



# Forest Plan Revision News

## Greetings!

This is the first issue of the Forest Plan Revision News. The revision newsletter will keep you up-to-date on planning activities and opportunities to give us your input.

Questions and input about the newsletter can be sent to Hilary Chapman at:

E-mail: [hchapman@fs.fed.us](mailto:hchapman@fs.fed.us);  
Phone: (304)636-1800 ext.224.



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## Mailing List:

Anyone wishing to be added or deleted from our mailing list may do so by returning the enclosed postcard or calling/e-mailing Hilary Chapman.

E-mail: [hchapman@fs.fed.us](mailto:hchapman@fs.fed.us)  
Phone: (304) 636-1800 ext. 224

Newsletter available in 18 pt font on request.

## Message From The Forest Supervisor

The Monongahela Forest Plan Revision Team is assembled and diligently working on revising the Monongahela Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). We are striving for a Plan that will guide us through the next 15 years toward our primary purpose: to sustain forest health, diversity, productivity, and watershed quality for present and future generations.

This Forest Plan revision is just that—a revision of the current Plan. We will be updating and adding new information to the good work that has already been done. We are not starting from scratch and we are focusing our efforts on the topics most in need of change. The major revision topics are summarized in this newsletter. I believe the primary benefit of this approach will be better use of your time and our agency resources. Our goal is to have the revised Forest Plan completed by the Spring of 2005.

Your participation in the Planning process is important to ensure that current and future needs for the Forest are met. Your comments on our Notice of Intent (NOI) helped identify and refine the focus of the Forest Plan revision and are now helping to guide alternative development. We hope you will continue to give us your feedback. In this newsletter we outline the revision timeline, identify additional opportunities to give us your input, and explain how you can continue to communicate with us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Clyde Thompson*

## Forest Plan Revision Topics

The Forest Plan revision will focus on issues identified from:

- Forest monitoring information
- Public and Forest employee comments
- New information from science and technology

How did we arrive at these revision topics? We initially identified general topics in the **Notice of Intent** (NOI) published in May 2002 and we requested public comments on those topic areas. We received over 700 comments—thank you!! We developed criteria that helped us objectively weigh each comment for consideration in the revision. You can see these criteria in the draft **Need For Change** document on our Website or you can request a paper copy (see pg.4).

### Major Revision Topics

The major revision topics are interrelated, meaning that changes in one topic could have an impact on other topic areas. In addition, changes in the Forest Plan direction in these topic areas could also cause significant changes to the goods and services provided by the Forest.

#### *Remote Backcountry*

The distribution of remote backcountry recreation opportunities will be examined.

#### *Vegetation Management*

Updates to vegetation management direction will be made in relation to forest composition, forest health (insects, disease, weather events), and wildlife habitat needs.

#### *Timber Supply*

The Plan will include a revision of the timber supply estimates.

#### *Soil and Water*

Using new information, forest management of riparian areas, sedimentation, and impacts from acid deposition will be reviewed in this section.



### Other Revision Topics

The following is a description of other topics that we will address in the Plan. These are not considered Major topics because they would not affect multiple-use resources or result in significant changes to the Plan. Additional topics may be identified as we go through the planning process.

#### *Non-native invasive species*

The Plan revision will incorporate current management knowledge to address non-native invasive species.

#### *Scenery Management System*

The Scenery Management System is the new tool for assessing scenic values. This will replace the previous Visual Resource Management System.

#### *Monitoring and Evaluation*

The monitoring and evaluation direction will be revised and improved based on what we have learned from the current methods.

#### *Heritage Resources*

New direction in the Plan revision will ensure heritage sites are protected.

#### *Land Acquisition*

Land acquisition direction will be updated to reflect current priorities.

#### *Fire Management*

The Plan revision will clarify fire management direction and its use forest-wide.

#### *Management Indicator Species (MIS)*

Other species that may better reflect the impact of management activities will be reviewed and possibly replace MIS in the current Plan.

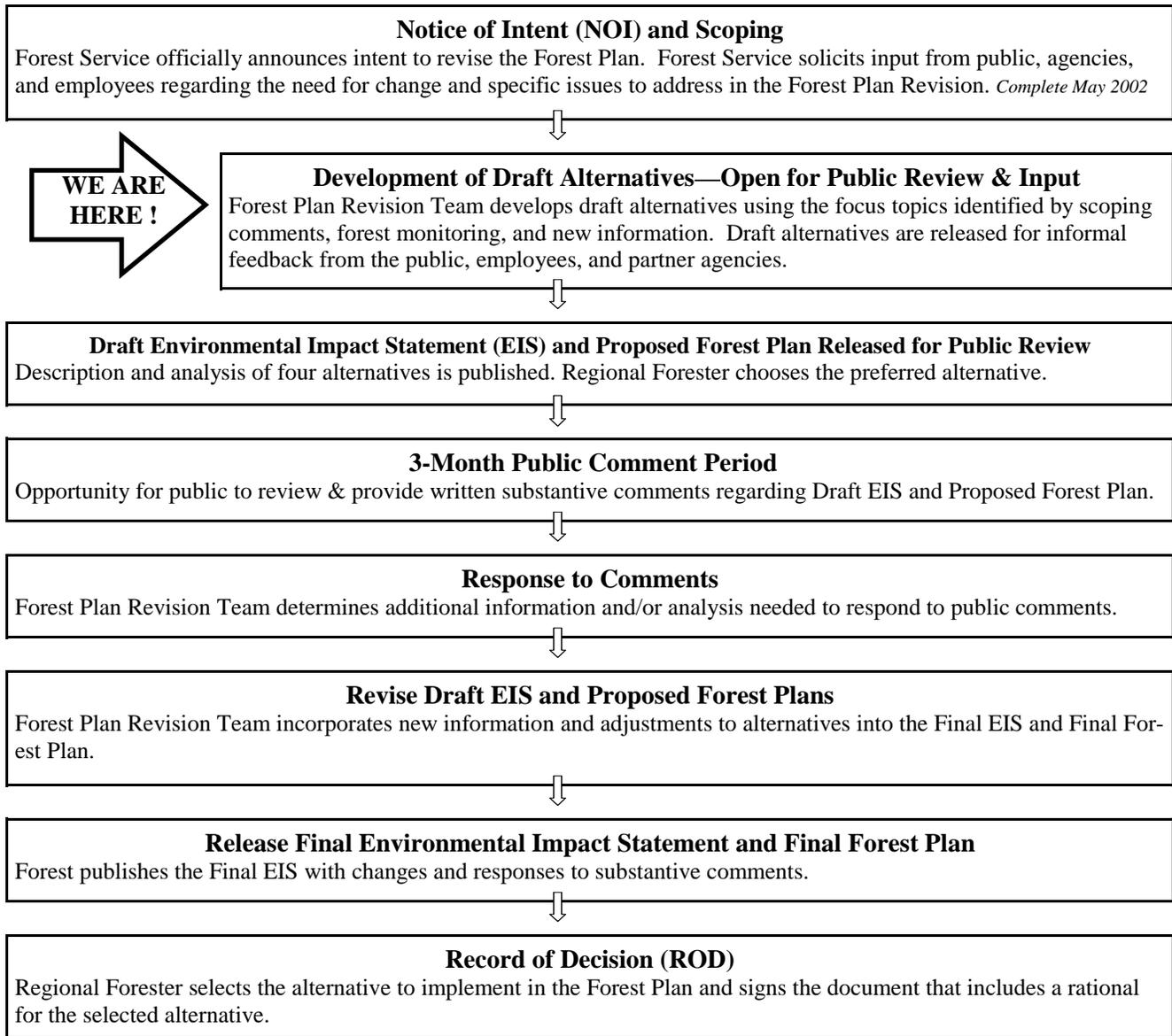
#### *Planning Areas*

Watershed boundaries will replace the current Opportunity Areas that do not follow geographic features.

#### *Minor Editorial Changes*

Minor edits will be made to the existing Plan to explain or clarify direction.

## The Route to a Revised Monongahela National Forest Plan



Planning Timeline: *Subject to Change*



## Your Guide To Public Involvement in the Revision Process

We are taking an open approach to the revision process. That means our draft documents will be available for your review and feedback, and we will be available for your questions. We appreciate your commitment to the Forest Plan revision. Together we can build a better Plan!

### Draft Documents Currently Available

The following documents are currently available on our Website or you can request a printed or CD copy (See bottom of page).

Notice of Intent  
 Draft Planning Criteria  
 Draft Niche Statement  
 Draft Need for Change

Content Analysis  
 Species Viability Process  
 Alternative Development Process

### Draft Documents Coming Soon

The following draft documents will be available in late winter or early spring. We will notify you by e-mail (if you have provided us your e-mail address) or by mail when the documents are posted.

***\*\*Draft Alternative Concepts Available for Review in February\*\****

Draft Analysis of the Management Situation  
 Draft Roadless/Wilderness Evaluation

Social Assessment  
 Draft Timber Suitability Assessment

Open houses will be planned towards the end of February to discuss Draft Alternative Concepts and to get your feedback.

Stay Tuned  
 For  
 Where  
 & When

### Where To Find Draft Documents:

**Website:** [Http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf)  
 Click on Forest Planning → Forest Plan Revision → Information

**Paper or CD copy Request by Phone:** 304/636-1800 ext. 224 or **E-mail:** [hchapman@fs.fed.us](mailto:hchapman@fs.fed.us)

### Where To Send Your Feedback and Questions:

**Website:** [Http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf)  
 Click on Forest Planning → Forest Plan Revision → Participate

**E-mail:** [r9\\_monong\\_website@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_monong_website@fs.fed.us) Type Forest Plan Revision in the subject line.

**Mail:** Monongahela National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Revision, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241

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