

Federal Advisory Committee for Implementation of the US Forest Service Land Management Planning Rule



Presented by
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to the SMC BOCC
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Introduction

- ▶ The Forest Service manages 154 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and 1 national prairie across 193 million acres.
- ▶ These public lands are governed by individual forest plans. The plans must comply with the Planning Rule, similar to a County's Land Use Code.
- ▶ The overarching purpose of the plan is to ensure that national forests are sustainably managed for generations to come.



National Forest Management Act (NFMA)

- Enacted in 1976.
- Requires land and resource management plans for all national forests.
- Requires compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

History of Planning Rule

- ▶ 1982 first planning rule -used to guide planning for all current plans
- ▶ 2000 - Clinton-era Planning Rule never implemented
- ▶ 2005, 2008 - Bush-era rules invalidated by court decisions
- ▶ 2012 - Obama rule adopted! (third time's a charm?)
- ▶ 2015 - planning directives (e.g. wilderness evaluation process)

Federal Advisory Committees

- ▶ Citizen groups appointed to advise on implementation of federal policy
- ▶ Dozens of advisory committees throughout the Dept of Agriculture and many other federal agencies

What is FACA?

- ▶ The **Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)** (Pub.L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, enacted October 6, 1972), is a United States **federal** law which governs the behavior of federal advisory committees. In particular, it has **special emphasis on open meetings, chartering, public involvement, and reporting.**

Why is there a Federal Advisory Committee for Implementation of the 2012 Rule?

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and recommendations on implementation of the planning rule or any other duties requested by the Secretary of Agriculture or Chief of the Forest Service regarding implementing the Forest Planning Rule.

The Committee

- ▶ The National Advisory Committee for Implementation of the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule (Committee) was established in June 2012, and has been re-chartered twice since then.
- ▶ The Committee performs the following duties or other requests made by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service:
 - ▶ * Offer recommendations on outreach efforts, public engagement, and stakeholder collaboration
 - ▶ * Offer recommendations on broad scale and multi-party monitoring and other ways to engage partnerships in land management plan revisions
 - ▶ * Offer recommendations on communication tools and strategies to help provide greater understanding of the land management planning process
 - ▶ * Offer recommendations on potential best management practices and problem solving resulting from early implementation of the 2012 Planning Rule.

Federal Advisory Committee

- The Federal Advisory Committee is a 21-member Committee comprised of a diverse range of stakeholders including state and local elected officials, American Indian Tribes, youth, conservation organizations, motorized and human-powered outdoor recreation interests, the timber, energy and mineral, and grazing industries, scientific community, private landowners, commercial and recreational hunting and fishing interests, and the public at large.



Current Committee

- ▶ Adam Cramer, Washington DC, Dispersed Recreation
- ▶ Gabriel Vasquez, Washington DC, Latino Outdoors, Public at large rep
- ▶ Russ Ehnes, MT, motorized rec
- ▶ Pete Nelson, MT, Defenders of Wildlife, Enviro Rep
- ▶ Martin Nie, MT, Forestry Professor, Science Rep
- ▶ Angela Sondena, Idaho, Conservation rep, Nez Perce tribe
- ▶ Tom Troxel, SD, Timber
- ▶ Joan May, CO Local Elected Official
- ▶ Caitlyn Pollihan, CO, Forester
- ▶ Valerie Huerta, NM Farm and Livestock Bureau

Current Committee Continued...

- ▶ Bob Cope, ID, Local Elected Official
- ▶ Jim Magagna, WY, stockman
- ▶ Michelle Nuttall, Southern CA Edison, energy interests
- ▶ Mike Anderson, WA, Wilderness Society
- ▶ Billy Barquin, Kootenai Tribe OR, tribal rep
- ▶ Susan Jane Brown, Western Enviro Law Center OR,
- ▶ Karen Hardigg, OR, Rural Voices for Conservation
- ▶ Lindsay Warness, OR, Timber
- ▶ Angelou Ezelio, GA, Greening Youth Foundation
- ▶ Megan Sutton, NC, The Nature Conservancy

Current Committee Continued...

- ▶ Ray Vaughn, AL, Public at Large, Cosmic Pony Ranch, Environmental Attorney
- ▶ Dan Dessecker, WI, Wildlife Biologist
- ▶ Candice Price, MO, Urban Outdoor Youth

Current Committee



What is the 2012 Planning Rule?

- ▶ The 2012 Planning Rule is the Federal regulation that sets out the procedures and required content for forest plans.
- ▶ This Rule is the first significant update to Forest Service planning procedures in 30 years, reflecting decades of experience and lessons learned.
- ▶ The 2012 Planning Rule and Directives (Forest Service Manual and Handbook) provide a comprehensive set of requirements and guidelines the Forest Service must follow during the forest planning process.

Basics of 2012 Rule...Plans must insure...

- ▶ Ecological Sustainability: The plan “must maintain or restore the ecological integrity” of ecosystems, watersheds, riparian areas, etc.
- ▶ Species viability
- ▶ The Forest Service “shall use the best available scientific information to inform the planning process” and document how it was used.
- ▶ The Forest Service “shall engage the public ... early and throughout the planning process.”

Major Planning Topics

- ▶ adjacent lands and inholdings
- ▶ air quality
- ▶ climate change
- ▶ cultural resources
- ▶ fire and fuels management
- ▶ fish, wildlife and plants
- ▶ threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species
- ▶ species of conservation concern
- ▶ fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering
- ▶ forests and timber management
- ▶ grazing and rangelands
- ▶ renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources
- ▶ social and economic considerations
- ▶ sustainable recreation
- ▶ water and watersheds
- ▶ wild and scenic rivers
- ▶ wilderness

Basics of 2012 Rule

- ▶ Adaptive Mgt...
 - ▶ Assess
 - ▶ Plan - revisions and amendments
 - ▶ Monitor - bi-annual reports
- ▶ Plans must contain:
 - ▶ Recommended Wilderness Areas
 - ▶ Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - ▶ Special Area designations
 - ▶ Species of Conservation Concern
 - ▶ Priority Watersheds
 - ▶ Management or Geographic Areas (zones)

What the Committee Has Accomplished to Date

- ▶ Edited Directives...
 - ▶ Chap. 10 - Assessment
 - ▶ Chap. 20 - Plan Content
 - ▶ Chap. 30 - Monitoring
 - ▶ Chap. 40 - Science, Public Participation
 - ▶ Chap. 50 - Objection Process
 - ▶ Chap. 60 - Timber
 - ▶ Chap. 70 - Wilderness Evaluation
 - ▶ Chap. 80 - Wild and Scenic Rivers
- ▶ Wrote Citizens Guide and Government Guide
- ▶ Reviewing Plan Revisions on specific forests

What's next?

- ▶ Committee to meet in Wash. DC Jan 29- Feb 1, 2018
- ▶ Conclude recommendations on: Adaptive Management, Shared Stewardship, Objections Process, Youth Engagement, Monitoring, Species of Conservation Concern, and the Committee's Path Forward
- ▶ Charter expires Feb 3, 2018, will not be renewed

