

Plan Revision Steps

The Forest Plan Revision process involves several steps:

Need for Change: The first step is to determine whether there was a Need for Change to the original Forest Plan, its management actions, standards and guidelines for management, etc. This step includes an invitation of public comment (scoping) on what issues are most important at the present time (as opposed to issues that were most important during the development of the original Forest Plan 15 years ago). The scoping process will begin in January and/or February of 2003, as we host meetings at key locations across the Forest.

Notice of Intent: The second step, following the determination that there was a Need for Change to the Forest Plan, is to issue a Notice of Intent to Revise the Forest Plan. This will be published in the Federal Register and marks the “official” beginning of Forest Plan Revision. The Ottawa National Forest is scheduled to publish our Notice of Intent in the Federal Register by September 2003.

Development of Alternatives: This step involves the development of alternatives that are designed to address those issues identified in the Need for Change. Some alternatives will emphasize one way to resolve a management issue, while other alternatives will emphasize other acceptable ways to resolve the same issue.

Analysis of Effects: Following the development of alternatives, the next step will be to analyze the effects of implementing the various alternatives.

Draft EIS: The next step will be to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which will include statements of the management problems addressed, alternatives developed to address these issues, and analysis of the effects of implementing the various alternatives.

Comment Period: Following the publishing of the Draft EIS, there will be a period during which the Forest Service will take public comment on the proposed revision to the Forest Plan.

Final EIS: After the public comment period has ended, the comments will be analyzed and addressed, eventually leading to a final environmental impact statement (EIS) and ultimately, a decision to proceed with management of the Ottawa National Forest in accordance with certain management principals, standards, and guidelines as defined in the Forest Plan.