

Forest-wide Goals and Subgoals



Lake Blanche in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Wasatch Mountains

2. Forestwide Goals and Subgoals

Goals are defined as follows and are a component of forestwide management direction:

A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms and is timeless in that it has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statements form the principal basis from which objectives are developed. (36 CFR 219.3)

Long-term broad goals are presented in text boxes with most also having a series of more specific **Subgoals**. Subgoals are intended to clarify or further emphasize important components of broader goals.

Forestwide Goal 1-Air Resource

Ensure National Forest management activities result in meeting state and federal air quality standards, and comply with local, state and federal air quality regulations and requirements.

Forestwide Goal 2-Watershed Health

Maintain and/or restore overall watershed health (proper functioning of physical, biological and chemical conditions). Provide for long-term soil productivity. Watershed health should be addressed across administrative and political boundaries.

Forestwide Subgoals - Watershed Health

- 2a. Identify **areas not in properly functioning condition**. Improve plant species composition, ground cover and age class diversity in these areas.
- 2b. Maintain and/or improve **water quality** to provide stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems.
- 2c. Design and implement **watershed management programs and plans** that will restore water quality and watershed function to support beneficial uses.
- 2d. Protect waters meeting or surpassing State water quality standards by **planning and designing** land management activities to protect water quality.
- 2e. Maintain and/or restore stream **channel integrity**, channel **processes**, and **sediment regimes** (timing, volume, character of

sediment input/transport) under which riparian & aquatic ecosystems developed.

- 2f. Maintain water in streams, lakes, and wetlands of adequate quantity and quality to provide for **instream flows** and existing downstream uses including support of healthy riparian & aquatic habitats, stability & effective function of stream channels, ability to route flood discharges, and to maintain recreation opportunities.
- 2g. Maintain and/or restore natural **timing and variability of water table** elevation in spring sources, meadows & wetlands.
- 2h. Maintain and/or restore **diversity, productivity, vigor, and regenerative capacity** of native and desired non-native **riparian and wetland plant communities** to provide an amount and distribution of **large woody debris** characteristic of natural aquatic & riparian ecosystems; provide adequate summer & winter **thermal regulation**; and to help achieve rates of **surface erosion and channel migration** characteristic of those under which desired communities develop.
- 2i. Maintain and/or restore **soil productivity** to improve watershed functioning through managing groundcover, soil compaction, and vegetation.
- 2j. Maintain and/or restore **habitat to sustain populations** of well-distributed native and desired non-native plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate populations that contribute to viability of riparian-dependent communities.
- 2k. **Improve** Forest users' **understanding** of how their actions can impact or protect watershed functions, and **increase participation** of Forest users in stewardship of watersheds.

Forestwide Goal 3-Biodiversity & Viability

Provide for sustained diversity of species at the genetic, populations, community and ecosystem levels. Maintain communities within their historic range of variation that sustains habitats for viable populations of species. Restore or maintain hydrologic functions. Reduce potential for uncharacteristic high-intensity wildfires, and insect epidemics.

To achieve sustainable ecosystems, meet properly functioning condition (PFC) criteria for all vegetation types that occur in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Focus on approximating natural disturbances and processes by restoring composition, age class diversity, patch sizes, and patterns for all vegetation types.

Forestwide Subgoals – Biodiversity and Viability

- 3a. Maintain or restore **viability of populations of species at risk**, Watch List Plants, and rare communities.
- 3b. Maintain pollinators and **minimize impacts to pollinators** or their habitats.
- 3c. **Increase understanding** of and support research on the distribution, ecology, and threats to **plant species at risk, non-vascular plants** and rare plant communities.
- 3d. Restore or maintain **fire-adapted ecosystems** (consistent with land uses, historic fire regimes, and other Forest Plan direction) through wildland fire use, prescribed fire, timber harvest or mechanical treatments. See Forestwide Guideline (G for desired landscape structure and patterns).
- 3e. Maintain or restore as **mature and old age classes** 40% of total conifer and 30% of total aspen cover types, well distributed across the landscape.
- 3f. Maintain or restore **species composition**, such that the species that occupy any given site are predominantly native species in the kind and amount that were historically distributed across the landscapes.
- 3g. Maintain and/or restore **tall forb communities** to mid seral or potential natural community (PNC) status.
- 3h. Evaluate areas with **potential** for **Research Natural Area** designation including Ben Lomond Peak (tall forb values), western portion of the Deseret Peak Wilderness (Great Basin community types and cryptogamic crusts).
- 3i. Maintain **viability** of species-at-risk (including endangered, threatened and sensitive species and unique communities).
- 3j. Manage Forest Service **sensitive species** to prevent them from being classified as threatened or endangered and where possible provide for delisting as sensitive (FSM 2670).

- 3k. **Improve** Forest users' **understanding** of the **values** of and potential human **impacts to biodiversity** and viability of species.
- 3l. Provide suitable habitat for **prey species** such as hares, squirrels, and small mammals.
- 3m. Provide for **connectivity** of continuous large patches of forested habitat for interior forest-dependent and wide-ranging species (such as lynx, wolverine and migratory birds).
- 3n. Maintain or restore aquatic and riparian habitats, through recognition and management of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (defined in Glossary) for **metapopulations of cutthroat trout**, recognizing the relative degree to which these fish depend on National Forest lands and conditions of these habitats off-forest.
- 3o. Provide adequate habitat components for **sustainable big game populations** coordinated with State wildlife management agencies, private lands and other resource needs and priorities.
- 3p. Protect **cave microenvironments** (including hydrology, habitat, climate, vegetation, airflow). retaining vegetation in the vicinity including above the cave.

Forestwide Subgoal - Revegetation

- 3q. In revegetation projects **establish a variety** of native species (avoiding monocultures).

Forestwide Subgoal - Plant Collection

- 3r. Allow for plant collection for sustainable cultural uses and to encourage availability of native seed sources while not jeopardizing continued vigor or existence of a plant population.

Forestwide Subgoal - Noxious Weed Control

- 3s. Greatly reduce known infestations of **noxious weeds** and rigorously prevent their introduction and/or spread.
- 3t. **Improve** Forest user's **awareness** of what noxious weeds are and how they spread and **increase** Forest users' **active participation** in reducing and preventing infestations.

Forestwide Goal 4-Fire and Fuels Management

Wildland fire use and prescribed fire provide for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. Fire suppression provides for public and firefighter safety and protection of other federal, state and private property and natural resources. Fuels are managed to reduce risk of property damage and uncharacteristic fires.

Forestwide Subgoal - Fire Use

- 4a. Increase the **active use of fire** to return fire dependent ecosystems to proper functioning and to reduce hazardous fuels.
- 4b. Increase **public understanding and support** of the active use of fire to improve watershed and habitat conditions and reduce fuels.
- 4c. **Take timely actions** to restore proper functioning of **ecosystems after wildfire**.

Forestwide Subgoal – Fuel Reduction

- 4d. Reduce **hazardous fuels** (prescribed fire, silvicultural and mechanical treatments) with emphasis on interface communities (wildland/urban) and increase proactive participation of communities at risk.

Forestwide Goal 5-Road/Trail and Access Management

Provide a road and trail system that is safe, responsive to public and agency needs and desires, affordable and efficiently managed. Provide an access system that minimizes negative ecological effects and is in balance with available funding. Focus on achieving an integrated transportation system that serves multiple functions and is consistent with desired future conditions for a given area.

Forestwide Subgoal - Road/Trail and Access Management

- 5a. Work closely with city, county, state and tribal governments to provide for **integrated, coordinated** development and management (including enforcement) of **OHV activities**.

Forestwide Subgoal - Travel Management

- 5b. Manage **National Forest and State Scenic Byways and Backways** for their intrinsic values as identified in corridor management plans.

- 5c. Provide a **variety of opportunities for motorized access** while avoiding or reducing undesirable social and resource impacts.
- 5d. **Manage trails** to provide desired recreation opportunities for recreation users and to meet Forest Service standards.

Forestwide Goal 6-Recreation

Manage for an array of recreation opportunities and settings to improve the quality of life for a variety of Forest recreation users. Balance growth and expansion of recreation by managing within the capability of sustainable ecosystems found on the Forest for today and the future.

Forestwide Subgoals - Recreation

- 6a. Increase Forest **recreation user stewardship** of resources and strengthen awareness of **user ethics** for reducing resource and social conflicts.
- 6b. **Involve Forest users** in developing strategies for managing recreation to meet desired future conditions and address recreation pressures and demands.
- 6c. **Manage uses of new recreational technologies** to provide for opportunities while preventing or minimizing negative social and/or resource impacts on the Forest.
- 6d. **Encourage private enterprise to develop** recreational facilities on and off the Forest that provide for a range of recreation opportunities (e.g. camping and picnicking areas, trailheads, and interpretive sites).

Forestwide Subgoal - Recreation in Undeveloped Areas

- 6e. **Manage** recreation use of **undeveloped areas** on the forest to provide for desirable opportunities while preventing or reducing resource impacts and social conflicts.

Forestwide Subgoal - Scenery Management System

- 6f. Recognize and manage for the importance of **scenic forest landscapes** to overall **recreation settings** as well as to the **quality of life for communities** adjacent to the Forest.
- 6g. Restore, maintain or enhance landscape **scenic integrity** across the variety of landscape character themes found on the Forest.

Forestwide Goal 7-Education

Increase public understanding of and appreciation for natural and cultural resources and their management, in order to foster Forest users' active participation in wise use and conservation.

Forestwide Goal 8-Enforcement

Increase Forest Service field presence in key areas, improve effectiveness of public information on restrictions, and increase participation of individuals and organized groups in monitoring uses.

Forestwide Goal 9-Heritage Resources

Inventory, evaluate, protect and enhance heritage sites and landscapes.

Forestwide Subgoals - Heritage Resources

- 9a. Implement the National Heritage Strategy emphasizing the need for non-project inventories (Section 110) and public education and awareness programs.
- 9b. Fully **integrate** the **Heritage Program** into land and resource management.

Forestwide Goal 10-Social/Economic Contributions

Contribute to the social and economic well-being of local communities by promoting sustainable use of renewable natural resources and by participating in efforts to devise creative solutions for economic health (diversity and resiliency). Provide timber for commercial harvest, forage for livestock grazing, exploration and development opportunities for mineral resources, and settings for recreation consistent with goals for watershed health, sustainable ecosystems, biodiversity and viability, and scenic/recreation opportunities.

Forestwide Subgoals - Recreation

- 10a. Use **ski area** associated private and public developed recreation facilities to provide world-class skiing and mountain resort opportunities while contributing to the economy.

Forestwide Subgoals - Timber for commercial harvest

- 10b. Use **timber harvest** where allowed, to contribute to the economy while achieving properly functioning conditions of vegetation and watersheds.

Forestwide Subgoals - Forage for livestock grazing

- 10c. Manage **livestock grazing** levels and operations on suitable lands for sustainable forage use within properly functioning conditions.

Forestwide Subgoals - Mineral and energy exploration and development

- 10d. Provide for **mineral and energy exploration and development** to help meet the nation's needs for these resources, while contributing to local economies through royalties and employment consistent with management direction.

Forestwide Goal 11-Land Ownership

Achieve a national forest ownership pattern that reduces management costs and helps meet ecosystem management objectives. Acquire land to connect large tracts of public ownership to maintain biologic and hydrologic linkages in partnership with other public agencies. Locate and maintain national forest boundaries that are visible to forest users and neighbors.

Forestwide Subgoal - Land Ownership

- 11a. Acquire **access and rights-of-way** for general public and administrative use.
- 11b. **Acquire lands or easements** needed to facilitate Bonneville Shoreline and Great Western Trails development.

Forestwide Goal 12-Non-recreation Authorizations (Special Uses)

Manage the non-recreation authorizations program to balance priorities commensurate with the greater long-term public interest. Current restrictions in funding and personnel preclude additional authorization without reallocating program emphasis.

Forestwide Subgoals - Special Uses

- 12a. Continue to allow for most **currently authorized uses** while encouraging opportunities to phase out or move to private lands uses with limited public benefits.
- 12b. **Minimize the addition** of special use encumbered areas of National Forest.

Forestwide Subgoal - Transportation and Utility Corridors

- 12d. Utilize **currently designated utility corridors** fully for power transmission lines of 66kV or greater and oil and gas pipelines 10” or greater.

Forestwide Goal 13-Designated Wilderness

Maintain wilderness ecosystems and character, primarily influenced by the forces of nature, to provide opportunities for public use, enjoyment, and understanding of wilderness, and to preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. Manage wilderness to sustain wild ecosystems for values other than those directly related to human uses.

Forestwide Subgoal - Wilderness

- 13a. Manage Wildernesses **recognizing differences** in population proximity and consequent role in providing wilderness experiences for more people.