



# Plan Revision Next Steps on the Blue Mountains National Forests

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Presentation for the Blues Intergovernmental Council

USDA Forest Service - Pacific Northwest Region

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# How we got here...

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- Community workshops and intergovernmental discussions in 2004-05
- Initial 'Need for Change' analysis published in 2005
- Field trips, economic workshops, and open houses held in 2006
- New planning rules issued in 2005 and 2008, overturned in 2009 (reversion to 1982 Rule)
- Continued public and intergovernmental meetings held 2010-13
- Current planning rule published in 2012, Blue Mountains NFs 'grandfathered in' to use 1982 Rule
- Draft LMPs published in 2014, 14 meetings held to obtain public comments
- Listening sessions on pace & scale of restoration, access/wilderness, grazing held in 2015-16
- Final LMPs published in 2018, rescinded at close of objection period
- BIC convened in 2019—and working hard since!

# Where we are headed...

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- BIC-generated concepts serve as the starting point for a renewed, expedited revision process
- Revisions initiated after May 9, 2012 must conform to 2012 Rule
  - Revisions initiated prior can be completed under 1982 Rule or 2012 Rule
  - Revisions under 1982 Rule must still comply with “substantive requirements” of 2012 Rule
  - Public notice required when a revision is initiated and/or when an ongoing revision process is adjusted to conform to the 2012 Rule
- Draft plan published in conjunction with Notice of Intent to revise, comments solicited
- Alternatives put forward in draft EIS based on initial public comments
- FS consults with BIC on any changes to BIC-developed content

# Process Differences

## 1982 Planning Rule

- Regional Forester decision
- Traditionally post-decision appeals, though we have discretion to use Objections instead (as in 2018) with a Reviewing Official in the WO

## 2012 Planning Rule

- Forest Supervisor decision
- Pre-decisional objections to Reviewing Official in Regional Office (Regional Forester or Deputy)

# Process Differences Continued

## 1982 Planning Rule

- Analysis of Management Situation
- Management Indicator Species/Focal Species
- Allowable Sale Quantity

## 2012 Planning Rule

- Assessment
- Species of Conservation Concern
- Probable Sale Quantity & Ecosystem Services
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

# Why it makes sense to switch tracks...

- Rely on current ecological data
- Apply contemporary land management planning concepts
- More local control (forest-level decision, regional review)
- Greater defensibility in litigation
- More durable, adaptable, implementable final products

# What it will take to switch tracks...

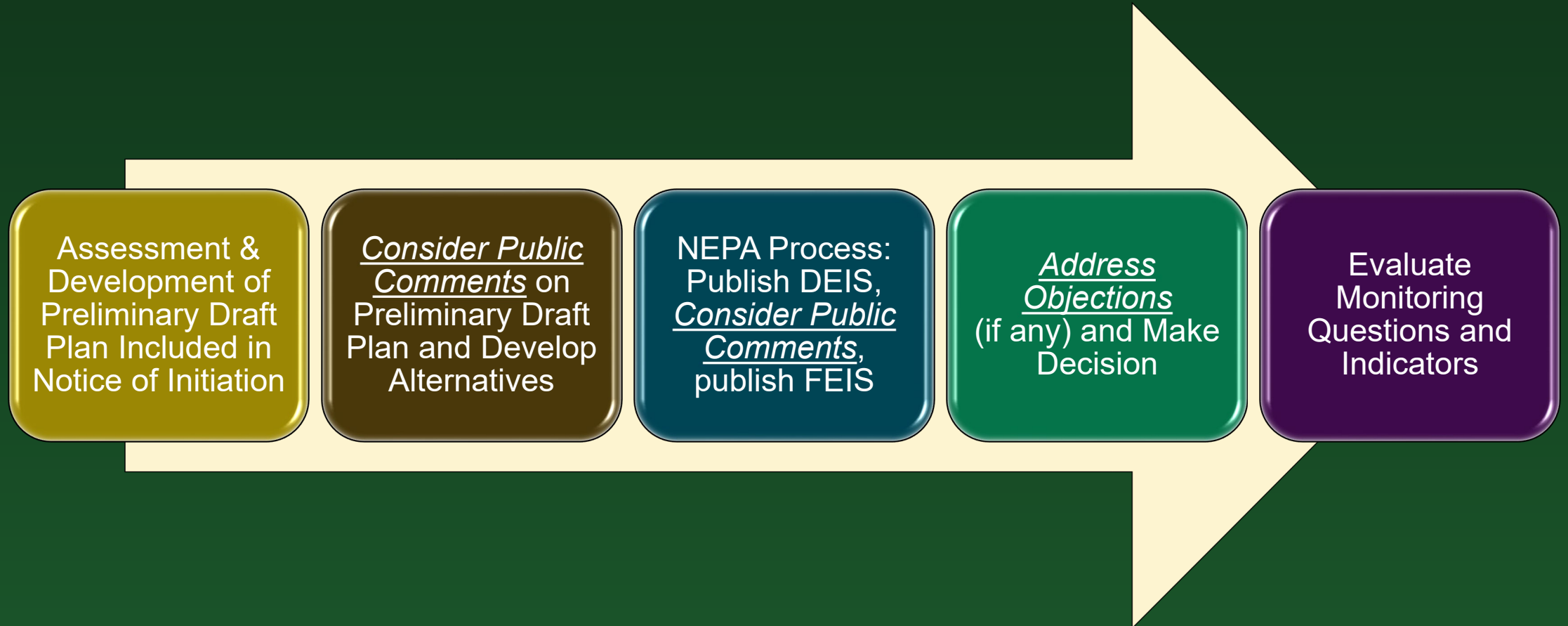
- Account for current ecological data (from existing sources) paired with fresh socioeconomic analysis from the BIC
- Adjustment:
  - Identify SCC and adapt Management Indicator Species plan components
  - Adapt Wilderness analysis to meet 2012 Rule requirements (not more, just different process)
  - Identify Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for sustainable recreation

# Potential Next Steps & Ongoing BIC Engagement

- FS reviews BIC desired future condition statements to determine if standards & guidelines need to be changed
- BIC consulted on resultant standard & guideline changes, with FS explaining the impetus for each change
- FS translates resulting document into 2012 Rule format
- Public comments solicited to inform alternatives and analysis



# Probable Steps



## Getting to 'Yes' may Require:

- Trust FS to carry forward BIC-developed concepts and to explain any necessary adjustments
- Remain open to considering alternatives that incorporate public comments
- Support joint communications at key junctures to signal shared ownership of the process and build social license
- No commitment to support the final product—objection is always an option

***THANK YOU for working with us***

