



The BTNF Plan Revision Report

July 2006/Volume 1

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TOP STORY

Draft Chapter 1 of the Revised Forest Plan now available for public review

BASIS FOR REVISED PLAN DEVELOPED FROM PUBLIC'S DESIRED CONDITIONS

Draft Chapter 1 of the Revised Plan, which organizes last year's public input into a vision, context, and list of Desired Conditions for the Bridger-Teton N.F. (BTNF), is now available for review and comment at www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf/news/fpr.shtml. Please let us know if you find any major glitches or needed changes, by 9/30/06.

What is a Forest Plan, and why revise it?

Every National Forest has a Forest Plan, which establishes management strategy and direction for the forest landscape. A Forest Plan outlines broad goals and priorities that guide local managers on actions to take and projects to work on. A Forest Plan does not prescribe site-specific actions or projects.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires every Forest to assess existing conditions and update Forest Plans accordingly at least once every fifteen years. Since the BTNF's Forest Plan was approved in 1990, environmental conditions have changed, regulations have been updated, and new

scientific information has become available. The public's views about the values and uses of the BTNF may have changed as well. Our Forest Plan Revision process strives to take all these changes into account.

For one hundred years, the Forest Service has operated under Gifford Pinchot's principle of "the greatest good, for the greatest number in the long run". The Forest Plan seeks to define that greatest good and to balance the numerous values found amongst people and the forest.

Plan Revision is expected to take about three years (please see the timeline on page 2); final approval for the revised Plan is anticipated in Sept. 2008.

*DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FOREST PLAN REVISION IS
AVAILABLE ON LINE AT WWW.FS.FED.US/R4/BTNF*

Keeping Up to Date

The mailing list

To learn more about how to participate or to get your name on the mailing list for revision information...

- call 307.739.5500
- email btnfplanrevision@fs.fed.us
- or write to **Bridger-Teton N.F., Forest Plan Revision, PO Box 1888, Jackson, WY, 83001.**

You can choose whether to receive information by regular mail or electronically.

If you need to update your information on the mailing list, use one of the above methods to contact us.

Local libraries

Copies of revision-related documents are available for you to read at local libraries in the BTNF area: **Lander, La Barge, Kemmerer, Evanston, Du-bois, Cokeville, Big Piney, Pinedale, Jackson, Green River, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Victor, ID.**

VIEWING DOCUMENTS ON-LINE

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*FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
DETAILS PLEASE VISIT BTNF'S
PLAN REVISION WEBSITE:
WWW.FS.FED.US/R4/BTNF.*

Basic Goals and Timeline of Forest Plan Revision

THE PLANNING PROCESS IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT ASKING FOUR QUESTIONS:

1. What are our goals for the Forest?
2. How should we measure progress toward those goals?
3. What progress toward those goals are we currently making, and what is the need for improvement?
4. How should we adjust our management in order to address that need, and what measurable improvements do we expect to achieve as a result?

Question	Plan documents	Timing	Official notices
1.) What are our goals?	Desired Conditions	2005	
2.) How do we measure progress toward goals?	Monitoring Program	Summer 2006	
3.) How much progress are we currently making?	Comprehensive Evaluation	Fall 2006 — Spring 2007	Notice of Initiation (4/07)
4.) How should we improve?	Proposed Revised Plan	Spring 2007 — Spring 2008	Notice of Proposed Revised Plan & 90-day Comment Period (12/07)
	Final Revised Plan	Summer 2008	Notice of Final Revised Plan & 30-day Objection Period (6/08)
			Notice of Approval (9/08)

Collaboration: the key to a successful Plan Revision process

Forest conditions change over time, as does our understanding of the needs of present and future generations. The basic purpose of the collaborative process in the BTNF's Plan Revision effort is to achieve a better understanding of these changes. Forest personnel have perspectives to share about forest conditions (as do members of the public), and the public has perspectives to share about the needs of present and future generations (as do Forest personnel). By working together, we can more effectively revise the Forest Plan to reflect these perspectives.

Public workshops

Our process includes six distinct rounds of workshops that extend throughout the duration of Plan Revision:

- Round 1 (July--Sept. 2005): For what Desired Conditions should the BTNF be managed?
- Round 2 (Dec. 2005--April 2006): What did we learn about Desired Conditions, and what monitoring measures should we use to gauge progress toward them?
- Round 3 (Summer 2006): Are there any major glitches in our treatment of Desired Conditions (See Draft Chap. 1)?
- Round 4 (Fall/Winter 2006-07): What are the current conditions on the BTNF? What needs to change?
- Round 5 (Spring 2007--Winter 2007-08): How should Desired Conditions and uses be organized around the Forest in order to make better progress?
- Round 6 (Summer 2008): What adjustments to the proposed Revised Plan are needed in order to finalize it?

Remote collaboration

The BTNF Plan Revision website is regularly updated to share input provided by the Plan Revision Team and public stakeholders during workshops; downloadable worksheets

and comment forms; an experimental web-log ("blog"); and interactive mapping tools (forthcoming).

Cooperators' Group

State and local governments and representatives of other federal land units in the area offer unique insight on issues related to Forest Plan Revision. With that in mind, a Forest Plan Revision Cooperators' Group has been established as a complement to the individual perspectives of public stakeholders. Visit our website for the list of members.

Indian tribes

Federally recognized American Indian tribes are sovereign nations. As such, the Forest Supervisor and local line officers work personally with tribal leaders to ensure that treaty rights are observed and that tribal concerns are addressed.

Tell us what you see!

If you are out on the Forest this summer and observe problems on the ground, we want to know! Please take a picture, locate the area on a map, write up a brief description of your observations, and send it to a member of the Revision Team.

ROADLESS AREAS IN FOREST PLAN REVISION

-A new roadless area inventory will be created, based on the most updated travel route layer.

-These areas will then be evaluated for Wilderness recommendation during Plan Revision. Those to be recommended for Wilderness designation will be managed to preserve wilderness character.

-Areas not recommended for Wilderness can be managed for some other Desired Condition.

-No new oil and gas leases will be authorized in these areas until after the Revised Plan is approved, if such use is generally suited to those areas according to their Desired Conditions.

-Areas identified as having potential for wilderness designation will:

1. be recommended for Wilderness designation;
2. not be recommended for Wilderness designation, but still managed for “roadless” character by some other name such as Primitive Backcountry; or
3. no longer be managed for a roadless character, but rather for some other Desired Condition(s).



OIL AND GAS IN FOREST PLAN REVISION

Q: How will oil and gas leasing be addressed in the Revised Plan?

A: *The Revised Plan will address oil & gas leasing in terms of suitable land uses, not availability. Suitability determinations provide guidance regarding general areas where leasing is compatible with Desired Conditions and the types of stipulations that apply. Availability determinations point out the specific locations in those areas where development operations can be authorized, and the stipulations that must apply to each specific activity.*



Q: Where is oil and gas suitable?

A: *Oil and gas is a suitable land use that can be compatible with Desired Conditions for a certain area. Guidelines inform what stipulations should be included in subsequent leasing decisions in order to ensure that oil and gas leasing remains compatible with Desired Conditions*

Q: How will existing oil and gas availability decisions be affected by Plan Revision?

A: *The existing availability decisions remain in effect until revised, regardless of Plan Revision status. The BTNF intends to revisit its leasing availability decisions through a separate NEPA process that will likely occur after Plan Revision.*

Q: Can oil and gas leasing take place in an area identified as unsuitable in the Revised Plan?

A: *If the Revised Plan identifies that oil and gas leasing is generally not suitable in a given area, a Plan Amendment would be required in order for any new lease to be authorized in that given area.*

Q: Will all areas identified as suitable for oil & gas eventually be developed?

A: *The Responsible Official has discretionary authority to decline specific lease requests even if in areas where leasing is considered suitable and available.*

THE BTNF PLAN REVISION TEAM

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The BTNF Plan Revision Report

The BTNF Plan Revision Report is published periodically by the Bridger-Teton National Forest to provide updates on the revision of the Forest Plan.

The BTNF Plan Revision Report is published at 340 North Cache, Jackson, WY 83001.

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Caring for the land and serving people