



## Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Update

This document is intended to provide state and local agencies with an update on the achievements, progress, and current status of the Manti-La Sal National Forest's Plan Revision effort. Intended to be completed in January of 2020, the Plan Revision process will update the Forest's current outdated 30-year-old Forest Plan, establishing strategic guidance for how the Manti-La Sal will be managed over the next 10-15 years. For more information about the Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision, visit our Plan Revision (<http://bit.do/mlsnfplanningpage>) and Story Map (<http://bit.do/manti-lasalplanrevision>) webpages or contact Blake Bassett, the Forest's Partnership Coordinator, at 435-636-3515 or [mlnfplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:mlnfplanrevision@fs.fed.us).

### Achievements to Date


#### *Open Houses*

- 📅 During the months of July and August, the Forest held open houses in six communities near the Forest to provide the public with information about Plan Revision and collect public feedback on current Forest conditions. Attendance at these meetings surpassed historic trends, indicating a heightened interest in land management planning.
  - 174 total attendees.
- 📅 In keeping with its promise of transparency and the spirit of the 2012 planning rule, the Forest published a comprehensive report following these July/August open houses, highlighting public input and answering questions gathered during the meetings. Some highlights of that report include:
  - The report details over 100 public comments spanning 15 resource areas—from grazing, fire, wildlife, travel management to biodiversity and socioeconomic factors, among others—and documents answers to over 30 Forest Plan Revision-related questions the Forest collected at the open houses.


#### *State, Local, and Other Government Engagement*

- 📅 County Engagement: The Forest has met with representatives from all 10 counties within which the Forest rests in an effort to explain the Plan Revision process and how counties can participate. These counties include eight from Utah (Carbon, Emery, Grand, Juab, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, and Utah) and two from Colorado (Mesa and Montrose).




 **State Engagement:** In June of this year, the Forest met with Utah State officials in the Governor's office and at various State land and resource management agencies to explain the Plan Revision process and establish lines of communication for future collaboration.

- Yesterday, the Forest attended the UCC meeting at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to provide UCC and UDAF with a Plan Revision update.
- Over the past four months, the Forest has met with officials from Utah's Congressional offices to discuss Plan Revision, including the offices of Congresswoman Love, Congressman Stewart, Congressman Chaffetz, Senator Hatch, and Senator Lee.
- The Forest has also met with Utah State Legislature representatives, including representatives Owens and King and Senator Hinkins.

 **Cooperating Agencies:** The Forest has invited 27 state, local, and other government agencies to participate as Cooperating Agencies in the Forest Plan Revision process, including:

- All 10 counties within which the Forest sits.
- The State of Utah (through the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO)).
- Seven Utah Water Conservation Districts near the Forest.
- Seven Tribal governments with historic and cultural ties to the land within the Manti-La Sal National Forest boundary (Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, Paiute Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, and the Hopi Indian Tribe).
- Two Federal Agencies (BLM and NRCS), with discussions underway with NPS.
- As of late September, the Forest has received four signed Cooperating Agency agreements (the Grand Water Conservation District, and Grand, Sevier, and San Juan Counties) and is in the final stages of refining MOUs with three other entities (Mesa, Montrose, and Utah counties).

### ***Tribal Engagement***




 In addition to inviting seven Tribes to participate in Plan Revision as Cooperating Agencies, the Forest has met with the Navajo Nation and Ute Indian Tribe to discuss the Revision process.

- Last week, the Forest attended the Navajo Nation fair in Bluff, Utah, to provide Plan Revision information to local tribal communities and collect information about areas of tribal importance, a key component of the Plan Revision Assessment Report.





## Ongoing and Future Plan Revision Efforts


### *Future Open Houses and Workshops*

-  This month, the Forest is hosting public open houses in eight communities near the Forest to gather information to support the Assessment Phase of Plan Revision and the Wilderness and Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) evaluation processes. So far, the Forest has held six of eight open houses.
  - Over 170 attendees, with two more open houses in late September (Mt. Pleasant and Provo).
  - As was the case with the previous round of open houses, the Forest will produce a post-open house report highlighting public input and questions.
-  In late October (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>), the Forest will host its first of several Cooperating Agency meetings. These meetings will occur in both the Ferron-Price/Manti area and the Moab/Monticello area. The purpose of these meetings is to finalize Cooperating Agency MOUs and solidify lines of communication and roles and responsibilities.
-  In early November (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), the Forest is hosting public workshops in the North and South Zones to gather information to support the Assessment Report, a document that, among other things, will establish the desired conditions for the Forest. The Forest will also disclose and solicit feedback on its second Wilderness Evaluation map and refined Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) list at these workshops.

### *Future Tribal Engagement*

-  The Forest is scheduled to meet with the Ute Indian Tribe Business Council in Fort Duchesne in October to discuss Plan Revision and the Tribe's role as a Cooperating Agency.
-  The Forest is scheduled to attend and present at the Utah State Native American Conference in Salt Lake City at the end of the week.

## Outreach Methods

-  The Forest has produced comprehensive Public Participation Strategy and Communication Plan documents to guide the Forest's outreach and ensure maximum public participation in the planning process. Among other things, these documents emphasize:
  - The use of multiple platforms to collect information from and engage with the public, including social media, Plan Revision webpages—such as the Forest's Story Map (<http://bit.do/manti-lasalplanrevision>) and Plan Revision (<http://bit.do/mlsnfplanningpage>) webpages—and online surveys.

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- Leveraging public participation lessons-learned from other Forests and using public engagement consultants—both internal and external to the Forest Service—to enhance public outreach.
- Focusing public outreach efforts to target those historically underrepresented in forest planning such as low income, minority, rural, youth, and Tribal populations.



The Forest is participating in a USDA-supported socioeconomic pilot project intended to better engage the Forest’s various stakeholders regarding the socioeconomic interrelationship between the Forest, local communities, and beyond.

- The outputs of this pilot project, including extensive statistical analyses, will be incorporated in the Assessment Report and used to further public engagement.