

Finger Lakes National Forest Forest Plan Revision

Management Areas

November 6, 2003

Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions/Announcements (7:00-7:10)
- Overview of Plan Revision (7:10-7:20)
- Management Areas (7:20-7:45)
- Clarifying Questions (7:45-8:00)
- Break/Look at maps (8:00-8:15)
- Group Work (8:15-8:55)
- Conclusion (8:55-9:00)

Announcements

- Meeting notes
- Past issues
- Missed previous meetings?
- Public input meetings – No Decisions

NEXT PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

- Thursday, December 4th 7:00-9:00pm
Hector Fire Hall
Meeting Topic
Developing Management Alternatives
- There is no Public Planning Meeting in
January

Goals for this evening:

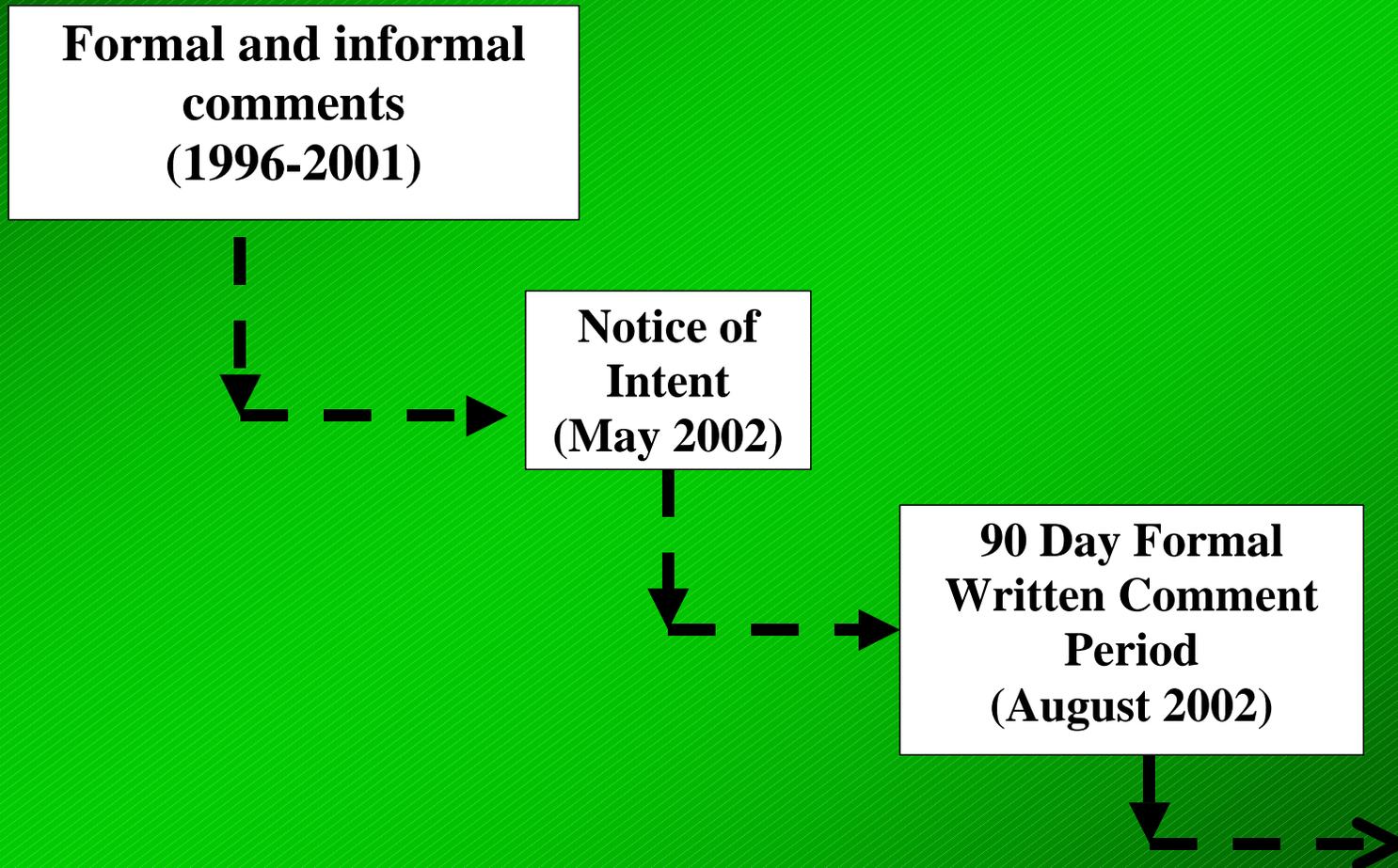
1. Provide information on current Management Areas (MAs) on the FLNF
2. Discuss MA problems and suggested changes
3. Answer questions and gather public comments on MAs
4. Prepare for meeting in December

Forest Plan Revision

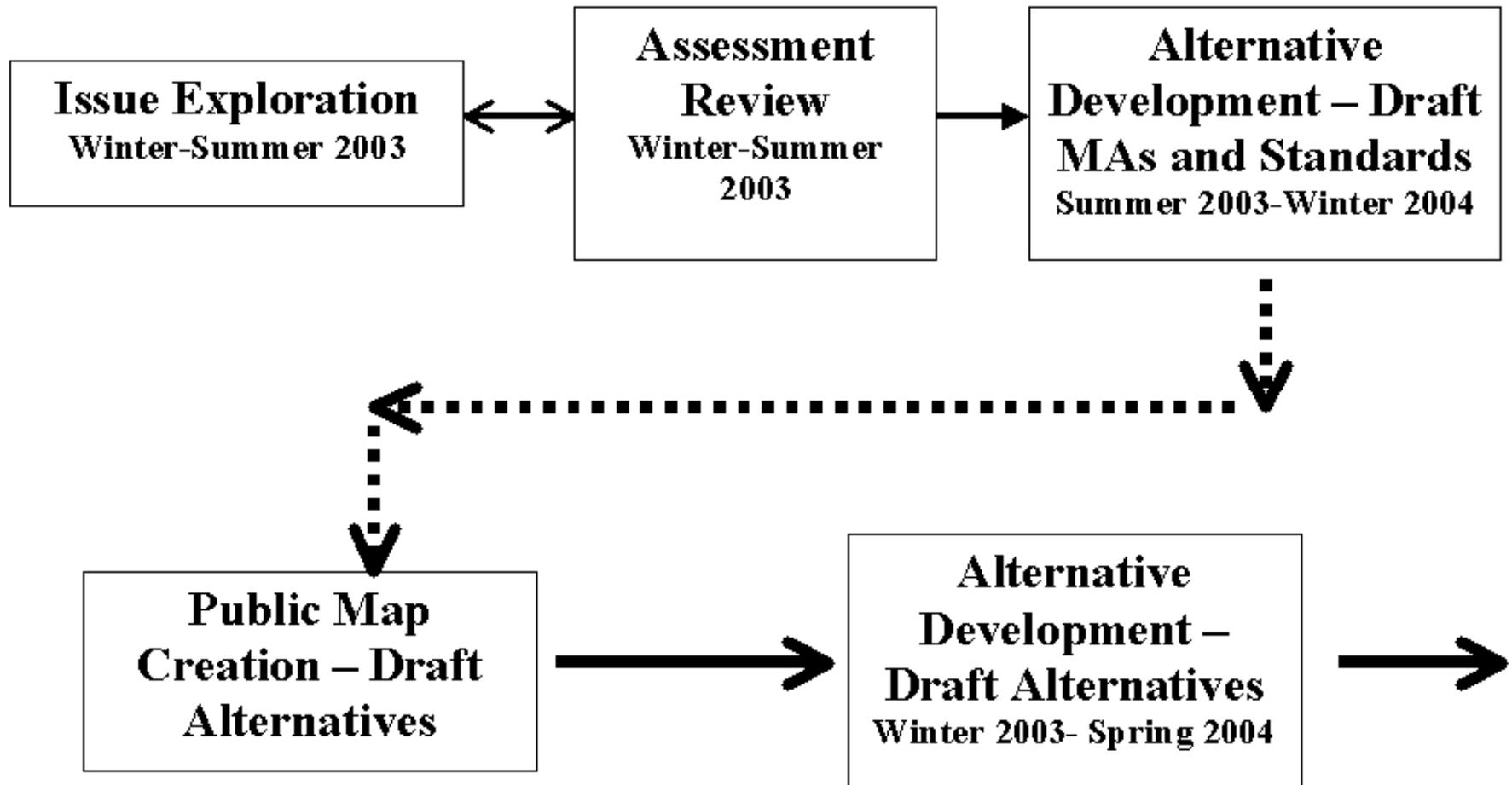
- Why are we revising the plan?
- How can you get involved?
- Where are we in the process?

FLNF Forest Plan Revision Timeline

Where we have been...

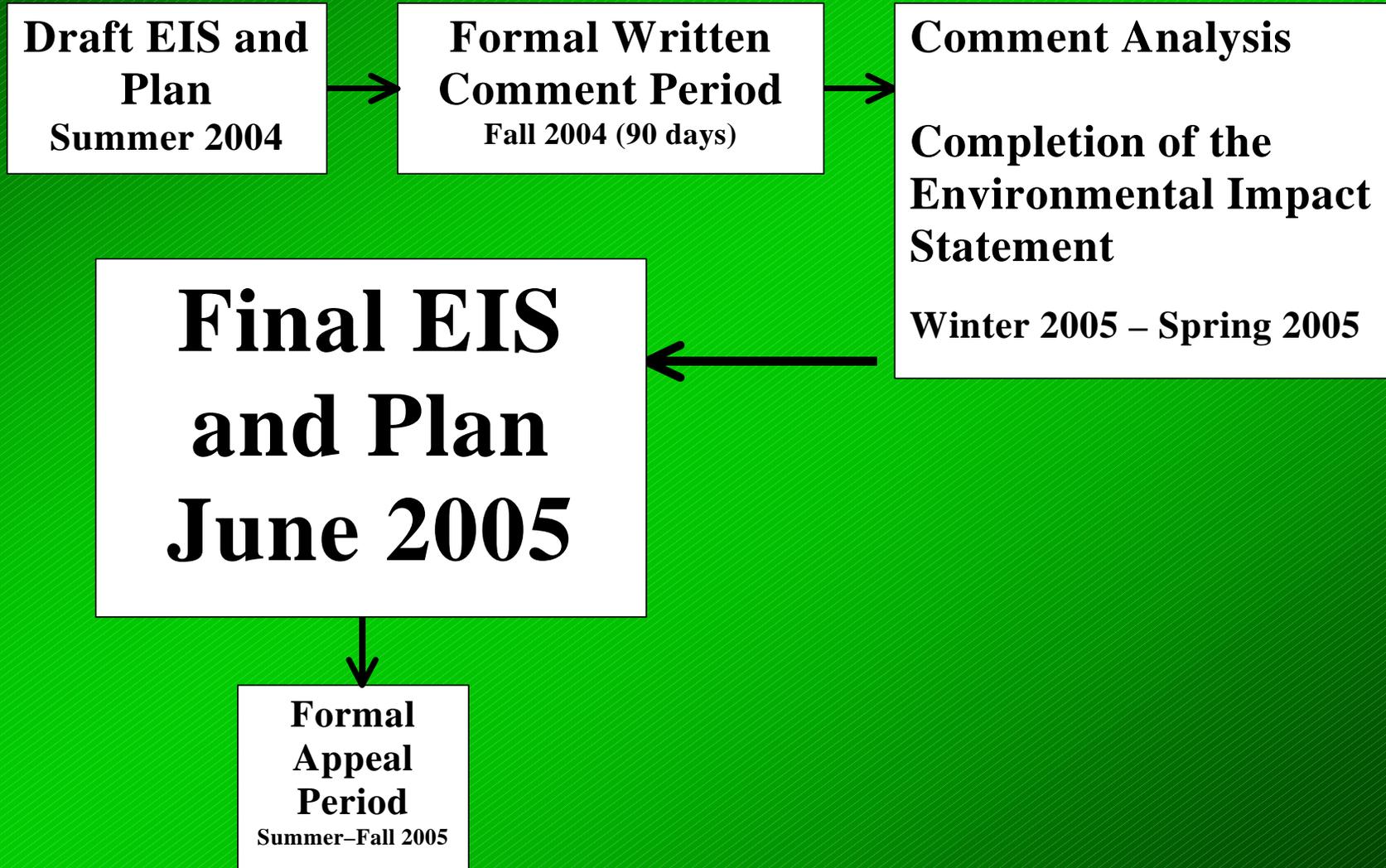


Public Involvement Timeline Winter 2003 - Spring 2004



Formal Public Involvement Timeline

Summer 2004 - June 2005



What is in a Forest Plan?

- Goals and Objectives
- Standards and Guidelines
- Management Areas
- Land suitable for timber harvesting and upper limits on timber sales
- Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

Management Areas

Finger Lakes National Forest

The current landscape is a result of historic uses.

- Historic Land use
 - Military lots
 - Land Clearing
 - Farm abandonment
- Government Involvement
 - Soil Conservation
 - USDA Forest Service
- Today the forest, pasture, ravines, and shrubs will influence tomorrow's landscape

What are Management Areas?

Areas with similar management objectives and management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple use and other goals and objectives

What are Management Areas?

- Forest Plan Zoning
- Describes Desired Condition of Land
- Describes Management Emphasis
- Describes Compatible uses
- Management Area Standards and Guidelines
- Box of crayons

Why are Management Areas important in Plan Revision?

- Allow for a variety of diverse habitats and uses across the landscape
- Different distributions create the “alternatives” in Plan Revision
- Helps configure the FLNF in different ways to respond to Plan Revision issues
- Helps land managers know what activities should happen in what areas
- It is a required part of a Forest Plan

Flexibility in Revised Plan

- Current plan is starting point
- Regional Forest Service Office direction
- These are general ideas and they will be more explicit in draft plan
- We would like to try to simplify the existing Forest Plan

Pasture for Grazing (MA 1.2A)



6. 27. 2003

Pasture - Description

- Emphasizes management of pastures for livestock grazing
- Vegetation dominated by grasses and forbs, with some shrub and forest areas interspersed
- Fences, corrals, stock ponds, and other water developments
- Mostly in Northern part of FLNF
- Livestock in pastures between about May 15 through November 1

Pasture - Compatible Uses and Benefits

- Livestock grazing
 - Wildlife habitat for forage and nesting
 - Recreation – biking, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling on trails, hunting, bird watching
 - Scenic values
 - Research and demonstration of ecologically sound pasture management
 - Revenue from grazing helps offset costs of grassland maintenance
 - Farmers in Hector Grazing Association benefit

Pasture – Considerations

- Management Area successful in meeting goals and objectives
- 1999 Forest Plan Amendment because of land acquisition
- Budget constraints on replacement of fences and ponds
- Non-desirable invasive species like knapweed and multiflora rose

Pasture – Suggestions

- Expand the management area description to place greater emphasis on wildlife
- Expand emphasis of management and control of invasive species

Grassland for Wildlife (MA 1.2B)



Grassland - Description

- Main emphasis of grassland and shrubland is for wildlife habitat
- Uncommon habitat in region
- Vegetation dominated by grasses and forbs
- Mowing, liming, prescribed burning
- Mostly found in Northern part of FLNF

Grassland - Compatible Uses and Benefits

- Wildlife habitat for forage and nesting
- Recreation – biking, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, bird and wildlife watching, snowmobiling on trails...
- Special events with Special Use Permits
- Hay
- Timber

Grassland – Considerations

- Grasslands have been successfully maintained without grazing
- This management area was created in a 1999 Plan amendment

Shrubland (MA 1.3)



Shrubland - Description

- Main emphasis on brushy openings for wildlife habitat and fruit production
- This habitat type is uncommon in region
- Areas selected to enhance vegetative diversity based on soil, neighboring vegetative types, plant species, and maintenance feasibility
- Vegetation is maintained in an intermediate successional stage

Shrubland - Compatible Uses and Benefits

- Wildlife habitat for forage and nesting
- Recreation— hunting, fishing, wildlife and bird observation, fruit picking, trails
- Small amounts of firewood will be available
- Scenic variety and vistas

Shrubland – Considerations and Suggestions

- Management has been successful
- Standards and Guidelines may need to be adjusted to incorporate current science
- Specific wildlife objectives may be added like turkey management or objectives for swamps and seeps

Continuous Forest Canopy (MA 2.1)



Continuous Forest Canopy - Description

- Main emphasis to provide natural appearing forest in visually sensitive areas near recreation sites, trails, and some creeks
- Forest has trees of many ages and sizes and a continuous canopy
- Dominate trees reproduce in shade (beech, red and sugar maple, hemlock)
- Uneven-age timber management technique
- No evidence of management from a distance
- Evidence of management on the site will include stumps, slash, skid trails, landings

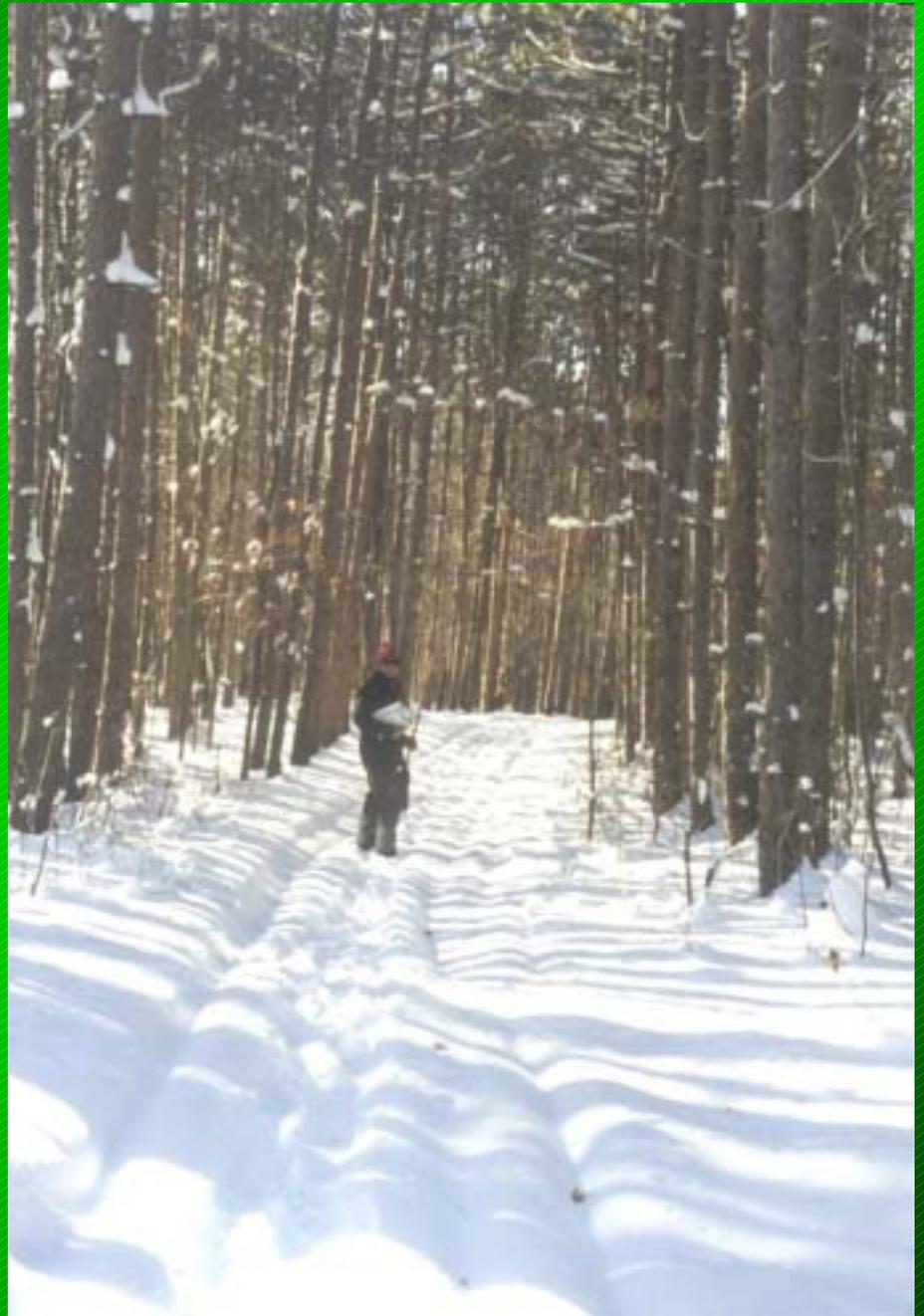
Continuous Forest Canopy - Compatible Uses and Benefits

- Protects scenic character
- Recreation – camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation
- Provides another habitat type to increase wildlife habitat diversity
- Timber and firewood

Continuous Forest Canopy – Considerations and Suggestions

- Concern about the ability to maintain oak, aspen, and some shrubs like blueberry
- Some visual standards have been hard to achieve
- Uneven-aged management may be too restrictive – only regenerates shade tolerant species
- Focus on desired landscape condition not management technique to achieve that condition.
- Combine this into a “general forest” management area

Mosaic of Forest Ages (MA 3.1)



Mosaic of Forest Ages - Description

- Main emphasis on habitat diversity
- Dominant tree species include: oak and mixed hardwood, aspen, conifer, and locust plantations
- Collectively the stands represent many age classes ranging from young to mature trees
- From a distance management may, or may not, be evident
- On site management evident by stumps, slash, skid trails, differences in height, age, size of trees, openings for wildlife

Mosaic of Forest Ages - Compatible Uses and Benefits

- Habitat diversity from temporary forest openings to mature forest
- Recreation - camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife and bird observation
- Production of high quality saw-timber
- Scenic vistas
- Firewood and Fence posts

Mosaic of Forest Ages – Considerations and Suggestions

- Oak can be regenerated
- Forest plan management goals have not been achieved
- Even-aged management may be too restrictive
- Combine this into a “general forest” management area
- Focus forest plan on desired landscape condition not technique to achieve that condition

Special Area (MA 8.1)



Special Area - Description

- Main emphasis on preserving uncommon or outstanding biological, geological, recreational, cultural, or historical significance
- Management is to preserve these values
- Unique plant communities: old-growth or wetlands
- Trails with special recognition
- Habitats or populations of threatened or endangered species
- Scenic ravines, waterfalls or other geologic attractions

Special Area - Compatible Uses

- Protection of uncommon or outstanding values for public education and enjoyment (Other uses are secondary)
- Recreation - camping, trails, hunting, wildlife and bird observation

Special Area - Suggestions

- Consider developed recreation sites as a separate Management Area
- Simplify: 8.1A, 8.1B, and 8.1C are all trails that could be combined as a trail special area
- Consider shifting 8.1D focus to interior forest conditions rather than using the term “old-growth”
- Other types of special areas could include Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas

Newly Acquired Lands (MA 9.2)



Newly Acquired Lands - Description

- Main Emphasis is to protect existing resources, uses and facilities until studies are done to assign another management prescription
- Protect health and safety
- Management activities will not restrict future opportunities

Newly Acquired Lands - Compatible Uses

- Protection of resource, public health, and public safety
- Public access and use of these areas for existing recreational purposes allowed unless it conflicts with other management objectives

Newly Acquired Lands - Suggestions

- Change focus from a “holding category” to a study area to determine best management area designation
- Focus could include working with public to help determine best management area designation

Summary of MAs on FLNF

Management Area	Acres of FLNF	% of FLNF	Uses – Main emphasis
Pasture for Grazing (1.2A)	5,900	36	Livestock grazing, Farmers Wildlife, Recreation
Grassland for Wildlife (1.2B)	640	4	Wildlife, Recreation
Shrub opening (1.3)	1,600	10	Wildlife, Recreation
Continuous Forest Cover (2.1)	390	2	Scenic Values, Recreation, Wildlife, Timber
Mosaic of Age-classes (3.1)	6,200	38	Wildlife, Recreation, Timber,
Special Areas (8.1)	370	2	Biological, Geology, Cultural, Recreation
Newly Acquired Land (9.2)	1,300	8	Resource Protection while studied

FS Constraints/Flexibility

- Biodiversity – Habitat types can't be eliminated but amounts and locations could shift
- Regional Forest Service Office – consistency with other National Forest's descriptions
- Simplify Management Areas and focus on desired landscape not management techniques
- Different arrangements creates different “alternatives” in Plan Revision
- Alternatives need to be feasible with budgets

Possible New Management Areas

- Some based on Forest Service review
- Some address problems with current Management Areas
- Some based on public comments (goals and other meetings)
- These are more general than the current forest plan Management Areas

Possible New MAs – Restoration grassland for livestock and wildlife

- Emphasis on restoring pastures with invasive species and conversion to native grass species
- Management may be intensive
- Education, demonstration, research could be emphasized
- This may also be accomplished by adding a goal to the current Pasture Management Area

Possible New MAs – Northern Hardwoods Shade-Tolerant Forest

- This would essentially replace the current 2.1 Management Area
- Focus on the future landscape conditions or desired vegetation types rather than management techniques

Possible New MAs – Oak-Hickory Forest

- This would essentially replace the current 3.1 Management Area
- Focus on the future landscape conditions or desired vegetation types rather than management techniques

Possible New MAs – General Forest

- Emphasize creating diverse forested habitats
- Combination of MA 2.1 and MA 3.1
(Management would be covered in objectives)
- Timber harvest is only one of the emphasis items for this Management Area
- Other emphasis areas are recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed health
- FLNF recommendation

Possible New MAs – Interior Forest

- Replace the current 8.1D Management Area
- Focus on interior forest characteristics
- Little or no timber harvest
- No motorized recreation
- FLNF contains little or no old-growth, Interior Forest is a more accurate name

Possible New MAs – Restoration Forest (pre-1800s conditions).

- Focus on restoring pre-1800s vegetative conditions
- Manage for oak-hickory using prescribed fire
- Manage for sugar maple and hemlock
- Education, demonstration, research
- This may also be achieved as a “special area”
- Problems – needs a lot of research, species like chestnut and passenger pigeon are not in the landscape

Reminders

- Reflective Listening
- Everyone's view is valid
- No Decisions are being made tonight
- Think about how different Management Areas can help resolve issues discussed in Public Planning Meetings

BREAK / TIME TO LOOK AT MAPS

Questions

- 1. What is working, or not working, with the existing Management Areas in the current Forest Plan?*
- 2. What uses are compatible, or incompatible, with the current Management Areas and the possible new Management Areas?*
- 3. Do you have any suggestions to improve any of the Management Areas presented tonight?*

Next steps for Forest Plan revision

- December Meeting Overview
- “Home work” 😊
 - Think about what your goals are for the National Forest
 - Think about Issues
 - Think about how to arrange management areas to address your goals and the issues
 - If you were Forest Supervisor how would you arrange the Management Areas?

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Mike Dockry at 607-546-4470
- 5218 State Route 414, Hector, NY, 14841
- Email – gmflplanrevision@fs.fed.us
- Or visit our website:
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/
plan_revision.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision.htm)

THANK YOU!