



THE GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS' PLAN REVISION

All About Scoping: A Guide



MARCH 2018

Forest Plan Revision Scoping

What is it all about?

The next phase of planning begins on **April 3rd** with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to revise the Forest Plan. This initiates the 45-day scoping comment period for a few foundational parts of the Forest Plan. Because this scoping period will be a little different than those you may be used to, we've developed this guide to provide further context, so please check out each section to better understand what we've prepared and how to provide feedback. The questions below are just suggestions; we welcome any comments on these materials.

What is a scoping period?

For NEPA projects, public comments during the scoping period help the agency determine what actions are needed, potential alternatives, and potential issues related to the proposed action. Commenting during scoping also establishes an individual's eligibility to object to the eventual draft decision. In this case, the proposed action to revise the Forest Plan based on preliminary needs for change might be less concrete than what you're used to reading at this stage, but we want to make sure we're moving in the right direction before we dig deep into developing the Forest Plan. This scoping period is designed

to get your input on the three foundational parts of the Forest Plan – what we're changing, the vision for the GMUG, and which types of areas need unique management direction.

How can you participate?

As you read through these documents, please consider providing feedback through our [online comment tool](#), through email to gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us, or via post to 2250 South Main Street, Delta, CO 81416. Your comments will be most helpful if received by May 18th.

We hosted two webinars the week the scoping notice was published to walk you through the documents and answer questions. Please consider reviewing one of the recorded sessions:

Scoping Webinars	
Monday, April 2nd 4:00-5:30 p.m. Recorded Session	Friday, April 6th 9:00-10:30 a.m. Recorded Session



Are we headed in the right direction?

Scoping provides an opportunity to make sure we're all on the same page as to where this plan revision effort is headed. If you've been involved since last June, or if you're just joining the conversation, thank you for continuing to provide helpful feedback!

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact us at gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us or visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gmug/forestplan for more information.

These three parts form the foundation of the Forest Plan, and we need your feedback on them.

Part I: Key Needs for Change

While the assessments identified a wide variety of needs for change, those highlighted in the Key Needs for Change represent the issues the planning effort will primarily focus on and that are unique to the GMUG. It does *not* reiterate all of the 2012 rule requirements that will also be covered in the process.

If you've been participating since last summer, you will have seen several iterations of these needs for change, as we've tried to improve them based on your feedback. Just a reminder: the needs for change connect the assessment findings with plan development, bridging how this resource is affected by the current Forest Plan and identifying what needs to change in revision to improve management. Please take the time to review these Key Needs for Change, and let us know: **Do these needs for change reflect the major issues that we should concentrate on in plan revision?**

Part II: Vision and Distinctive Roles and Contributions

The GMUG's Vision provides a broad, big picture ideal to frame the Forest Plan, while the Distinctive Roles and Contributions section outlines the more specific significance and services that the GMUG delivers now and that the public desires that it continue to deliver into the future. By providing context for the importance of the GMUG within the larger landscape, the roles and contributions set the stage for the Forest Plan's desired conditions.

While there will be some negotiations as plan components are developed, and compromises that each of us will need to make, the Vision and Distinctive Roles and Contributions should remind us why we're doing this, what unites us, and what we're all working towards: an adaptive, effective, integrated Forest Plan that will help improve the resiliency and sustainability of the forests that we all love and depend upon. Please keep that goal in mind, and let us know: **Is this a vision that you can get behind? Did we capture the GMUG's unique**

roles and contributions within the broader landscape?

Part III: Management Area Framework

The Forest Plan will include forest-wide direction as well as direction for discrete Management Areas (MAs). MAs are defined areas on the landscape where compatible types of management are/will be located.

While the plan components for management areas will be a later conversation, we've developed an MA framework as a starting point. As you read through the Management Area Framework, please let us know: **Do the guiding principles laid out in the beginning make sense? Do the themes and categories capture the areas that will require unique direction and plan components? Does the framework meet the need for direction accessible to both the Agency and the public?**

Thank you for continuing with us on the plan revision journey!

So how do all these documents fit together? Each is a step towards the revised Forest Plan, leading us ultimately towards the shared vision of a healthy, resilient landscape.

