

Land Management Plan Revision

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a land management plan?

Land management plans help the Forest Service balance the management of multiple uses and resources, while considering the history, culture, and spiritual importance of the land for all people. Land management plans (plans) are broad in scope and set overall management direction for a forest, grassland, or prairie from a 30,000-foot level. These plans do not make site-specific decisions or authorize projects but do provide guidance for making decisions about future projects and uses.

A land management plan identifies management and/or geographic areas where activities or goals can be considered, the suitability of lands in the plan area for multiple uses and resources, and plan components to guide where – and under what conditions – future site-specific activities and projects might take place. Plan direction is meant to carefully balance the management of different resources to maintain healthy ecosystems and support sustainable uses.



The plan revision process: Assess, Plan, and Monitor

Why do we need to revise plans?

The National Forest Management Act requires the Forest Service to revise its land management plans periodically to remain current with new regulations and policies; respond to changing ecological, social, and economic conditions; and incorporate the most recent scientific information relevant to the management of resources and uses on public lands. The Forest Service is required to evaluate the plan for revision approximately every 15 years.

What is the process to revise a plan?

The planning rule established in 2012 provides the guidance and framework for revising land management plans. Plans are revised by a team of Forest Service resource professionals under the direction of a national forest, grassland, or prairie supervisor, with input from the public, government agencies, and tribes. The land management plan revision process occurs in three phases:

- **Assess** the current economic, social, cultural, and ecological conditions on a national forest, grassland, or prairie.
- **Plan/Revise** current management based on the assessment of conditions and identified need to change current management. Gather input from the public, other agencies and governmental entities, tribal governments, and organizations to identify desired conditions and other plan components to achieve those conditions.
- **Monitor** the conditions of the national forest, prairie, or grassland during plan implementation to see if the land management plan is achieving intended outcomes or if changes are needed.

From starting the assessment phase through completion of a revised land management plan, the

revision process will take approximately 4-6 years. The process also includes coordination and consultation for compliance with laws such as, but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

How are federally-recognized tribes involved?

Federally-recognized tribes are consulted and collaborated with in the development of a land management plan as part of the government's Tribal Trust Responsibility and nation-to-nation relationship. Tribal members can also choose to participate in engagement opportunities for members of the public. Please see [USFS Tribal Relations](#) website for more information.

How can the public and other local, state, and federal governments be involved?

Public and governmental involvement provides a unique opportunity to influence how national forests, grasslands, and prairies will be strategically managed into the future. Forest Service staff will outreach broadly to engage federal and state agencies, local governments, communities, private landowners, and other interested individuals and groups throughout the plan revision process. The public will have the opportunity to participate in plan development, including sharing information and providing input during specific periods, and providing comments on draft documents. A public participation or external engagement strategy will be developed for each plan revision that shares how the unit will involve the public during each phase of plan revision. Additionally, the plan revision website will provide information about engagement opportunities throughout the revision process.

What is the timing of the plan revision for the Bridger-Teton National Forest

The Chief of the Forest Service determines the schedule for plan revisions. Currently, the Bridger-Teton National Forest will start preparing for plan revision in the late spring 2024. This schedule may shift based on other national priorities.



Square Top Mountain and Green River Lake, Bridger-Teton National Forest

Other helpful resources

- [2012 Planning Rule](#)
- [A Citizens' Guide to National Forest Planning](#)
- [County Governments and the USDA Forest Service: A Guidebook for Working Together by National Association of Counties \(NACO\) and the US Forest Service \(USFS\)](#)
- [Understanding your Opportunities for Participating in the Forest Service Planning Process: A Guide for State, Local, and Tribal Governments](#)