**Distinctive Roles and Contributions** = A unifying concept helping define the vision for the plan area within the broader landscape. The preferred vision is expected to assist the responsible official in developing plan components for multiple uses. (2012 Planning Rule ROD, page 21207 and 36 CFR 219.2(b)(1))

**Ecosystem services. Benefits people obtain from ecosystems, including:**
1. Provisioning services, such as clean air and fresh water, energy, food, fuel, forage, wood products or fiber, and minerals;
2. Regulating services, such as long-term storage of carbon; climate regulation; water filtration, purification, and storage; soil stabilization; flood and drought control; and disease regulation;
3. Supporting services, such as pollination, seed dispersal, soil formation, and nutrient cycling; and
4. Cultural services, such as educational, aesthetic, spiritual, and cultural heritage values, recreational experiences, and tourism opportunities.

**Multiple use.** The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the NFS so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output, consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528–531) (36 CFR 219.19)

**Sustainability** = The capability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs...

**Sustainable Recreation** = The set of recreation settings and opportunities on the National Forest System that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations.

**Recreation Setting** = The social, managerial, and physical attributes of a place that, when combined, provide a distinct set of recreation opportunities. The Forest Service uses the recreation opportunity spectrum to define recreation settings and categorize them into six distinct classes: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban.

**Recreation Opportunity** = An opportunity to participate in a specific recreation activity in a particular recreation setting to enjoy desired recreation experiences and other benefits that accrue. Recreation opportunities include non-motorized, motorized, developed, and dispersed recreation on land, water, and in the air.

**Scenic Character** = A combination of the physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place. Scenic character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity.

**Assessment** (36 CFR 219.6)

(b) Content SHALL ID & evaluate existing information relevant to the plan area for plan development or revision:

(6) Social, cultural, & economic conditions
(7) Ecosystem Services – benefits
(8) Multiple Uses and economic contributions
(9) Rec settings, opportunities, access & scenic character
(11) Infrastructure
(13) Cultural & historic resources & uses
(14) Land status, use, access
(15) Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity

**Monitoring** (36 CFR 219.12)

(a) (5) Must have one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators addressing:

(v) Status of visitor use, satisfaction & progress in meeting rec. objectives

(vii) Progress toward DCs/objectives in plan including providing multiple Uses.

for additional designated areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>219.1 (g) Purpose and applicability – the responsible official SHALL ensure that the planning process, plan components, and other plan content are within the FS authority, the inherent capability of the plan area, and the fiscal capability of the unit.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 219.2(b) Planning levels/responsible officials  
...plan reflects expected distinctive roles & contributions... |
| 219.7 Plan development/revision  
(c) Process for plan development or revision  
(2) In developing a proposed new plan or proposed plan revision, the responsible official SHALL:  
(i) Review relevant information from the assessment and monitoring to identify a preliminary need to change the existing plan and to inform the development of plan components and other plan content.  
(e) Plan components (1) Required plan components  
Every plan must include the following components: (i) Desired conditions; (ii) Objectives; (iii) Standards; (iv) Guidelines; (v) Suitability  
(3) Requirements for the set of plan components.  
The set of plan components must meet the requirements set forth in this part for sustainability (219.8), plant and animal diversity (219.9), multiple use (219.10), and timber (219.11).  
(f) other required content  
(ii) Distinctive roles & contributions |
| 219.8 Sustainability  
The plan must provide for social, economic, and ecological sustainability within Forest Service authority and consistent with the inherent capability of the plan area. (36 CFR 219.8)  
(a) Ecological sustainability  
(Ecosystem Integrity; Air, soil, and water; Riparian areas; Best management practices for water quality)  
(b) The plan must include plan components, including standards or guidelines, to guide the plan area’s contribution to social and economic sustainability, taking into account:  
1. Social, cultural, and economic conditions relevant to the area influenced by the plan;  
2. Sustainable recreation; including recreation settings, opportunities, and access; and scenic character;  
3. Multiple uses that contribute to local, regional, and national economies in a sustainable manner;  
4. Ecosystem services (benefits);  
5. Cultural and historic resources and uses; and  
6. Opportunities to connect people with nature. |
| 219.9 Diversity of plant and animal communities  
219.10 Multiple Uses  
While meeting the requirements of 219.8 and 219.9, the plan must provide for ecosystem services and multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife, and fish, within the Forest Service authority and the inherent capability of the plan areas as follows:  
(a) Integrated resource management for multiple use.  
When developing plan components for integrated resource management, to the extent relevant, the responsible official shall consider:  
(1) Aesthetic values... cultural and heritage resources ...recreation settings and opportunities ...scenery ...viewsheds ...wilderness... and other relevant uses.  
(3) Appropriate placement and sustainable management of infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors.  
(b) Plan must include plan components to provide for:  
(i) Sustainable Recreation (settings, opportunities, access & scenic character)  
(ii) Protection of cultural & historic resources  
(iii) Management of areas of tribal importance  
(iv) W & recommended W  
(v) W&S Rivers  
(vi) other special areas  
219.11 Timber requirements based on NFMA |
ASSESSMENTS

(1) Assessment. Assessments rapidly evaluate existing information about relevant ecological, economic, and social conditions, trends, and sustainability and their relationship to the land management plan within the context of the broader landscape. The responsible official shall consider and evaluate existing and possible future conditions and trends of the plan area, and assess the sustainability of social, economic, and ecological systems within the plan area, in the context of the broader landscape (§ 219.6). (36 CFR 219.5(a)(1)).

(Note, Per FSH 1909.2 Chapter 10 Section 11- Assessments – “The term “relevant” means the information must have a demonstrable relationship to the required topics and to the land management plan.”)

The planning requirement at 36 CFR 219.6(b) describes the content of the assessment for plan development and plan revision.

(b) Content of the assessment for plan development or revision. In the assessment for plan development or revision, the responsible official shall identify and evaluate existing information relevant to the plan area for the following:

(1) Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds;

(2) Air, soil, and water resources and quality;

(3) System drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the plan area to adapt to change;

(4) Baseline assessment of carbon stocks;

(5) Threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area;

(6) Social, cultural, and economic conditions;

(7) Benefits people obtain from the NFS planning area (ecosystem services);

(8) Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies;

(9) Recreation settings, opportunities and access, and scenic character;

(10) Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources;

(11) Infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors;

(12) Areas of tribal importance;

(13) Cultural and historical resources and uses;

(14) Land status and ownership, use, and access patterns; and

(15) Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas. (36 CFR 219.6(b)).
Plan Components

Plan components. Plan components guide future project and activity decision making. The plan must indicate whether specific plan components apply to the entire plan area, to specific management areas or geographic areas, or to other areas as identified in the plan. (36 CFR 219.7(e)).

Desired conditions. A desired condition is a description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates. (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1)(i)).

Objectives. An objective is a concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions. Objectives should be based on reasonably foreseeable budgets. (36 CFR 219.9(e)(1)(ii)).

Standards. A standard is a mandatory constraint on project and activity decisionmaking, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements. (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1)(iii)).

Guidelines. A guideline is a constraint on project and activity decisionmaking that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met. (§ 219.15(d)(3)). Guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain a desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements. (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1)(iv)).

Suitability of lands. Specific lands within a plan area will be identified as suitable for various multiple uses or activities based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The plan will also identify lands within the plan area as not suitable for uses that are not compatible with desired conditions for those lands. The suitability of lands need not be identified for every use or activity. Suitability identifications may be made after consideration of historic uses and of issues that have arisen in the planning process. Every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (§ 219.11). (36 CFR 219.7(e)(1)(v)).

Optional plan component: goals. A plan may include goals as plan components. Goals are broad statements of intent, other than desired conditions, usually related to process or interaction with the public. Goals are expressed in broad, general terms, but do not include completion dates. (36 CFR 219.7(c)(2)).

Other Required Content in the Plan

- Identify watershed(s) that are a priority for maintenance or restoration; (36 CFR 219.7(f)(1)).

- Describe the plan area’s distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape; (36 CFR 219.7(f)(1)). The Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.2(b)) explains the types of things the Interdisciplinary Team may consider when describing the plan area’s distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape: . . . A plan reflects the unit’s expected distinctive roles and contributions to the local area, region, and Nation, and the roles for which the plan area is best suited, considering the Agency’s mission, the unit’s unique capabilities, and the resources and management of other lands in the vicinity. . . .

- A land management plan must contain a plan monitoring program (36 CFR 219.12).
TOPICS FOR WHICH PLAN COMPONENTS, INCLUDING STANDARDS OR GUIDELINES, ARE REQUIRED (23-Ex 01)

1. Ecological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds in the plan area
   (36 CFR 219.8(a) and 219.9(a))
2. Air quality; soils and soil productivity, including guidance to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation; and water quality (36 CFR 219.8(a)(2))
3. Ecological integrity of riparian areas (36 CFR 219.8(a)(3))
4. Contribution to social and economic sustainability (36 CFR 219.8(b))
5. Diversity of ecosystems and habitat types (36 CFR 219.9(a)(2))
6. [species-specific] ecological conditions in the plan area [for species at risk, when coarse filter does not required protections for such species] (36 CFR 219.9(b)(1)) and 219.9(b)(2)(ii))
7. Integrated resource management to provide for ecosystem services and multiple uses
   (36 CFR 219.10(a))
8. Sustainable recreation; including recreation settings, opportunities, and access; and scenic character (36 CFR 219.10(b)(i))
9. Protection of cultural and historic resources (36 CFR 219.10(b)(ii))
10. Management of areas of tribal importance (36 CFR 219.10(b)(iii))
11. Protection of congressionally designated wilderness areas as well as management of areas recommended for wilderness designation . . .
    (36 CFR 219.10(b)(iv))
12. Protection of designated wild and scenic rivers as well as management of rivers found eligible or determined suitable. . . (36 CFR 219.10(b)(v))
13. Appropriate management of other designated areas or recommended designated areas . .
    (36 CFR 219.10(b)(vi))
14. No timber harvest for the purposes of timber production on lands not suited
    (36 CFR 219.11(d)(1))
15. Soil, slope, or other watershed conditions would not be irreversibly damaged
    (36 CFR 219.11(d)(2))
16. Protection of soil, watershed, fish, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic resources
    (36 CFR 219.11(d)(3))
17. Limit[s on] the maximize size for openings (must be standards; cannot be guidelines)
    (36 CFR 219.11(d)(4))
18. Timber harvest only when in compliance with the resource protections (36 CFR 219.11(d)(5))
20. [Regeneration only of] stands that generally have reached the culmination of mean annual increment of growth (36 CFR 219.11(d)(7))
Monitoring. Monitoring is continuous and provides feedback for the planning cycle by testing relevant assumptions, tracking relevant conditions over time, and measuring management effectiveness (§ 219.12). The monitoring program includes plan-level and broader-scale monitoring. The plan-level monitoring program is informed by the assessment phase; developed during plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision; and implemented after plan decision. The regional forester develops broader-scale monitoring strategies. Biennial monitoring evaluation reports document whether a change to the plan or change to the monitoring program is warranted based on new information, whether a new assessment may be needed, or whether there is no need for change at that time. (36 CFR 219.5).

DEVELOPING THE PLAN MONITORING PROGRAM - The Responsible Official has discretion to set the scope, scale, and priorities for plan monitoring within the financial and technical capabilities of the administrative unit, but shall include one or more monitoring question(s) and associated indicator(s) for the eight items set out in the Planning Rule at 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5).

(5) Each plan monitoring program must contain one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators addressing each of the following:
(i) The status of select watershed conditions.
(ii) The status of select ecological conditions including key characteristics of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
(iii) The status of focal species to assess the ecological conditions required under § 219.9.
(iv) The status of a select set of the ecological conditions required under § 219.9 to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern.
(v) The status of visitor use, visitor satisfaction, and progress toward meeting recreation objectives.
(vi) Measurable changes on the plan area related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area.
(vii) Progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives in the plan, including for providing multiple use opportunities.
(viii) The effects of each management system to determine that they do not substantially and permanently impair the productivity of the land (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(C)). (36 CFR 219.12(a)

(Notes: Per FSH 1909.12 Chapter 30 – Monitoring, sec 32.1 – “Social, economic and cultural sustainability must also be addressed in the monitoring program because sustainability is an inherent part of several of the required monitoring items (sec 32.13f of this Handbook).”

And per Sec 32.13 – “The intent of the Rule requirement to monitor progress toward meeting desired conditions, objectives, or other plan components, including those for providing multiple-use management opportunities is to cover matters not specifically listed in 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5). To carry out this intent, the plan monitoring program must contain one or more questions and associated indicators addressing the plan contributions to communities, social and economic sustainability of communities, multiple use management in the plan area, or progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives related to social and economic sustainability.”)