



Newsletter No. 2
April/May 2004

Manti-La Sal National Forest



Forest Plan Revision

Initial efforts to revise the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Manti-La Sal National Forest began last year with the Forest focusing on organizing the planning team, identifying information needs, gathering data, and reviewing and analyzing resource inventories.

A Preliminary Analysis of Management Situation (AMS) is being compiled that reflects information gleaned from Forest monitoring reports, comments from last year's public meetings, and a detailed review of the current Forest Plan. A summary of the AMS will be mailed to the public in late June. The AMS summarizes the current biological, physical, social, and economic conditions pertinent to the Forest, and identifies areas where Forest Plan management direction needs to be established or changed.

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Public meetings are scheduled during the month of May to discuss proposed needs for change, wild and scenic rivers, and inventory and evaluation of unroaded areas potentially eligible for wilderness recommendation. For any additional information concerning upcoming public meetings, please contact Ann King, Public Affairs Officer, at 435-636-3535.

NEW FOREST PLAN "LOOK"

The revised plan will be more strategic in nature and easier for the agency and the public to use. The Forest Plan Model consists of three parts:

Vision	The vision is the general direction of the organization. It indicates the Forest's uniqueness. It considers the values of local, regional, and national forest users. The vision describes what is unique about the Forest (or parts of the Forest) and the desired conditions for the Forest.
Strategy	Strategies are how the organization intends to follow the vision and move toward the desired conditions. The Strategy describes suitable uses and contains a prospectus of key objectives for anticipated levels of conditions, uses, and activities. Optionally, it can include recommendations for special area designations.
Design Criteria	The Design Criteria section provides the sideboards within which strategies may operate. Design criteria include standards and related monitoring measures as well as a reference to other applicable guidance.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

DATE	COUNTY	LOCATION
May 4	Montrose County	Community Center Corner of 600 and U-5, Paradox, Colorado
May 5	Mesa County	Community Center 42700 Hwy 141, Gateway, Colorado
May 11	Carbon County	Southeast Utah Association of Local Governments 375 South Carbon Ave., Price, Utah
May 12	Sanpete County	City Complex 2nd Floor East End, 55 South Main, Manti, Utah
May 13	Emery County	Museum of the San Rafael 96 North 100 East, Castle Dale, Utah
May 18	Grand County	Senior Citizen Center 450 East 100 North, Moab, Utah
May 19	Juab County	Fairgrounds/Multiple Purpose Building 400 West Center Street, Nephi, Utah
May 20	San Juan County	Courthouse 117 South Main, Monticello, Utah
May 25	Utah County	Provo Marriott 101 West 100 North, Provo, Utah

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME	DUE DATE
Submit comments on the most critical areas where changes in Forest management direction may be needed (Needs for Change)	June 1

The Forest is proposing changes to a plan that has already been developed and implemented. We are going to focus only on those items that need immediate attention. Some minor editing and clean-up will be included.

DETERMINING NEEDS FOR CHANGE

Considering national, regional, and local direction, policy, and strategies for natural resource management, a five-step process was initiated to identify the “Needs for Change” in management direction on the Forest. This process included:

- ◆ A review of Forest monitoring and evaluation reports.
- ◆ A review of existing legislation, regulations, and Forest Service Manual policy and direction.
- ◆ A review of management direction in the 1986 Forest Plan.
- ◆ An assessment of existing conditions.
- ◆ A review of public comments from the Spring 2003 public meetings and the February/March 2003 newsletter.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest has tentatively identified five major topics (in addition to the legally mandated topics) that will be the main focus during plan revision. Because of funding and time, the focus of revision will be on the most critical changes first. Other topics will be addressed after the completion of the revised plan and incorporated through forest plan amendments.

We want to know what you think? Did we reflect the top priorities? Did we miss something? The five proposed major topics are listed below.

RECREATION
 Current Forest Plan direction is not viable due to the increase in recreational visitors and uses; off-highway and recreational vehicles; and the demands on the land. The Plan needs to be updated to reflect current and anticipated dispersed and developed recreation opportunities. Desired condition statements for trails, trail systems, or trail uses need to be developed. Desired conditions and management direction need to be updated to reflect current and anticipated use of motorized and mechanized transportation.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
 Ecosystem management principles, in use over the last decade by the Forest Service, are not expressed clearly in the current Forest Plan. Ecosystem management considers social, economic, and ecological principles in managing ecosystems to restore or sustain ecological integrity, and to provide for the values, products, uses, and services for the long-term. Desired conditions and management direction for all resources need to be developed and integrated into the plan.

WATERSHED HEALTH
 Soil productivity, water quality, water quantity (instream and in-place Forest resource water requirements), water development (diversions), and vegetation health/function are the primary elements which determine/affect the health and function of all soil/water related resources and their uses. Management direction for these elements needs to be enhanced to sustain overall watershed health.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
 Road management is an ongoing, often controversial aspect of Forest management on the Manti-La Sal National Forest, in the Inter-mountain Region, and around the nation. The Forest Plan should provide the basis for making future, site-specific access and travel management decisions and address how unclassified roads and trails should be managed (i.e., added to the system or rehabilitated). The Forest Plan needs to identify the components of the transportation system needed to provide for public and resource needs.

FIRE/FUELS MANAGEMENT
 Current plan direction has not been updated to include recent, national direction for fire and fuels management, such as establishing management direction for the wildland/urban interface, reviewing areas where wildfire use is appropriate, and classifying the Forest by fire regime/fire condition class to prioritize areas for treatment. A need also exists to review current direction for consistency with national fire management terminology, policies, plans, and strategies, and to update/revise fire and fuels management direction.

(Please use this space for additional comments, if needed)

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**Forest Plan Revision Team
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Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501**

DATES	PROCESS MILESTONES	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES
May	Public Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proposed Needs for Change, Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Factor Analysis, and Inventory and Evaluation of Unroaded Areas for Wilderness Recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Attend meetings ◆ Submit comments ◆ Website
June 15- July 15	Summary of the Analysis of Management Situation Published <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identifies Needs for Change Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Formal scoping period begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Formal comment period ◆ Submit comments in writing, fax, email, on web site
September	Public Meetings to discuss the Forest's Proposed Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Alternative Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Attend meetings ◆ Submit comments ◆ Website

Visit our website: www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects/projects_forest_plan/forest_plan_revision.shtml

Forest Plan Revision Mailing list: To be added our forest plan revision mailing list and/or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions write, call, fax, or email:

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FUTURE NEWSLETTERS and WEBSITE POSTINGS	WHEN
Inventory and Evaluation of unroaded areas for wilderness recommendation	◆ Mid-May
Wild and Scenic River Preliminary Suitability Factor Analysis	◆ Early June

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