

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
REGION 4 - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY



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Note: This Public Participation Strategy was developed and approved before R4 template.

INTRODUCTION

The Ashley National Forest (ANF) is revising its 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan (referred to as Forest Plan or just Plan) in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule. The Forest Plan is a strategic document that gives guidance on all resource management activities occurring on the Forest for about the next 15 years. The guidance consists of desired future conditions, or a vision of what the Forest will be like in the future. It is not site specific nor action specific, rather it gives guidance and direction on activities that may happen.

The 2012 Planning Rule specifies the opportunity for outreach to the public, from the beginning of the process, all the way through plan monitoring (2012 Planning Rule, 36 CFR 219.1). The Public Participation Strategy document outlines how the Forest will implement the 2012 Rule's commitment to engage the public throughout the planning process. It recommends strategies and identifies when and how the public can participate. It clarifies the involvement goals and explains why public involvement is important. The ANF is committed to increased public participation and collaboration throughout the planning process, and this document outlines how we will do this for the revision.

PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a road map to reach and connect with Forest users and members of the public during plan revision. To fulfil this purpose, the ANF will need to collaborate with people external to the USFS, along with similar efforts to communicate internally. There are a multitude of ways to involve people like there are many roads to reach a destination. This strategy outlines activities and actions that will occur, and the different times in the phases of the Forest Plan development plan that they will occur. There will be different tools used and different desired outcomes along the way. This participation plan will evolve and may need modifications during the Plan revision timeframe.

The scope of the revision process covers a four-year timeframe from 2016-2020. It will occur without interruption for the 1.4 million acres administered by the ANF, located in NE Utah and part of SE Wyoming. There will be a committed team of forest service staff, ranging from 2-4 people that devote 100 percent of their time to the effort. Additionally, there will be an interdisciplinary team of forest service specialists that devote 60-70 percent of their time to support analysis and writing tasks that make up the different pieces of the Plan. The numbers of interested stakeholders over the duration will vary. However, it will be considerably more than have participated in previous Plan revision efforts.

All Forests doing a revision are asked to prepare a Public Participation Strategy that spans the timeframe for the revision. The Public Participation Strategy should address the most efficient methods to involve the public, and provide quality public involvement opportunities. The responsible official (Forest Supervisor) has the discretion to determine the scope, methods, form and timing of the opportunities the Forest provides. The 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219) has been translated into directives in Forest Service Manual 1920 and Forest Service Handbook 1909.2. The principles and goals of public participation listed in the handbook include:

1. Help build and maintain working relationships, trust, capacity, and commitment to the plan.
2. Support shared learning and understanding between the Forest Service and public participants.
3. Promote a common understanding of facts and issues that form the context for planning and the planning process.
4. Help keep the public informed throughout sometimes lengthy and complex planning processes.
5. A defining element of an inclusive, transparent process that strengthens plans and adds clarity to the decision making process and the rationale for decisions.
6. Help identify or clarify issues, conflicts, constraints, values, beliefs, or expectations.

PLANNING PHASES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Figure 1: Planning phases – Assess, Plan, Monitor



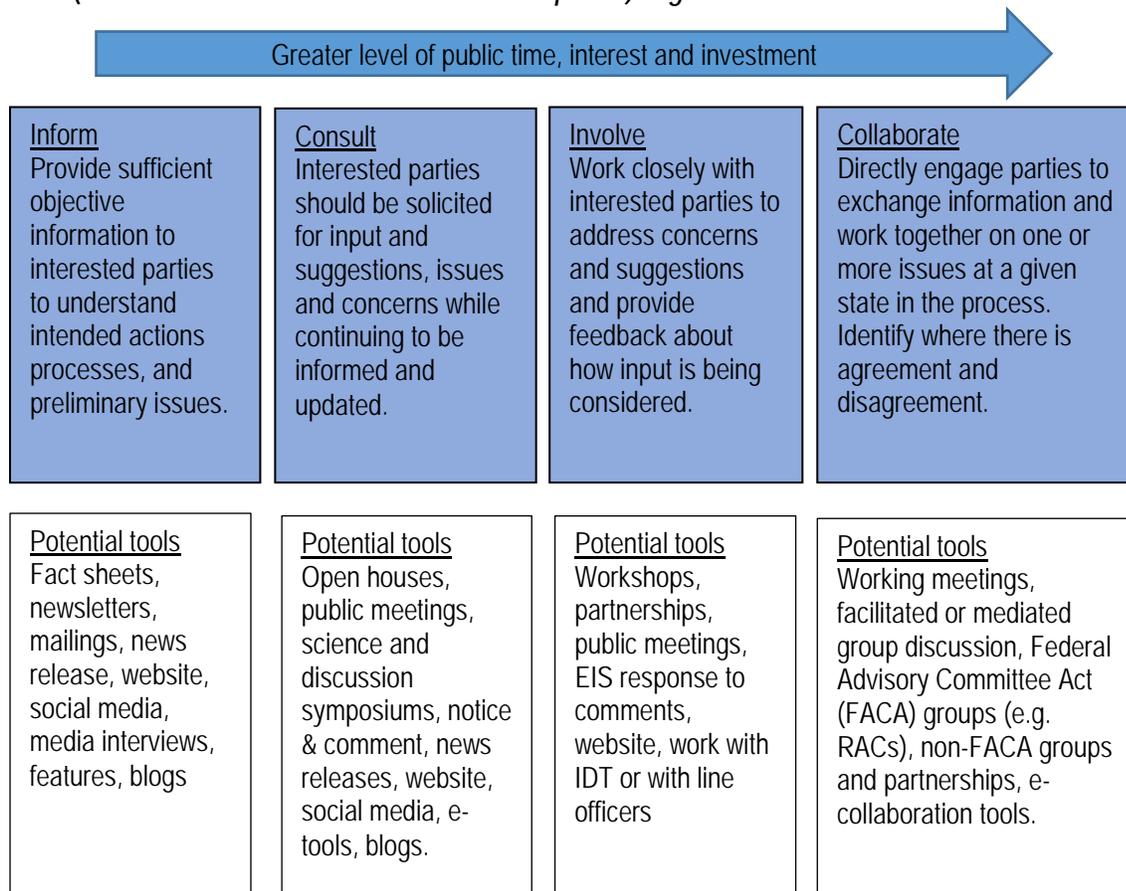
The 2012 Planning Rule identifies the three main phases of forest planning as: Assess, Plan, Monitor, referred to in Figure 1. All of the phases include public participation, with multiple steps to support the phases. The objective is to work together, constructively updating the Plan, so it remains current and relevant.

Before convening either the public or the cooperating agencies, a brief issue assessment will be conducted to determine potential unresolvable issues. Identifying these issues will help prepare all parties, and specifically the Forest Service, to address obstacles or identify divisive topics. Once these issues have been identified, the Forest Collaboration Specialist can identify opportunities to collaborate to resolve them during any or all of the phases.

The different planning phases utilize different methods of communication and public engagement. The phases identified in implementation tables of Tables 1, 2 & 3 include the estimated date/quarter of year they will occur, the purpose, the desired outcomes/goals and the methods that will be used to help reach the desired outcomes. These Tables are to function as a summary of the 'who, what, when where and why' of the public participation strategy. There will be additional strategies developed for different target populations, identifying how the populations can be involved. But the strategies will all tie back to the intent developed with this strategy.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM

Figure 2: Public Engagement Spectrum
IAPP (International Association of Public Participation) Organization



The US Forest Service is utilizing a concept developed by the International Association of Public Participation as an illustration to show the differing levels of public involvement (illustrated in Figure 2). Starting with the simplest and fastest method of 'informing' on the left, to the much more time consuming method of collaboration on the right. The greater the involvement, the greater the support for the outcomes and decisions. But the trade-off is time and investment of effort. Not all steps in the revision process interest the public or stakeholders. So it is not always important nor desired to involve them to the degree of collaboration on all phases. Additionally, there is a risk of "burn-out" that can happen when the revision effort drags, and people have become tired of the time demands. The greater the controversy surrounding an issue, the longer and more demanding it can be for people to resolve their differences. There must be a balance between the engagement strategies and the varying phases of Plan Revision.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION METHODS

General Outreach

The ANFs intent with public outreach is to involve and listen to Forest users so that concerns can be addressed in the next Forest Plan. Reaching out to all the users of the Forest and all the varied interests using the Forest will be an ongoing effort. The Forest will work to engage a broad range of people at different levels including local, regional and national groups and representatives from varied interests. It will also seek to involve more non-traditional groups and individuals. Communication methods have become much more varied since the 1986 Forest plan was developed, because of technology. No single communications method can reach the multitude of interests of all Forest users, so various means will be used throughout the four-year timeframe.

With the compressed timeframe, the most expedient method to notify stakeholders will be electronic mail. This requires combining all existing Forest data bases of stakeholders from past & present Forest projects, or other projects, into one source. These names and contact information will require ongoing maintenance and additions throughout the time span of Plan revision. Once it is established, it will be beneficial for monitoring the Plan and notifying the public of additional Forest events.

It will be important to not use only electronic means of communicating information, because many people may not use this method as their main source for news or events. Other sources such as local newspapers will continue to be a fully utilized as a communications tool even though their timeliness is limiting (once a week). To compensate, a newsletter update will be sent to the non-electronic stakeholders on a quarterly or every 4-5 month basis.

Idealistically, all that wish to be alerted by email will be asked to self-identify early and be added to an electronic database. As the numbers of interested stakeholders increase (approximately doubling every 6-8 months), it is expected to become more difficult to contact by mail and very time consuming to phone. The goal will be to find a balance with available resources and public engagement needs. In cases of limited access, representative organizations or communication methods (e.g. phone tree) will be instigated upon request to spread information by word-of-mouth, or person to person etc.

The Implementation Tables 1, 2, & 3 focus on the different planning phases and list the anticipated means of communicating with the public.

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Specific Outreach & Communication Methods

Public participation strategy – The public participation strategy is a communication tool designed to assist the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT), forest leadership and others with implementing the public participation action plan. It clarifies expectations for different stages of the process and serves as a road map for of the Forest Plan Revision. This strategy outlines how and when activities and actions will occur and the planned phase of Forest Plan development. People interested in knowing or interacting with the process should be able to use this document to determine which opportunity best fits their interest.

Newspaper releases – News releases are emailed to primary contacts like local and regional media, and posted on the ANF website. They will be emailed to secondary contacts like agencies, stakeholders and interested public who have signed up to receive them, allowing them to forward to others if they desire. In addition, the releases serve as public notices at points prescribed by the 2012 Planning Rule and newspaper of record. Newspapers releases can be printed in foreign languages so that those populations can be notified. They will be used throughout the duration of the Forest Plan Revision and especially before any public meeting, open house or workshop.

Federal Register – The Federal Register will be used to publish notices at the points prescribed by the 2012 Planning rule, as highlighted in the matrix of Figure 3. The NEPA process outlines specific obligations to notify the public of key events in the Federal Register. The goal will be compliance with the NEPA regulations.

Radio or TV interviews – Conducted by local or regional radio or TV stations, the intent is to inform the public about upcoming meetings, workshops, or field trips for the Plan revision. These can be prepared in other languages like Spanish to target those populations. Live interviews with Forest Staff will provide current information about specific local concerns. The interviews can provide updates on the revision process and encourage people to participate. The goal is to remain timely and pertinent with news that the public wants to hear.

Ashley National Forest website – The ANF has a website about events and happenings on the Forest, including a webpage dedicated to the forest plan revision. This page is routinely updated with related information like; the public meeting schedule, summary of meeting outcomes, links to background information (e.g. 2012 Forest Planning Rule) etc. Additionally, the Forest developed a Plan Revision Storybook webpage that is used to inform the public about the Plan Revision process, timeline, and opportunities for collaboration. It will host pertinent collaboration and informational materials—such as the wilderness inventory stages and maps for public comment. The webpage will also contain a link to PALS during the plan revision phase. The public will be encouraged to check the website often to remain current on the Forest progress. The Forest’s goal for the website is to keep it current, as it serves the role of the first information source most people will check.

Social media – Social media has rapidly become the preferred mode of communication in the United States and specifically for the millennial generation. There are multiple platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and YouTube. There will undoubtedly be more by the time the Plan is revised. More people of all ages and demographics are using various sources of this media for news and communication. The Forest must engage and use these tools if it intends to keep people informed. The goal for the Forest Service use of social-media is to connect with those parties that use this as their only source of outside news.

Congressional staff briefings – Periodic updates and briefs to local congressional staff will be sent by email, or delivered in person by Forest Supervisor or Staff. Congressional staff have been added to electronic mailing list and some have offered to make links available for their local constituents or representatives. Information sent to staff or representatives will prepare them to better answer the questions or assist the Agency in communicating information. This information is also designed to prepare the staff for inquiries and help their elected officials to stay in tune with events. Political influences can affect Forest Service decisions so it becomes essential to keep elected officials informed.

Community public meetings – The ANF will hold numerous public meetings spread throughout the area the Forest covers in Utah and Wyoming. These are the key pieces in the public involvement for revision. These meetings provide attendees opportunities to ask questions, provide input and express concerns. Thus, the meetings provide the public with opportunities to be heard and express how they feel the ANF should be managed the future. They will be held in the local communities of: Green River WY, Manila UT, Vernal UT, Duchesne UT, and the regional metropolitan area of Salt Lake City UT, during all phases of the Plan revision. Additional locations may be suggested and used if there are requests or needs. The ANF will use a combination of informative, inquiry, and consent building facilitation techniques, during open house style meetings in the early phases. The Forest will use collaboration techniques during the need for change and alternative development during the Plan development phase. The monitoring phase will use a combination of engagement strategies to best fit the need.

Co-hosted meetings – Co-hosted meetings are coordinated with counties, other agencies, and potential special interests that wish to have a topic-focused discussion with the Forest regarding an item of interests. Counties, Conservation Districts or other agencies are able to get better attendance from like-minded people concerning specific topics. The Forest will consider co-host meetings organized by any group upon that group’s request. The goal of this meeting format is to address the needs of a target group of public interested in Forest Plan Revision.

Stakeholder interviews – A diverse representative group of stakeholders will be interviewed to provide input on how to best outreach to the public and special interest groups, and to identify their preferred means of involvement. In the case of highly contentious topics, a representative group of stakeholders will be asked to help with an issues assessment where they are asked a series of open-ended questions in a confidential fashion. These interviews help a neutral facilitator or mediator design a collaborative or resolution process to best fit the situation. It also helps narrow and identify stakeholders' interests. As time allows, the Forest will conduct issue assessments ahead of convening a group of stakeholders for workshops or full day events.

Employee meetings – These meetings will generally be held at the district or supervisor's office to provide internal staff an opportunity to hear and learn what is happening with Plan revision and what is being asked of the public. Keeping the ANF Staff updated on Forest Plan Revision progress will be an essential piece of the communication success of the Forest Plan Revision because they interface with far more people than the Revision Core Team will ever. Collaborative processes have been known to fail if there is dysfunctional internal communication. Employee meetings may also use conference call lines and/or VTC.

Mail, letters, flyers or newsletters and community posting boards – Direct letters to permittees, tribes, agencies and stakeholders will be used to inform about meetings and communicate additional information. Flyers posted in high-traffic community common areas like post offices or other public areas reach a small fraction of stakeholders, but hopefully boost the word-of-mouth communication between neighbors or other community members. Newsletters should be available at Forest facilities and updated regularly just like the website. Whatever the written format used, it should be specific for the target reader and provide pertinent information in a timely fashion. Many response comments received from stakeholders will be received by hardcopy mail and should be logged and documented for receipt. These hardcopy submissions will be shared with internal FS staff for consideration.

Email – Email will be used for notification of workshops, meetings and general stakeholder contact or for electronic version of newsletters. The ANF will develop a comprehensive public email data base that will be perpetually updated to keep people informed on the latest plan revision happenings. This method of communication is ideal to target the segment of the population that stepped forward and requested to receive information so they can be involved and informed.

Word of mouth (and phone contact) – This is one of the most common and, most of the time, effective systems of communication in rural areas. In the case of limited electronic communication options, the oldest form of communication still works well to inform a target population. It most often invokes action and response. Verbal conveyance of information can be pre-arranged to use if a membership organization is willing to help. An example is agricultural commodity groups that have members that don't use email communication, yet the parent organization has a staff that works for the group and has electronic contact. The ANF intends to use it as often as possible and find as many of the interested parties as possible, and encourage them to spread the word.

Summary of Outreach

Information Management Tool	Target population	Objective served
Ashley NF website (home & 2 story maps), Facebook, etc.	Internal & external use	Information conveyance
Ashley SharePoint	Internal use	Internal info. conveyance and management
O drive	Internal use	Information storage and record site
PALS & PALS / CARA -ultimately used to post, or record and track comments)	External & internal use (management of comments & review information for Internal use)	Information conveyance to public. Comment & responses management
Mercury database	External & internal for written documents correspondence only	Develop record & tracking

Information Management Tool	Target population	Objective served
Reoccurring Newsletters & email blasts	External & internal	Regular updates to identified Forest users
Federal Register	External mostly for certain formal notices to Public	Formal documentation requirement by law
Newspaper 2 variations; news release for general information and for publishing a legal notice of record	External use mostly but can be internal also	Same as above in addition general information conveyance

TARGET POPULATIONS AND MEANS OF ENGAGING

Following is a list of stakeholders and the target audiences that make up the public the ANF is seeking to engage for the Plan revision. This description is general and not intended to be specific by name. There is a brief explanation of the outreach and engagement methods that will be used with the group of stakeholders; these are further elaborated on in the Implementation Tables 1, 2, and 3 by plan phase. The more detailed list of stakeholders is included in the Communication Plan for the Forest and the Region.

Interested individuals, including local, regional and national level (general interests)

Interested individuals - general interest – This target audience includes residents and visitors to the ANF in Northeastern Utah and Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in Southwestern Wyoming. It includes residents and visitors to the surrounding towns in Utah such as; Dutch John, Manila, Vernal, Roosevelt, Duchesne and the near-by regional metropolitan city of Salt Lake City. Also included are the residents & visitors to Wyoming and to the towns near the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA); Green River and Rock Springs and other locations in the state. The Flaming Gorge NRA and High Uinta Wilderness areas are tourist draws for out of area users and international visitors, providing an opportunity to reach further and wider than just the local populations. These visitors help diversify the interest from not just local, but also to the broader regional, national and even international level interest. The opportunities for engagement and communications outreach will include: public meetings, local media (newspapers, local radio & TV) flyers, email, word of mouth, website and co-hosted meetings that reflect local, regional and national interests. This target audience will be invited and continually encouraged to participate from the early phase all the way through plan monitoring phase.

Local/regional/national - special interests and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – There are several local/regional and national special interest groups that typically receive project mailings for the ANF. There may be additional or new groups that express an interest for the forest plan revision and they will also be encouraged to participate. Difficulty comes when a special interest does not have an organized group and contacting them can be hit or miss. Engagement and communication outreach methods will include: emails, public meetings, co-hosted workshops, website, social media and one-on-one personal discussions. The timing for their involvement will cover the entire three phases of plan revision.

Youth, low-income populations and minority populations

Youth – Today's youth are tomorrow's forest users. They will be using the lands in unforeseen ways, much like last generation would not have expected the uses of today. Engaging the millennial generation in the forest plan revision process develops a sense of ownership and taps into their unique views concerning management of public land. Bringing them in at the various phases will help ensure that the Forest uses current best available science to formulate decisions. The timing of youth involvement will occur before the Assessment is complete so they get to make recommendations on Need-for-Change, participate in Alternative development and help with monitoring. The best way to reach a diverse population of youth is by enlisting the help of organized groups or organizations that target youth e.g., 4H, FFA, teachers or principles, churches, Advanced Placement and other classes at local public schools. The best engagement methods for this audience are: social media, special events with clubs or organizations, involving high school and college age youth and young adults up front, and all things electronic.

Low-income populations – According to the socio-economic study for the counties surrounding the Ashley National Forest and the US Census Bureau statistics, from 2014 the poverty level for an individual was defined as an income below \$12,316, and for a family of four it is below \$24,418. The percentage of individuals and families for all of the counties adjacent to the Forest which, includes Utah and Wyoming, are below the national average (approximately 12 percent for individuals, 9.75 percent for families). Many within this population rely on natural resources of the Forest for part of their subsistence (e.g., firewood, hunting, fishing, etc.). Engagement and outreach to this group can be more challenging since many do not own computers or smartphones. Flyers posted where people congregate, such as grocery stores, newspaper articles and youth at schools, are the most effective methods of outreach for this group. The timing of their involvement is similar to youth above.

Minority populations – The Uintah Basin residents identifying themselves as minority population (includes; American Indians, Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, Black or Hispanic) based on 2015 Census data range from 3-15 percent across the three counties of Utah. Duchesne & Uintah Counties have the highest Native American populations, while Sweetwater County WY has the largest portion of Hispanics for the area the Forest encompasses. Engagement and communication for outreach methods most affective are: bilingual flyers in Spanish and English, foreign languages newspaper releases, email, websites, word of mouth, public meetings, co-hosted meetings and information at forest service offices (Spanish and English). Timing of involvement is much like that for the youth, in that it is suggested to be done before the Assessment is complete and throughout the subsequent phases.

Private landowners whose land is within, adjoins, or are affected by Forest management actions

Private landowners – Private landowners that are adjacent to, or surrounded by Forest system lands are directly influenced by what happens on federal land in a multitude of ways. These involve fires, grazing, water, energy or mining, access for recreation, hunting and many others. The landowners need to be involved and have an active voice in the future direction of the Forest land because many sustain their livelihood or must consider economic impacts from the neighboring federal land. The Forest will reach out to these people in the very early part of the plan revision process and ask if they desire to be involved. The 2012 Planning Rule advises Forests to take an “all lands view” of the planning effort. Involving this group with revision recognizes that even with a delineated boundary, there are catastrophic events that can impact all lands despite the ownership boundary. The opportunities for engagement and communications outreach will include: public meetings, local media (newspapers, local radio & TV) flyers, email, word of mouth, websites and co-hosted meetings that reflects local, regional and national interests. These stakeholders will be invited to participate from the early phase all the way through plan monitoring phase.

Federal agencies, States, counties and other local governments

County government – All of the county governments within or adjoining the ANF were contacted in November 2015 and solicited for a role as cooperating agency. Those that expressed an interest in participating formalized their role by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They identified two individuals as Points of Contact to represent their agency. There are six counties that surround the Forest in Utah and one that surrounds the Flaming Gorge NRA on the ANF in Wyoming. The MOU's were signed by five in Utah: Daggett, Uintah, Summit, Duchesne, Utah Counties and one in Wyoming – Sweetwater County, WY. The only county that declined cooperating agency status was Wasatch County, UT. The Forest plans to meet with cooperating agency representatives prior to subsequent milestones (approximately quarterly or as needed) to share information, solicit input and work cooperatively to develop a broadly supported, bipartisan plan. Engagement and communication methods include: email, website, public meetings, co-hosted cooperating agency meetings, newsletters and regular mail with updates.

State and Federal agencies – As identified above, both states (Utah and Wyoming) were contacted and asked if they wished to become cooperating agencies. Both agreed and signed MOU's. Additionally, other Federal agencies (BLM, USFWS, etc.) were invited but declined. Regular coordination occurs between these agencies even though they did not feel there was need for the additional MOU. Internal communications between State agency personnel and ANF Forest Plan Revision team or Line Officer Staff will be used to ensure engagement and information is exchanged between the Forest and these agencies.

State & Federal Congressional Representatives – The target audience for both the State and Federal Congressional representatives in Utah and Wyoming will be regularly informed, and notified of public events happening in their states. There is a long history of the public notifying their representatives when the public feels there has not been sufficient attention given to a matter important to them or, a decision they disagree with. Engagement and outreach methods that will be used include: email, website updates, news releases and invitation (of their field staff) to public meetings and personal briefing as requested.

Interested or affected federally recognized Indian Tribes or Native Corporations

American Indian tribes – Two tribes have active cultural affiliation with the ANF. These tribes include the Northern Utes occupying the Uinta Mountains and the Uintah Basin, and the Eastern Shoshone occupying the SE portions of Wyoming - including the Green River Basin in Wyoming and the northern Slope of the Uinta Mountains in Utah. The Uintah and Ouray Reservation makes up a large land base adjacent to the ANF, with access to the Forest primarily through the Reservation. Both tribes will be offered cooperating agency status with the Forest. Consultation and coordination with tribes will be carried out by the Forest's Collaboration Specialist, in combination with the Heritage Resources Program Manager. Engagement and communication methods will include email, formal letter and personal presentation. Meetings will be co-hosted with the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - BY PLAN PHASES & TIMING

Implementation Tables 1, 2, and 3

The following are the implementation tables for public involvement for the different phases of Forest Plan Revision, using the different engagement strategies that best fit. These are not final nor rigid, rather a suggested guideline based on the desired outcomes and objectives we will strive to meet. As explained in the Figure 2 above, the methods and degree of involvement has to fit the level of interest of the public, their desire for involvement, their ability to work with opposing opinions, the desire to influence the decision, and the every present - risk of burn-out. Additionally the ANF must weigh and consider time efficiency for completion of the revision effort within the allotted timeframes; exceeding the timeframe contributes to burn-out.

The laws that direct Forest Plan Revision are sometimes complicated and difficult to understand. Many times the public ask the agency to decipher and explain the laws and regulations governing Federal Land management. A frequent public comment of the four-year timeline and numerous participation opportunities is "just tell me when" I can make the greatest impact in the process...and "please minimize" the time impact. For this and many reasons, it may not make sense to require collaboration at every step, but at the most meaningful steps of the process like identification of the 'needs for change' or alternative development. Other steps can be more expeditiously fulfilled by informing or consulting to solicit input and reduce the risk of burn-out.

Phase I. Pre-Revision Staging and Assessment, Summer 2016-Summer 2017

Starting with pre-revision in the Fall/winter of 2015 through the spring 2016, the Forest identified and developed strategic relationships with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Governments. These relationships were formalized with MOU's between the USFS and the partners wishing to participate as cooperating agencies. These partners have a specific jurisdiction by law or a special expertise in which the USFS, as the lead agency, will benefit. They may also provide data relevant to planning process. This staging and the early involvement of the public in open houses before the formal NEPA phase set the stage for the ongoing 'working' relationships. The intent during the assessment phase was to gather as much relevant information as possible to inform the plan development process. It provided the public an opportunity to share its knowledge of existing forest conditions with the IDT, and to identify concerns about trends and perceptions of risks to social, economic, and ecological systems. The assessment identified the current and available data about resources and conditions.

An important component of this early phase will be inform and educate about the planning process and current Forest condition which will contribute to a common understanding. The Planning Rule directs the Responsible Official to tailor participation in a manner directed at recent controversial issues. The goals for this phase are shared learning and information exchange, and clarification and improved understanding of current trends and conditions that establish the foundation for the Plan development phase. Key to reaching the goals will be identification of potential issues that may impede progress or cooperation.

There are several elements of the assessment that require an opportunity for public participation. They are: a) Review of the list of Species of Conservation Concern (SCC); b) Geographic extent of influence of social & economic contributions of the planning area on surrounding communities; and c) Inventories of Wilderness & Wild Scenic Rivers. Involvement in these elements should be tailored to fit the intensity of the public interest – as may be associated with special areas like Wilderness for the states of Utah and Wyoming. Public participation during this phase will also support the development of relationships and trust with and among members of the public and varied stakeholders.

Public Involvement Implementation Phase 1

Planning Phase	Timing	Purpose & Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Method & Tools	Resources Needed
Pre-Revision Staging. The intent is for the Forest Service to be well prepared for FPR	Fall-Winter 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategize. • Develop materials. • Identify key stakeholder groups. 	Well-planned Forest strategy. Identify cooperating agencies. Prepare big picture of public involvement for FPR duration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mailing lists • Set up website • Develop MOUs with cooperating agencies 	Forest staff
Initiate meetings with cooperating agencies	June-Sept. 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education on FPR process, discuss unique role of cooperating agencies. • Solicit data and information from cooperating agencies to contribute to the assessment. • Explain the role of different parties. 	<p>Inform about Forest Plan Revision (what it is, the steps, etc.).</p> <p>Consult cooperating agencies their role & expectations.</p> <p>Consult with cooperating agencies to gather relevant data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web posting • Email & phone • Send to mailing list • Set up SOPA • One-on-one meetings 	FPR Team

Planning Phase	Timing	Purpose & Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Method & Tools	Resources Needed
Fed Register Notice of Initiation of Assessment	July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet regulations. 	<i>Inform</i> public about initiation of assessment.	Required: NOI in Federal Register, newspaper of record and online.	Forest staff, PAO
Community Meeting. Kickoff Intent: 1) gather relevant data and information for use in assessment; 2) allow public to share concerns about trends and perceptions of risks 3) develop relationships and understanding 4) feedback on process.	1 st Community Meetings July 2016 Kick-off Meetings for FPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and information about FPR process. Consult with the public about preliminary assessment items. Allow public to share concerns about trends and perceptions of risks to social, economic, and ecological systems. Gather additional data and input. 	<i>Inform</i> the public on Forest Plan Revision. <i>Consult</i> with the public for additional data. <i>Consult</i> with the public on how they would like to be involved in FPR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community open house meetings Send invites to mailing list Web posting Media distribution, radio & TV, flyers Email & hardcopy mail alerts & schedule of events 	FPR Team, Forest Staff
2 nd Community meeting	August 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public input on special designated area. Engage public in all 4 stages of wilderness evaluation: inventory, evaluation, analysis and recommendation (stages in different planning phases). 	<i>Inform, consult</i> on mandated requirement to review and consider specially designated areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open houses Web posting Field trip open to public to verify wilderness at 3rd or 4th step in process 	FPR Team, IDT individuals
Internal staff briefings on FPR. Repeated throughout FPR*	Before & between public meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I & E internal FT & PT staff about intent of FPR. 	<i>Inform</i> internal staff so they can effectively answer public questions. Develop FAQ for staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web posting Emails & Social media Meeting with staff, FAQs 	FPR team
Assessment (Draft). Share knowledge & offer information on trends & conditions of social, economic & ecological systems for assessment.	Jan. / Feb. 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 1st draft to Regional Office & Cooperating agency before release to general public. Notify public of availability of draft assessment Solicit public input & review, comment. 	<i>Inform</i> the public of the assessment. Provide access to first drafts. <i>Consult</i> the public for input/suggestions and feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web posting Send to mailing list Social media 	FPR Team

Planning Phase	Timing	Purpose & Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Method & Tools	Resources Needed
Assessment Report. Study groups on report findings	Winter 2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and education on technical reports that support the assessment. 	Inform & Involve the public in better understanding of science assessed for this report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open house discussions on assessment information 	FPR Team
Final Assessment. The intent is to Inform public of current conditions.	Summer 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform cooperating agencies and public of final assessment availability. 	Inform the public of the availability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web posting Social media Send electronic mailing 	FPR Team
Fed Register Notice of Initiation of planning process	Fall 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per regulations. 	Inform and update public about initiation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required in Federal Register, newspaper of record and on-line. 	FPR, PAO
Preliminary Need for Change. The intent is to focus the planning effort on what is different from last plan.	Summer 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education on key resource areas, how information is used to develop new plan. Ensure the planning effort focus reflects public concerns and community needs. Gather input/suggestions. ID Issues for resolution in proposed plan. 	<p>Inform and update public about FPR process.</p> <p>Consult and gather input/suggestions for a revised Forest Plan.</p> <p>Collaborate on the need for change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web posting Social media Send electronic mailing Workshops 	FPR Core Team

**Internal Staff Briefings will be offered numerous times prior to public meetings so USFS Staff be informed and help spread the word about ANF events and happenings.*

Additional involvement opportunities that will occur during this implementation phase include: newsletters mailed to permittees every 4-5 months, regular web updates, email blasts of updates, TV and Radio interviews, youth involvement, tribes involvement, local schools, etc.

Phase 2. Plan Development, Summer 2017 to Spring 2019

This phase officially starts the NEPA process. The intent of public participation during the plan development phase is to: give the public the opportunity to identify the need for change, develop potential plan components, ensure use of the best available science, and comment on a proposed plan. The ANF's goal with this second phase is to facilitate an inclusive transparent process that provides opportunities for meaningful public involvement and to collaborate with stakeholders in the development of alternatives. It will be essential to help all stakeholders maintain a big-picture strategic view of the process by identifying potential desired future conditions, and avoid getting into the specifics.

Several of the topics or issues of greatest concern will be further investigated in workshops that allow deeper investigation and understanding of stakeholder's needs and interests. The workshops will be the foundation that leads to the building of collaborative alternatives, including options to address the issues and resolve them in the future. A reasonable number of alternatives will be carried forward for analysis during the draft plan and DEIS. This phase is highly interactive with numerous opportunities provided for document review and submitting comments. Refer to Figure 4 for more detail.

Returning to the purpose of this document as a "road-map," the plan development phase serves as a broadening or overview of all the potential routes, rather than a narrowing to desired route and eventually identifying a best route. The route options will be suggested and designed by a collective of different travelers. The trade-offs will be analyzed by the Forest's Interdisciplinary Team of specialists, similar to diverse group of scientists.

Once the Final EIS is completed and objections and resolution period is finished (fall 2019), the plan moves into the last phase - implementation and monitoring.

Public Involvement Implementation Phase 2

Planning Phase	Timing	Purpose & Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Method & Tools	Resources Needed
Phase 2. Plan Revision, Identify & develop plan components, ensure best available science used and solicit comments & feedback on a proposed plan alternatives.	Fall 2017- Spring 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin NEPA. • Ensure the planning effort reflects public concerns and community needs. • Education on key resource areas. • Focus will be desired future condition (objectives, guidelines strategies). • Education on how assessment is used in developing proposed plan. • ID Issues & needs identification for proposed plan. 	<p><i>Inform</i> and update public about FPR process.</p> <p><i>Consult</i> and gather input/suggestions for a revised Forest Plan.</p> <p><i>Involve</i> in deeper understanding of issues.</p> <p><i>Collaborate</i> on the development of plan components & alternatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailing list • Web posting • Media distribution • Workshops 	FPR Team, Core Team, Forest Staff

Planning Phase	Timing	Purpose & Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Method & Tools	Resources Needed
Need for Change – identified items become focus for in-depth community discussions	Fall 2017-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enlist local representation to address and develop options. Select some of the “hot-button” issues to be “workshop” focus. 	<p>Inform & Consult on items of community interest.</p> <p>Collaborate on means to address and resolve in the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailing list Web posting Media distribution Workshops 	
Fed Register NOI of EIS planning process	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet regulations. 	<p>Inform public about initiation of proposed plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required: NOI Federal Register, newspaper and online. 	Forest Staff, PAO
Develop, Draft Alternatives, begin analysis	Winter, Spring 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use need for change to drive alternative development. Have diversity of interests represented at workgroups. Allow offers of additional needed or information missing. 	<p>Collaborate on interests and needs and develop alternatives that find mutual benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email list Workshops Web posting 	FPR Team, Core Team
Prepare DEIS & draft Plan	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and notify. Collect comments 	<p>Inform public and stakeholders of availability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website Media publications Email alerts 	FPR Team, Core Team

**Internal Staff Briefings will be offered numerous times prior to public meetings so USFS Staff be informed and help spread the word about ANF events and happenings.*

Additional involvement opportunities that will occur during this phase: newsletters mailed to permittees every 4-5 months, youth involvement, tribes involvement, local schools, etc.

Phase 3. Objection, Summer/fall of 2019 & Monitoring, 2020.

The FSH 1909.12 Chapter 50 includes the objective of “Allow collaborative approaches to be used, when appropriate or feasible, to inform the Reviewing Official’s resolution to objection issues before the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision is approved.” It encourages interested persons who have requested to participate in meetings between the Forest Service and objectors to do so. The ability of fulfilling these two objectives will depend on depth and intensity of the objection and the willingness to of all parties explore options. The intent for public participation at the objection phase is resolution of issues to the greatest extent possible.

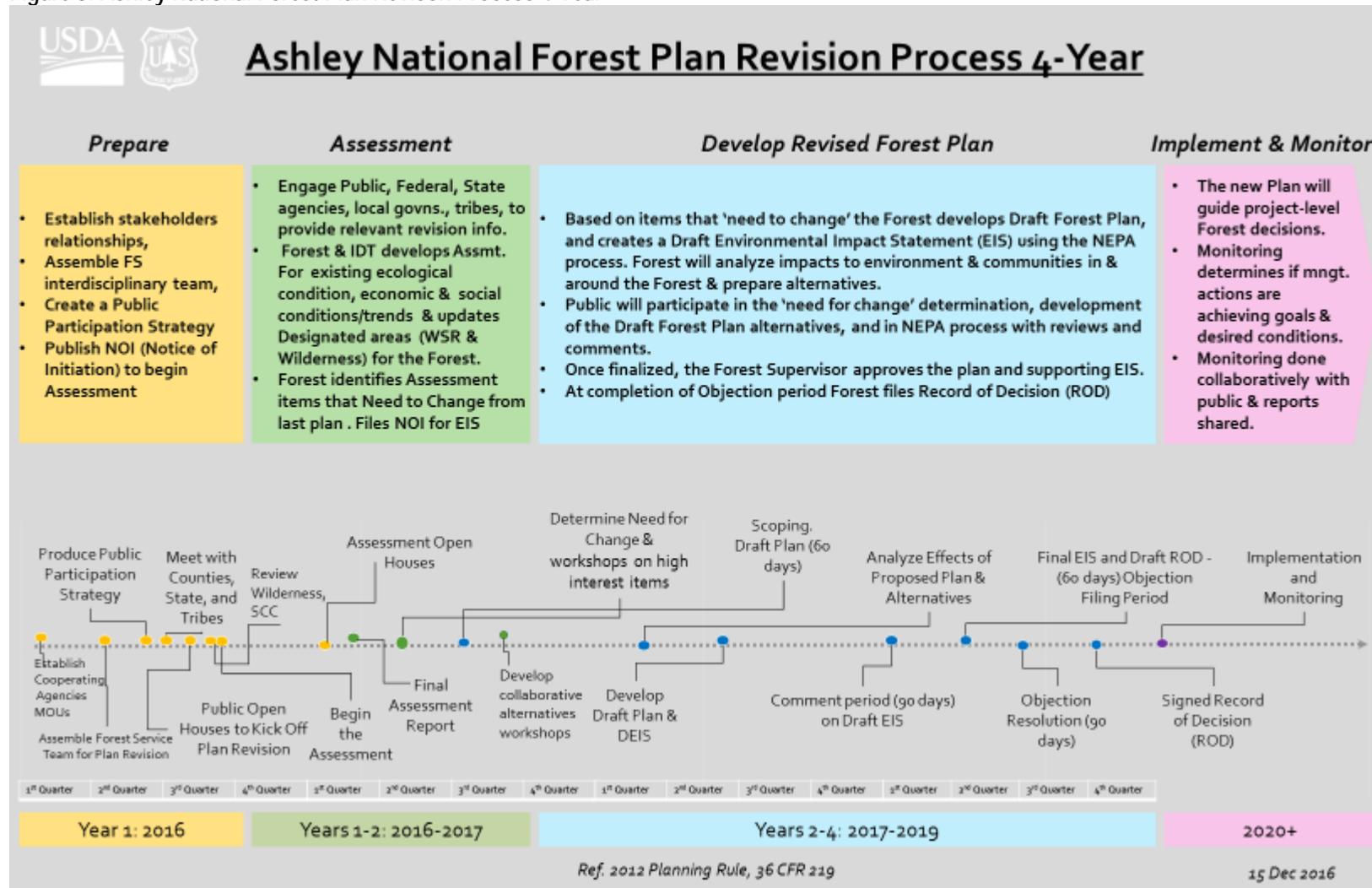
The intent of public participation during the Monitoring phase is to review effectiveness of management intentions by developing effective questions and indicators that will comprise the monitoring program. The public will be involved in determining the appropriate scale for monitoring, from broad to specific. They will be given the opportunity to identify where the monitoring program could build from existing efforts, identify where multi-party monitoring is possible or desired, and establish public support for monitoring questions and indicators. The goal of this phase is to develop a shared sense of ownership in the management of NFS lands.

Monitoring includes testing assumptions, tracking changes, and measuring management effectiveness and progress toward achieving or maintaining the plan’s desired conditions or objectives. Opportunities for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination will be utilized across Forest programs area and with Agency partners. These opportunities include engagement with the public; local, State, and other Federal agencies; and nongovernmental organizations.

Public Involvement Implementation Phase 3

Planning Phase	Timing	Purpose & Objectives	Desired Outcomes	Method & Tools	Resources Needed
Phase 3. Monitoring Program. The goal is to engage the public to develop monitoring program.	2019/2020+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify, Update & Improve the plan through monitoring program. • Solicit input on potential questions and indicators of monitoring program. • Develop common understanding & shared ownership. • Design and carry out multi-party monitoring. • Use newest science to update monitoring process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve public in monitoring program development. • Consult on other monitoring methods and incorporation of findings in plan updates. • Collaborate on development of processes to monitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in draft proposed plan for public comment and input. 	Forest Staff

Figure 3: Ashley National Forest Plan Revision Process 4-Year



POINTS OF CONTACT

Name	Title	Role	Email address
Jeff Schramm	Forest Supervisor	Signing authority	jschramm@fs.fed.us
Vacant	Project Team Lead	Internal USFS coordination	TBD
Cathleen Neelan	Collaboration Specialist	External coordination	cneelan@fs.fed.us

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST – FPR Notification, Comment, and Response Timeline

This table below illustrates the notice and comment periods, with the minimum specified timeframes through the NEPA stages. There will be other opportunities to provide input throughout every step. The Forest will strive to provide comment periods for the non-NEPA stages that realistically fit the situational need. Federal laws and regulations stipulate that the public must be officially notified at several major mile stones during the Planning process. This matrix below identifies the timing and content of those notifications. It also provides a timeline for when the public is required to respond with comments. These mandatory notice and comment periods provide an opportunity for the Forest to solicit, receive, and incorporate feedback from the public. The Forest may decide to issue additional notices in the Federal Register and Newspaper of Record as necessary.

Figure 4: FSH 1909.12 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING HANDBOOK, CHAPTER 40 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (36 CFR 219.12(c))
 MINIMUM REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICES

Year	Phase	Notice	Online	Federal Register	Newspaper of Record
Summer 2016- Summer 2017	Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of the assessment Availability of final assessment 	Yes Yes	Yes No	Yes No
Summer 2016- Spring 2019	Plan Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of the development of the plan revision 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Summer 2016- Spring 2019	NEPA Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intent to prepare an EIS Scoping results 60 Days Proposed plan revision and DEIS available for public review and comment 90 Days 	Yes Yes Yes	Yes No Yes	Yes No Yes
Summer-Fall 2019	Plan Finalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning of the objection period 60 Days Notice of all filed objections Notice to approve the plan revision 	Yes Yes Yes	Yes No Yes	Yes Yes Yes
2020 and Beyond	Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of monitoring evaluation reports Proposed changes to monitoring program Availability of results of broader scale monitoring 	Yes Yes Yes	No No No	No No No
2020 and Beyond	Administrative Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative changes other than changes to the monitoring program. 	Yes	No	No

Note: Public participation will occur throughout every stage.