



The Magnolia Messenger

National Forests in Mississippi Forest Plan Revision Update

Volume II
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Welcome !

This newsletter is intended to keep you up-to-date on planning activities as well as list opportunities for you to share with us your input on the Forest Plan Revision.

Greetings from the Forest Supervisor and Forest Plan Revision Team

A Notice of Intent to Revise the Forest Plan was published in the Federal Register in December 1999. Numerous public meetings were held around the state during January and February of 2000. These public meetings were a part of an initial scoping phase to solicit public input on plan revision issues. Comments received during our initial scoping efforts in 2000 are being used as we resume our plan revision efforts.

This Forest Plan revision is just that—a revision of the current Plan. We will be updating and adding new information to the work that has already been done. We are not starting from scratch. We are focusing our efforts on the topics most in need of change.

After the initial public scoping meetings in 2000, plan revision efforts were delayed due to a shortfall in funding. Funding did not materialize until final budget allocations for fiscal year 2004 were distributed. Therefore, a revised notice of intent was published in September 2003.

We have resumed formal public involvement activities including hosting “open houses” in September. We will concentrate on clarification and refinement of the public issues previously identified in 2000. You will have an opportunity to “extend and revise” previous comments as we begin our alternative development phase.

Inside This Issue

- ◆ What is a Forest Plan
- ◆ Public Involvement Timeline
- ◆ Guide to Involvement
- ◆ Scheduled Open Houses
- ◆ Key Contacts

Opportunities for public involvement are offered throughout the development and evaluation of plan revision alternatives and formulation of the draft environmental impact statement (September 2004 – August 2005).

Beginning in January 2005, we will begin to develop detailed plan alternatives for evaluation in the draft plan and associated environmental impact statement.

Another formal public review and comment process will follow the actual release of a draft plan and environmental impact statement in November 2005.

The final environmental impact statement and final revised plan will respond to public comments received on the draft documents and is scheduled for release in October 2006.

National Forests in Mississippi



What is a Forest Plan ?

Plans define how the Forest Service manages the national forests.

For the most part, each national forest in the United States has its own plan. The plans establish the desired future condition for the land and resources and set broad, general direction for managing national forests. Plans identify where and under what conditions an activity or project can proceed.

Under the 1982 planning rule, a management plan makes six decisions:

1. Establish forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives.
2. Establish the forest-wide management requirements.
3. Establishment of multiple-use prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines for each management area.
4. Determination of land that is suitable for the production of timber.
5. Establishment of allowable sale quantity for timber within a time frame specified in the plan.
6. Establishment of monitoring and evaluation requirements.

In addition to the above six, these two will be considered:

1. Recommendation of roadless areas as potential wilderness areas.
2. Where applicable, designation of those lands administratively available for oil and gas leasing; and when appropriate, authorizing the Bureau of Land Management to offer specific lands for leasing.

Please visit the National Forests in Mississippi website to view the latest information on our Forest Plan Revision at:

<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/mississippi>

Our scheduled open houses are designed to share information and to get your input for the Forest Plan. If you are unable to attend our meetings and wish to provide comments on Mississippi National Forest issues, you may e-mail comments to: mississippi_plan@fs.fed.us

or mail to: National Forests in Mississippi, 100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1141, Jackson MS 39269.



Plan Revision Team Members

Team Leader	Jeff Long
Writer Editor	Delories Stanley
GIS Coordinator	Brenda Miller
Wildlife Biology/TES	Shaun Williamson
Ecology	Sandy Kilpatrick
NEPA/FPI	Bob Bradford
Silviculture	Jerry Windham
Soil/Water/Air	Gala Goldsmith
Fisheries Biology	Rick Dillard
Recreation	Chuck Gramling
Archaeology	Sam Brookes
Engineering	Steve Bingham
Lands	Cliff Sommers
Botany	Ken Gordon
Fire	Gary Jarvis
Minerals	Hunter Howell

Key Contacts: National Forests in Mississippi

Forest Supervisor: Gerry Farmer 601-965-4391

Bienville National Forest 601-469-3811
District Ranger: David Carter

Homochitto National Forest 601-384-5876
District Ranger: Vacant

Delta National Forest 601-873-6256
District Ranger: Larry Moore

De Soto National Forest:
Chickasawhay Ranger District 601-428-0594
District Ranger: Robert Lee

Holly Springs National Forest 662-236-6550
District Ranger: Melinda Mosser

De Soto Ranger District 601-928-5291
District Ranger: Judith Henry

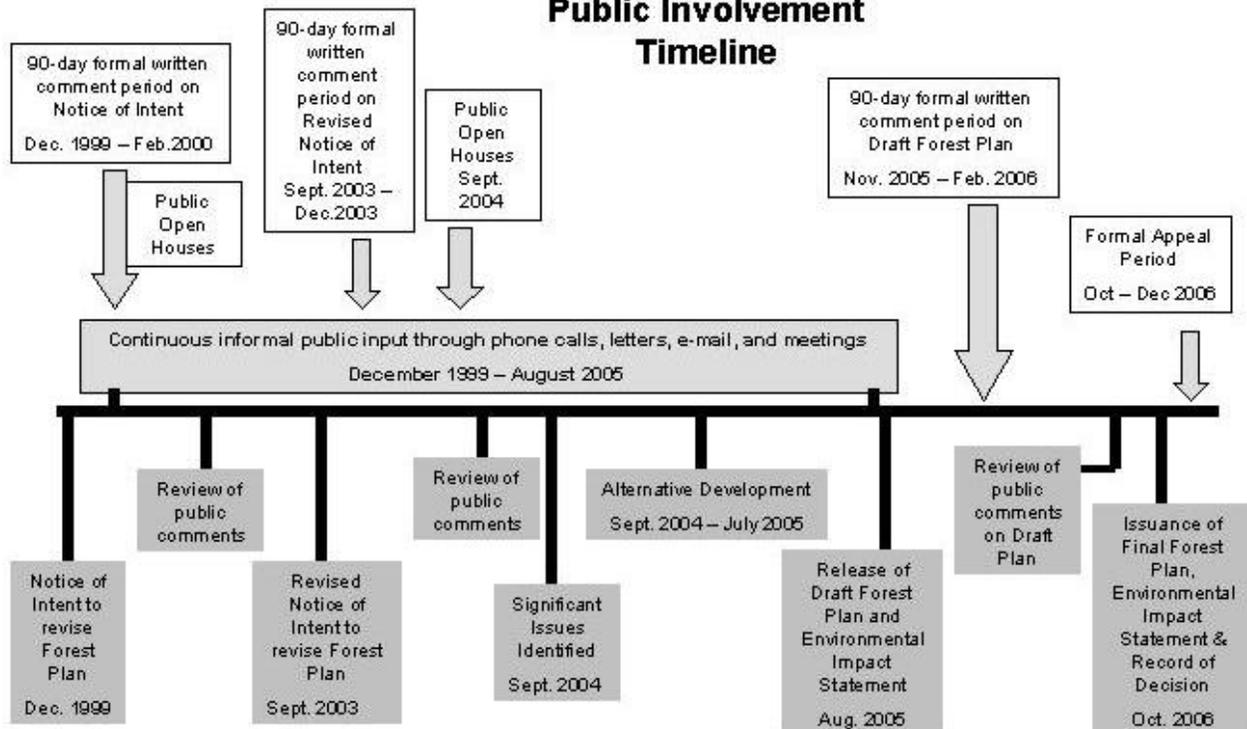
Tombigbee National Forest 662-285-3265
District Ranger: John Baswell



Guide to Involvement

National Forests in Mississippi

Forest Plan Revision Public Involvement Timeline



Why is it Important for You to Participate?

Informed decisions are based on careful consideration of diverse perspectives, so your input is critical in shaping an appropriate and balanced future for the National Forests in Mississippi. The Forest Plan is a long-term investment in the future of both your community and your national forest. Working together will provide the greatest opportunity for successful planning.

Land Management Planning Scheduled Open Houses

Holly Springs National Forest
Date: September 27, 2004
Location: Ashland
Time: 1-3 pm @ Benton Co. Courthouse
Location: Oxford
Time: 6-8 pm @ MS State Extension Ofc.

Tombigbee National Forest
Date: September 14, 2004
Location: Lake Tia O'Khata in Louisville
Time: 6-8 pm

Homochitto National Forest
Date: September 2, 2004
Location: Franklin County Public
Library
Time: 2-4 pm **and** 6-8 pm

Bienville National Forest
Date: September 16, 2004
Location: Town of Forest
Community Center
Time: 2-4 pm **and** 6-8 pm

De Soto National Forest
Date: September 20, 2004
Location: Wiggins District Office
Time: 5-7 pm

Delta National Forest
Date: September 9, 2004
Location: Rolling Fork Community Center
Time: 6-8 pm

De Soto National Forest:

De Soto Ranger District
Date: September 21, 2004
Location: Orange Grove Community Ctr
Time: 5-7 pm

Chickasawhay & De Soto Ranger Districts
Date: September 23, 2004
Location: Hattiesburg Library
Time: 5-7 pm

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National Forests in Mississippi
100 W. Capitol Street
Suite 1141
Jackson, MS 39269