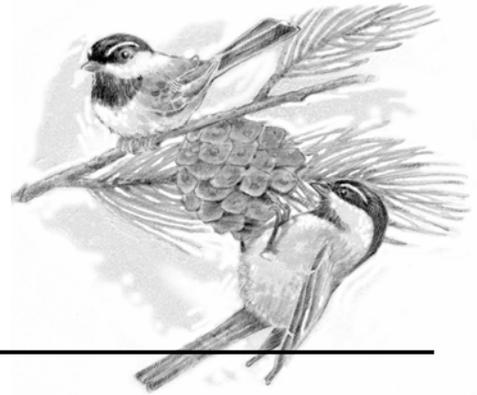


The Centennial



The official publication for the Shoshone National Forest's Forest Plan revision . . . the first national forest, planning in a new century

Forest plan revision meetings in April 2009

At the April meetings

The focus of the meetings is to share the most recent version of the revision documents, talk about the changes, and answer questions. We'll discuss the current timeline and where we are in the revision process. The meeting schedule is on page 3.

The draft forest plan looks different

As mentioned in the last issue of *The Centennial*, the Washington Office review of our proposed plan identified a number of areas to change. The draft we'll be sharing this month reflects those changes. In many ways, the direction in the draft is very similar to last year's, but the look of the plan and where information is located are markedly different. Here are some highlights.

Background sections

The reviewers pointed out that much of the background information was duplicated in the Comprehensive Evaluation Report or was information that should be in the Comprehensive Evaluation Report instead of the plan. We removed the majority of this text from the plan and placed it in the Report.

Desired conditions

Reviewers felt the presentation of desired conditions made it difficult to discern how the desired conditions were integrated across different resources. They could not perceive a clear picture of the desired conditions, commenting that readers had to read all desired conditions to understand what is desired. Through further discussion with the Washington Office, we solved the issue by consolidating desired conditions into fewer categories. So rather than have separate sections for vegetation, invasive plants, insects, and fire, those desired conditions are consolidated into one section. This helped integrate these topics and precluded the need for the sometimes cumbersome cross referencing that was prevalent in the earlier draft.

Special areas

The chapter on special areas has been completely reorganized and we think you'll agree it is much improved.

Retained direction

In response to reviewer's comments, we changed how direction retained from the 1986 Forest Plan is presented in the draft plan.

Vegetation and species plan components

Reviewers asked that we fully review the relationship between the plan components for vegetation and the plan components for species. We did review them, and made a number of changes to the species sections in the draft plan. Some species plan components were integrated into the vegetation plan components.

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For other species, plan components were more specifically defined to address actions that may cause concern. In some cases, the guidelines in the draft plan described general management intent rather than specific activities, so those guidelines were incorporated into the management approach descriptions.

Direction for inventoried roadless areas

Currently, there is no rule for managing inventoried roadless areas because recent court rulings stated the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule does not apply in Wyoming. If you're keeping track of the roadless management issue, this is the third time since we started revision in 2005 that the roadless rules have changed. The most recent court ruling has been appealed to a higher level.

The April version of the draft plan is written for the current situation, i.e., no rule applies. But, given our experience with the frequent changes in regulations, we are flagging direction in the draft that could be changed if direction for roadless changes. Given the uncertainty, we feel it is important to provide this information so you are aware of where changes may occur.

What we're asking you to do

At the April meetings you will have the opportunity to review the updated documents. As always, we're open to your input on all documents and are willing and able to meet with groups and individuals that would like more in depth discussion. We are specifically asking for feedback on the Monitoring Strategy (appendix C in the draft plan) and the Comprehensive Evaluation Report.

We hope to see you in April. The meetings schedule is on page 3.

Our Web site is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week source for the latest information on forest plan revision
http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone/projects/planning/revision/revision_index.shtml

The Centennial is published periodically by the Shoshone National Forest to provide updates on the revision of the Forest Plan.

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Forest plan revision meetings in April 2009

Date	Time	Location
Government Cooperators Work Group meeting Wednesday April 22	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Big Horn Federal 1701 Stampede Avenue Cody, Wyoming
Public meeting Wednesday April 22	6:00 to 8:30 pm	Big Horn Federal 1701 Stampede Avenue Cody, Wyoming
Public meeting Thursday April 23	6:00 to 8:30 pm	Big Horn Federal 643 Broadway Thermopolis, Wyoming
Public meeting Wednesday April 29	6:00 to 8:30 pm	Headwaters Art and Convention Center 20 Stalnaker Dubois, Wyoming
Public meeting Thursday April 30	6:00 to 8:30 pm	Pronghorn Lodge 150 East Main Lander, Wyoming