

Forest Plan Revision

Welcome



Our Mission

- US Forest Service:

“Caring for the Land and Serving People.”

- Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest:

“To Sustain, Protect and Enhance Forest Ecosystems.”





Goals/expectations for the evening:

- Provide an opportunity for community discussion on the planning process
 - Provide an overview of the 1996 planning process and what has happened since then
 - Outline the Forest Service planning requirements and other laws that affect plan revision
- 



Goals/expectations for the evening (continued):

- Validate issues identified in the 1996 Public Planning Groups and discuss any issues that have emerged since
 - Discuss the GMNF's proposed public planning process and timeline
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History of Forest Plan Revision on GMNF





History of Plan Revision

- Fall 1996 – Summer 1998 revision process started
 - Public meetings to kick-off process, identify issues and validate issue descriptions
 - Process included formation of Public Planning Groups (PPGs) around issues, and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) for information gaps and analysis related to issues
 - TWGs were never formed before process was halted
- 



History (cont.)

- FYs 1998 - 2000 Congress prevented funds from being spent on revision until NFMA regulations revised
 - Oct 2000, Congressional prohibition lifted, revision starts up again
 - Nov 2000, final rule on revised (“new”) NFMA regulations published
 - May 2001, new NFMA regulations determined by USDA Secretary to be “unimplementable”
 - Forests in revision will use old regulations until new ones are revised
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Laws Governing the Forest Service





1960 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act

- “National Forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes”
 - “Develop and administer the renewable surface resources of the National Forest for multiple use and sustained yield”
- 



Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, 1974

- Coordinate nationwide inventories of renewable resources on federal, state, local government and private lands
 - To use those inventories to prepare periodic assessments of the national supply and demand for forest and wildland products.
 - “...develop, maintain, and, as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans...”
- 



National Forest Management Act (NFMA), 1976

- Addressed public involvement, planning procedures, reports to Congress
 - Biological diversity, harvest levels, clearcutting, reforestation and watershed and fisheries protection
- 



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1970

- Federal agencies shall use “...a systematic interdisciplinary approach...in planning and decision making...”
 - Outlines environmental impacts of a proposed action, unavoidable impacts, alternatives, and irretrievable commitments of resources
- 



Other Laws

- Wilderness Act
 - Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
 - Eastern Wilderness Act
 - Historical & Archaeological Resource Protection Laws
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Clean Water Act
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Other Laws (continued)

- Clean Air Act
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

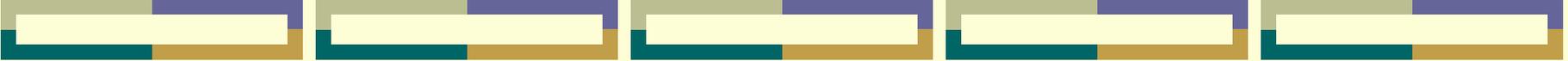
FACA - Places controls on Federal Agency use of advisory committees. It also sets direction for public participation and agency decision making.





Role of Public Involvement in Decision Making

- Issue exploration
 - Process development
 - Feedback
 - Share Information
 - Ideas
 - Creative solutions
 - Explore alternatives
- 



BREAK – ICE BREAKER

- Talk to 2 people you do not know
 - What is the most important/special thing about the GMNF?
 - If you could change one thing about how the forest is managed, what would it be?
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Issue Validation



How will issues be used in the planning process?

- Identify areas of concern in forest management
 - Identify opportunities in management
 - Identify areas where change is needed or desired
 - Develop alternatives based on issues
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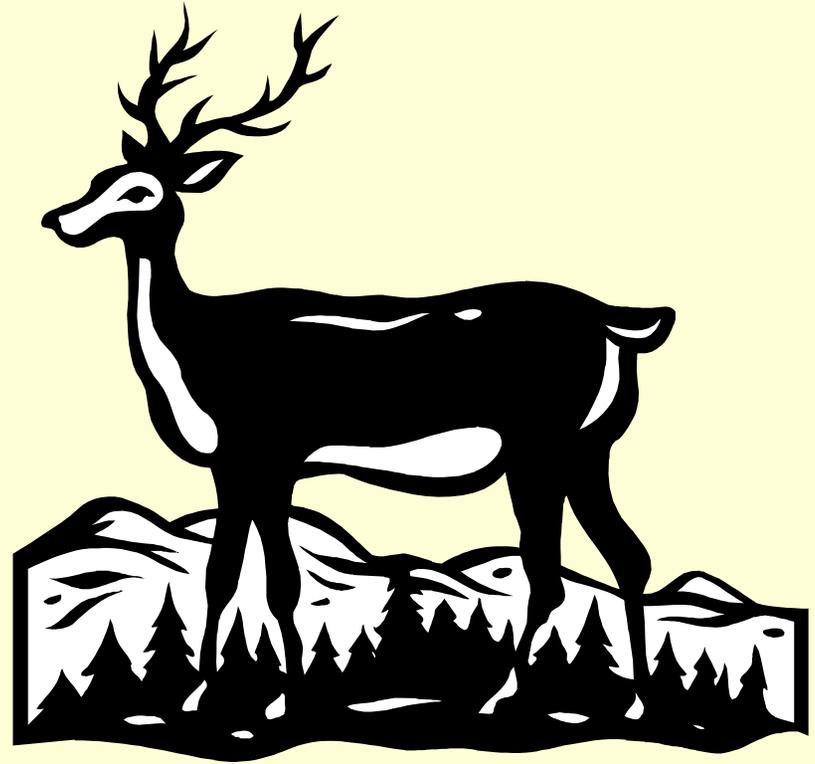


How will issues be used in the planning process?

- Some issues will fall outside the scope of the forest service and plan revision
 - Some management changes will not be driven by issues
 - Major issues are areas where there is a significant need for change – these will be used to develop alternatives
 - Secondary revision topics that are also important issues will also be addressed in the planning process
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ISSUES

- Wildlife Management



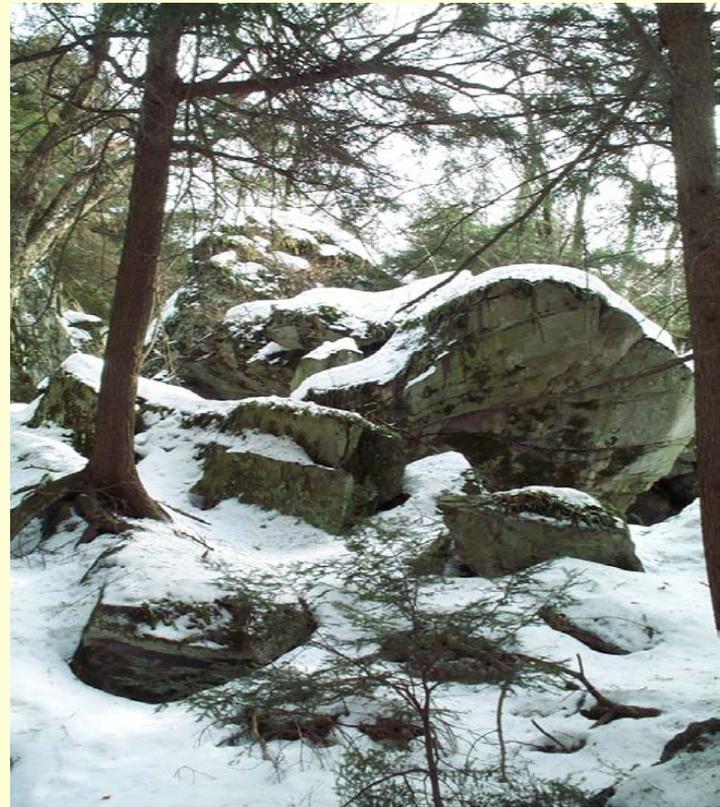
ISSUES

- Soil, Water, Air, Noise



ISSUES

- Areas of significance-
Special
Designation Areas
e.g Wilderness, Wild &
Scenic Rivers,
National Rec Areas,
etc.



ISSUES

- Role of the Forest in Regional Context



ISSUES

- Recreation Management



ISSUES

Trail Management



ISSUES

● Visual Quality Management



ISSUES

- Fisheries Management



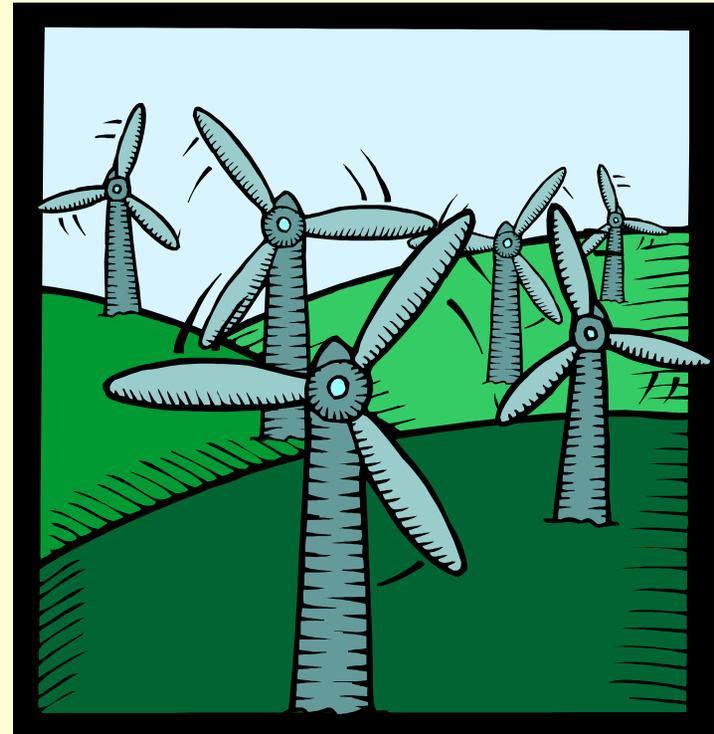
ISSUES

- Land Acquisition Program



ISSUES

- Special Use Management



ISSUES

● Socio-economic Concerns



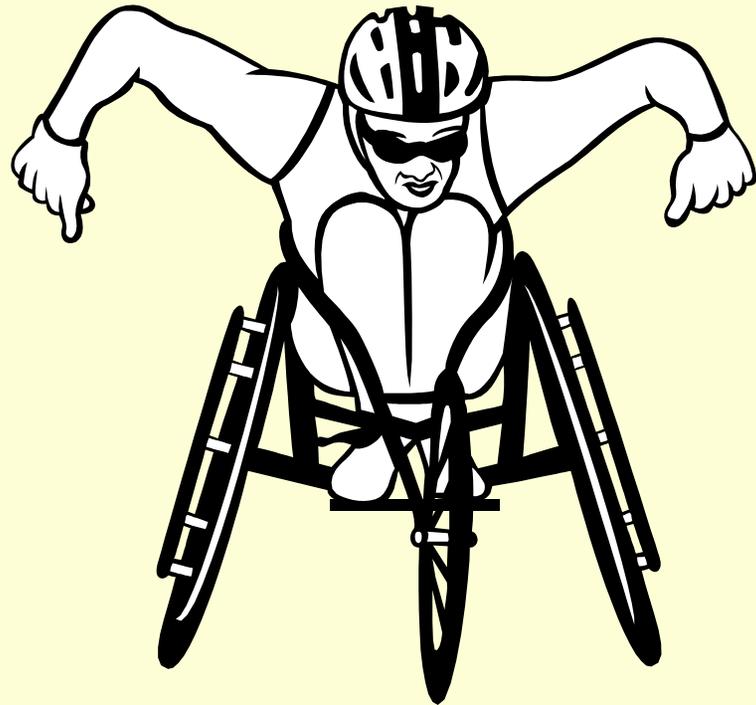
ISSUES

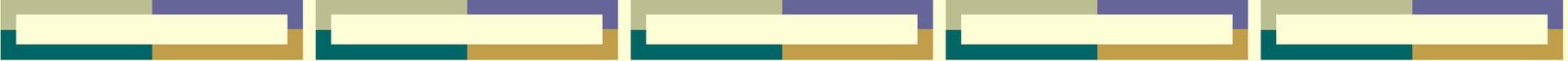
- Fire Management



ISSUES

 Accessibility





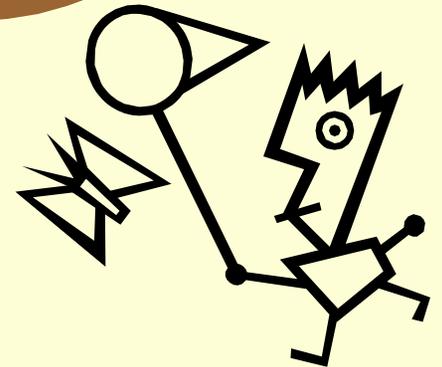
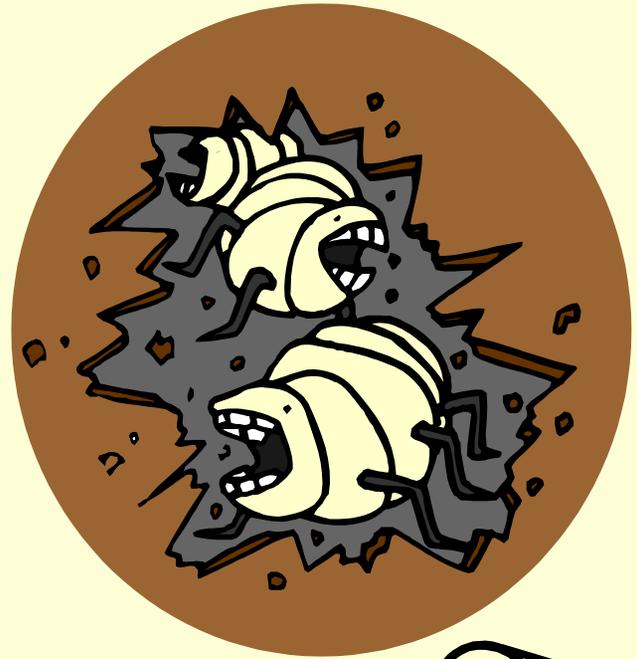
ISSUES

- Road Management



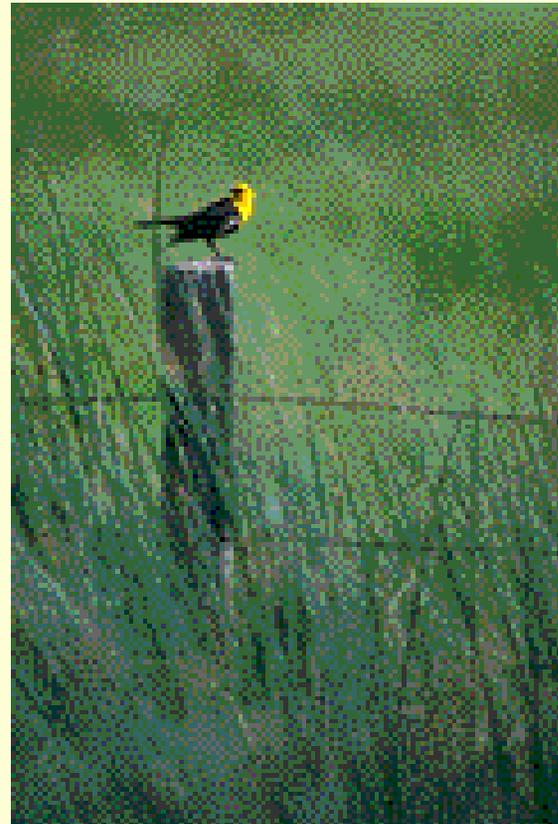
ISSUES

- Pest and Pesticide Management



ISSUES

Bio-Diversity



ISSUES

- Timber Management



ISSUES

Botany



ISSUES

● Ecosystem Management



ISSUES

- Monitoring and Evaluation



ISSUES

- Forest Health Concerns



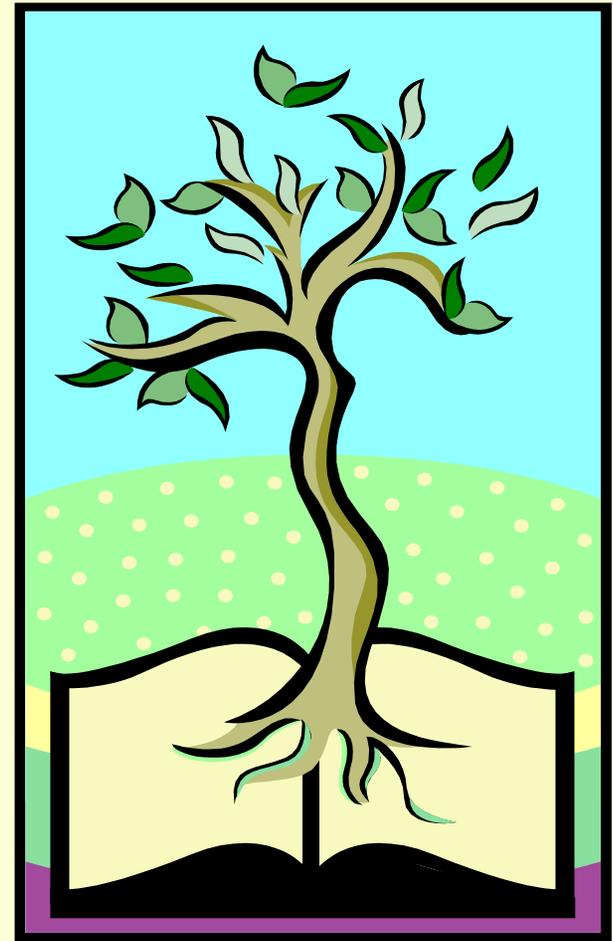
ISSUES

- Heritage Resources and Native American Affairs



ISSUES

- Information/
Education



ISSUES

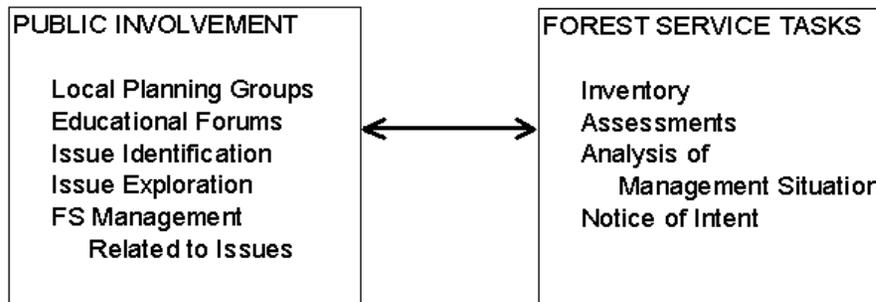
- Mineral Management



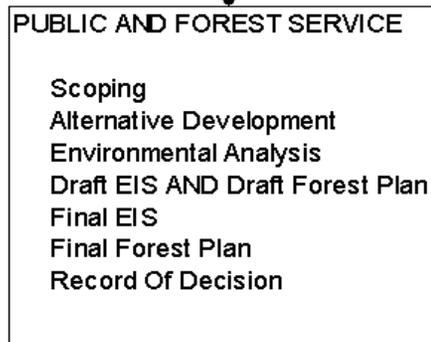
Planning Process

FOREST PLAN REVISION - PROCESS DIAGRAM

PHASE 1



PHASE 2



PHASE 3



Plan Revision Time Line – Phase 1

PHASE 1 ACTIVITY	Fall 2001	Winter 2002	Spring 2002	Summer 2002	Fall 2002	Winter 2003	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Fall 2003
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT									
First set of Public Meetings	█								
Educational Forums	█	█	█	█					
Role of the Forest Meeting		█	█						
Local Planning Group Meetings			█	█	█	█	█	█	█
EDUCATIONAL FORUMS									
Wilderness & Congressionally Designated Areas	█	█	█	█					
Ecosystem Management	█	█	█	█					
Recreation Use	█	█	█	█					
Timber Harvesting	█	█	█	█					
History of GMNF & Forest Service	█	█	█	█					
INVENTORIES AND ASSESSMENTS									
Analysis of Management Situation	█	█	█						
Wilderness & Congressionally Designated Areas	█	█	█	█					
Soil, Air and Water Resource Assessments	█	█	█	█	█				
Cultural and Historic Resources	█	█	█	█	█				
Escarpment and Taconics Assessments	█	█	█	█	█				
Terrestrial Vegetation	█	█	█	█	█	█			
Inventory of newly acquired lands	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
Species Viability Analysis	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
Scenery Management	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
Transportation, Roadless, RAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
Lands Unsuitable for Timber								█	█
Socio-Economic Assessment								█	█
Other Special Area Analysis								█	█
NEPA									
Notice of Intent to Revise the Forest Plan			█						

Plan Revision Time Line – Phase 2

PHASE 2 ACTIVITY	Summer 2002	Fall 2002	Winter 2003	Spring 2003	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Winter 2004	Spring 2004	Summer 2004	Fall 2004
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT										
Local Planning Groups	[Activity bar spanning Summer 2002 to Fall 2004]									
SCOPING										
Public Involvement	[Activity bar spanning Summer 2002 to Winter 2003]									
Issue Development	[Activity bar spanning Summer 2002 to Winter 2003]									
ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT										
Development of Alternatives			[Activity bar spanning Winter 2003 to Spring 2004]							
Public Involvement			[Activity bar spanning Winter 2003 to Spring 2004]							
Environmental Analysis				[Activity bar spanning Spring 2003 to Summer 2004]						
Develop Draft EIS					[Activity bar spanning Summer 2003 to Winter 2004]					
Develop Draft Plan					[Activity bar spanning Summer 2003 to Winter 2004]					
DRAFT EIS AND DRAFT PLAN										
Public Meetings							[Activity bar spanning Winter 2004 to Spring 2004]			
Public Comment Period							[Activity bar spanning Winter 2004 to Spring 2004]			
Analysis of Comments							[Activity bar spanning Spring 2004 to Summer 2004]			
Adjust EIS and Plan							[Activity bar spanning Spring 2004 to Summer 2004]			
FINAL EIS AND FINAL PLAN									[Activity bar spanning Summer 2004 to Fall 2004]	
RECORD OF DECISION										[Activity bar in Fall 2004]

Educational Forums



The Purpose of Educational Forums

- Learn about the topic from different perspectives
 - Share information
 - Have an open discussion
- 



Educational Forums - Topics

- Wilderness and other congressionally designated areas
 - Timber management
 - Recreation uses
 - Ecosystem management
 - History of FS and GMNF

 - What other topics would be of interest?
- 

Local Planning Groups



Vision for Local Planning Groups

- Geographic – community oriented groups to problem solve on issues
 - Representatives of many community interests
 - Share information and knowledge
 - Cross fertilization of ideas and perspectives
 - Explore issues and alternatives
- 



NEXT STEPS

- Educational Forums
 - Role of the Forest meetings
- 



HOW TO CONTACT US

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Or visit our website:

www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision.htm



Thank you for coming!

