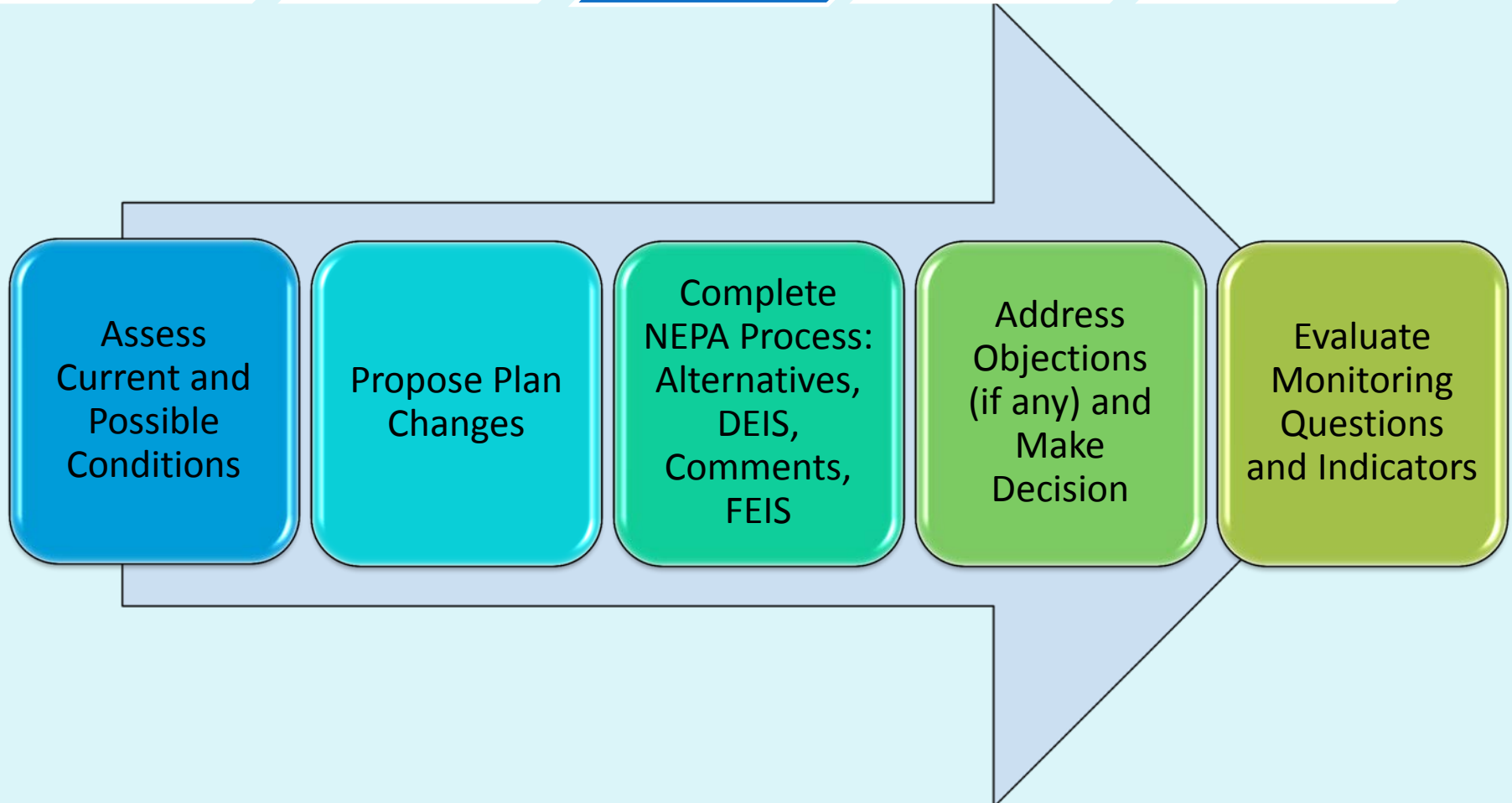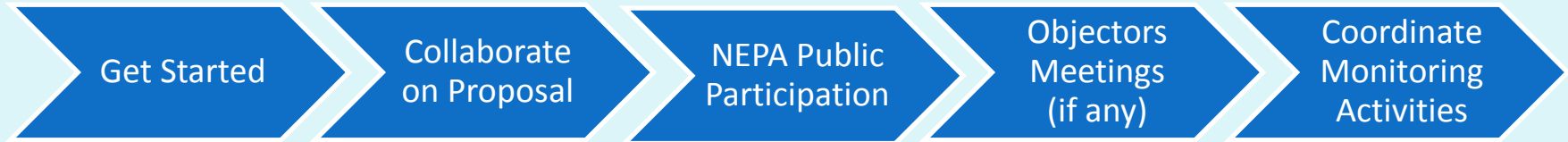# Rio Grande Forest Plan Revision Process
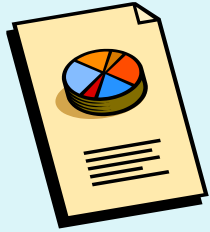
Kickoff Meetings – October 2014

Forest Plan Revision Process

Forest Plan Revision Process

-- Versions of the Forest Plan --

Final

Assessment

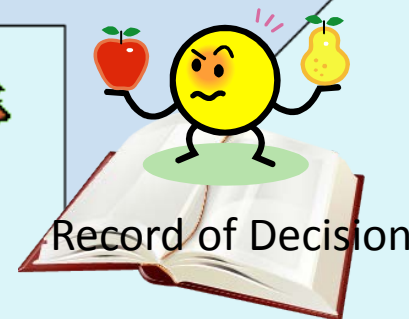| Assess Current and Possible Conditions | Propose Plan Changes | Complete NEPA Process: Alternatives, DEIS, Comments, FEIS | Address Objections (if any) and Make Decision | Evaluate Monitoring Questions and Indicators |
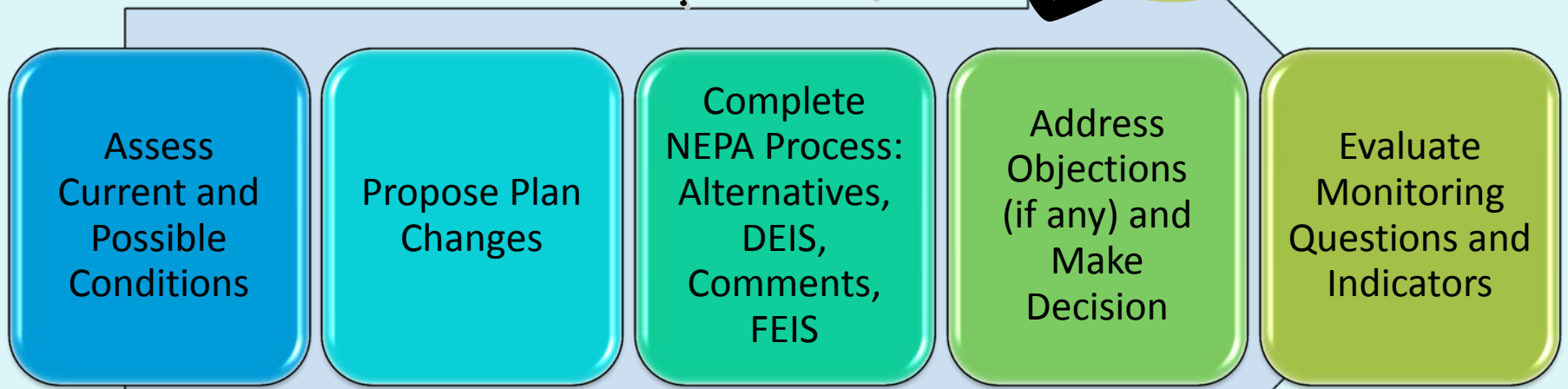
Need for Change Report

DEIS   FEIS

Record of Decision

Opportunities for the Public

- To *Participate* in the Assessment Process.
- To *Participate* in the Development of the Plan.
- To *Comment* on the DEIS (90-day formal period).
- To *Object* (60-day formal period).

A Forest Plan

- *Revised* Every 15 Years, *Amended* if Needed.

- Provides Broad Strategic Direction.

- Does Not Authorize any Action or Compel any Use.

- Instead, it Guides Future Decisions for Projects (Like a Timber Sale) or Activities (Like Travel Management).

Content of a Forest Plan

- Plan Components (Only Changed with Future Amendments, if needed).

- Other Content (Changed with Future Correction, if needed).

Plan Components

- Goals (Optional).
- Desired Conditions – Description of what we want on the ground.
- Objectives – Time specific and measurable outcomes on the ground.
- Suitability – Timber, Grazing, Travel, etc.
- Standards – Every project must comply.
- Guidelines – Projects may deviate but still meet the overall intent.

Plan Components
(*Goals, Desired Conditions, Objectives, Standards, Guidelines, Suitability*)

- Forest-Wide.

- Geographic Area Specific (Zone or District).

- Management Area Specific (Spread Across the Forest with a Common Theme).

Examples of Desired Conditions and Objectives from Current Plan

Desired Conditions

- *Fish thrive in Forest lakes and streams due to adequate habitat and water quality* **(Forest-wide).**

- **For the Scenic Byways Management Area 4.21***, feature high-quality scenery, and developments in harmony with the natural environment.*

Objectives

- *Within the life of the plan, construct 30 miles of trails* **(Forest-wide).**

- *Over a 10 year period, complete 12,000 acres of fuels treatment* **(Forest-wide).**

Examples of Standards and Guidelines from Current Plan

Standards

- *Restrict human activities within one mile of a peregrine falcon nest site between February 1 and August 31.* **(Forest-wide)**

- **For Backcountry Management Area 3.3**, *ATV game retrieval off designated trails is prohibited.*

Guidelines

- **For Research Natural Areas (Management Area 2.2)** *where feasible, use natural barriers to confine or contain fire.*

Other Plan Content

- Roles and Contributions – in the larger landscape.

- Management Approaches – "How to's".

- Coordination – Who we coordinate with.

- Priority Watersheds Restoration Needs.

- Proposed and Possible Actions.

- Monitoring Program (Questions and Indicators).

Key Requirements for Forest Plans

- ***Ecological integrity*** for terrestrial, aquatic ecosystems and watersheds.

- Air, soil, water, and riparian protection.

- Additional species-specific requirements.

- Integrated resource management for ***multiple use*** and ***ecosystem services***.

- Sustainable recreation, cultural, historic, tribal, and Special Areas.

Forest Plan Revision Process

| Get Started | Collaborate on Proposal | NEPA Public Participation | Meet with Objectors (if any) | Coordinate Monitoring Activities |

| Assess Current and Possible Conditions | Propose Plan Changes | Complete NEPA Process: Alternatives, DEIS, Comments, FEIS | Address Objections (if any) and Make Decision | Evaluate Monitoring Questions and Indicators |