



## Revision Issues and the Notice of Intent

### Why Revise Forest Plans?

National Forest Management Plans are generally revised on a 10-year cycle, or at least every 15 years. (*National Forest Management Act, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.10[g]*) A Need for Change analysis for the Superior and Chippewa National Forest Management Plans reviewed and-considered:

- Monitoring and evaluation results of implementing the 1986 plans
- Forest plan and project-level appeal issues and decisions
- Lawsuit issues and decisions
- New scientific information
- Changed conditions of the land
- Changing public demands and public input
- Evolving Forest Service emphasis on ecosystem management

### Focus on Key Issues

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires analysis of proposed federal actions that could have a significant effect on the environment. Proposed Actions attempt to resolve issues of concern to the public and to managers. Based on the Need For Change review, Preliminary Issues were identified to represent concerns about revising the Superior and Chippewa National Forest Management Plans.

### Preliminary Issues provided for public comment

Biological Diversity  
Rare Natural Resources  
Habitat Fragmentation  
Silvicultural Prescriptions  
Ecosystem Health  
Fire Management

Age/class Distribution  
Riparian Management  
Old Growth  
Fish Habitat Management  
Allowable Sale Quantity of Timber  
Wildlife Habitat Management

## Notice of Intent Released

The rationale for Forest Plan Revision and addressing the preliminary issues was released to the public in a Notice of Intent (NOI) document August 28, 1997. A seven-page synopsis was printed in the Federal Register where all legal government business is recorded. The Notice of Intent is the first step in the environmental documentation and public scoping process required by NEPA.

Copies of the Notice of Intent were mailed to 2,500 groups and individuals. A total of 462 written comments were received during the 90-day comment period. From this response, the following additional issues were identified for inclusion in the environmental analysis for Forest Plan Revision:

### Additional Issues Resulting from Public Comments

Watershed health	Land Adjustment
Scenic Quality	Recreation Opportunities and Forest Settings
Water Access	Recreation Motor Vehicle Use
Potential Wilderness Additions	Economic Sustainability of Communities
Even and Uneven –aged Management	
Social Sustainability	

A cumulative list of key issues is used as a basis for development and analysis of alternatives for future management. How these issues are addressed, and the environmental effects they generate, are disclosed in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements.

#### For more information:

Log on to the Forest Plan Revision web site at: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/chippewa)

Specific questions concerning revision may be directed to:

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To request revision documents not available on the internet, please call (218)335-8681,  
or email [tstruecker@fs.fed.us](mailto:tstruecker@fs.fed.us)