



## USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST



### Manti-La Sal Forest Supervisor



**Ryan Nehl** is the Forest Supervisor on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Ryan enjoys addressing social, ecological, and economic concerns on public lands and in rural communities. Nehl finds that the most satisfying aspects of his job are stakeholder engagement, public/private partnerships, process improvement opportunities, and direct interaction with employees. He is a member of the Bears Ears National Monument interdisciplinary team who received a 2022 Secretary's Honor Award for completing the first-of-its-kind Forest Service co-stewardship agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the five tribes of the Bears Ears Commission – Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and the Pueblo of Zuni.

### ABOUT THE FOREST

The 1.3 million-acre Manti-La Sal National Forest is in central and southeastern Utah, and southwestern Colorado. It is managed for multiple uses such as livestock grazing, timber, mining and minerals, water, wildlife, and recreation. The deep sandstone canyons, mountaintops, meadows, lakes, and streams of the Manti-La Sal National Forest create a diverse landscape and a welcome retreat from its surrounding lower elevation deserts and valleys. The Forest is divided into three distinct land areas composed of multiple districts, the Price, Ferron, and Sanpete Districts on the north zone, and the Moab and Monticello Districts on the south zone.

The Manti Division contains the Ferron, Price, and Sanpete Ranger Districts and is part of the Wasatch Plateau (5,000-10,000 foot elevation) exhibiting high elevation lakes, diverse vegetation, near vertical escarpments, and areas of scenic and geologic interest.

On the Moab District, the La Sal Mountain peaks rise to 12,000-foot elevation, and are surrounded by canyons, and forest that add climatic and scenic contrast to the adjacent hot red-rock landscape of Arches (5,000-foot elevation) and Canyonlands National Parks.



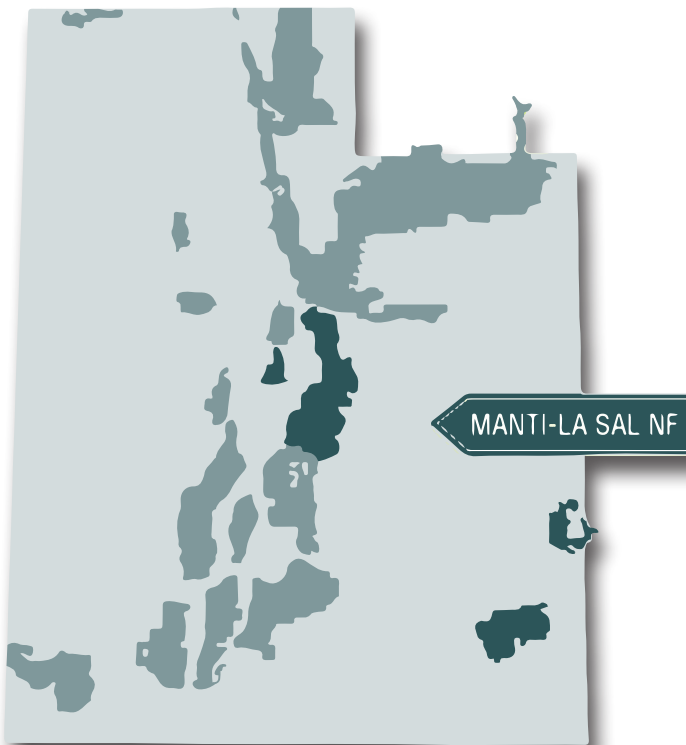
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### ABOUT THE FOREST (Continued)

The Monticello District, composed of the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge, offers timbered slopes, providing a welcome middle ground and background contrast to the sand and heat of Canyonlands National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, and the surrounding desert. Pictographs, petroglyphs, and stone dwellings are evidence of past use of these mountains, canyons, and ridges.

Private and state lands exist within the Forest boundaries and may be closed to public use. Please refer to maps and information on land ownership, which may be obtained from Ranger District offices in Ephraim, Price, Ferron, Moab, and Monticello.

Information about the Manti-La Sal National Forest and maps can be found at the San Juan Information Center in Monticello, the Moab Interagency Visitor Center in Moab, and the Castle Country Regional Information Center located in the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum in Price.



Visitors journey through time on the 48-mile long, National Scenic Byway. Views include stunning lakes, diverse vegetation, and lots of wildlife.



*Astragalus montii*, commonly known as heliotrope milkvetch, is endemic to the Manti-La Sal NF. The only three known populations of this federally listed threatened species, are all located on the forest.



The internationally known "Whole Enchilada" mountain bike trail, begins on the forest, and receives over 30,000 riders a year.



The Monticello District has over 3,000 known archeological sites, although only 26 percent of the land has been inventoried.



This National Forest has the highest density of black bears in the state of Utah in the La Sal mountains.



In 1984, Dark Canyon wilderness became the first Colorado Plateau canyon system designated as wilderness.



In FY22, coal production on the Forest amounted to 6,992,024 tons with a sales value of \$312,312,947, and \$6,299,906 in revenue, including royalties, rents, and bonus bids.



Bears Ears National Monument, encompasses much of the Monticello District. This area's rich cultural heritage is held sacred by many Native American Tribes, who continue to rely on these lands for traditional and ceremonial uses.