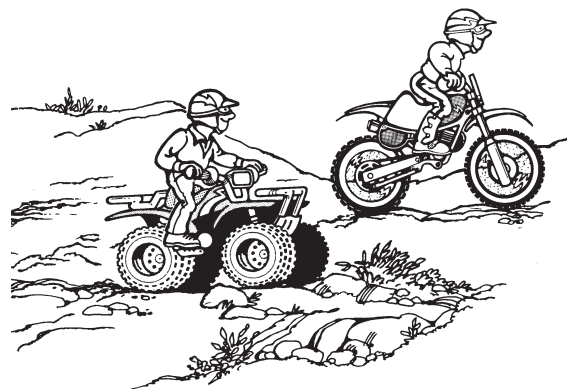

Travel Management

The Forest Service released the final rule for managing recreational off-highway vehicle use on the national forests and grasslands in November 2005. The rule was developed to address the threat of unmanaged motorized recreation to the health of the Nation's national forests and grasslands.

The rule provides a framework under which designation of roads, trails, and areas suitable for motorized use is made for each national forest and grassland at the local level. When the designation process is completed, a motor vehicle use map (MVUM) will be published showing the system of routes designated for motorized use. Motorized use will then be prohibited outside of the designated system.

The Kiowa/Rita Blanca National Grasslands travel management processes will commence in August 2009, and public hearings on the proposed action will be announced. For more information on travel management, please visit the following Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/index.shtml>



Contact Us!

Please feel free to contact us with questions or suggestions regarding plan revision or to be added or removed from our mailing list. Please also let us know if we should update or correct your mailing information. Here is how we can be reached:

Web site: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/plan-revision/national_grasslands/index.shtml

Comment form: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/plan-revision/national_grasslands/contactus.shtml

E-mail: comments-grasslandsplan@fs.fed.us

Mail: Cibola National Forest
Attn: Plan Revision Team
2113 Osuna Road, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Phone: (505) 346-3900
Fax: (505) 346-3901

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United States Department of Agriculture

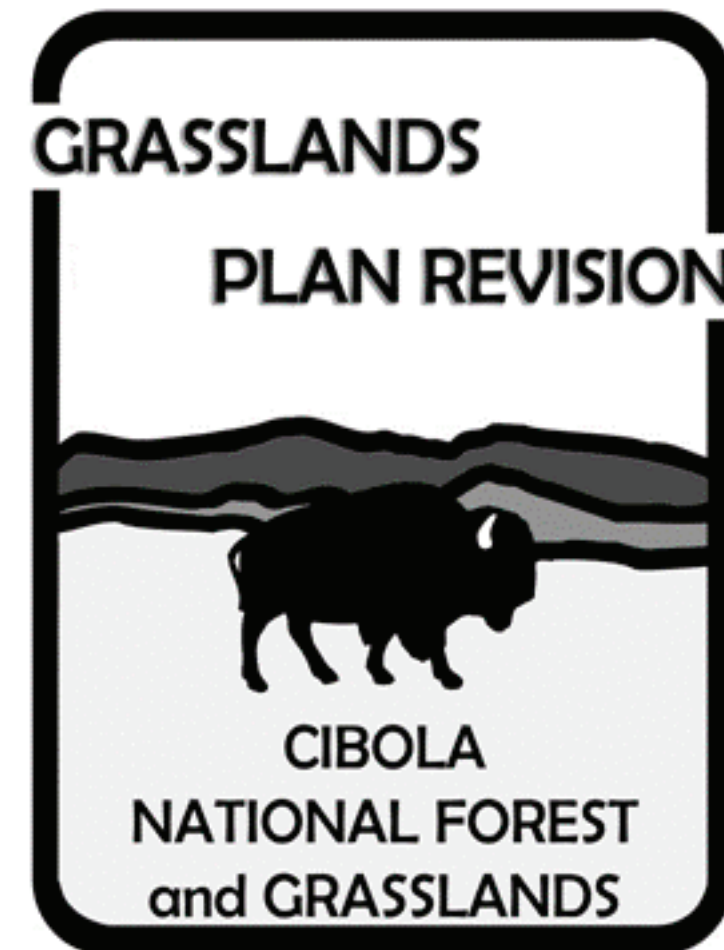
Forest Service

Southwestern Region

MB-R3-03-5

April 2009

National Grasslands Plan Revision . . . An Update



Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands

Plan revision continues on these four areas which are under the management of the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands, based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This plan revision update will serve to inform you of where we are in the process and invite you to upcoming meetings about the revised land management plan.

Grasslands Plan Revision Timeline

- Develop preliminary draft plan components—desired conditions, objectives, guidelines and suitability, special areas—by spring 2009.
- Begin collaboration with the public to refine the proposed plan—early summer 2009 (see “Preparation of the Draft Plan with Public Collaboration”).
- Complete the proposed plan and begin the formal 90-day comment period—late summer 2009.
- 30-day predecisional objection period—winter 2010.
- Responsible official signs plan approval document.

Draft Desired Conditions and Web Site Link

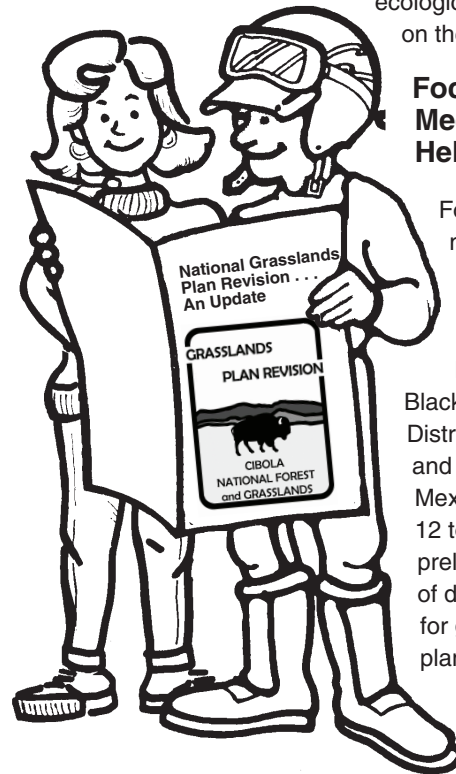
The Grasslands Plan Revision team has worked through a process to develop a set of desired conditions for the socioeconomic and ecological plan components of the grasslands land management plan.

Desired Conditions . . .

- “Paint the Picture” and are the basis for the next 15 years of management.
- Are the social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources is to be directed.
- Are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities, and may be achievable only over a long time period.

- Are the “heart” of the plan and are the basis for developing other plan components (objectives and guidelines). They serve as a guide for the development of the plan monitoring program and guide future actions or activities that are designed to achieve the conditions over time.
- Any movement toward or away from a desired condition should be measurable. A desired condition statement should offer enough information so that there is a clear relationship between the desired conditions (future aspirations), the objectives (incremental achievements moving toward desired conditions), and any design criteria (guidelines or standards) that may be needed.

Visit the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Plan Revision Web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/plan-revision/national-grasslands/index.shtml>, to view the “Draft Desired Conditions” for socioeconomic and ecological sustainability on the grasslands.



Focus Group Meetings Held in March

Focus group meetings were held in Cheyenne, Oklahoma, on March 10 at the Black Kettle Ranger District headquarters and in Clayton, New Mexico, on March 12 to discuss the preliminary draft set of desired conditions for grasslands plan revision. The attendees were individuals

who had expressed a desire to participate in all stages of plan development and included members of other Federal and State agencies, non-government organizations, members of a Native American tribe and private citizens. There were six attendees at the Cheyenne, Oklahoma, meeting and nine at the Clayton, New Mexico, meeting. The focus groups viewed the draft set of desired conditions and provided comments and concerns that the planning team will use in the development of plan components including desired conditions.

Preparation of the Draft Plan with Public Collaboration

Opportunities for the public to discuss and comment on documents such as the plan components that will make up the draft plan will be offered at upcoming public meetings. Formats may include: open houses, presentations, information stations, question and answer sessions, dialogue among participants, comment submission, or a combination of these will be selected to fit the needs of communities and participants involved. Note: dates and locations of public collaboration meetings will be posted on our Web site and through flyers, mailings and public service announcements.

No early summer 2009 public meeting dates have been scheduled at the time of this newsletter mailing for Black Kettle, McClellan Creek or Kiowa/Rita Blanca, however, we do plan targeting some dates soon.

Don't miss out on these opportunities to share your vision of the national grasslands with the plan revision team.

Citizens Guide to Public Participation in Grasslands Plan Revision and Link to Web Site

A reference has been prepared titled, “Citizen’s Guide to Public Participation” and it serves as a guide for individuals interested in participating in revising the land management plan for the Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands. The reference includes descriptions of the following:

- The plan revision and public participation process, including participation options for each key phase and sideboards for public decisionmaking in the plan revision process.
- Roles and contact information for Cibola National Forest and Grasslands employees involved in plan revision so the public knows who to contact and how to contact them.
- The wide spectrum of public participation opportunities available during each phase of the process, to assist the public in understanding how to effectively stay informed and involved in revising the grasslands plan.

Visit the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands plan revision Web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/plan-revision/national-grasslands/public.shtml>, to view the guide.

Change in Forest Service Directives

The final step in the collaboration process of plan revision is the 30-day objection period. Because of a change in Forest Service directives in November 2008, only comments received after September 19, 2008, will give an individual or entity the right to file an objection at the end of the comment and collaboration processes. Submitting a comment on our Web site or to the address shown on the back panel of this brochure will assure your right to file an objection in the future.