

PROGRESS UPDATE FOREST PLAN REVISION ASSESSMENTS

These are the specialized reports being prepared for this forest, which will assist with the revision of the current forest plan.

- Soils- A contract has been awarded to assess the soils of the forest should be completed by summer 2003.
- Species Viability Evaluation (SVE)- This is an evaluation of the status of plant and animal species that either are, (or may be) at risk. This detailed project has been underway for several months and should be completed in early summer 2003.
- Roads Analysis Process (RAP)- This is an analysis of all Forest roads designed for 2wd passenger vehicles. A draft report was completed Jan. 13, 2003.
- Vegetation Inventory on Newly Acquired Lands- This evaluation will help determine lands suitable or unsuitable for vegetation management. The inventory is complete and the information will be ready by spring 2003.
- Ecological Assessment – This is an analysis of physical (i.e. soils) and biological features (i.e. rare plant sites) and natural communities (i.e. rich northern hardwoods) of the National Forest.
- Water Resources- This is an analysis of the water resources on the FLNF. Forest Service personnel are preparing a report with completion expected by spring 2003.
- Socio/Economic Analysis- Staff training in February, contract development by mid March.

Summary of Comments to the Notice of Intent

Finger Lakes National Forest

- **Purpose:** The purpose of the Notice of Intent (NOI) comment period was to:
 - Gather issues that the public felt had been left out of the NOI but should be included; or
 - Confirm that the planning team had addressed all issues currently facing the Finger Lakes NF.

- **Process:** To organize and analyze each public response received, analysis of the comments was conducted. Each public response was reviewed by at least two members of the Forest Planning Team. NOI comments were analyzed to determine issues of public concern, they were not tallied as votes.

- **Summary:** Review of the public comments confirmed that the plan revision process will be covering the concerns of the public. The majority of the comments received dealt with public interest in forest planning (16.8%), ecological patterns and processes (15.0%), and recreation (12.6%).

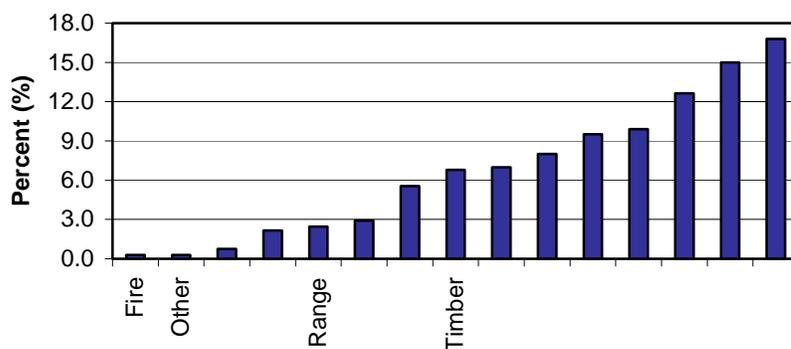
NOI Comment Timeline



Total Responses by Type

Total Responses Received	28
Number of Unique Letters	27
Number of Telephone Calls	1
Number of Form Letters	0

Percent of Responses by Category



Responses by State

State	Number of Responses	Percent of Total Responses
New York	23	82.1
Massachusetts	1	3.6
New Jersey	1	3.6
Oregon	1	3.6
Wisconsin	1	3.6
Unknown address	1	3.6

Top 10 Comment Subjects

Category	Subject	# of Comments	% of Comments
Ecological Patterns & Processes	Ecosystem Health	38	4
Wildlife and Fish	Wildlife Habitat	37	4
Timber	Timber: General	35	3
Ecological Patterns & Processes	Old Growth/Reserves	26	3
Social/Economic	Social/Economics: General	26	3
Ecological Patterns & Processes	Watershed	24	2
Recreation	Recreation: General	23	2
Planning	Management Areas	21	2
Planning	Monitoring and Evaluation	20	2
Vegetation	Vegetation: General	19	2

Organizations, Industries, Governments, and Groups that Responded*

Acorn Design	Natural Resources Council
Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Newell Farm
Finger Lakes Forest Watch	New York Fish and Wildlife
National Park Service: Ice Age and North Country	Pacific Rivers Council
National Wild Turkey Federation	The Ithaca Journal
	The Wilderness Society

***Note:** Numerous comments were received from individuals with no designated affiliation.

Example: General Categories with Specific Subjects

1. Ecological Patterns & Processes

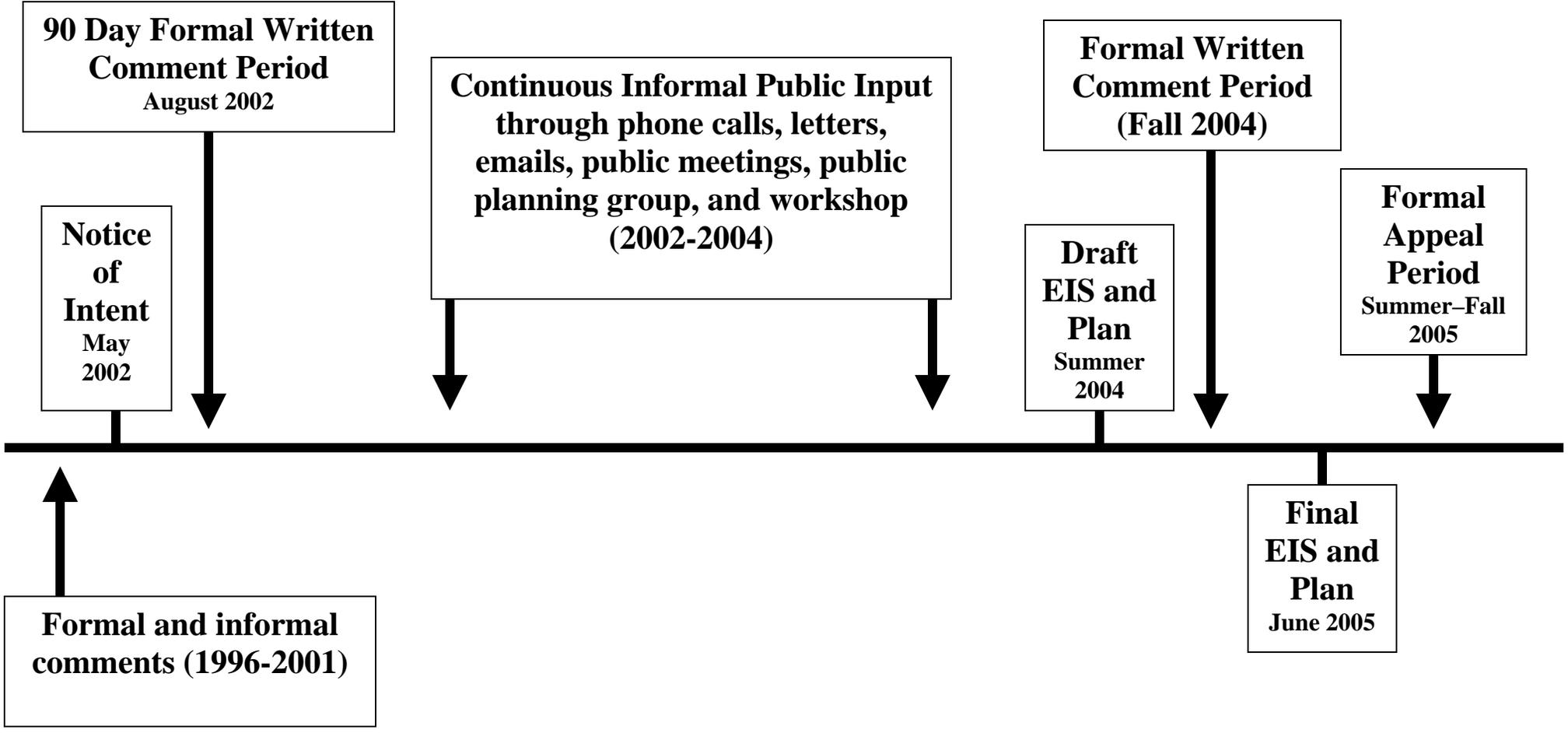
01. General
02. Biodiversity
03. Ecological Land Classification
04. Ecosystem Health
05. Landscape Design
06. Succession
07. Vertical Structure
08. Natural Disturbance
09. Old Growth/Reserves
10. Riparian
11. Watershed
12. Fertility/Nutrient Cycling
13. Global Climate Change
14. Carbon Sequestration
15. Insect & Disease
16. Fragmentation/Edge Effect
17. Comment Noted

9. Social/Economic

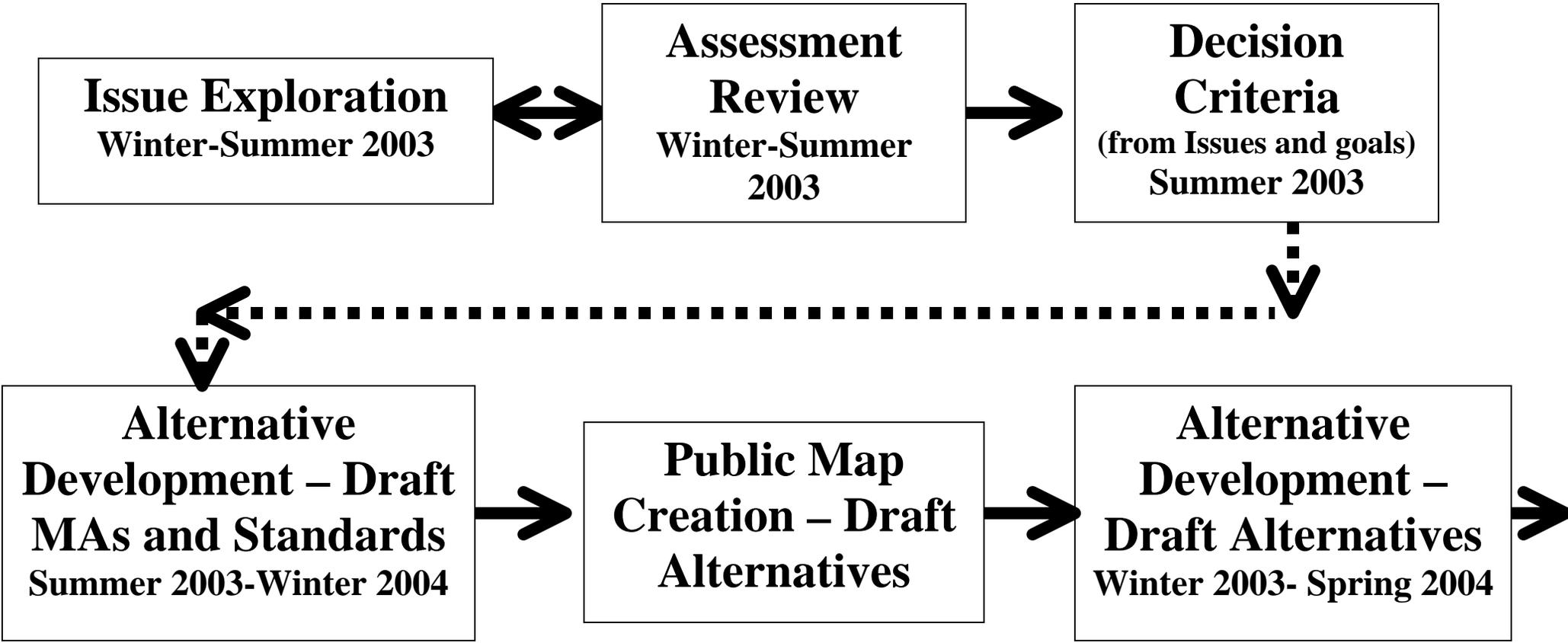
01. General
02. Employment
03. 25% Fund/PILT
04. Community Sustainability
05. Below-cost Timber Sales
06. Economic Analysis
07. Accessibility/ADA
08. Visuals/Scenery Mgt.
09. Special Uses (cell towers, windmills, big tours)
10. Law Enforcement
11. Safety
12. Tourism
13. Partnerships/Volunteers
14. Land Acquisition
15. Comment Noted

Public Involvement Timeline

FLNF Forest Plan Revision



Public Involvement Timeline Winter 2003 - Spring 2004

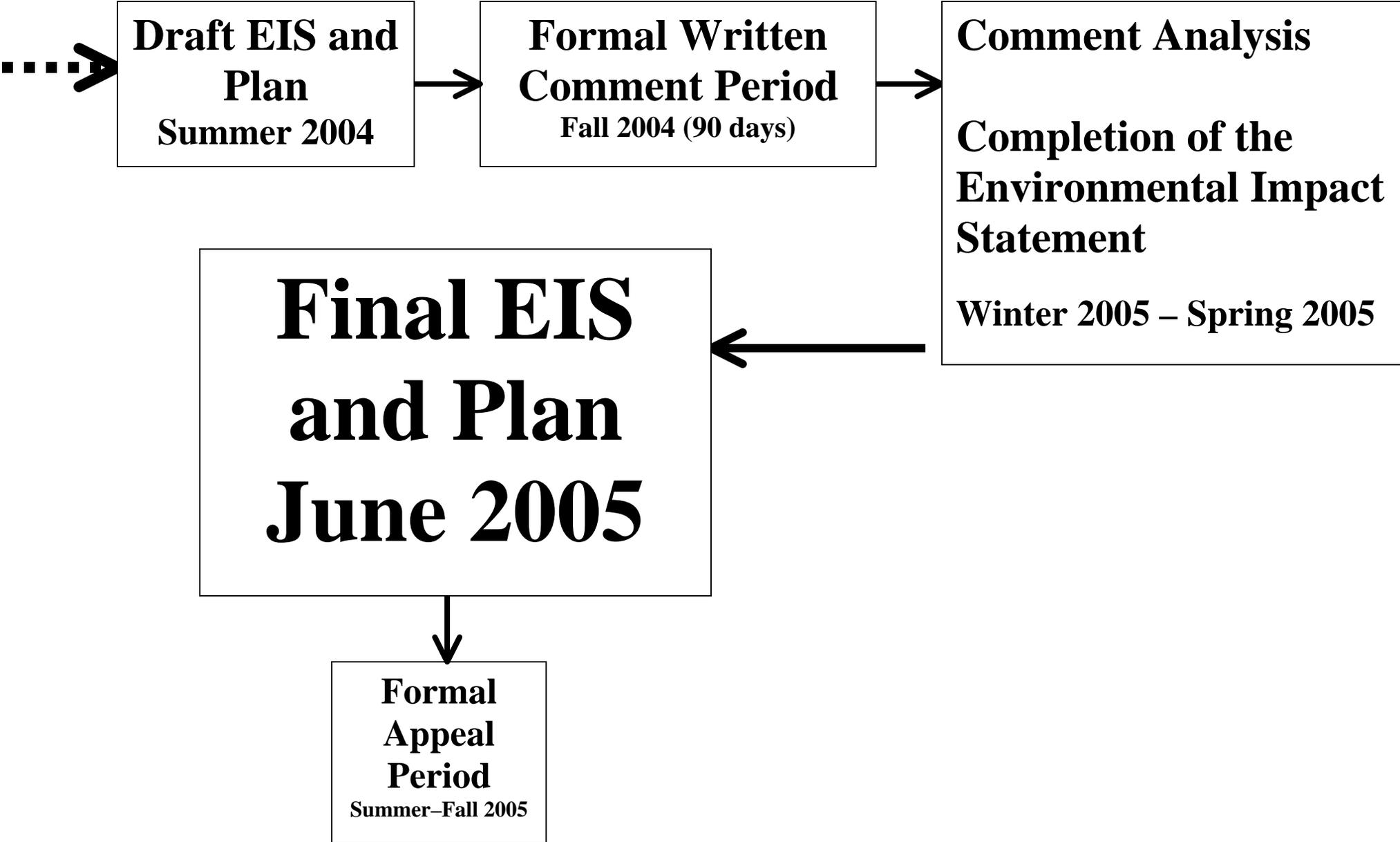


Continuous Informal Public Input through phone calls, letters, emails, public meetings, local planning group, work shop, and field trips



Formal Public Involvement Timeline

Summer 2004 - June 2005



TOPICS TO BE COVERED AT FLNF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Role of the FLNF
Desired Future and Goals for the revised Plan
Objectives for the revised Plan
Recreation and Trails
Sustainable Timber Program
Biodiversity and Wildlife
Ecosystems
Socio-Economic Concerns
Mineral Management – Oil and Gas Availability
Land Acquisition priorities
Newly acquired land management
Special Area Management
Heritage Resources
Education Information
Monitoring and Evaluation
Management Standards
Management Area Descriptions
Management Area Delineations (Map Creation)

INTRODUCTION

The National Forests System Road Management Rule was finalized in



January 2001. This rule ensures that the National Forest road system meets current and future management objectives, provides for safe public access and travel, allows for economical and efficient management, and addresses road maintenance and reconstruction needs.

The Roads Analysis Process (RAP) will examine Forest Service roads that are maintained for safe passenger car travel. The analysis does not examine high clearance and gated roads on the forest. The analysis will produce a road management strategy that will ultimately lead to guidelines for addressing future road management issues. This effort is part of revising the Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF) *Land and Resource Management Plan*.

THE PROCESS

The Roads Analysis is a six-step process. The steps are designed to be sequential with the understanding that the process may require feedback among steps.

The six steps are:

1. Setting up the Analysis
2. Describing the Situation
3. Identifying Issues
4. Assessing Benefits, Problems and Risks
5. Describing Opportunities and Setting Priorities
6. Reporting

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Forest has received input from the public regarding existing passenger car roads under Forest Service jurisdiction. Input obtained from the public was used and considered and the FLNF has performed an analysis over the last several months as part of the Forest Plan Revision.



FINDINGS

- 4.2% of the roads on the National Forest are owned by the Forest Service, the remaining 94.8 are State, County or Local roads
- The existing road network is meeting the access needs of the Forest.
- The FLNF is following the intent of the current Forest Plan
- The Gm & FL NF is under funded by approximately \$160,000 annually for Maintenance and Construction
- Environmental Impacts from the Roads needs to be prioritized and addressed.
- Some roads are currently misclassified and should be evaluated and re-classified.
- An in-depth (small-scale) analysis is needed to define Roads Management Objectives (RMO) of all roads.
- The forest should continue its cooperative agreements with New York towns.
- The FLNF should continue to seek National Forest System (NFS), Capital Improvement and Trail Deposit Funds.



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The mission of the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest is to sustain, protect and enhance the forest ecosystem. Employees, with the aid of the public, understand that their greatest asset is the land, their greatest strength is the work force, and they will strive to gain public understanding, trust, and confidence in all that they do through demonstration and education.

The text of this report can be provided locally in large type. Please call 802-747-6700 (TTY/TDD—802-747-6765) and request it in this format.

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