

An aerial photograph of a vast landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees. The middle ground shows a wide valley with a mix of forest and open fields. In the background, a range of mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is a natural, scenic view of a forested region.

USFS Tribal Roundtable

National Planning Rule Revision

Why We Are Here

- Secretary Vilsack has charged the US Forest Service with developing a new planning rule that will move forest management into the new century
- We need a rule that allows us to quickly and effectively respond to resource management challenges

We Have a Problem

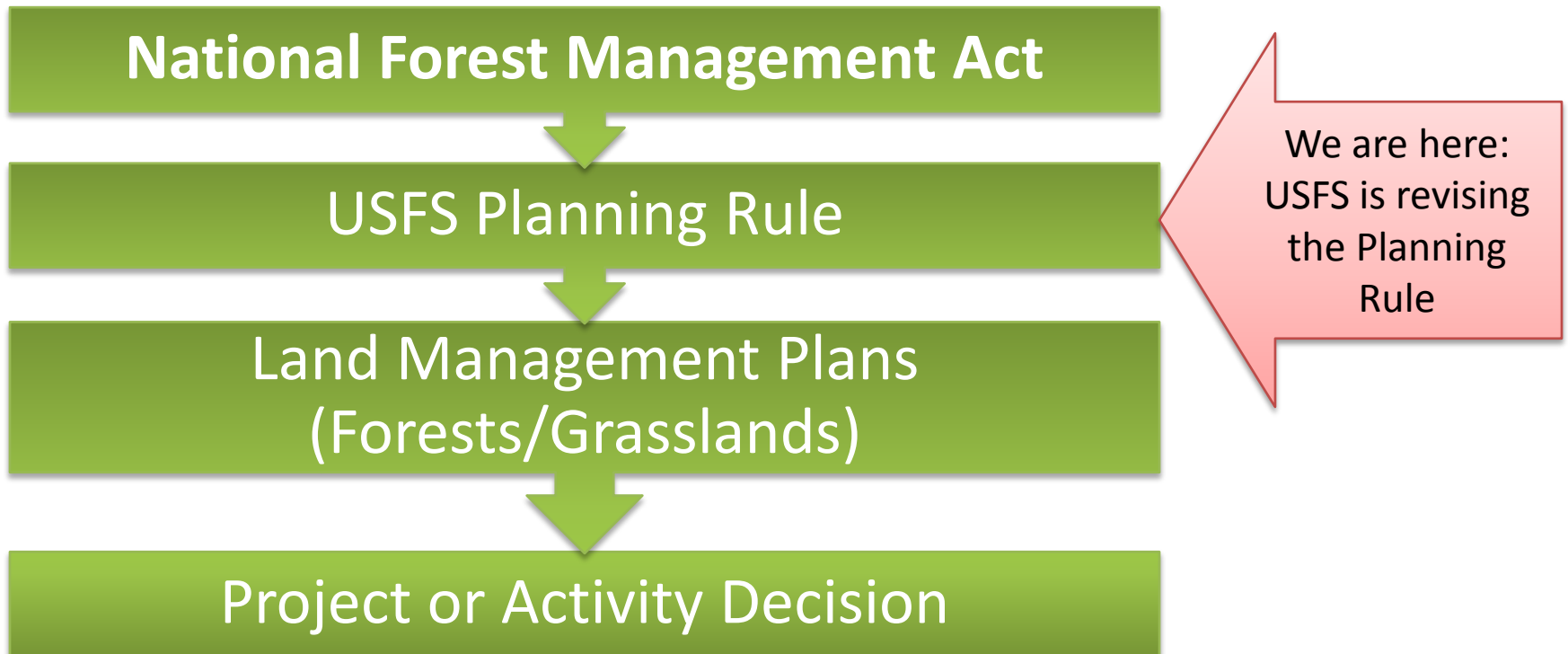
- Current planning process is taking too long
 - Over 70 plans nationwide that are out of date
 - Takes enormous time and resources to complete plans
 - Growing number of legal challenges
- There are new resource management challenges that the current planning rule does not directly address such as:
 - Climate change/uncertainty
 - Adaptive management
 - Landscape-level planning and management

We Need Your Help

- We know there were concerns with previous efforts to revise the rule
 - Felt excluded from the planning process
 - Did not understand how decisions were made
- We want to do it differently this time
 - Make it more transparent and inclusive
- To build a robust rule we need your input
 - Draw on your experience and knowledge to collectively learn from each other
 - Improve our understanding of the issues and our decisions

Why We Need a Planning Rule

- National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires forests to develop management plans
- US Forest Service develops specific requirements for land management plans (the Planning Rule)



How a Rule Is Written



Legend

- Red lettering = Legally Required Events
- Black lettering = Content and Documents
- Green lettering = Phases of Revision Process

Abbreviations

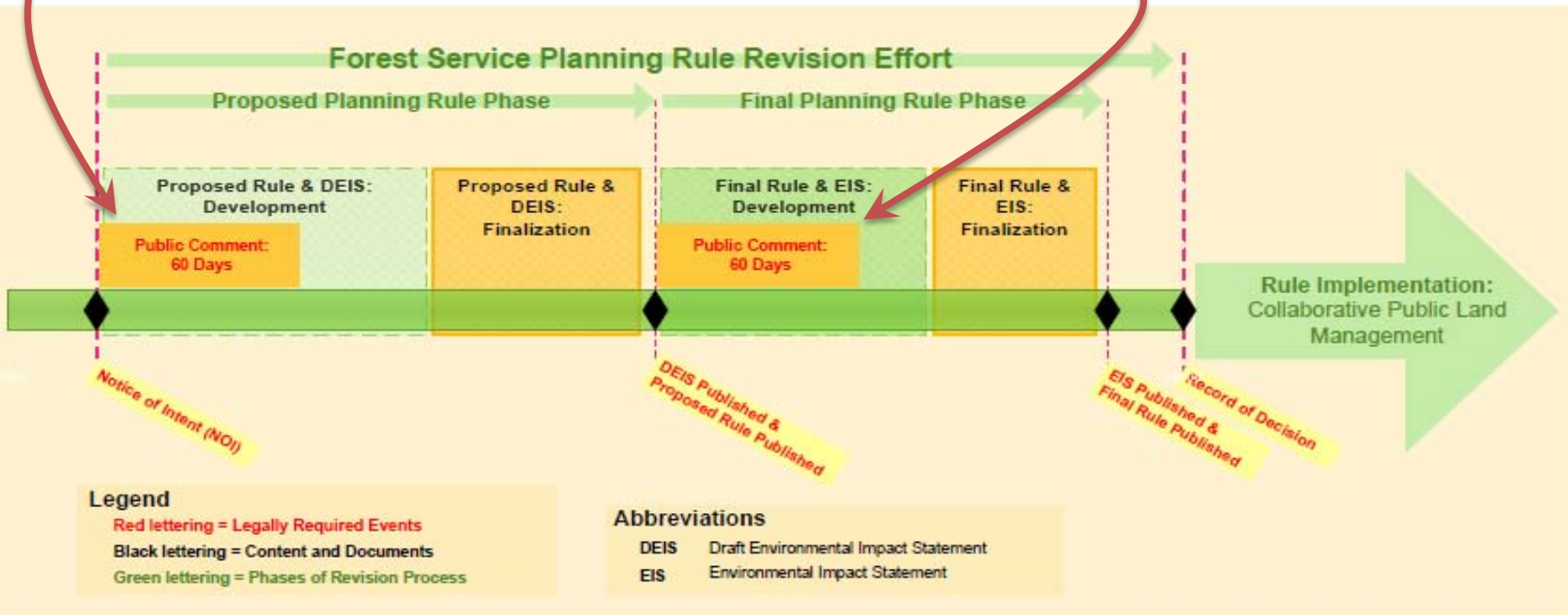
- DEIS Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- EIS Environmental Impact Statement

Traditional NEPA

Two Public Comment Periods

Outreach and Public Comment during the Proposed Rule and EIS Development

Public Comment on Proposed Rule and DEIS



What's different this time?

- Engaged discussion to inform rule development

March – May, 2010
Stakeholder Engagement

- National Roundtables
- Regional Roundtables
- Science Forum

Additional stakeholder
engagement at Regional
and National levels with
Final EIS and Planning
Rule

Build on collaborative
foundation developed with
Regional and National groups
to enhance implementation
and forest planning



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Abbreviations

DEIS Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EIS Environmental Impact Statement

Planning Rule vs. Forest Plan

Planning Rule

- Minimum content of Plans
- When and how plans are revised
- When and how plans are amended
- Who makes the Plan decisions
- How the public is involved
- Analysis, assessment, or evaluation requirements
- How the decisions are subject to appeals or objections
- Relationship of Plans to Projects

Forest Plans (To Date)

- Multiple use goals and objectives
- Management requirements (standards and guidelines)
- Designation of suitable timber land
- Wilderness recommendations
- Monitoring and evaluation requirements
- Management Areas

Previous Roundtable Report Out

- Science Forum
- Brief report out on Science Forum
- National Roundtables
- Brief report out on Roundtable #1 and #2

Here's How Your Input will be Used

