



United States Department of Agriculture

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## Appendix F

# Timber Suitability for the Manti-La Sal National Forest



Forest Service

Intermountain Region

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## INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service is required to do a suitability analysis for timber production of National Forest Lands based on the Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974 and Title 36 code of federal regulations. In the process of Forest Plan Revision the suitability analysis process addresses two important considerations:

1. **Timber Suitability:** Where will timber production and associated harvests occur
2. **Sustained Yield Limits:** How much timber can be harvested

## TIMBER PRODUCTION SUITABILITY DETERMINATION

### Lands Not Suitable or Available for Timber Production

Lands not suitable or available for timber production are those lands where timber production is incompatible with the legal, or technical guidance for management guidance of those lands. Lands that are not suitable or available for timber production were determined using the criteria in the Land Management Planning Handbook FSH 1909.12 Chapter 60. These areas and the associated acreage was determined by starting with the total area of the Manti-La Sal National Forest and removing areas that are not suited for timber production, listed below:

- Lands where a statute, executive order, or regulation prohibits timber production:
  - Wilderness areas
  - Eligible wild and scenic rivers with preliminary wild classifications
- Lands where the Secretary of Agriculture or Chief of the Forest Service has withdrawn the lands:
  - Research natural areas
- Lands on which technology to harvest timber is not currently available without causing irreversible damage:
  - Areas having *high mass movement potential* were removed due to this criterion. The criteria differed based on geographic area.
  - Slopes of 60% or greater amount
- Lands where there is no reasonable assurance that such lands can be adequately restocked within 5 years after final regeneration:
  - Areas with less than 10 percent canopy cover of trees were removed in this step. Areas that were formerly occupied by trees but with low canopy cover due to recent disturbance were not removed if tree species were regenerating.
  - Areas with nonindustrial species, such as pinyon, and juniper as resourced from the VCMQ
- Land that is not Forest land:
  - In-holdings
  - Level 2 through 5 roads
  - Recreation Areas

The acres remaining after removal of the list are those acres that *may be available or suitable* for timber production. This is the current point of modeling the Manti-La Sal has determined at this point. During alternatives and completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Forest will complete the

next steps to determine both lands that are *not suitable but available* for timber production and those that are *suitable* for timber production.

## **Lands Not Suitable but Available for Timber Production**

Lands not suitable but available for timber production are those lands where timber production is incompatible with achieving the desired conditions and objectives established in the Forest Plan for management of those lands. Timber harvests may occur on these lands, for the benefit of other resources desired conditions but the lands would not have a regularly scheduled timber harvest and be managed for timber production. Lands that are not suitable but available for timber production were determined using the criteria in the Land Management Planning Handbook FSH 1909.12 Chapter 60. These areas and associated acreage were determined by starting with the remaining acres that were not found to be not suitable or available and removing areas that are not suited for timber production, listed below:

- Lands where timber production would not be compatible with the achievement of desired conditions and objectives established by the plan for those lands:
  - Colorado inventoried roadless rule areas
  - Utah inventoried roadless rule areas
  - Recommended wilderness areas
  - Specific geographic and management areas
  - Mont E. Lewis Botanical Area
  - Bear's Ears National Monument
  - National Register Sites
  - National Recreation Trails
  - Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers with preliminary scenic classifications

## **Lands Suitable for Timber Production**

Lands suitable for timber production are those lands where management for timber production would be a desired condition or objective for management of those lands and where regularly scheduled timber harvests would be expected to occur. These areas are located where other resource considerations and site limitations do not restrict management or limit the rate and amount of harvest over time to a considerable degree. These areas and associated acreage were determined by the previous elimination factors. The acres not eliminated in the previous two steps are those that are suitable for timber production.

## **SUSTAINED YIELD LIMIT CALCULATIONS**

The sustained yield limit (SYL) is the amount of timber that can be produced on all lands that are either suitable for timber production or not suitable but available, assuming all of these lands were managed to produce timber without considering other multiple uses or fiscal or organizational capability.

The sustained yield limit estimated was determined to be of 68,400 hundred cubic feet (CCF) average annual volume. This represents the biological capability for the land base on which it was calculated and is the upper limit of timber harvest that could be offered. It is unconstrained by budgets assumptions or

land management plan desired conditions. Actual sale levels depend on any number of factors, including fiscal capability of the planning unit, timber market conditions, constraints on timber harvest in the forest plan, and project-level analysis.

To clearly display the intended timber program, the plan identifies the projected wood sale quantity and projected timber sale quantity.

- The **projected timber sale quantity** is the portion of the projected wood sale quantity that meets applicable timber utilization standards.
- The **projected wood sale quantity** is the estimated output of timber and all other wood products (such as fuelwood, firewood, or biomass) expected to be sold during the plan period for any purpose (except salvage harvest, sanitation harvest, removal of trees to improve stand health, or to reduce actual or anticipated spread of insects and disease) on all lands in the plan area.

*Table 1. Determination of the sale quantities for the first and second decades of the life of the Forest Plan.*

<b>Timber Product</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Decade Hundred Cubic Feet (CCF)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Decade Hundred Cubic Feet (CCF)</b>
projected timber sale quantity	16.5	18.8
projected wood sale quantity	5.3	6.4

Neither the projected wood sale quantity nor the projected timber sale quantity serve as management targets or as limitations on harvest. Both are based on reasonable expectations about the fiscal capability and organizational capacity to achieve the desired conditions and objectives in the revised plan for the planning period. Calculation of these volume estimates are sensitive to a number of important assumptions, including future budget trends, future markets for timber products, efficiency in planning and implementation, and the timing and locations of large disturbance events. If additional support to achieve desired conditions was provided through opportunities—such as increased congressional allocations, stewardship contracting, or work with partners through the Good Neighbor Authority—the potential wood and timber sale quantity identified in the revised plan could be exceeded. Conversely, if available resources, markets, or other factors are less favorable than anticipated, the potential wood and timber sale quantities identified may not be met.