

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires every national forest to develop a forest plan and then periodically revise the plan.

The original Coronado Forest Plan was implemented in 1986.

Since that time, many social and resource conditions have changed including scientific information has improved and land management policies have evolved.

Instead of starting over and developing a new plan from scratch, the Forest plan revision process, which began in 2005, determined what was working in the existing 1986 plan and what needed to be revised.

This was achieved by using an adaptive collaborative approach with government officials, federal, state and local agencies, tribes and the general public. We held 40 workshops & open houses involving over 50 groups and over 1500 individuals.

Through this approach, we developed five needs for change:

1. Ecosystem Resiliency and Restoration Treatments
2. Visitor Experiences
3. Access to National Forest system lands
4. Preservation of Open Space
5. Community, Collaboration and Partnerships

The goal of the revised plan is to provide strategic guidance for managing the cultural and natural resources on approximately 1.78 million acres of public land within the Coronado NF over the next 15 years.

To provide an overview of our Forest:

- • The Forest is spread out across sixteen mountain ranges (“sky islands”) in 5 counties in AZ (Pinal, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pima and Graham) and 1 (Hidalgo) in NM.
- • These sky islands host over 2,600 diverse species of plants, birds and mammals accounting for the highest biological diversity in the National Forest System.
- • Annually, our forest supports 1,500 jobs and contributes to \$45 million in labor income.
 - These jobs are in recreation services, mining and livestock grazing producers.
 - Our Plan affords the opportunity for growth.
- Our Plan identifies that there are no suitable timber acres and thus no timber production, but timber harvest for other purposes (such as fuelwood) occurs on the Forest through personal-use permits and promoting available forest product use as a result of forest management activities.

- The only Forest to share 58 miles of international border with the United Mexican States.

Highlights of the Revised Plan

- Promotes the resilience of the forest and reduces its susceptibility to uncharacteristic levels of disturbance from fire, drought, flooding, insects, and disease.
- Restoration treatments will improve or maintain all nine vegetation types that occur on the Coronado, resulting in reduction of excess tree densities and the return to natural fire regimes resulting in a vegetative condition where natural fire could be managed more effectively.
- Provides guidance for increasing the number of permanent legal access routes; and provides guidance that describes the characteristics of lands to be acquired or conveyed, rather than identifying specific lands.
- Ensures the Forest will offer a broad array of developed and dispersed recreation settings for forest visitors.
- The plan proposes four recommended wilderness areas, one new proposed Research Natural Area and a new proposed Zoological-Botanical Area.

The revised forest plan was implemented on July 23, 2018. The appeal period for the revised forest plan ends Thursday, September 20th.