




# MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



## Assessment Objectives, Topics, Scales, and Indicators

### Objectives of the Assessment:

In August 2016, the Forest began the first phase of the Plan Revision process: the Assessment. The objectives of the Assessment Phase are to:

-  Identify and assess available information relevant to the plan development or Plan Revision
  - Identify available, relevant information by reviewing a range of sources and information provided by the public and other governmental entities 36 CFR 219.6(a)
  - Assess available information with the public and other interested parties relevant to the assessment requirements of 36 CFR 219.6(b)
  - Develop an understanding of the conditions and trends of the 15 Assessment Topics outlined in the 2012 Planning Rule (see table below) (36 CFR 219.5(a)(1))
-  Build an understanding of relevant information with the public and other interested parties
-  Develop relationships with interested parties to facilitate public participation among government entities, Indian Tribes, private landowners, and other partners and interested parties

During the Assessment Phase, the Forest will analyze data in 15 topic areas to create an Assessment Report. Below is an overview of the 15 Assessment topic areas and their associated Resource Area(s).

	Assessment Topic (36 CFR § 219.6)	Associated Resource Areas
Ecological Sustainability and Diversity	1. Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds	Wildlife/aquatics, range, vegetation, hydrology, soils, fuels, timber/silviculture
	2. Air, soil, and water resources and quality	Air, soils, hydrology, wildlife/aquatics, range, vegetation, fuels, timber/silviculture
	3. System drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the plan area to adapt to change	Air, soils, hydrology, wildlife/aquatics, range, vegetation, fuels, timber/silviculture, cultural/heritage, recreation/scenery, minerals, social/economics
	4. Baseline assessment of carbon stocks	Timber/silviculture, range, fuels, vegetation, wildlife/aquatics, soils
	5. Threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area	Wildlife/aquatics, vegetation
	6. Social, cultural, and economic conditions	Social/economics, recreation/scenery, cultural/heritage, engineering, minerals, range, timber/silviculture, wildlife/aquatics, fuels

# MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



	Assessment Topic (36 CFR § 219.6)	Associated Resource Areas
Social/Economic Sustainability and Multiple Uses	7. Benefits people obtain from the NFS planning area (ecosystem services)	Social/economics, recreation/scenery, cultural/heritage, engineering, minerals, range, timber/silviculture, wildlife/aquatics, fuels
	8. Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies	Social/economics, recreation/scenery (refer to #9), range, timber/silviculture, hydrology, wildlife/aquatics, vegetation, engineering,
	9. Recreation settings, opportunities and access, and scenic character	Recreation/scenery, social/economic, cultural/heritage, engineering
	10. Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources	Minerals/geology, social/economics
	11. Infrastructure (recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors)	Engineering, social/economics
	12. Areas of tribal importance	Cultural/heritage, social/economics
	13. Cultural and historic resources and uses	Cultural/heritage, social/economics
	14. Land status and ownership, use, and access patterns	Lands, engineering
	15. Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas	Recreation/scenery, lands

DRAFT Scales and Indicators by Resource Area			
Resource	Scales	Indicators	Data Sources
Air	Air Sheds	Air quality; Wilderness air quality	Lichen Air Quality Study; Utah Counties' Resource Management Plans (CRMPs)
Carbon Stocks	LTAs	Carbon sequestration; carbon storage; benefits obtained by ecosystems	Vegetation data
Cultural/Heritage	Watersheds (HUC 5); LTAs; Cultural/Social Scale	Number and condition of sites and eligible sites; types and general locations of tribal activities on the Forest	Forest Service Heritage Data; Utah State History data; Tribal input; CRMPs
Engineering	Administrative Forest Boundary	Inventory; maintenance; condition; and expected needs of facilities and roads	CRMPs; Utah Geographic Coordinate System Database (GCDB); Utah Land Ownership database

# MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



<i>Resource</i>	<i>Scales</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Data Sources</i>
Fuels	LTAs; vegetation types; Strategic Community Wildfire Protection Zones	Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC); fuel loading; fire intensity	Historic fire regimes condition classes; fire return intervals; CRMPs
Hydrology/ Water	Watersheds (HUC 5)	Water quality and quantity; watershed function; recharge and discharge points; aquifer water quality	Transcontinental ditches; water rights; aquifer; state point of diversion; CRMPs
Lands	Administrative Boundaries	Proposals for land exchanges; lands special use permits	USFS data; CRMPs; GCDB database; Utah Land Ownership database
Minerals/ Geology	LTAs	Landslides/geologic hazards; contribution to economic sustainability	CRMPs; Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) databases
Range/ Grazing	LTAs; Geophysical Areas	Ground cover percentage; vegetation species composition and diversity	CRMPs
Recreation/ Scenery	LTAs; Recreation Zones; County Boundaries; State Boundaries	Consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes, Consistency with Visual Resource Management (VRM) and Scenery Management System (SMS) objectives	The 1986 Forest Plan; population trends and demographics; dispersed campsite inventories data; trails data; National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM); CRMPs; State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
Social/ Economic	County Boundaries; State Boundaries	Demographics; economic characteristics; Forest contributions to social/economic sustainability; services provided by the Forest; Forest influence on communities	CRMPs; US Census Data
Soils	LTAs	Soil integrity; erosion/sedimentation and productivity/organic matter; vegetation suitability	Lincoln Ellison book on vegetation; watershed data; CRMPs; Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) databases
Timber/ Silviculture	LTAs; vegetation types	Ecosystem characteristics (composition, structure, function, connectivity); ecosystem integrity/ resilience	1986 Forest Plan and Wildland Urban Interface; CRMPs





# MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



<i>Resource</i>	<i>Scales</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Data Sources</i>
<b>Vegetation</b>	LTAs; vegetation types	Ground cover percentages; Resource Value Rating (RVR); presence of invasive species; riparian ecosystems; groundwater dependent vegetation; timing and volume of base flows; bank stability; species richness/diversity	Historical trend, photographic, riparian, vegetation and hydrological data; Great Basin experimental station data; Lincoln Ellison book on vegetation; CRMPs
<b>Wilderness/ Special Designations</b>	Forest boundary (i.e. wilderness boundary; RNA boundary)	Wilderness Stewardship Performance Elements; consistency with RNA management goals	CRMPs; USFS Wilderness Database/Inventory
<b>Wildlife/ Aquatics</b>	LTAs; vegetation types; watersheds (HUC 5)	Habitat quality and fragmentation; ecosystem integrity and characteristics (composition, structure, function, connectivity); wildlife populations; water temperature, quality, and quantity; bank stability; sedimentation; timing of distribution; watershed function; essential fish habitat; species richness/diversity	Species-specific, big game, and migratory bird data; stream survey; 1986 Forest Plan; CRMPs; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) data; Forest plan aquatic macroinvertebrates amendment (2000)

## Definitions

**Resource Indicators:** Quantitative or qualitative variables that can be measured or described, and when observed periodically, show trends. Indicators are quantifiable performance measures of outcomes or objectives for attaining criteria designed to assess progress toward desired conditions.

**Scales:** The Forest is using spatial scales in its analysis for the Assessment. Spatial scales must be sufficiently large enough to adequately address the interrelationships between conditions of the Forest and the broader landscape, but not so large that the interrelationships lose relevance in guiding land management planning.

**Land type Associations (LTAs):** The Forest landscape has been characterized and mapped at the landscape level (Land Type Associations), using the pre-map protocol described in the Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory Technical Guide (Cleland et al, 2005). The LTA units combine both physical ecological components—such as geology, soil, water, and climate—with biological components, including flora and fauna.

**Recreation Landscape Zones:** These zones are geographic/landscape zones the Forest uses to describe the recreation areas across the Forest.

 Abajos Zones: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/home/?cid=fseprd500484>

 La Sal Zones: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/home/?cid=fseprd500483>

 Ferron, Price, and Sanpete Zones: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/home/?cid=fseprd500483>



# MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



Vegetation Types: Forest vegetation GIS layer showing vegetation types in major categories.

Viewsheds: Foreground, middle ground and background zones as measured in distances from a given point.

Watersheds: Divided into hydrologic unit codes (HUC) – 5th level is watershed and 6th level is sub-watershed. Forest level analysis will primarily occur at the HUC 5 level with project level analysis occurring at the HUC 6 level.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Defined by individual community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).

