

**USFS National Advisory Committee – Forest Planning Rule Implementation
August 27-29, 2013 – West Valley, Utah – DRAFT Meeting Summary**

Meeting Objective: Reach consensus on recommended changes to the planning rule directives

I. Public Comment

Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) members and pilots' association members have expressed concerns in sections 10, 20, 30 and 70 of the directives; there are opportunities in each of these sections to add protections for airstrips. Many of these are the same sections where protections for roads and trails are mentioned. RAF has specific recommendations. (These were distributed to the committee in hard copy.) Please keep airfields in mind as you review your recommendations.

II. Committee Recommendations – Directives

For summary of committee deliberations – see recommendations

Regional Supplements – In addition to recommended changes to the directives, the committee discussed whether some regions' unique characteristics warrant regional supplements. The committee discussed the draft recommendation (see Basecamp for the specific text uploaded on July 12, 2013 by Mike A.) and discussed two examples, Alaska and New Mexico. The committee recognized that this discussion would continue after the recommended changes to the directives are complete.

III. Next Steps – Directives and North Carolina Meeting in October

A. Directives

1. The Forest Service is moving now to review and consider the committee's directives recommendations; review means:
 - a. OGC review – agency authority
 - b. Additional review for agency burden
2. The Service staff will provide to the committee the results of this internal review in a conference call the week of September 16
3. During the call on the 16th the committee will identify any items to revisit – with an end-of-September deadline for any revision
4. Once any revisited items are resolved, the committee will develop a presentation to Forest Service leadership for the October meeting in North Carolina
5. Forest Service – revising the directives – these are the goals:
 - a. In mid-to-late December, the Forest Service staff hopes to deliver the revised directives to the agency
 - b. Late January to OMB
 - c. March, 2014 – announcing the final directives in the Federal Register

- B. Approach to North Carolina Meeting
1. Presentation to and discussion with Forest Service leadership about the committee's recommended changes to the directives
 2. Early adopter forests – discussion between the committee and early adopters to understand implementation issues and help focus the next phase of the committee's work
 3. Time in the Cradle of Forestry
 4. Time to set the agenda for the committee's work going forward
 5. The coordinating committee will develop the agenda and timing for the meeting

IV. Planning Resource Subcommittee

The subcommittee is examining a wide range of ways to help those who will work with the directives and with forest planning to understand the planning process, among these:

- Planning 101 – a series of guides that would build on and clarify the directives for in plain language
- Best management practices for implementing elements of the planning process
- Case studies from collaboratives or early adopters
- Peer-to-peer network
- Products could be used to train facilitators working to assist collaboratives and assist in forest planning

Composition of the subcommittee could grow to include SMEs and early adopters

The subcommittee – working through the working group and the full committee – could make a presentation at the October meeting

V. Final Thoughts

The committee discussed communication, outreach and whether/how to share the recommendations. The co-chairs, facilitators and coordinating committee will discuss these:

- The committee should consider its own outreach and communication about the work on the directives
 - Congressional briefing or visits could be very useful to the committee, the service and the Congress
 - Important to check the Federal Advisory Committee Act and communicate with OGC about what's appropriate and in appropriate for the committee to do
 - A meeting in DC in the future could coincide with a briefing or other outreach
- Individual committee members should also consider their own outreach to members of congress and to their staff members
 - We would want talking points for the committee
 - Important to exercise use the committee's communication protocols and use common sense and take care as you speak individually
 - If the committee members don't tell the story of this effort, no one else will
 - Each committee member could invite Congressional staffers to attend committee meetings (most successful when the meetings are close to their home states and districts)

- Sharing recommendations
 - While committee’s recommendations will be a public document, the Forest Service needs to decide how to release the recommendations
 - A press release from the committee – that each member could release to individual members of Congress and others at the same time – could be the best way
 - The press release should align with North Carolina meeting
 - The Forest Service has public outreach staff who can help the committee shape a press release and other outreach about the recommendations