

Dixie and Fishlake National Forests Forest Plan Revision



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ABOUT FOREST PLANS

You might wonder...

Why revise two forest plans together?

The Dixie and the Fishlake National Forests share many resource issues. The decline of aspen forests, recreation use and critical species habitat are examples. The Forests decided these issues would be more effectively addressed across the landscape of southwest Utah by working together. The revision process will result in two forest plans.

What issues will be addressed?

Several issues are required by law to be addressed: wilderness recommendations, Wild and Scenic River recommendations, timberland capability and suitability, rangeland capability and suitability, and allowable timber sale quantity.

Some additional items in the plans have already been identified as needing updating: ensuring sustainable ecological conditions; managing roadless area use; managing motorized recreation use; and providing dispersed recreation experiences.

Other issues may be identified through the collaborative work with interested people (see the handout *How Can I Help?*).

WHAT IS A FOREST PLAN?

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA) requires that a land and resource management plan (called forest plan) guide management of the forest. A forest plan provides general management direction for the many resources, including timber, range, water, fish, wildlife, soil, recreation — even air. Cultural resources, such as historic and prehistoric sites, are also addressed.

A forest plan defines areas where certain activities are allowed, like a city zoning plan. It also provides forestwide direction that applies to the forest as a whole, but not necessarily to every acre.

A forest plan must describe

Desired Conditions— What people want a national forest to look like, and what they want it to provide. These conditions must contribute to ecological, social, and economical sustainability.

Objectives— Descriptions of programs, projects, and on-the-ground activities to achieve desired conditions.

Standards — Rules that limit management actions, protect resources, and help



achieve desired conditions.

Identification of Suitable Lands— An assessment of where uses can occur, including a transportation system, livestock grazing, timber management, and special designations such as wilderness, natural research areas, botanical areas, scenic byways, etc.

Monitoring— A strategy for gathering information to learn whether the forest plan is producing desired results. Monitoring helps determine if the forest plan needs to be modified.

The law requires that the forest plan be periodically revised, but it can be amended

WHY REVISE NOW?

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act requires that the forest plan be revised every 10 to 15 years to keep up-to-date with changing natural and social conditions, new scientific knowledge, and new laws. Both the Dixie and Fishlake Forest Plans were established in

1986; it's time they were reviewed, and revised where necessary.

We invite you to join us and other interested people in sharing knowledge about conditions on the Dixie and Fishlake, and expectations of what the Forests should provide in the future.