



# Tonto National Forest Forest Plan Revision

## What is a forest plan?

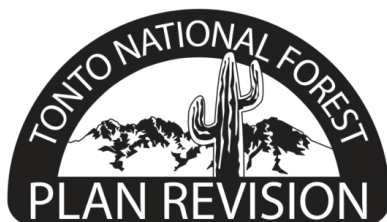
- A comprehensive plan to guide forest management over the next fifteen years
- A plan "to maintain and restore forest land and water ecosystems while providing for ecosystem services and multiple uses"
- Includes objectives, standards and guidelines for "desired conditions" to be achieved through land management
- Identifies areas that are or may be suitable for special designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness

## Where does the plan apply?

- Management direction applies on National Forest System land within the boundaries of Tonto National Forest
- The plan considers the goals, uses and resources of surrounding lands and surrounding communities ("all lands")

## Why revise now?

- National USFS policy requires plans be revised at least every 15 years



## Why does the revision process matter?

- As the 5<sup>th</sup> largest forest in the United States, the Tonto National Forest is one of the most-visited forests in the U.S.
- Decisions in this plan directly affect environmental health, economic vitality, and quality of life
- We will confirm what is working with the 1985 plan, and identify where there is a need for change

## What is the "new rule"?

The Forest Service recently adopted at the national level an improved process and direction for preparing or revising forest plans. Features include:

- A quicker, more streamlined and efficient four-year process
- A three phase process: assessment, revision, monitoring
- Enhanced commitment to collaboration and public engagement (across all three phases; new audiences including youth)
- "All lands" perspective
- Best available science; sustainability and "ecosystem services"
- Continued emphasis on multiple use management

## How can I participate?

- Attend public meetings and collaborative workshops
- Request information or sign up for the mailing list
- Provide comments and feedback at [tontoplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:tontoplan@fs.fed.us) or Tonto NF Plan Revision 2324 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85006

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