

US Forest Service: Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Plan Elements



The revised Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Plan will guide the Forests' future

All Plan alternatives will recognize multiple uses of the Forest Service mission including timber harvest, recreation, wildlife, water and wilderness.

All Plan alternatives will improve forest health and resiliency. The Plan will increase the pace and scale of restoration above current levels; maintain and improve the diversity of forest vegetation especially young forest, open forest, and old growth conditions; increase management activity using silviculture and fire as tools; and control invasive species.

All Plan alternatives will improve wildlife habitat. The Plan will maintain or improve habitat conditions for the wildlife species that depend on the forest, including federally-listed species and species of conservation concern, rare and unique habitats, as well resident and migrant game species, pollinators, birds, bats, fish, and more.

All Plan alternatives will contribute to clean and abundant water. The Plan will sustain surface water and ground water flow, protect water quality, maintain fish and wildlife habitat, control erosion, restore streams and streamside zones, and continue to be a source of drinking water to communities in Western NC.

All Plan alternatives will improve the Forests' world class recreation opportunities for year-round outdoor play and exercise. The plan will provide for both developed and dispersed recreation on land and water, from an outdoor multiple use trail system to indoor facilities, ensuring opportunities and sites are sustainable for the future.

All Plan alternatives will enable forest access for visitors, including hunting and fishing and gathering of forest products, as well as providing for the needs of Federally recognized Tribes.

All Plan alternatives will contribute to local economies by collaboratively providing resources, improvements to infrastructure, sustainable levels of renewable forest commodities, and that contribute to local businesses, tourism, and sustainable community growth.

All Plan alternatives will sustain the Forests' scenic beauty and cultural resources, enabling the forest to remain a destination for spiritual renewal and connecting to our shared history.

All Plan alternatives will continue to manage existing administrative and Congressionally designated areas which will not be changed during revision. These areas include:

The Cradle of Forestry Historic Site
Research Natural Areas
Wilderness

Wild and Scenic Rivers
Experimental Forests
Wilderness Study Areas

Inventoried Roadless Areas
National Scenic and Historic Trails, such as
the Appalachian Trail and the Trail of Tears

All Plan alternatives will recommend changes in land allocations in the following three areas :

Recommended Wilderness, Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Special Interest Areas

All Plan alternatives will recognize the value of partners in shaping our shared future. The Plan will state how other agencies, government and non-government partners, volunteers and visitors contribute to sustaining these National Forests, and will identify and help facilitate additional opportunities to work together for shared goals.

All plan alternatives will be built around input from the public, governments, Federally Recognized Tribes and best available science. In addition to a broad and inclusive public involvement process, the FS is working with the National Forest Foundation and the Stakeholders Forum the Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Plan in a collaborative process to ensure that the concerns of diverse interests are addressed .

The Forest Service will continue to collaborate with the public on implementing the revised Plan. The Plan is developed with input from the public and future planning and projects will be undertaken in collaboration with the public.