



# Forest Plan Revision News-Update

## Greetings!

This issue is an update on the January Open House issue. It is intended to provide you with additional information that will be available at the upcoming Open Houses.

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## Forest Plan Revision

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Newsletter available in  
18 pt font on request.  
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Dear Friends of the Forest,

In this newsletter, the planning team has sketched out four very broad draft alternative concepts. Please take some time to review these draft ideas, and let us know what you think. We want to know if we are on the 'right-track' before we develop more details.

The upcoming open houses provide a great opportunity to ask us questions and give us your input. If you cannot attend the open houses, you may e-mail, mail, or call us with your input at any time. Keep in mind this will not be your only opportunity to review draft alternatives and give us your thoughts. We will come back to you with the details of the draft alternatives in a few months.

Regards,  
*Clyde Thompson*

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## Broad Concepts of Draft Alternatives

### Alternative 1

This is the No Action Alternative. No action in this case does not mean do nothing. It means we would continue to manage the Forest as described in the 1986 Plan, and its amendments. Land allocations would basically be similar to what they are now, though some adjustments would be made to address the recent Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Amendment.

### Alternative 2

This alternative would incorporate the Need for Change topics (see newsletter 1 and 2) and issues through changes in management direction and land allocation (see ideas on page 2). Opportunities for vegetation management could be expanded somewhat compared to Alternative 1.

### Alternative 3

This alternative would increase allocations to management prescription 6.2 to include all potential semi-primitive non-motorized areas. Because 6.2 is not in the suitable base, the increase in 6.2 acres would reduce opportunities for vegetation management and timber production.

### Alternative 4

This alternative would increase allocations to management prescription 6.2 to be greater than Alternative 2 but less than Alternative 3. This increase would reduce opportunities for vegetation management and timber production, but not to the extent of Alternative 3.

**Alternatives 2-4: Ideas Under Consideration**

- ⇒ Management Prescription 6.2 would be updated to better address ecological and recreation needs.
- ⇒ Primary timber-producing areas would be combined into one “General Forest” management prescription that would emphasize vegetation management. Management would focus on age class diversity, sustainability for different forest types, and habitat needs for species that use a variety of age classes.
- ⇒ A new management prescription would provide guidance on managing red spruce communities that are habitat for the listed West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel.
- ⇒ Riparian Conservation Areas would be created for riparian areas to provide additional direction for soil, water, and riparian resources.
- ⇒ Monitoring and management direction would be established for areas with soils that may be potentially vulnerable to nutrient depletion.

**Helpful Definitions**

**Age class:** This refers to the various ages of tree stands within a forest.

**Alternative:** In the Forest Plan process, an alternative is one option for managing the Forest.

**Land Allocation:** This is the placement of management prescriptions to forest lands.

**Definitions Continued**

**Management Direction:** Goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines that provide direction for managing the Forest.

**Management Prescription:** Management practices applied to a specific area to attain goals and objectives.

**Management Prescription 6.2:** In the 1986 Forest Plan, the primary purpose of 6.2 is semi-primitive non-motorized recreation. Vegetation management is allowed where it is compatible with the recreation objectives or is needed to protect the resources from insects and disease.

**Need for Change Topics or Issues:** These are the topics identified as most in need of change in the Forest Plan. These topics have been identified through public comments, new science and technology, forest monitoring information, and employee input.

**Plan Amendment:** This is a document that updates part of a Forest Plan to address a specific change or need.

**Plan Revision:** A process to review and update an entire Forest Plan to keep management direction current with changing policies, science, and public interests.

**Semi-primitive non-motorized:** Areas on the Forest that emphasize non-motorized recreational settings and opportunities.

**See You At the Open House Meetings!  
Details and draft documents available at:**

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/plan\\_revision/  
plan\\_revision.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/plan_revision/plan_revision.htm)

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