

**Kaibab and Coconino National Forests
Community Involvement Planning Meeting
January 12th, 2008
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Locations:

- Flagstaff – Coconino National Forest Supervisor’s Office Conference Room
- Fredonia – North Kaibab Ranger District Office (via videoconference)
- Phoenix – Tonto National Forest Supervisor’s Office (via videoconference)

Objectives

1. Discuss current status of Kaibab and Coconino National Forests’ Plan Revision work and future needs, constraints and opportunities for greater community involvement
2. Assess community interest in greater CNF/KNF-community collaboration and specific involvement opportunities
3. Develop action scenarios for collaborative work

Draft Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Arrivals and Informal Networking (coffee and refreshments provided)
- 9:30 Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review
- 9:45 Overview of KNF and CNF’s Plan Revision Processes
- Where we are
 - Plans ahead, needs, constraints
 - Opportunity for joint stewardship and greater community collaboration: review timeline
- 10:15 Discussion
- Feedback on public involvement so far: strengths, weaknesses, suggestions
 - Future: What type and level of involvement you are interested in? Develop action scenarios for collaboration.
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Continuation of action scenario development
- 12:15 Meeting evaluation and wrap-up
- 12:30 Adjourn

Southwestern Region (R3) Interim Strategy for Proceeding Forward with Revision

Background

On March 30, 2007, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued a decision in the combined cases *Citizens for Better Forestry v. USDA* and *Defenders of Wildlife v. Johanns*. The Court held the Agency's adoption of new planning regulations at 36 CFR 219 in 2005 violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Court remanded the matter to the Department to comply with its order. Pending compliance, the Court enjoined the Department from implementing and utilizing the 2005 planning rule.

The Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, is complying with the court ruling and has stopped using the 2005 planning rule to amend or revise land management plans. The Forest Service is working to remedy the injunction by using both APA rulemaking and NEPA environmental analysis and disclosure as a means to provide public notice and comment. The Forest Service will also consult with US Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries under the Endangered Species Act.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for a land management planning rule was published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2007. The notice initiated a 30-day public scoping comment period. The 2005 rule will be published as a proposed rule in the Federal Register this summer for public review and comment, in conjunction with a Draft EIS that will examine other alternatives. A final rule and Final EIS are expected in late 2007 to early 2008.

R3 Interim Strategy

The Southwest Region (R3) currently has seven plans in Revision (all six Arizona plans and the Cibola Grasslands in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas). At the time of the 2005 Rule enjoinder, all seven of those plans were in the pre NOI (Notice of Initiation) stage. R3 has fully complied with the Judge's ruling and has stopped implementing revision under the 2005 Planning Rule.

The current Forest Plans in R3 are 19-21 years old and do not reflect the current issues and priorities of the Region. In particular the goals and integrated strategies for addressing our Central Priority of restoring the functionality of fire adapted systems are not addressed. It is important that we continue the revision process and minimize any loss of momentum during this transition period until a new rule is completed. The Region will follow an interim strategy that we will revisit in December as we will know more on the status of a new planning rule.

Since all seven R3 Forests in Revision are still in the early Revision stages, there is great opportunity to proceed in a "rule neutral" fashion under the guidance of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976. Specifically, Section 6 of NFMA lays out the basis for National Forest System Resource Planning.

Section 6(e) states:

"(e) In developing, maintaining, and revising plans for units of the National Forest System pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall assure that such plans-

(1) provide for multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services obtained there from in accordance with the Multiple-Use, Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, and in particular, include coordination of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish, and wilderness; and timber, watershed, wildlife and fish, and wilderness; and

"(2) determine forest management systems, harvesting levels, and procedures in the light of all of the uses set forth in subsection (c)(1), the definition of the terms 'multiple use' and 'sustained yield' as provided in the Multiple-Use, Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, and the availability of lands and their suitability for resource management.

Section 6(g)(3) goes on to state, in part:

"(3) specifying guidelines for land management plans developed to achieve the goals of the Program which-

"(A) insure consideration of the economic and environmental aspects of various systems of renewable resource management, including the related systems of silviculture and protection of forest resources, to provide for outdoor recreation (including wilderness), range, timber, watershed, wildlife, and fish;

"(B) provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives, and within the multiple-use objectives of a land management plan adopted pursuant to this section, provide, where appropriate, to the degree practicable, for steps to be taken to preserve the diversity of tree species similar to that existing in the region controlled by the plan;

In essence, the above sections describe the sustainable use or sustained yield of the ecological, social, and economic resources of a Forest. The interim strategy will focus on developing the context for evaluating this sustainable use and what that implies for our needs to change the forest plans.

To evaluate the capability for sustainable use/sustained yield, each R3 Forest in Revision will develop a comprehensive **Sustainable Use/Sustained Yield Report(s)**, which will:

1. Describe current use/yield conditions and trends of the ecological/social/economic resources; and
2. Assess if these use/yield conditions and trends may be sustained, or should be sustained.

Specifics for the reports will be worked out with the Revision Forests.

The results of the above assessments will be integrated across broad resource categories (ecological/social/economic) and then evaluated against existing plan direction to determine if plan direction is still appropriate. If not, this will indicate a Need for Change in specific plan direction. The results of this evaluation of how well existing plan direction is contributing to the Sustainable use/sustained yield of the Forest's resources will be documented in an **Integrated Need for Change Report**.

The above described processes for sustainable use/sustained yield assessments, which would then be integrated and compared against existing plan direction, resulting in a Need for Change determination, need to be carried out with public involvement. The public will be informed of

the above processes and provided an opportunity to offer input throughout both the sustained use/yield assessment phase and the subsequent Need for Change evaluation period.

Once the Integrated Need for Change Report is approved by the Forest Service Responsible Official, the Forest will begin the development of a detailed proposed action to address the needs for change. The Region will work on the precise elements for the proposed action with the revision Forests. We do not anticipate releasing the final proposed action until after the beginning of 2008, when the status of a new planning rule is clarified.

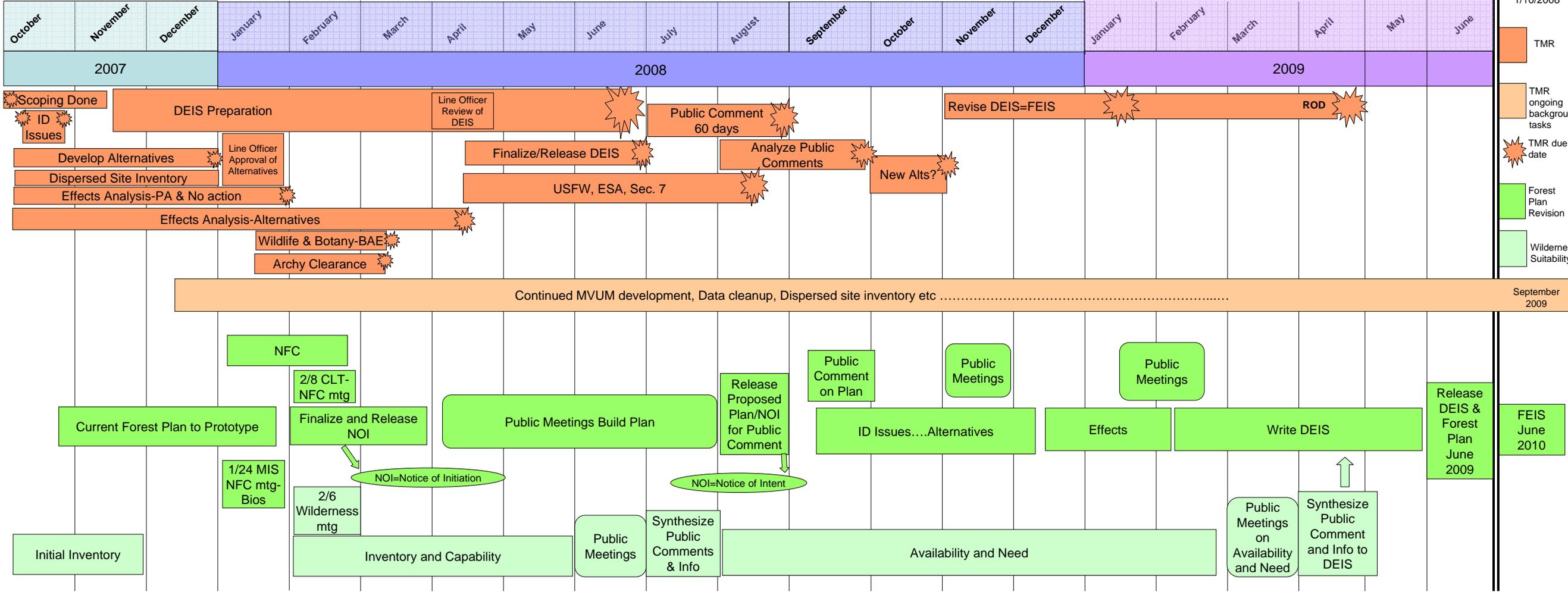
The remaining Forests will continue work on completion of inventories and consolidating assessment work. We will finalize a time frame for all revision work early in 2008.

Forest Plan Revision Documents

Products or Process Name	Description	Status	Point of Contact
Ecological Sustainability Assessment	This report will document the Forest contribution to the sustainability of ecosystems and species diversity on national forest lands and surrounding landscapes	Coconino-Pending Kaibab-Pending a later time frame than the Coconino	Coconino-Heather Green, 928-527-3420 hgreen@fs.fed.us Kaibab-Russ Truman, 928-643-8149 rtruman@fs.fed.us
Socioeconomic Sustainability Assessment	This report documents the Forest contribution to economic and social sustainability of assessment areas.	Coconino-completed and available on the website. Kaibab-Pending	Coconino-Jennifer Kevil, 928-527-3418 jenniferkevil@fs.fed.us Kaibab-Charlotte Minor, 928-635-8271, cminor@fs.fed.us
Special Areas	Workgroups were formed on this topic to assess need for change to existing Special Areas and gather information regarding desired conditions of other areas of concern to people.	Coconino-Pending Management Review Kaibab-Pending Management Review	Coconino-Jennifer Kevil, 928-527-3418 jenniferkevil@fs.fed.us Kaibab-Charlotte Minor, 928-635-8271, cminor@fs.fed.us
Comprehensive Assessment	This document will define the Forest Plan need for change from public comments, working groups, sustainability assessments, and “holes” in the reformatted current Forest Plan.	Coconino-Pending Kaibab-Pending	Coconino-Yewah Lau, 928-527-3411 ylau@fs.fed.us Kaibab-Ariel Leonard, 928-635-8283 aleonard@fs.fed.us
Management Review	This document will present the Forest Supervisor’s choice about the scope of the revision, specifically what of the identified needs for change will be undertaken at this time and what topics will wait for subsequent amendments, if any.	Coconino-Pending Kaibab-Pending	Coconino-Yewah Lau, 928-527-3411 ylau@fs.fed.us Kaibab-Ariel Leonard, 928-635-8283 aleonard@fs.fed.us

Coconino TMR and FPR Calendars October 2007 thru June 2009

Updated 1/10/2008

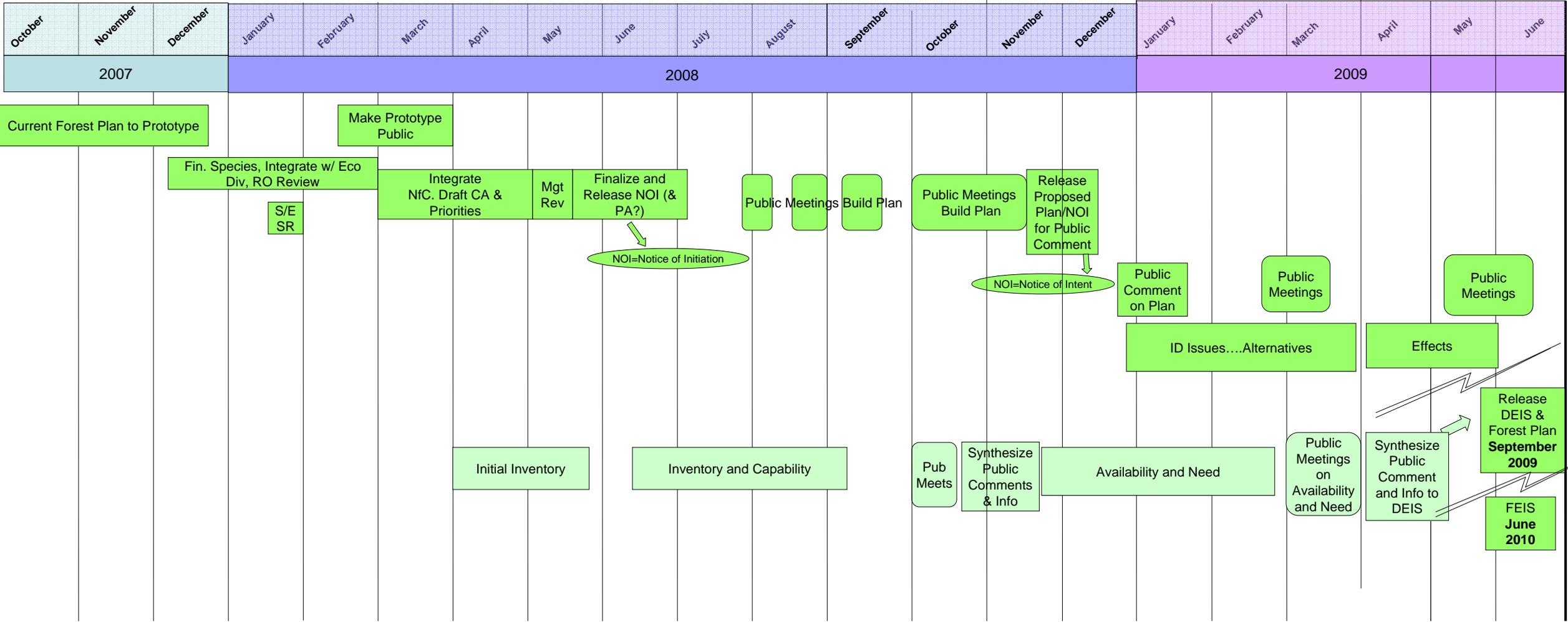


September 2009

FEIS June 2010

Kaibab NF FPR Calendar October 2007 thru June 2009

Updated 1/11/2008



Forest Plan Revision
Wilderness Suitability

Kaibab and Coconino National Forests
Community Involvement Planning Meeting
Evaluation Form

Location _____ Date _____

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION (if any) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

1.) Did you find today's meeting useful? How could it have been improved?

2.) What did you like or not like about the presence of non-Forest Service facilitators? Would you like to see it used for future meetings?

3.) Additional Comments:
