewood, or will I have to bring it in?

- Downed Big Game
- How am I able to retrieve downed big game currently? Motorized, non-motorized, etc.

Note: Certain designations on BLM or FS lands may dictate the approach to these issues, such as congressionally designated wilderness, national monuments, etc.

First: Scoping issues, Public input

Second: Development of a RANGE of Alternatives

**Third: A Preferred Alternative Will be Presented by the Agency
(after input by the public on the range of alternatives)**

SIMPLIFIED

- First time around – Make suggestions about what you would like to see happen
- Second time around - Comment on alternatives and add suggestions
- Third time around – Focus on and address proposed action

Forest Service Planning Overview

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Forest Service Management

- 1960 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act
 - Renewable surface area resources, establishment of wilderness
- 1974 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
- 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA)
 - Establishes general planning regulations for NFMA
 - Coordination of Outdoor Recreation, Range, Timber, Watershed, Wildlife and Fish, and Wilderness
 - **Planning with Public Input, Environmental/Economic Analysis**
 - Promulgate Regulations to set out the process for LMP development and revision
- Planning Rules, Regulations (1982, 1995, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005)

Forest Service Planning

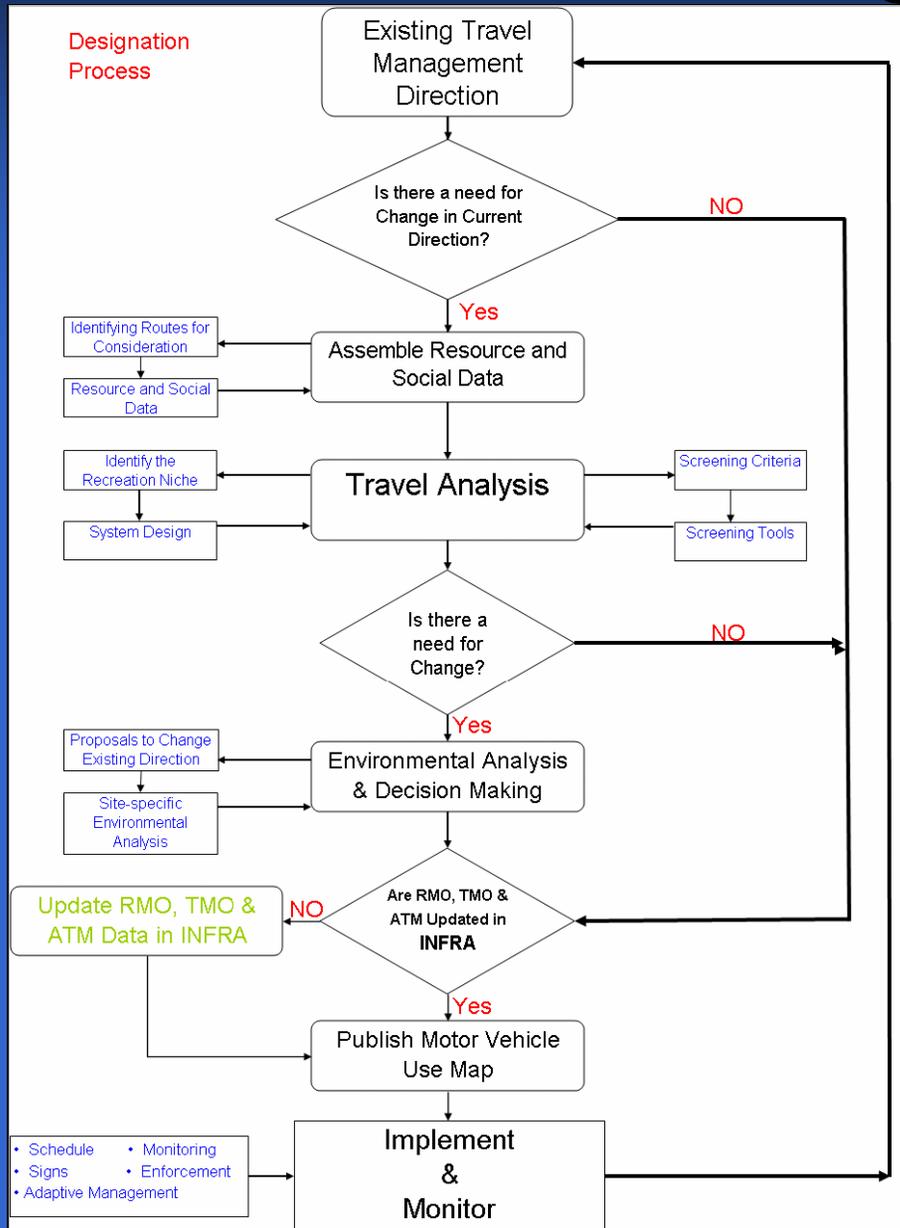
■ Land Management Planning

- 2005 Planning Rule / 2007 Court Decision

■ Travel Management Planning

- 2005 Travel Management Rule – Goal: designate system of roads, trails, and areas for motorized uses and eliminate cross country travel
- 2006 Travel Management Rule Implementation Guidelines, Revisions
 - All Alternatives for Route Designations Must:
 - Protect natural and cultural resources
 - Enhance public enjoyment of the national forests
 - Promote the safety of all users
 - Minimize conflicts among various users

FS - Travel Management Plan



1. Evaluate Current Travel Management Direction

Roads, Trails, Areas

Travel analysis – need for change based on existing route structure

2. Dispersed Camping

3. Parking Along Forest Roads

Either by distance from road, or descriptor such as “within one vehicle width from edge of road” short/long term

4. Big Game Retrieval

5. Gathering Forest Products

Cross country travel would be minimized

Current Road Management (and other public uses)

- Coronado and Prescott have restrictions for motorized uses on designated roads with an exception of a 300 foot buffer for camping, motorized retrieval of downed game, etc.
- Tonto, Kaibab, Coconino, and Apache Sitgreaves do not have limiting policies – i.e., they are considered open for cross country travel UNLESS specific area restrictions have been applied (there are exceptions).
 - The current OHV designations are based on a multitude of factors: 1. the Current Forest Plans, 2. Forest Orders, 3. Forest Restrictions, 4. other Pertinent closures based on NEPA analyses, etc.

Implementation Guidelines

Dispersed Motorized Camping

- Travel Management Planning Process:
Tools/Range of Alternatives
 - Designating specific routes to access dispersed camping sites (new road added to System – given route number)
 - **Designating associated features, sites** – those features associated with designated routes (pullouts, parking areas, trailheads, and short spurs less than 100 feet to access camping) but not given a route number – and not added to the System inventory. Too small to show on map, signage on ground. No difference on ground, but minimizes number of new roads needed for inventory into System.
 - **Facilitating camping through roadside parking**
 - Designating an area for Cross-Country travel
 - Designating Fixed Distances (“the tool of last resort”) – Regional Forester retains authority

Implementation Guidelines

Motorized Big Game Retrieval

- **Travel Management Planning Process:
Tools/Range of Alternatives**
 - Designating Fixed Distances (“used sparingly”)
 - Regional Forester to retain authority
 - Designating an Area for Cross-Country Use
 - Certain Routes Open Only During Hunting Seasons
 - The need to apply any of the above tools could be reduced or eliminated based on route designations

Bureau of Land Management Planning Overview

Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans (RMPs) Background

- Presidential Proclamations for 5 New National Monuments in Arizona
- Mandate to develop management plans for National Monuments
- Prompted BLM to update and revise Resource Management Plans Statewide
- Generally speaking, plans have a 15-20 year life span unless significant changes dictate otherwise

BLM RMPs

- Ensure public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976
- Under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.
- Recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values

RMP Process Overview

- **Public Scoping Period**
 - Identify Issues and Concerns
 - Identify Goals and Objectives
- **Development of Range of Alternatives**
 - Multiple Use
 - Resource Protection
 - Reasonable/Feasible; from Preservation (most restrictive in terms of limiting use) to emphasizing public uses and recreation (least restrictive in terms of use and access)
- **Development of Preferred Alternative**
 - Balance long-term conservation of resources and allowing for greater opportunities for public use.
- **Publish Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment**
- **Publish Proposed Final**

RMP Resources

- Air quality
- Geology
- Soil resources
- Water resources
- Visual resources
- Fish and wildlife
- Cultural resources
- Wild horse and burros
- Wildland fire ecology and management
- Paleontological resources
- Wilderness characteristics
- Cave and karst resources
- Vegetative communities
- Special status species

Resource Uses

- Facilities
- Forestry and woodland products
- Livestock grazing
- Minerals (leasable, locatable, salable)
- Recreation
- Renewable energy
- Transportation and access
- Utility corridors and communication sites
- Land tenure
- Land use authorizations

RMPs are Strategic Level Plans

- Decisions within this overarching plan may modify current uses
 - Motorized cross-country access (i.e. Downed Big Game Retrieval) – motorized vs. non-motorized
 - Recreational Shooting on National Monuments
 - Areas open / closed / limited to designated roads and trails for vehicular access
 - Camping and Recreation, including:
 - Dispersed vehicular camping; designated camp grounds; dispersed backcountry camping, etc.
 - Firewood collection

Route Designation Process

Implementation Level Decision

- Routes are being designated in one of two ways:
 - In conjunction with the RMP in some areas:
 - National Monuments
 - Small sections throughout the state
 - Remaining areas are being designated through a Travel Management Plan within 5 years of the RMP ROD

Travel Management Plans; Route Designation Process

- Inventory of ALL currently utilized routes (motorized roads, trails)
- Route Evaluation Tree Process©
 - Process or tool to help evaluate route for designation of open/closed/limited
 - Takes into consideration factors such as redundancy, adequate access for recreation, resource protection, etc.
- Public Process
- Range of Alternatives + Preferred Alternative
- Route Designation through Travel Management Plan and Published Map

Differences Between FS/BLM

Forest Service

- Land Management Plan (2005 Rule)
 - Written by Forests
 - Overarching Document – No Decisions based on NEPA/Environment Review
 - General Guidance Only
 - Project by Project NEPA analysis done later

- Travel Management Plans (EA/EIS/CatX)
 - Written by Forests or Districts
 - Specific Route Designation
 - Areas open / closed / limited to designated routes
 - Motorized retrieval of downed game
 - Camping allowances

Bureau of Land Management

- Resource Management Plan – Decision Document (EIS)
 - Written by Field Office
 - Areas open / closed / limited to designated routes
 - Permittees must comply with field office route designations (e.g. hunting, wood gathering, livestock) – exceptions case by case; STATE DIRECTOR GUIDANCE
 - Camping allowances
 - Recreational Shooting in Monuments

- Travel Management Plans (EA)
 - Written by Field Office
 - Specific Route Designation

How To Provide Effective Comments

- **Specific Comments on Decisions/Sections**
 - Include section, subject, page #, or map
 - Specify exactly what you like or don't like about a certain decision or action, and why
 - Provide solution or example for remedy
 - Provide data, literature, or expertise to support comment (i.e. first hand knowledge, reports, etc.)
- **General Comments on Entire Document**
 - Comments to address format, style, tone, etc. of document – ease of use, clarity, readability, etc.
 - Provide input on how you would recommend changing for the better

**First: Scoping, Public input,
Development of a RANGE of
Alternatives**

**Next: A Preferred Alternative Will be
Presented by the Agency
(after input by the public on the range
of alternatives)**

**Offer Alternatives or Options That Are
Not Considered**