This developing plan content is under construction and is being shared as a snapshot of thinking. Additional changes based on Forest Service and public input are expected.

Soils

Background

This section is under development. Need to make sure this section addresses natural disturbance events.

Desired Conditions

- Forest soils have adequate physical, biological, and chemical properties to maintain or improve vegetative growth, hydrologic function, nutrient cycling, carbon storage, and slope stability.
- Soil productivity is sustained through nitrogen and carbon fixation, nutrient mineral release from parent material, decaying organic matter, and recycling of nutrients. Soils do not contribute sediment to streams at levels that negatively affect instream uses and lifecycles of aquatic species. Erosion and compaction are minimized as a result of our management activities.
- Generally, soils dedicated to growing vegetation have a normal soil profile that is typical for undisturbed soils on similar landforms in the local area.

Standards

- On all soils dedicated to growing vegetation, at least 85% of the activity area1 will be able to grow vegetation, without Substantial Soil Impairment.[2] Revegetation shall be accomplished within 5 years.

Guideline

- During planning of roads, trails and other infrastructure avoid hydric soils or mitigate adverse impacts to protect the function of these soils when no other alternative is available.
- During construction of roads, trails and other infrastructure the risk of soil erosion should be reduced by implementing mitigation measures such as erosion control matting, slash placement, seed and mulch. The minimum amount of soil should be exposed at any given time during project execution.

[1] "Activity area" is the area of potential soil disturbance expected to produce vegetation in the future, for example: timber harvest units, prescribed burn areas, etc. System roads and other facilities would be excluded from this area.

[2] "Substantial Soil Impairment" is detrimental changes in soil properties (physical, chemical, or biological) that result in the loss of the inherent ecological capacity or hydrologic function of the soil resource that lasts beyond the scope, scale, or duration of the project causing the change.