

Revising the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests' Land Management Plan



Phase 1 – The Assessment of the Existing Condition of the Forests



Phase 2 – Develop the Revised Plan



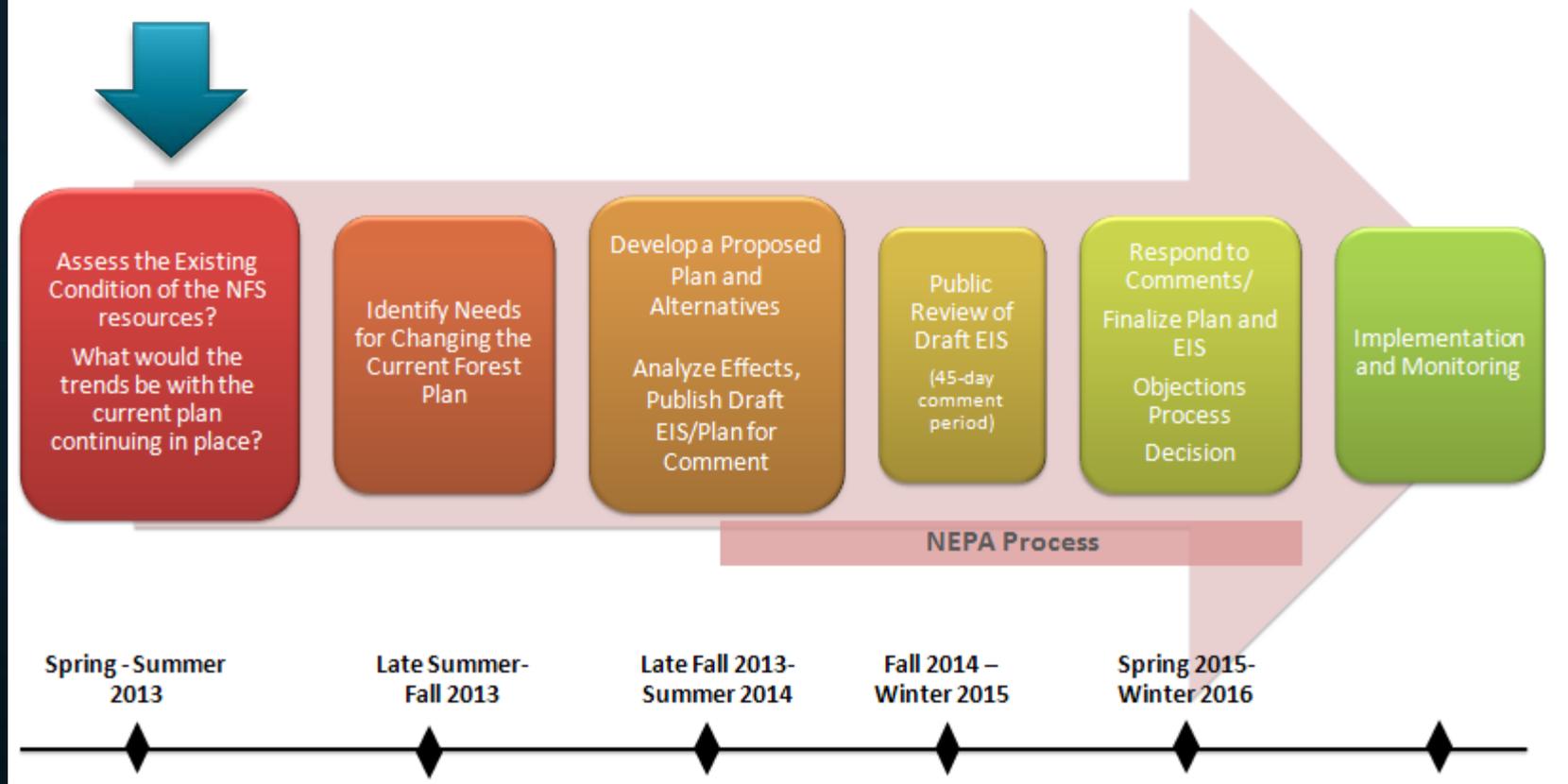
First Round of Meetings – FEB/MAR 2013

- Presented the new planning process**
- Gave a brief refresher on the 1987 Plan**
- Discussion about Benefits**
- Poster Session – posted ideas for assessment information**



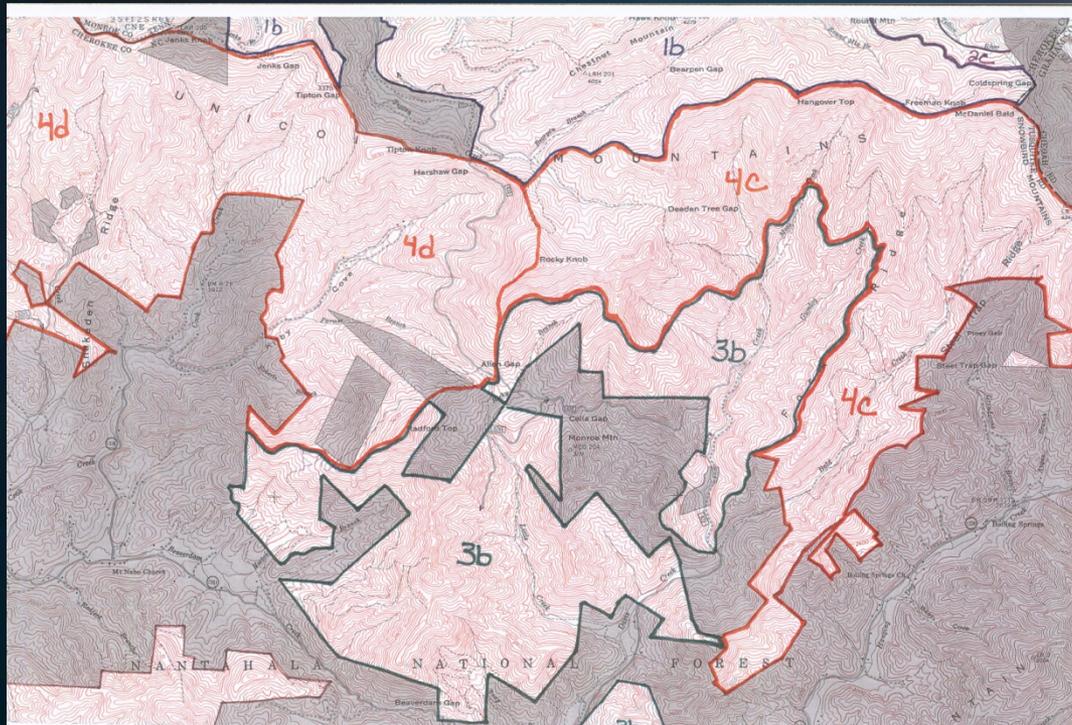
Presented the new planning process

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Plan Revision Process Timeline



A brief refresher on the 1987 Plan

The national forest is divided into “management areas,” each with a different mix of multiple-uses and management directions. See Handouts



Discussion on Benefits of Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests



Poster Session – posted ideas for assessment information



What did we Hear?

- **What People Want in the Revised Plan**
- **Ideas about what should be in the Assessment Report**
- **Questions and Observations**



To Look At:

April 2013



Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan Revision

**Assessment Public Meeting Summary
February and March 2013**

In February and March of 2013, the U.S. Forest Service, National Forests in North Carolina held six public meetings to initiate the Forest Plan revision process for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests (NFs). During the meetings, Forest Service staff members provided an overview of the plan revision process, shared information regarding the existing condition of forest resources, and received input from the public on benefits they obtain from the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs. Each meeting ran from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the vicinity of the six ranger districts at the following locations:

Ranger District	Meeting location	Approximate number of public attending
Cheoah	Robbinsville	54
Appalachian	Mary Hill	110
Tusquitee	Murphy	71
Grandfather	Marion	91
Pisgah	Brevard	190
Nantahala	Franklin	80

Attendees included local residents, members of organized recreation groups, tribal members, county and city planners, government officials, local business owners, outfitter guides, and environmental advocates. There were over 440 attendees at the six meetings, and many individuals attended more than one district meeting.



Members of the Forest Service plan revision interdisciplinary team (ID team) and ranger district employees were present at all of the public meetings. The ID team members responsible for organizing, compiling, and presenting information at the meetings include:

Ruth Berner: Forest Planner	Heather Luczak: Assistant Forest Planner
Diane Bolt: Fire Planner	Julie Moore: Special Uses Coordinator
Sharyl Bryan: Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist	Susan Parker: Recreation Specialist
Buddy Dodd: Hydrologist and Soils Scientist	Jason Rodriguez: Forest Silviculturist
Holly Hixson: GIS Coordinator	Rodney Suedeker: Forest Archeologist
Bill Jackson: Air Resources Specialist	
Gary Kauffman: Botanist/Ecologist	

1

DRAFT

May 2013

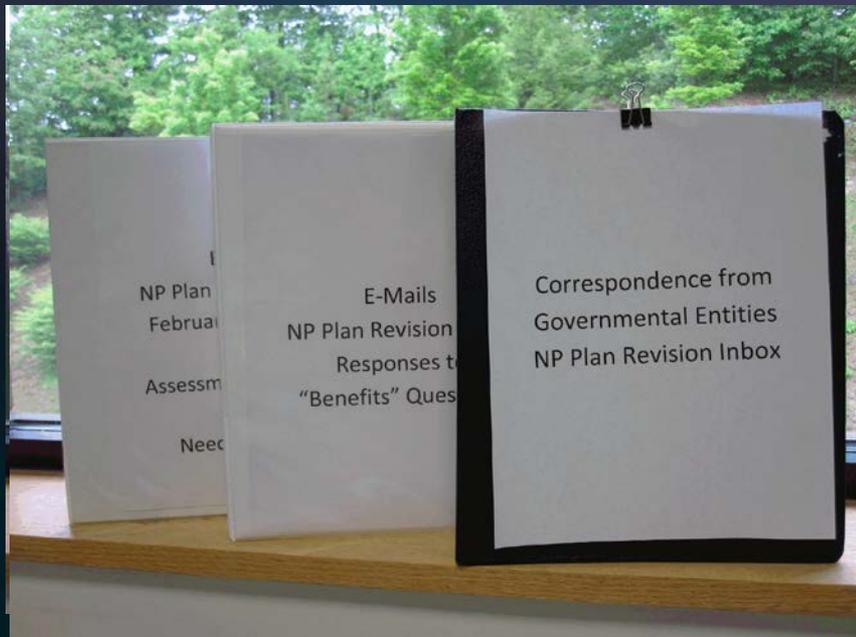
Comments on Posters - February and March 2013 Public Meetings

1. Assessment-Related Comments

[We apologize for any misspelling that may be the result of transcribing.]

Topic	Comment	Forest Service Initial Response
Acid Deposition/Climate	Chloride is spelled incorrectly	Noted.
Acid Deposition/Climate	Are you really that sure	We agree this topic needs clarification.
Acid Deposition/Climate	Climate should be an assessment item.	Information on this topic will be included in the Assessment Report.
Acid Deposition/Climate	Please assess the ways that forests contribute to creation of climate, for instance, wind patterns, rain patterns, humidity, in addition to carbon storage	Information on this topic will be included in the Assessment Report.
Acid Deposition/Climate	do not agree with this cause the timber will grow back soon, so why would this hurt these levels	We agree this topic needs clarification.
Aquatics	Look at brook trout and invertebrates across different geologic formations, especially granite since they support higher plant diversity	While this would be interesting information, it is not known to be readily available. The assessment will have to rely on readily available information due to time and other constraints.
Aquatics	We need clean water for fish. Please use an all lands approach to address the dirtying of our rivers	Information on water quality will be included in the Assessment Report.
Aquatics	Sediment from roads, development should be addressed re: impacts on streams	Information on this topic will be included in the Assessment Report.
Aquatics	What is role/function of nongame fish in coldwater ecosystem; especially where brook trout exist	Information on this topic will be included in the Assessment Report.
Carbon Stocks	There are current methods for estimating soil carbon. These soil carbons should be incorporated into carbon estimates	Information on this topic will be included in the Assessment Report.
Carbon Stocks	What about carbon in soil?	Information on this topic will be included in the Assessment Report.

1



What People Said About Benefits of Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

The screenshot shows the USDA Forest Service website. At the top left is the USDA logo and text: "United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service". At the top right is the text "National Forests in North Carolina" and the UAS logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "Forest Service Home", "About the Agency", and "Contact the National Office".

On the left side, there is a search box with a "Go" button and a "Site Map" link. Below that is a vertical menu for "National Forests in North Carolina" with sub-links: "Home", "Special Plac", "Recreation", "Alerts & Not", "Passes & Pe", "Maps & Publ", "Land & Reso Management", "Learning Cer", "Working Tog", and "About the Fo".

The main content area is titled "Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan Revision". Below the title is a section header "Comments from the first-round of public meetings". The text reads: "Hundreds of area residents attended the first six public meetings held this spring as part of the Assessment Phase of Plan revision. Thanks to all the attendees for their participation. [Click here](#) to read a summary of the public sessions." Below this, there are several paragraphs, each starting with "Click on the below links to read comments provided by people on: 1) the primary benefit that each person receives from the Nantahala and Pisgah national forests; and 2) the three primary benefits that western North Carolina, as a whole, receives from the two national forests." Each paragraph includes a "Click here" link to a specific meeting comment.

On the right side, there are two sections: "Quick Links" and "Alerts & Warnings". The "Quick Links" section contains: "News Release", "Fact sheet on Plan revision", "Fact sheet on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests", and "Materials shared at first round of meetings". The "Alerts & Warnings" section contains: "Spence Ridge Trail Bridge Closed and Use Caution When Driving", "Steele's Creek Road to Close May 2-13", "Dirty John Shooting Range to Close for a Week in May for Repairs", and "Visitors Reminded to be Bear Aware".

Plan Revision Information

Search

Go

[Site Map](#)

National Forests in North Carolina

Home

- Special Places
- Recreation
- Alerts & Notices
- Passes & Permits
- Maps & Publications
- Land & Resources Management
- Learning Center
- Working Together
- About the Forest
- News & Events

Contact Information

National Forests in North Carolina

Supervisor's Office
160 Zillicoa St. Suite A
Asheville, NC 28801



Learn about the dangers of Flash Flooding.

National Forests in North Carolina, where gentle mountain slopes stretch for miles, with gardens of magenta rhododendron, salt marshes that connect to the sea, and lakes surrounded by pine forests. Every year 8.6 million people visit these forests to **camp, hike, mountain bike, hunt, fish, take scenic drives** or enjoy the forest's solitude. Click below to find out more about the four National Forests in North Carolina (**Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie, Croatan**).

To receive News and Alerts by Email, [click here](#).

Recent News

Alerts & Warnings

- Spence Ridge Trail Bridge Closed and Use Caution When Driving**
- Steele's Creek Road to Close May 2-13
- Dirty John Shooting Range to Close for a Week in May for Repairs
- Visitors Reminded to be Bear Aware

[View All Forest Alerts ...](#)

Related Links

- Forest Service Southern Regional Office
- Grandfather Restoration Project
- Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests Plan Revision**
- Outdoor Safety and Ethics
- Non-Motorized Trails Strategy

Highlights

- [View Cold Mountain \(elevation](#)



How's the 1987 Plan been working?

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/land/nfsnc/landmanagement>

Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Reports



The Historical Context for Monitoring



- ▶ FY 2011 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2010 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2009 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2008 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2007 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2006 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2005 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2004 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2003 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2002 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2001 M&E Report
- ▶ FY 2000 M&E Report



Objectives Tonight

- **Focus on a few topics of high interest from public comments so far**
- **Build common awareness of current national forest management and plan direction on those topics**
- **Build understanding among all of us as to the range of ideas and opinions about those topics**



Time

Energy

Conversation

Where?

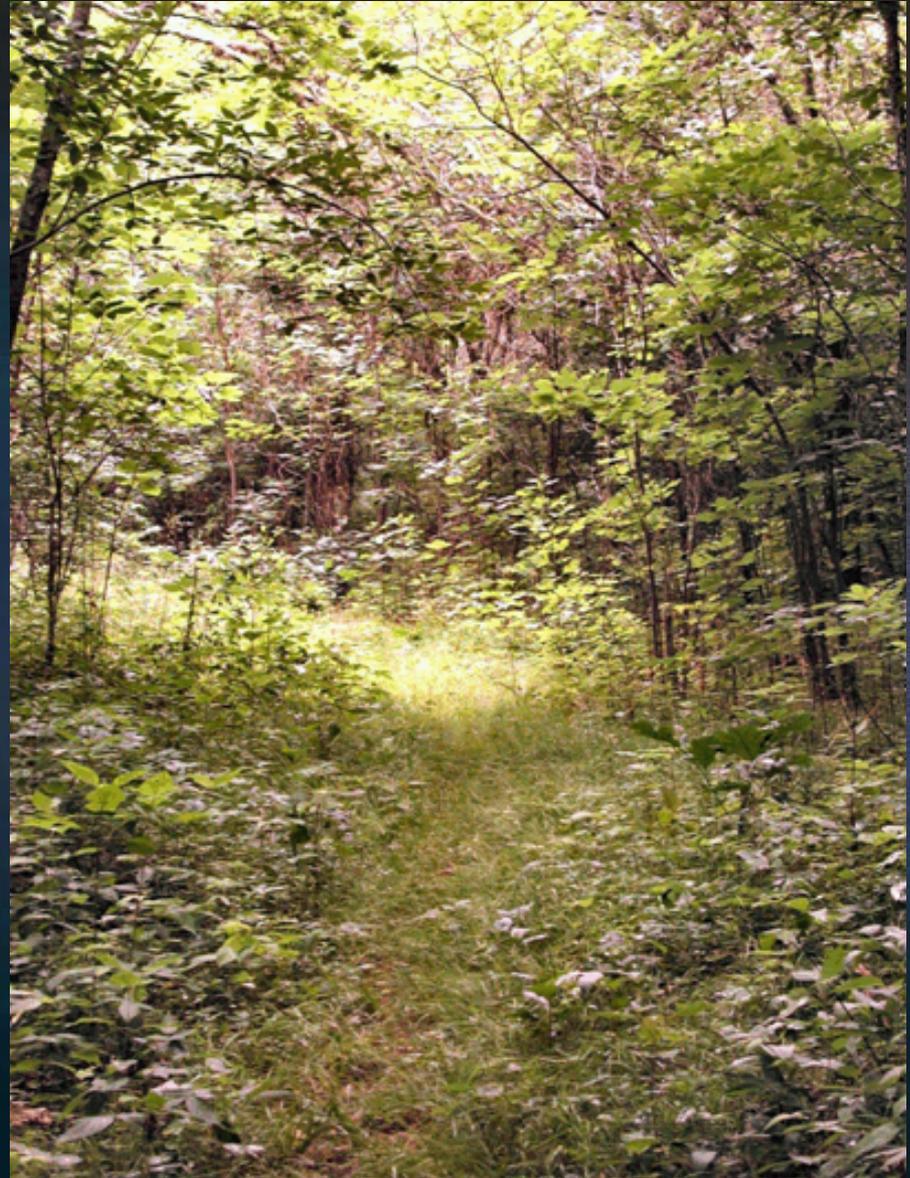
When?

Space?



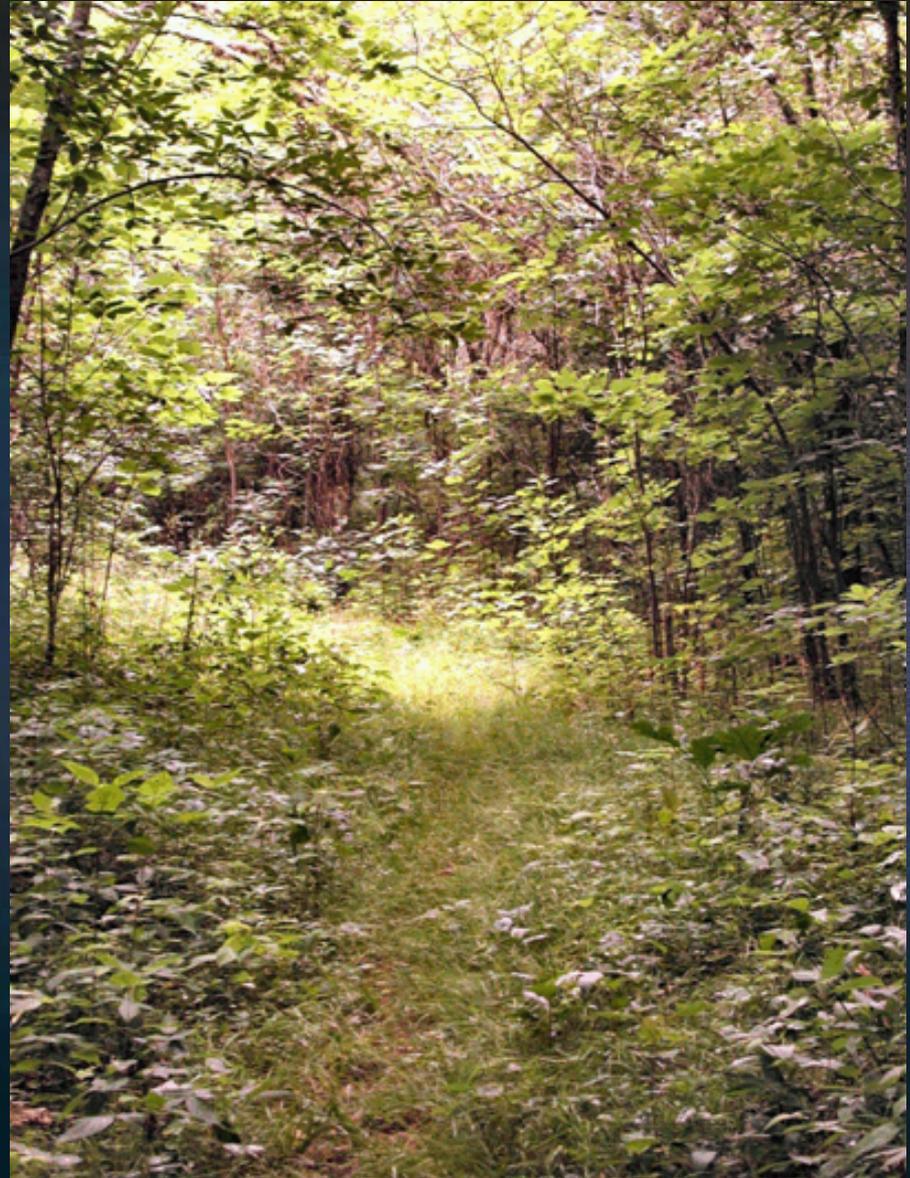
Handouts: folders

1. Draft Revision Timeline
2. Revision Website Screenshot
3. Management Area Summaries and Sample Map from 1987 Plan
4. Draft Assessment Report Outline
5. Information Session Handouts

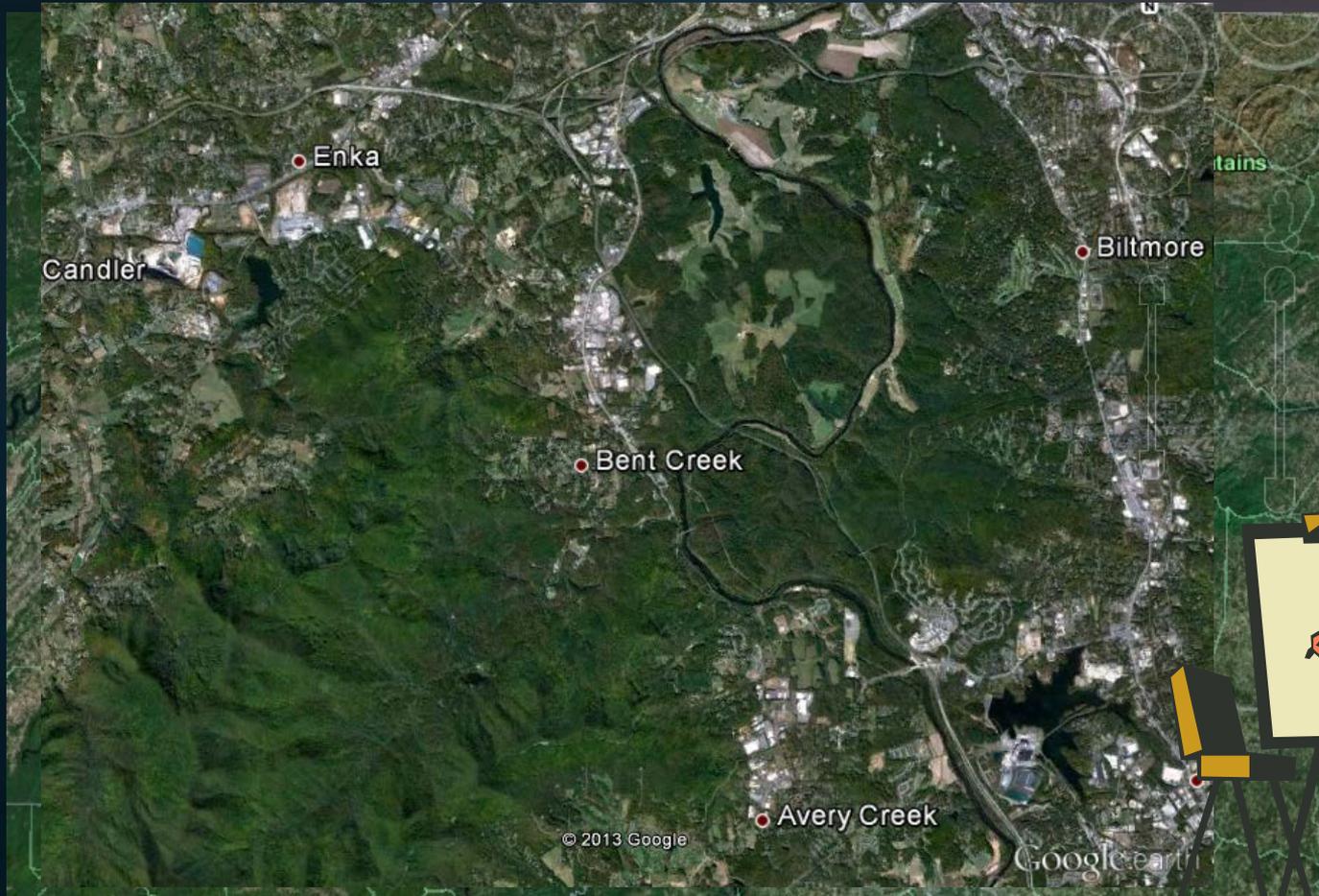


Handouts: optional

1. Poster comments and FS draft responses for *assessment comments*
2. Summary of the FEB-MAR meetings
3. Questions about certain uses:
 - Dogs
 - Rock hounding
 - Metal detecting
 - Geocaching



Phase 1 – The Assessment of the Existing Condition of the Forests



Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield

Outdoor Recreation

Timber

Water

Wildlife and Fish

Wilderness

Threatened and
Endangered Species

Special Interest Areas

Experimental Forests

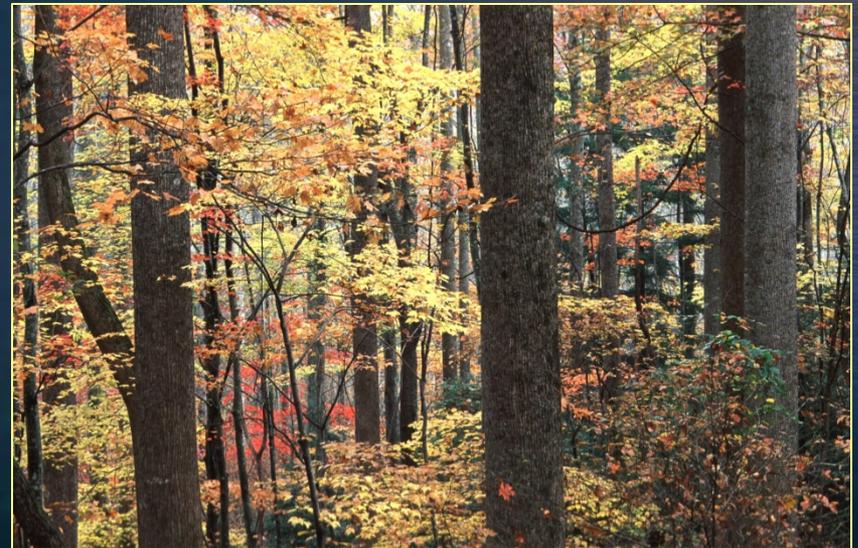
Research Natural Areas

Wild and Scenic Rivers



Phase 1 – The Assessment of the Existing Condition of the Forests

- Biological Factors
- Physical Factors
- Social and Economic Factors



Handout



Phase 1 – The Assessment of the Existing Condition of the Forests

GOAL - Assessment Report will be finished by September 30th

JUNE/JULY – Forest Service Team drafting the Assessment Report



Moving from Assessment of the Existing Condition into the *Need for Change*

~~July 20th – too many conflicts!~~

August 3rd – Saturday - Scheduled all-day public workshop at the NC Arboretum in Asheville - to discuss both Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests together – HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Tonight Builds on What We Heard in Feb-April

1. **Wildlife habitats – especially early successional habitat**
2. **Recreation activities and access**
3. **Place with special management direction – “Designated Areas”**



FIRST HALF of MEETING TONIGHT -
Information Presentations – each 20 minutes

- 1. Wildlife habitats – especially early successional habitat**
- 2. Recreation activities and access**
- 3. “Designated Areas”**



Information Presentations – each 20 minutes

Objective –

Increase awareness of what is in the current plan regarding these topics, as well as define some terms

Why –

Preparation for future discussion about *Need for Change* – summer and fall



SECOND HALF OF MEETING TONIGHT

Three Separate Discussion Sessions - each 25 minutes

- 1. Wildlife habitats – especially early successional habitat**
- 2. Recreation activities and access**
- 3. “Designated Areas”**

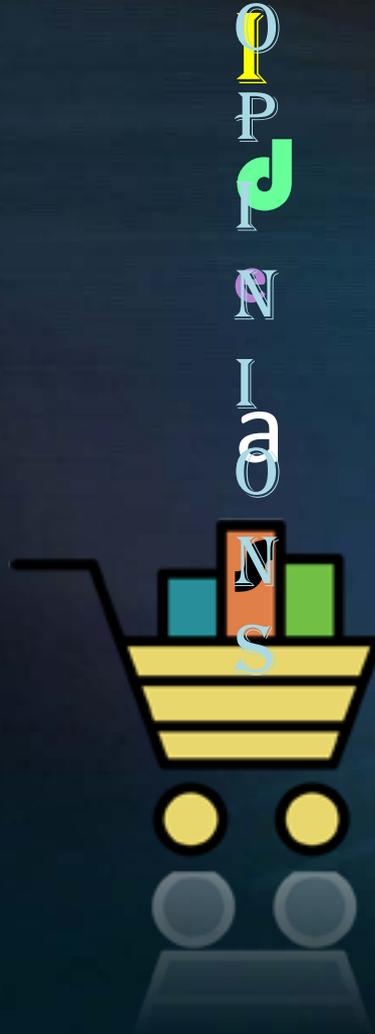


Three Separate Discussion Sessions - each 25 minutes

OBJECTIVES –

- **Increase everyone's awareness of the range of opinions and ideas regarding certain aspects of each topic area.**

Three Separate Discussion Sessions - each 25 minutes



All the Parts of the Land Management Plan are Related

Want to opt out of a Discussion Session?

- **Questions about the process – see managers**



If you have questions during the presentations **please write them down and hold on to them for the discussion sessions** – we want to get through the presentation phase of the meeting as much on time as we can.



Wildlife Habitat – emphasis on *Early Successional*

