

# Forest Plan Revision Briefing

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

2013

# What does a forest plan do?

- An **overall guide** for what happens on a national forest
- Provides **strategic** guidance and direction
- Provides zoning through **Management Areas**
- **Steers** future management

# What decisions are made in a forest plan?

- Sets goals, desired conditions, and objectives
- Establishes standards and guidelines for management
- Establishes monitoring requirements
- Recommends wilderness and rivers for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system to Congress
- Determines timber and rangeland suitability

# The Forest Plan will NOT:

- Make any site-specific decisions
- Close or open any roads \*\*
- Close areas to snowmobiling (except in recommended wilderness)\*\*

\*\*These decisions require additional analysis, public involvement, and site-specific decisions

# Plan Elements

- **Goals:** Concise statements that describe an overall desired condition the Forest will strive to achieve.
- **Desired Conditions:** Social, economic, and ecological attributes that will be used to guide management of the land and resources of the plan area.
- **Objectives:** A concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to pre-established goals.
- **Guidelines:** Operational practice and procedure that is applied to project and activity decision making to achieve goals, desired conditions, and objectives.
- **Standards:** Limitation or requirement that is applied to project and activity decision making to help achieve goals and objectives.

# Plan Direction

- Forest-wide
- Management Area
- Geographic Area

# Key Differences from the 1987 Plans

- Emphasizes the use of fire on the landscape to assist in moving vegetation towards desired conditions;
- Identifies desired conditions that improve resistance and resiliency of forest vegetation;
- Direction for restoration of watersheds;
- Updates land suitable for timber production (38%);

# Key Differences from the 1987 Plans (continued)

- Updates ASQ (120.3 MMBF/year)
- Updates predicted volume sold (47.5 MMBF/year)
- Includes MA allocations for IRAs (follows the Idaho Roadless Rule)
- Eliminates non-conforming uses in recommended wilderness

# Changes between Draft and Revised Forest Plan

- Management area boundary changes;
- Clarified direction on IRAs;
- Added direction to provide wildlife connectivity;
- Additional direction on retained decisions;
- Additional direction on the monitoring program;
- More information in the EIS on wildlife;
- Changes to some modeling.

# Objection Process

- 60 day objection period (Sept 28-Nov 26)
- 10 days to publish list of objectors and objections (Dec 6)
- 10 days to become an interested party (Dec 16)
- 90 day objection review period.