



Next Steps

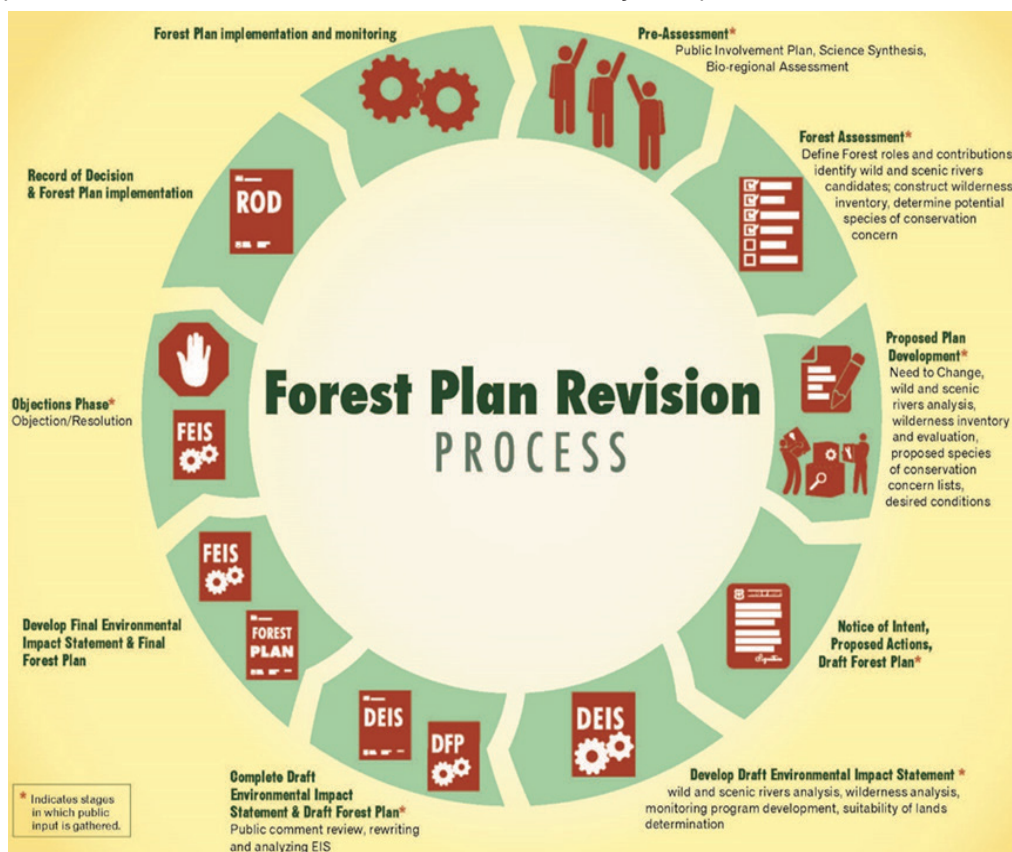
How to Stay Involved

The BioA will guide the Forest Service in making strategic decisions about what needs to change in existing land management plans as well as the sequence and timing for modernizing them through amendments or revisions. Using the five broad management categories that we developed in the BioA—ecological integrity, fire and fuels, sustainable timber, habitat management, and sustainable recreation—the Forest Service will move into the next phase of the land management planning process for the 19 national forests and grasslands in the BioA area. We know that effective public engagement depends on meeting people where they are, talking with them about what they care about, and making connections to how their public lands provide the multiple benefits that society and their communities seek.

Following the release of the BioA, we'll begin Tribal and public engagement in Washington, Oregon, and California to ensure that we identify and understand issues and opportunities important to the communities that we serve before any formal plan revision or amendment efforts. We'll share information about the public engagement opportunities on the [NWFP web page](#), and go to [GovDelivery](#) to sign up to receive email updates about how to stay involved and join the conversation.

Our 2012 planning rule supports and encourages productive working relationships between the Forest Service and diverse communities, including youth, low-income, and minority populations, and stakeholders, Tribes, and other governments by providing “. . . for a transparent, collaborative process that allows for effective participation” throughout the entire land management planning process. For several years after finalization of the current planning rule, a small committee¹³⁶ of public, state- and local-elected officials, Tribes, and youth provided advice and recommendation on implementation of the planning rule. This same committee developed the [Citizens Guide to National Forest Planning](#). In this spirit, we are committed to a participatory collaborative process to accomplish modernization of the existing land management plans. The collaborative effort will bring diverse interests together to explore critical issues and provide meaningful input to our decision process.

In an open, inclusive, and receptive environment, we'll address challenging complex issues on a broad scale, create shared responsibility and understanding, and build working relationships, trust, and capacity. With your participation, we'll develop land management plans that meet public needs and protect natural resources now and into the future.



¹³⁶ National Advisory Committee for Implementation of the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule. (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/planningrule/committee>)