

# **Finger Lakes National Forest Forest Plan Revision**

First Draft Alternatives

March 4, 2003

# Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions/Announcements (5 min)
- Detailed Overview of Plan Revision (15 min)
- How Forest Plan Alternatives are Drafted (10 min)
- Presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> drafts ( 15 min)
- Review Maps and provide comments (1 hr 15 min)

# Announcements

- Meeting notes and information from past meetings
- Past issues or other issues
- Public input meetings – No Decisions

# NEXT PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS

- No Plan Revision meetings for the next couple of months.
- Possible meeting for draft Trail Alternatives early summer
- Public meeting on the draft Plan, late summer
- Informal Field Trip Tomorrow – 9am Hector Office

# Goals for this evening:

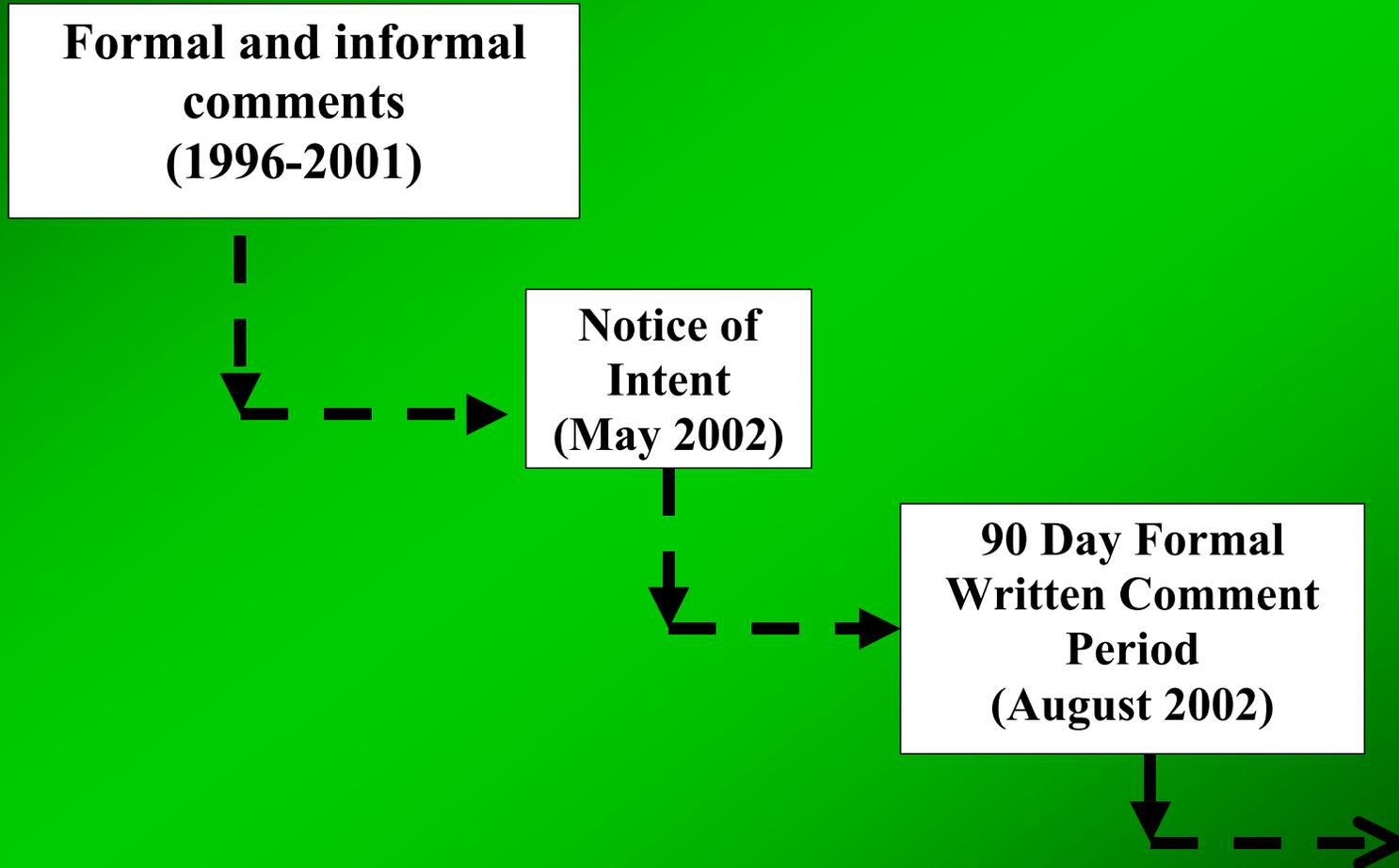
1. Provide more detail on Plan Revision Process
2. Provide information on how alternatives are drafted
3. Present three preliminary alternatives
4. Get feedback on the alternatives

# Forest Plan Revision

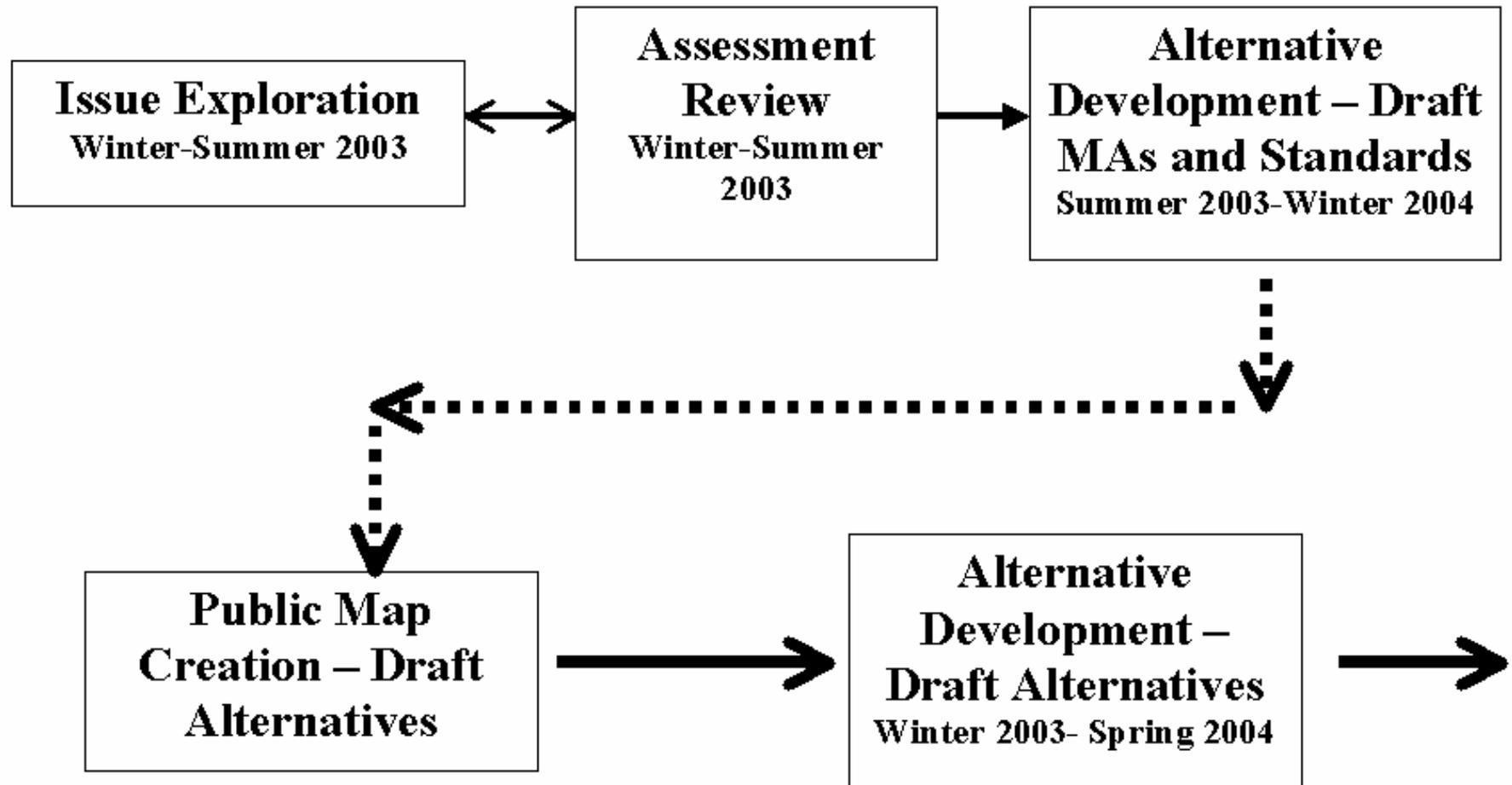
- Why are we revising the plan?
- How can you get involved?
- Where are we in the process?

# FLNF Forest Plan Revision Timeline

## Where we have been...

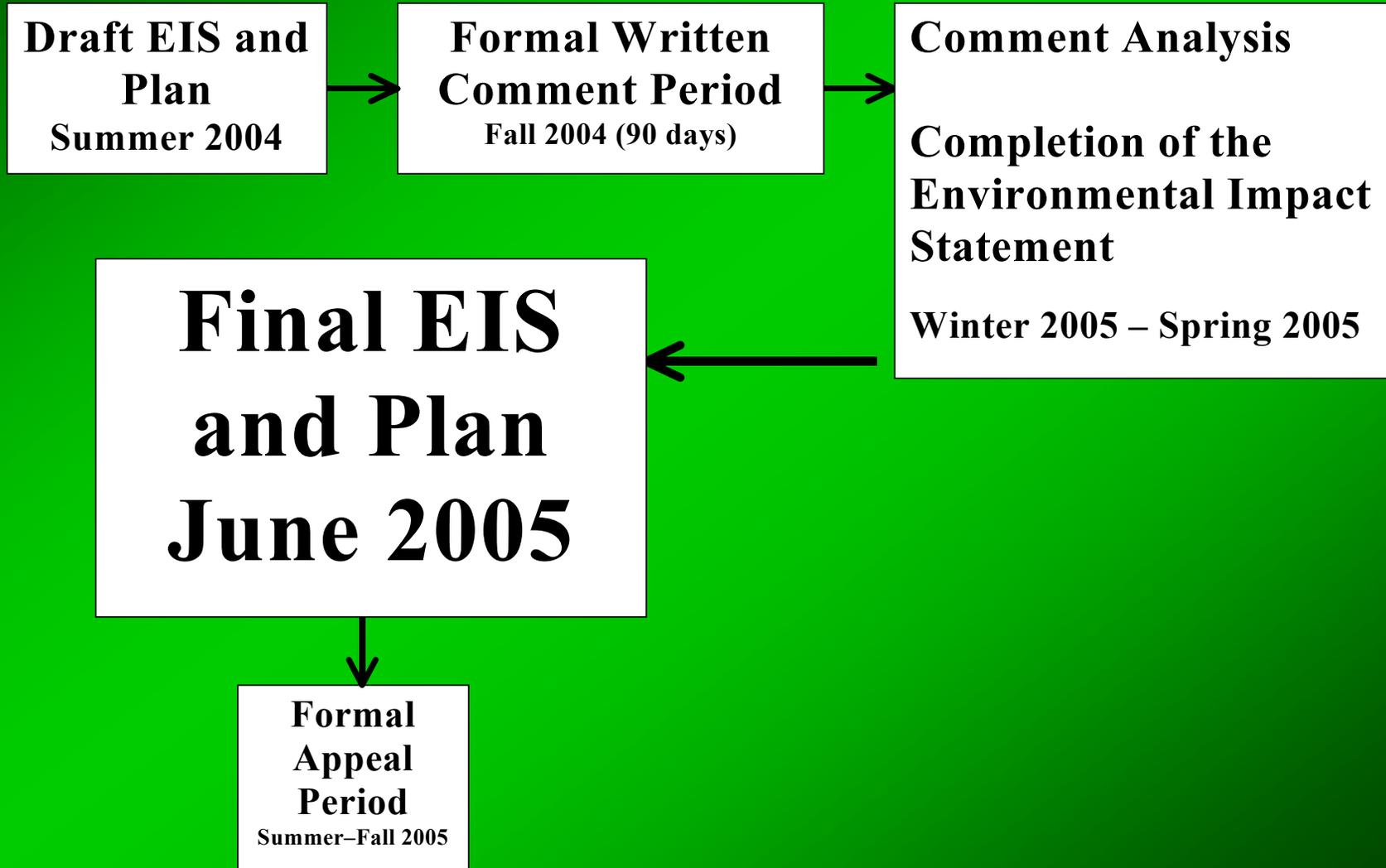


# Public Involvement Timeline Winter 2003 - Spring 2004



# 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

# Why are we having this meeting?

- This is the planning team's first draft.
  - Before Specialists analyze in detail
  - Before Regional Office approves
  - Before formal public comment
- This is a unique opportunity for input
- We believe that this input will help develop better alternatives before we enter the in-depth writing and analysis phase.

# What are Forest Plan Alternatives?

- Options for future management
- A way to address issues
- Different Management Area Allocations
- Basis for in depth analysis
- Legal Requirement
  
- Lets review Management Areas...

# Why are Management Areas important in Plan Revision?

- Allow for a variety of diverse habitats and uses across the landscape
- Groups compatible activities together
- Helps land managers know what activities should happen in what areas
- It is a required part of a Forest Plan

# Pasture for Grazing (MA 1.2A)



6. 27. 2003

# 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

# Grassland for Wildlife (MA 1.2B)



# 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...
- Hay

# Shrubland (MA 1.3)



# 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

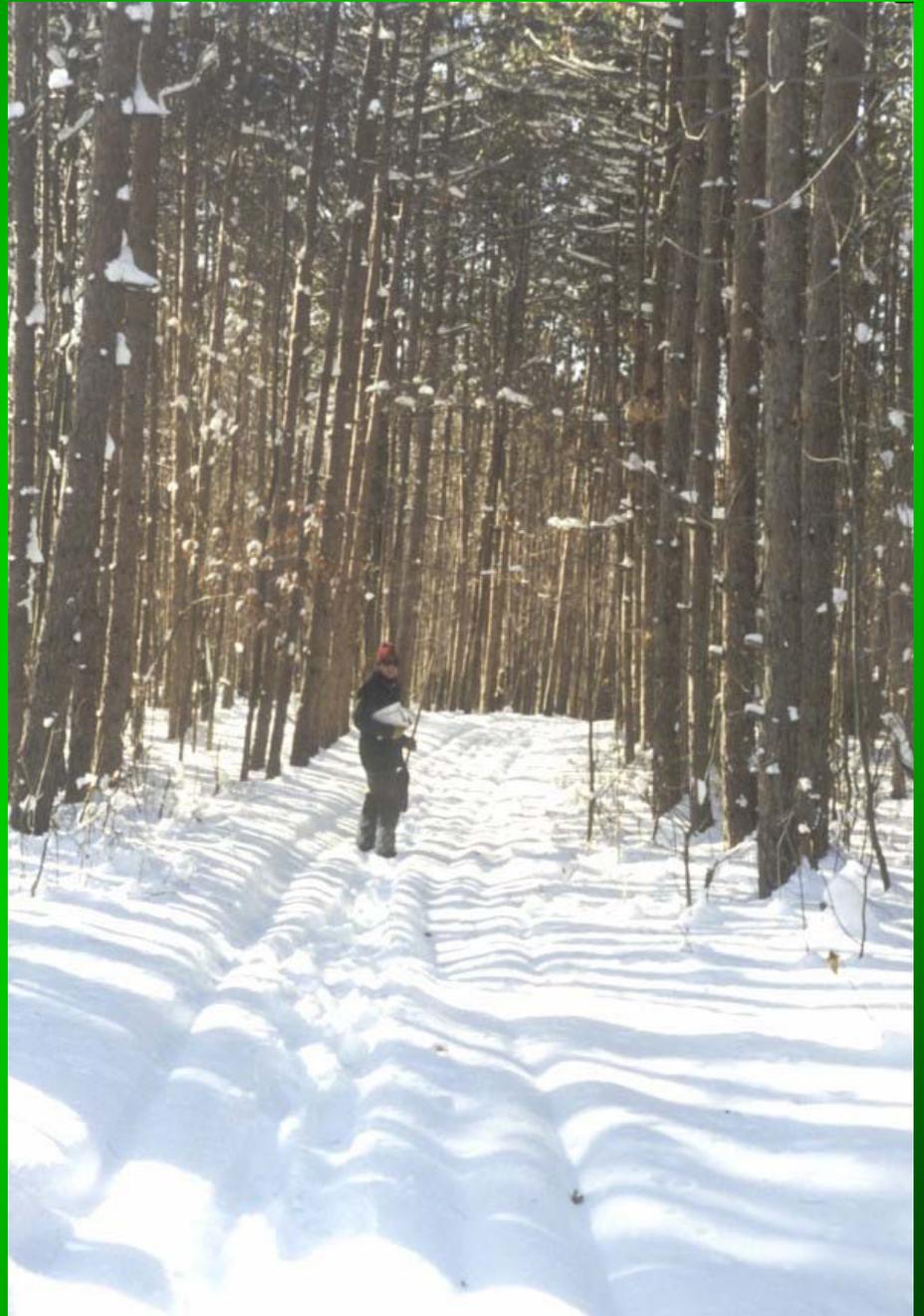
# Forest – Shade Tolerant (MA 2.1)



# Forest – Shade Tolerant - Compatible Uses and Benefits

- Promotes shade tolerant Northern Hardwoods like maple and hemlock
- Recreation – camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife observation
- Provides another habitat type to increase wildlife habitat diversity
- High quality timber and firewood

**Forest –  
Shade  
Intolerant  
(MA 3.1)**

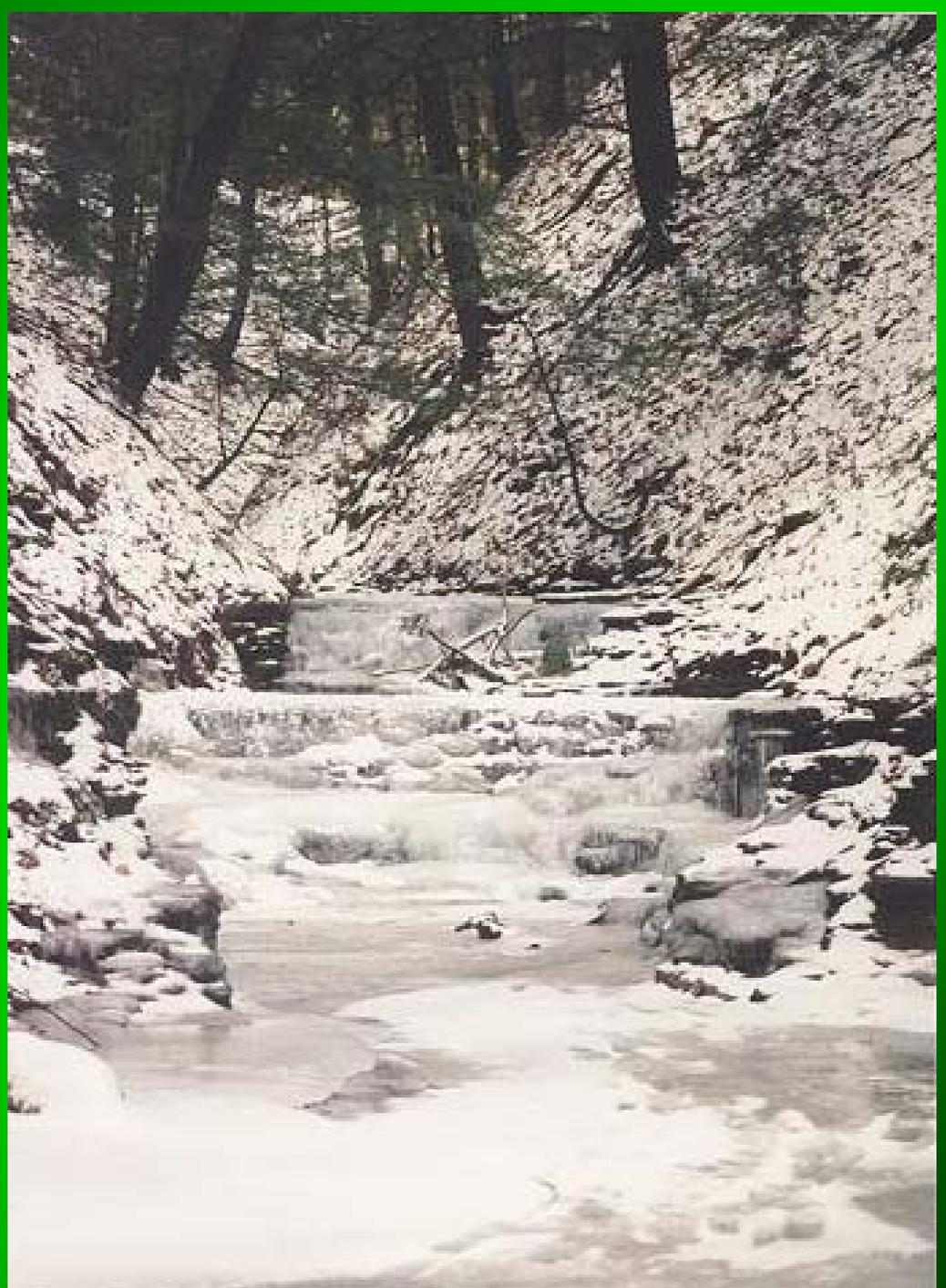


# Forest - Shade Intolerant - Compatible

## Uses and Benefits

- Promotes shade intolerant species like oak and hickory
- 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

# Special Area (MA 8.1)



# 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

# Newly Acquired Lands (MA 9.2)



# **New Management Area – Interior Forest**

- Need a new name (Future old forest?)
- Creation of closed canopy forest with little or no timber harvest
- No new motorized recreation
- Also managed for “back country” recreation experiences

# Alternatives

- Different arrangements creates different “alternatives” in Plan Revision – Options for future management
- Biodiversity – Habitat types can’t be eliminated but amounts and locations could shift
- Alternatives need to be feasible with budgets
- Legal Requirement and forms basis for in depth analysis

# How are alternatives refined?

- Public Input
- Scientific Input
- Forest Service Input
- Regional Office Input

# Public Input

- Public meetings since 1996. Past two years regular meetings
  - Phone calls, letters, emails, meetings throughout this time
  - Mapping Exercise last meeting
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- ❖ Wide range of public interests and views
  - ❖ All comments are recorded and part of our records. Meeting notes, phone logs, letters etc...

# Scientific Input

- Resource assessments
  - Soils, Cultural Resources, Species Analysis, forest inventory, water, social
- Maps and GIS data
- Who are the scientists?
  - Forest Service, local, university, state and other federal

# Forest Service Input

- Plan Revision Core Team
  - Planner, Landscape Architect
  - Assistant Planner, Forester and Ecologist
  - Planning Ecologist
  - Recreation Planner
  - Wildlife Biologist
  - Silviculturist (Forestry Expert)
  - Transportation Planner, Engineer
  - Planning Assistant, Geographer and Ecologist
  - GIS specialist (Maps and analysis)

# Other Forest Service Input

- Soil Scientist
- Archeologist
- Public Affairs and Environmental Education
- Hydrologist
- Field staff
- Forest Service Managers (rangers and forest supervisor)

# Forest Service Input

- Professional Expertise
- Practical Expertise
- 15 Year Retrospective
- Forest Service Mapping Exercise
- Planning team coordinates scientific input, public input, forest service input, and the law
- We do a lot of writing, meeting, and organizing

# Regional Office Input

- Approval of our process
- Approval of our alternatives
- Approval of drafts
- Approval of Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
- Under current regulations the Regional Forester signs the final Forest Plan

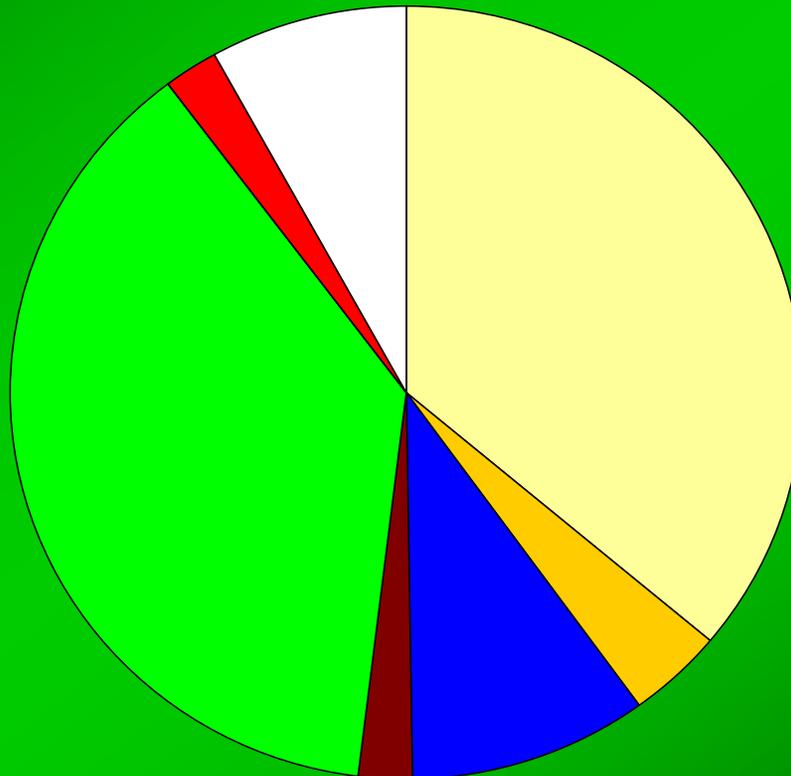
# Things to remember...

- This is the planning team's first draft
- Public input tonight
- Management Areas are approximations
- Need regional office approval
- Need Forest Staff input on specifics
- As we start the analysis, adjustments may be needed
- Formal comment period

# Current Plan Alternative

- Legally required to have this
- Like all alternatives, this is a realistic option
- Newly acquired land added to Management Areas
  - Surrounding Management Areas
  - Vegetation and field notes
  - Significant features
  - Tried to stay true to the current Plan
- The plan itself is updated (S&Gs, etc...)

# Current Plan Alternative



- Grassland for Grazing
- Grassland for Wildlife
- Shrublands
- Forest - Shade Tolerant
- Forest - Shade Intolerant
- Interior Forest?
- Special Area
- Newly Acquired Land

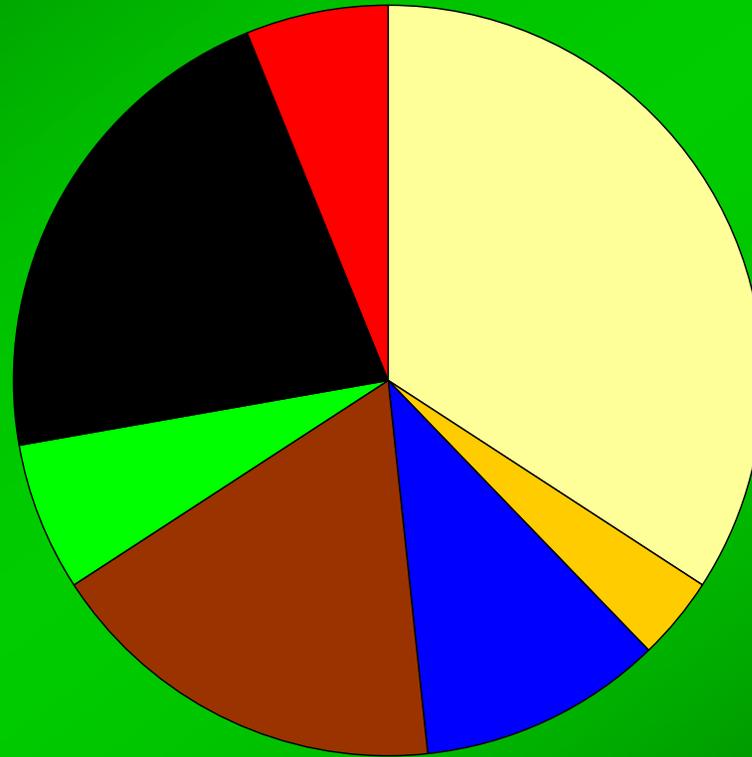
# Draft Alternative 1

- Based on public desire for larger undisturbed areas with less human intervention
- Read public comments (meeting notes)
- Looked through the 15 Year Retrospective
- Reviewed resource maps
- Grazing land mostly stays the same – public and scientific input

# Draft Alternative 1

- Grassland and shrubland mostly the same
- Large areas of forest with little timber harvest
- Some shrubland will revert to forest
- Most Forest land would grow up as mature even-age oak and hardwoods
- Watershed and stream comments at mapping
- Interior forest MA had no motorized recreation – we thought no NEW motorized recreation based on public comments

# Draft Alternative 1

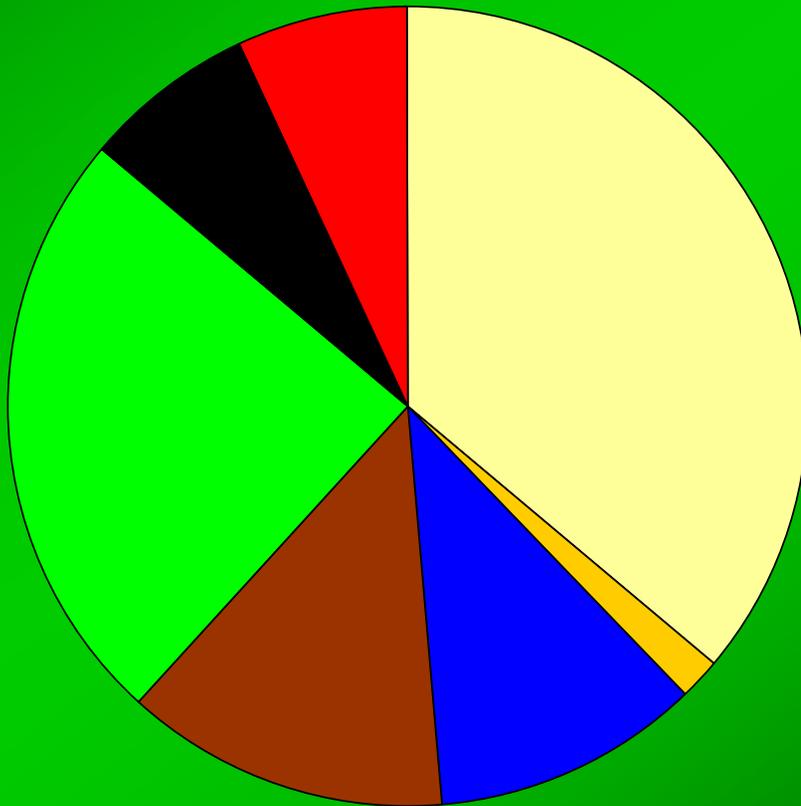


- Grassland for Grazing
- Grassland for Wildlife
- Shrublands
- Forest - Shade Tolerant
- Forest - Shade Intolerant
- Interior Forest?
- Special Area

# Draft Alternative 2

- Grassland and shrubland basically stays the same as current plan
- Based more on current ecosystem and vegetative conditions
- Also based on public desire for interior forest, oak and northern hardwood management for wildlife and timber
- Comments on increasing management for shade tolerant Northern Hardwoods

# Draft Alternative 2



- Grassland for Grazing
- Grassland for Wildlife
- Shrublands
- Forest - Shade Tolerant
- Forest - Shade Intolerant
- Interior Forest?
- Special Area

# Plan Revision Issues

- Recreation
  - Opportunity for more trails in Alt 1 and 2
  - Possibly less opportunity in Alt 1
  - Draft trail plan early summer
- Timber Management
  - All alternatives maintain some timber management possibilities
  - Most oak management current plan
  - Alt 1 has least timber management
  - Alt 2 has more Shade Tolerant Northern Hardwood management

# Plan Revision Issues

- Ecosystem Approach to management
  - All alternatives incorporate this
  - Grassland management is similar in each
  - Forest management possibly provides for different habitat – More oak management in Current plan and Alt 2 than Alt 1; More northern hardwood management in Alt 1

# Other Plan Revision Issues

- Standards, Guidelines, Goals and Objectives will address other issues
- Socio economic concerns – in analysis
- Mineral management – Current Plan
- Research Natural areas – Special areas on drafts
- Information, Education, Partnerships

# Remaining Issues

- Trails
  - Trail plan draft early summer
  - Possibly limit trails in Alt 1
- ATVs
  - Doing a study, summarizing information
  - Will be addressed in trail plan could possibly lead to another alternative

**Questions?**

**Time to look at maps...**

# Comments...

- What is positive about each alternative?
- What could be changed to make each alternative better?
- What is missing in each alternative?
- How well does each alternative address Plan Revision issues?

# Next Steps in the Process

- Forest Service Writes draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
- Formal public comment period
- Final decision on revised Forest Plan

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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[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!**