

# Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Plan Revision

*October and November 2014*



# Why are we here today?

- To provide clear information and reasoning for what we are proposing
- To hear your reactions and specific comments on the management areas and desired conditions.

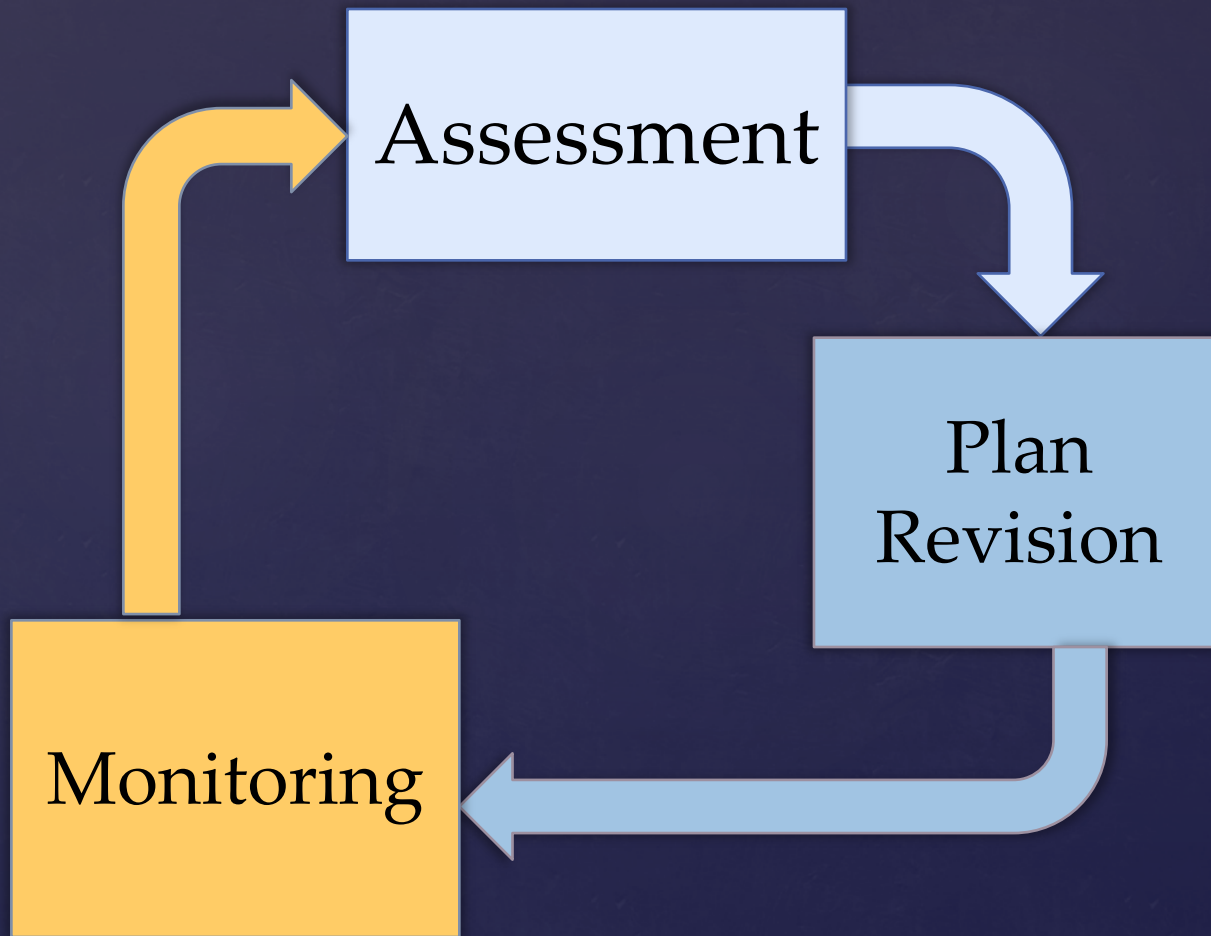


# Forest Plan Revision

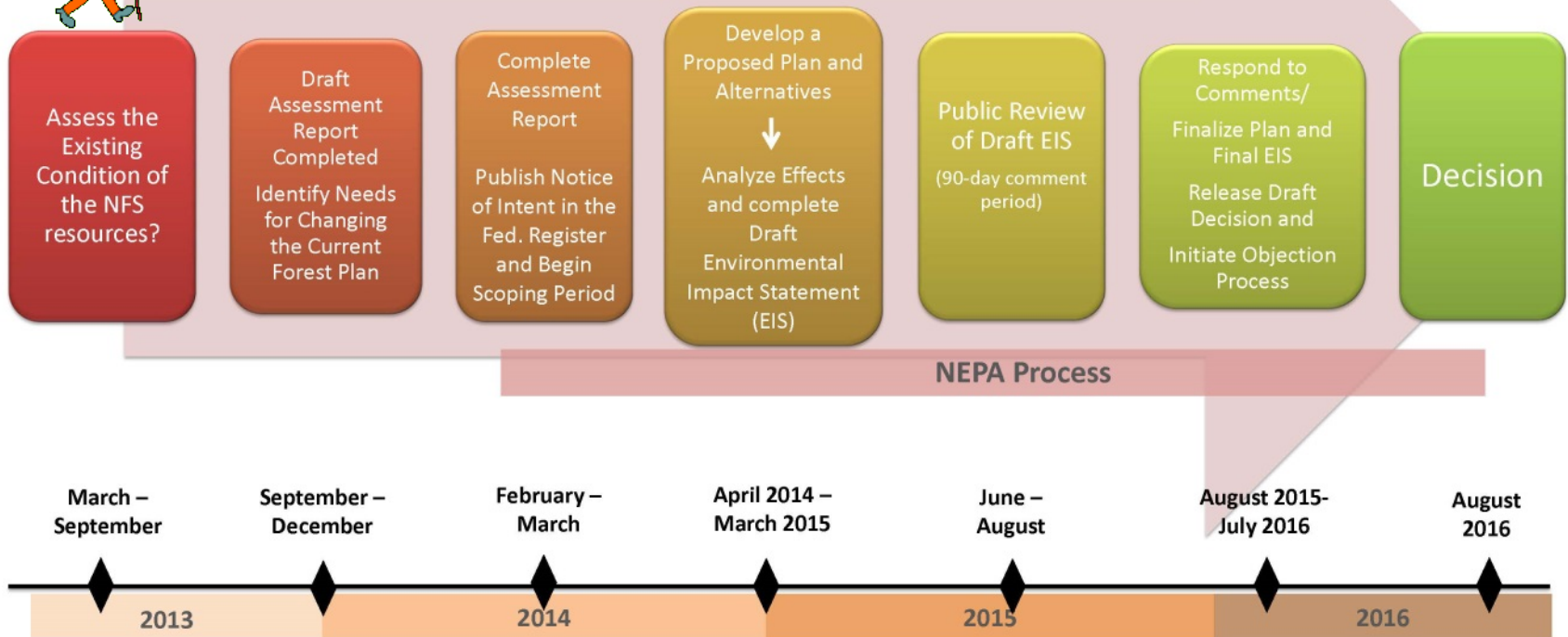
- Update on the timeline
- Review of the last 2 years
- Significant Issues
- Management Areas
- Forest Plan Components
- Update on Wilderness inventory and evaluation



# Three Phases to Revise a Forest Plan



# Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Plan Revision Process Timeline



2013 – 16 public meetings →

Assessment and  
Need-for-Change

2014 – 2 public meetings, and 1,000's of  
public comments



Significant Issues,  
Management Areas, and  
Desired Conditions



# Significant Issues

- **Wildlife Habitats** – Desire for more young forest, old forest, and varying degrees of interior and core forest
- **Special Designations** – Range of opinions regarding the number, kinds, and extent of special designations, including wilderness and other special areas
- **Access** – The extent of the road and trail systems to provide access to the forest
- **Recreation** – Diversity of recreation interests with varying levels of development



# Management Area

- Allow for consistent direction across geographically and ecologically similar areas
- Our current Forest Plan has 21 Management Areas
- The proposed MA framework for the revised plan has 16 unique MAs





# Proposed Management Area Framework

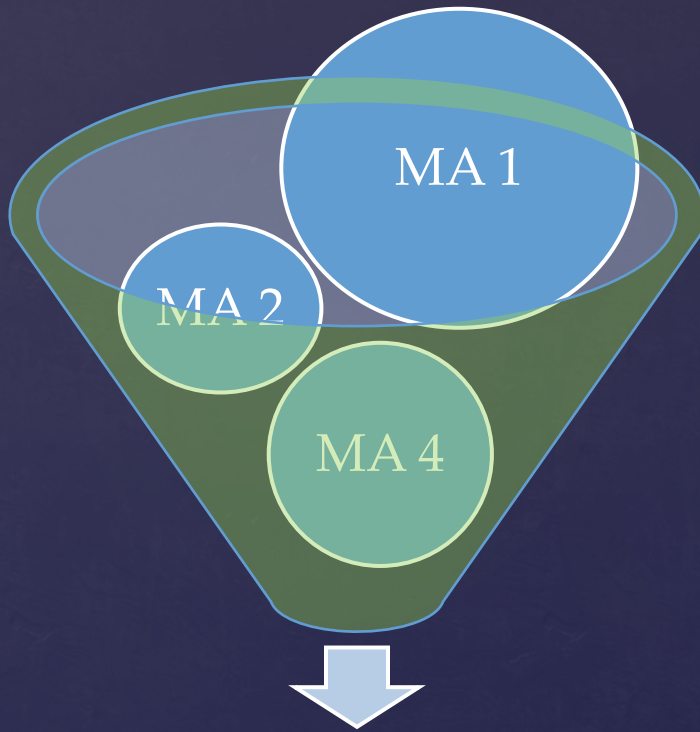
## **Some of the Existing Management Areas**

- Backcountry – MA 3 (previous MA 5)
- Special Interest Areas – MA 5 (previous MA 13)
- Wilderness Areas – MA 7
- Experimental Forests – MA 8
- Roan Mountain – MA 9
- Cradle of Forestry – MA 11

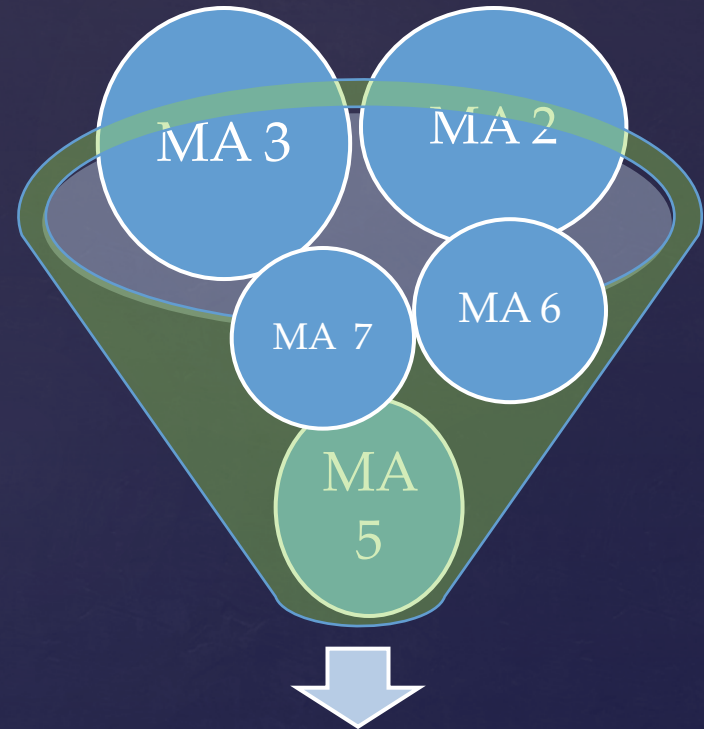
## **Some New Management Areas**

- Forest Habitat and Diversity – MA 1
- Restoration and Connectivity – MA2
- Significant Recreation and Heritage Corridors – MA 4  
(A- AT, B- Byways, C-Cultural, D - Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers)

# Management Areas

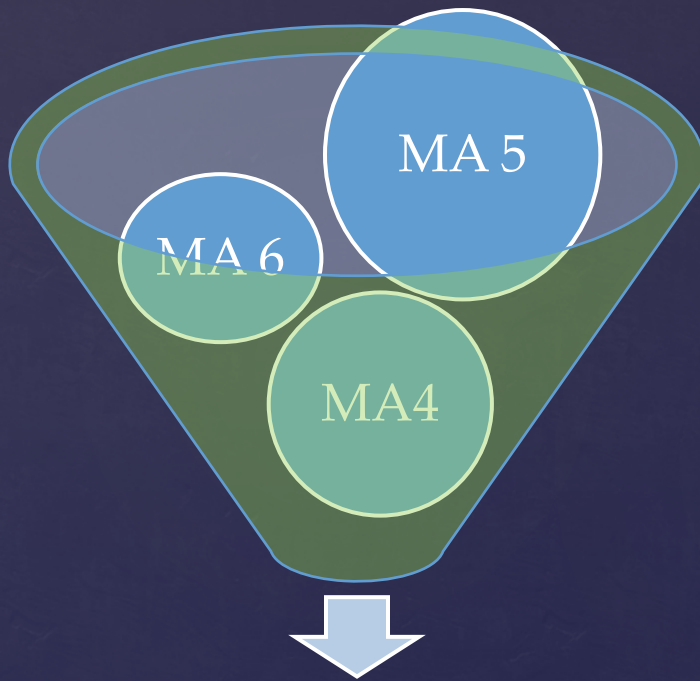


Wildlife habitat and  
access to the forest

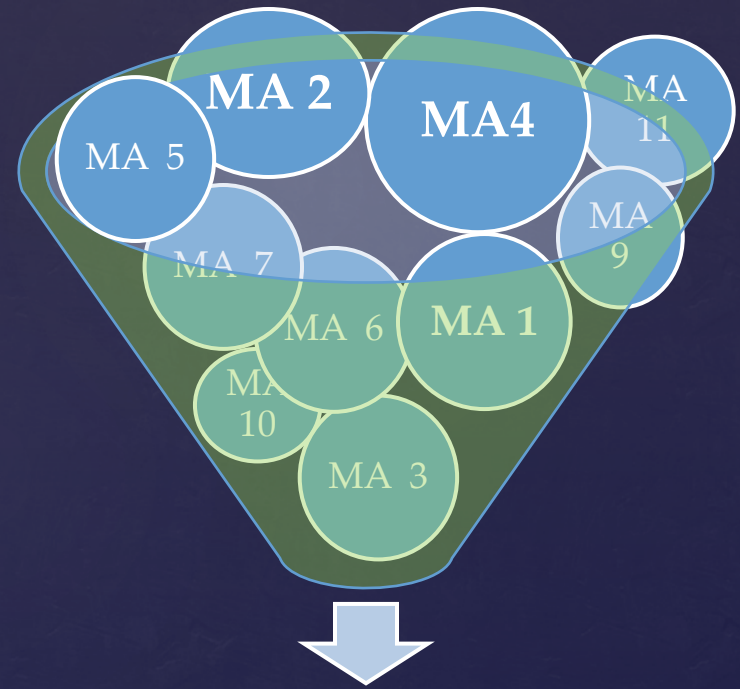


Unfragmented  
core forests

# Management Areas



More Special  
Designated Areas



Diverse Recreation  
Opportunities

# Management Area 1

## Forest Habitat Diversity

- Diversity of forest age classes and conditions
- High-quality wildlife habitat, including both early successional habitat and some old growth conditions
- Forest management, including timber production and prescribed fire, plays an important role in the maintenance of the forest
- More roaded access compared to other MAs



# Management Area 2

## Restoration and Connectivity

- Opportunities for restoring a diversity of forest age classes and conditions
- Less emphasis on young forest and more emphasis on connectivity of habitats
- New road construction is limited to low
- 2A - suitable for timber production
- 2B – not suitable for timber production



# Management Area 3 Backcountry

- Remote and primarily unroaded areas
- Areas are primarily shaped by natural processes
- Older forest conditions are most apparent
- Large tracts of backcountry recreation opportunities
- Will include many of the Inventoried Roadless Areas

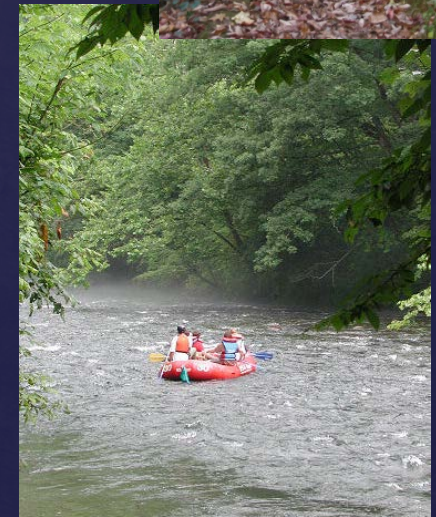


# Management Area 4

## Significant Recreation and Heritage Corridors

- 4A – Appalachian Trail
- 4B – National and Forest Scenic Byways
- 4C – National Heritage Corridors
- 4D – Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers

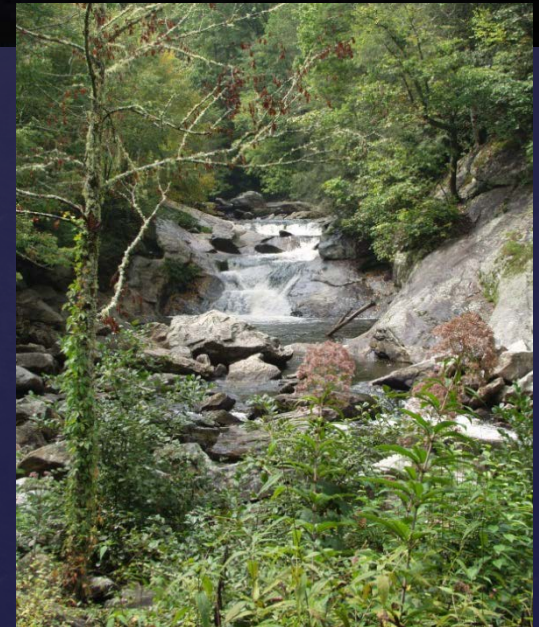
Provide for the conservation and enjoyment of the significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural qualities of the land through which these corridors pass.



# Management Area 5

## Research Natural Areas and Special Interest Areas

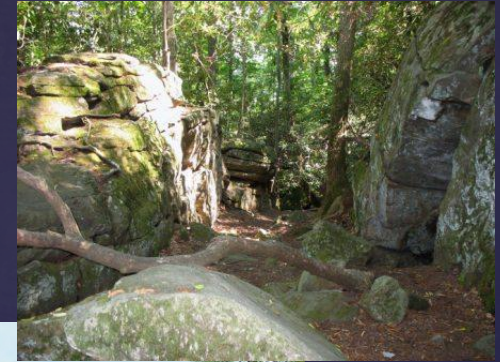
- Managed to perpetuate the rare species, conditions, or features for which the area was designated
- Research Natural Areas are managed as reference conditions for scientific research
- An additional 15 Special Interest Areas are being considered (approx. 6,000 acres)





# Proposed additions to Special Interest Areas

- Lovers Leap/Stackhouse Slopes - App
- Spring Creek Gorge – App
- Bald Mountain - Grd
- Linville Mountain Dolomite Areas- Grd
- Lost Cove Cliffs - Grd
- Woods Mountain/Singecat Ridge – Grd
- Alarka Laurel – Nant
- Blackrock Mountain/ Granite City – Nant
- Cedar Cliff/ The Pinnacle - Nant
- Panthertown - Nant
- Silver Run Preserve/ Sassafras Mtn – Nant
- Fodderstacks – Nant
- Chestnut Bald/Flat Laurel Creek – Psg
- Devils Courthouse - Psg
- Die Bend/Crowder Bluff - Psg



# Management Area 6

## Wilderness Study Areas and Areas Recommended for Wilderness

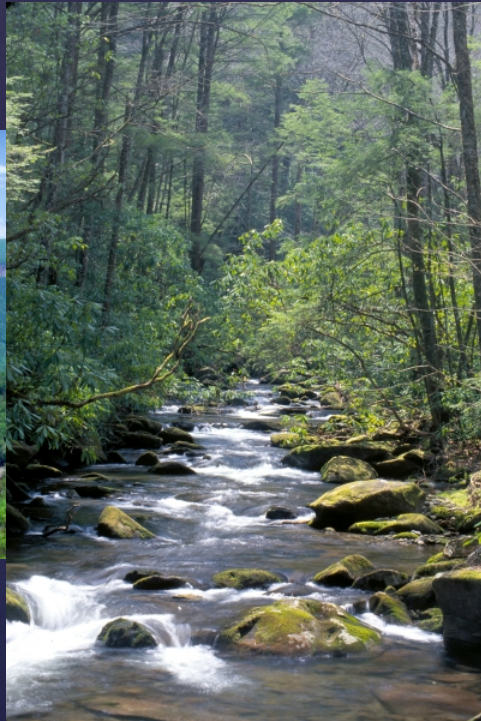
- Managed to protect their wilderness characteristics pending legislation as to their classification
- Currently have 5 designated Wilderness Study Areas
- Any new recommendations for wilderness will also be in this Management Area



# Management Area 7

## Congressionally Designated Wilderness

- Linville Gorge, Shining Rock, Middle Prong, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock, Southern Nantahala, Ellicott Rock



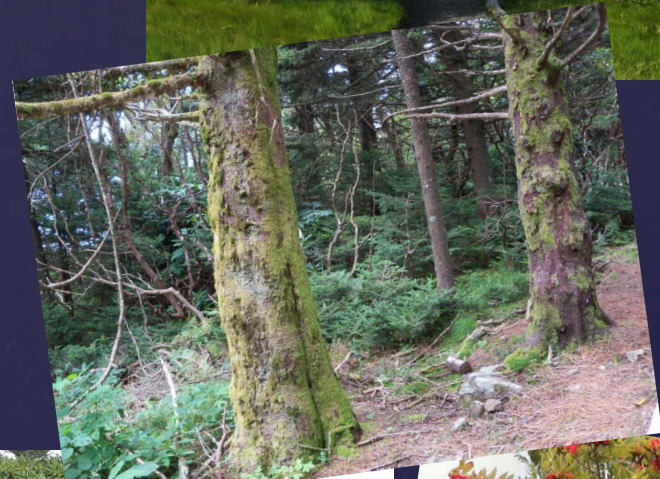
# Management Area 8 Experimental Forests

- Includes the 3 existing Experimental Forests
  - Bent Creek,
  - Coweeta, and
  - Blue Valley
- Lands dedicated to experimentation, education, and demonstration
- Research takes precedence over other multiple use objectives



# Management Area 9 Roan Mountain

- Managed to perpetuate existing significant plant and animal species and to protect the area's scenic and aesthetic attributes
- Significant rare communities



# Management Area 10 Concentrated Recreation Areas

- Developed recreation areas and areas of concentrated recreation use



# Management Area 11 Cradle of Forestry

“The birthplace of forestry and forestry education in America” was designated “to promote, demonstrate, and stimulate interest in and knowledge of the management of forest lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield...”



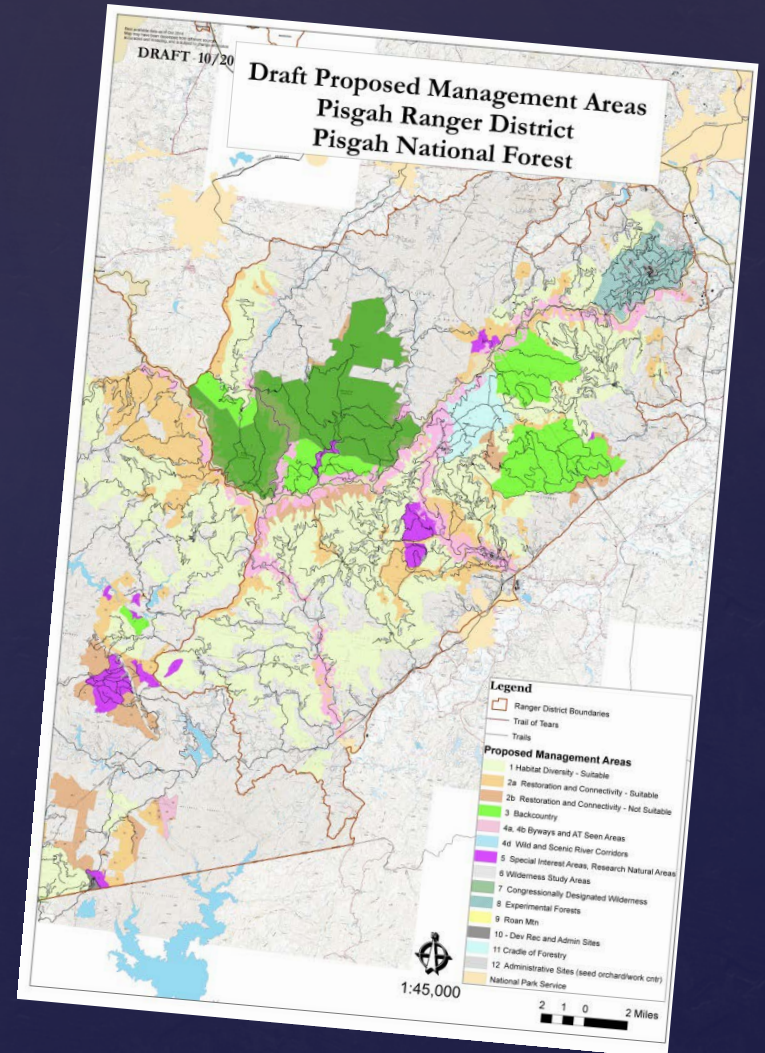
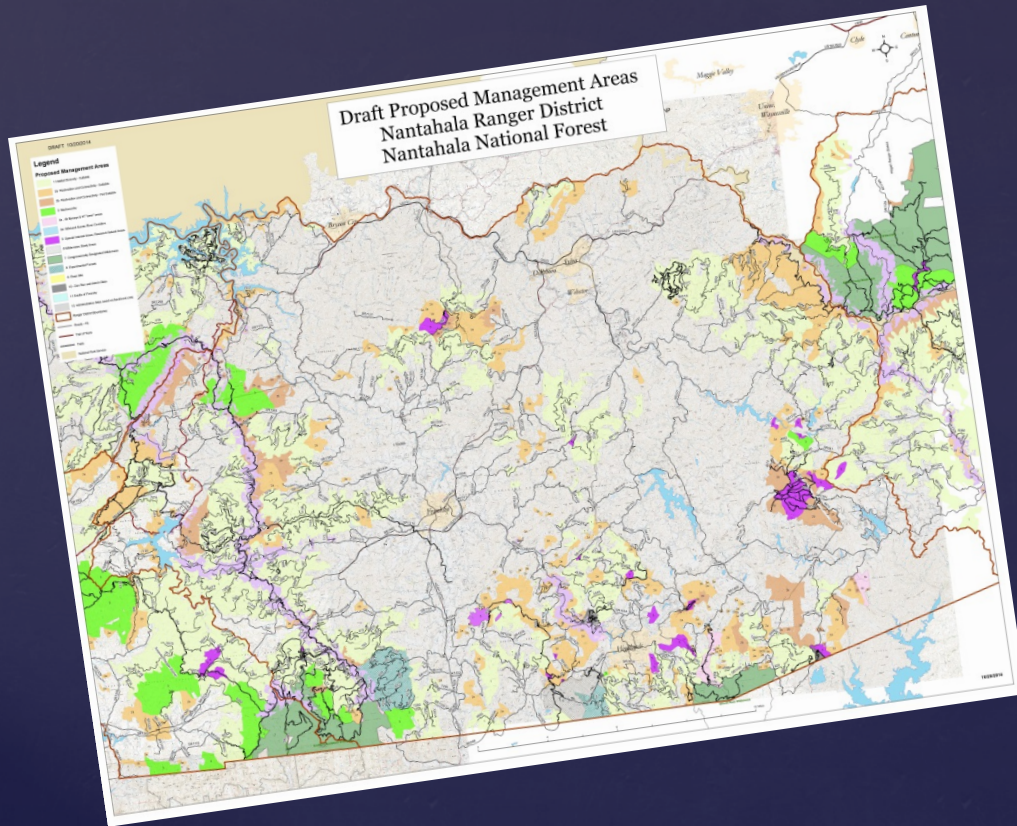
# Management Area 12 Administrative Sites

- District Offices, work centers, Job Corps Centers, seed orchards





Management areas provide the context and strategy for managing different lands across the forest.



# Plan Components

- Forest-wide plan components
- Each Management Area has plan components specific to its intended purpose



# Plan Components

- Desired Conditions – The Vision
- Objectives – The Strategy
- Standards/Guidelines – The Design Criteria

# Desired Conditions

- **The Social, Economic, and Ecological vision for the forest**
- **Aspirations, not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities**
- **Do not direct actions on the ground**
- **May be achievable only over a long time period**

Example:

Existing targeted non-native invasive species are eradicated, controlled, or contained, and the establishment of new infestations is promptly detected and prevented.

- Nantahala and Pisgah NFs DRAFT

# Objectives

- **Concise projections of measurable, time specific intended outcomes**
- **A way of measuring progress toward achieving or maintaining desired conditions**

Example:

Treat at least 50 percent of non-native invasive plants species populations within 1 to 2 years of detection during the planning period.

- Prescott NF

# Standards

- **A mandatory constraint on project and activity decision making, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition**

Example:

Projects shall be designed to reduce the potential for introduction of new species or spread of existing invasive or undesirable aquatic or terrestrial nonnative populations.

- Apache-Sitgreaves NFs

# Guidelines

- **Provide information and guidance for project and activity decision making**
- **Do not force action but set out design criteria that should apply when an action is being taken**

Example:

Projects and activities should not transfer water between drainages or between unconnected water bodies within the same drainage to avoid spreading disease and aquatic invasive species.

- Apache-Sitgreaves NFs

# Suitability of Areas

- **Areas are identified as generally suitable for various uses**
- **May be identified as generally suitable for uses that are compatible with desired conditions and objectives for that area**
- **Are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities**
- **eg. timber production, timber harvest, motor vehicle use, road and trail construction**



# Other Plan Content

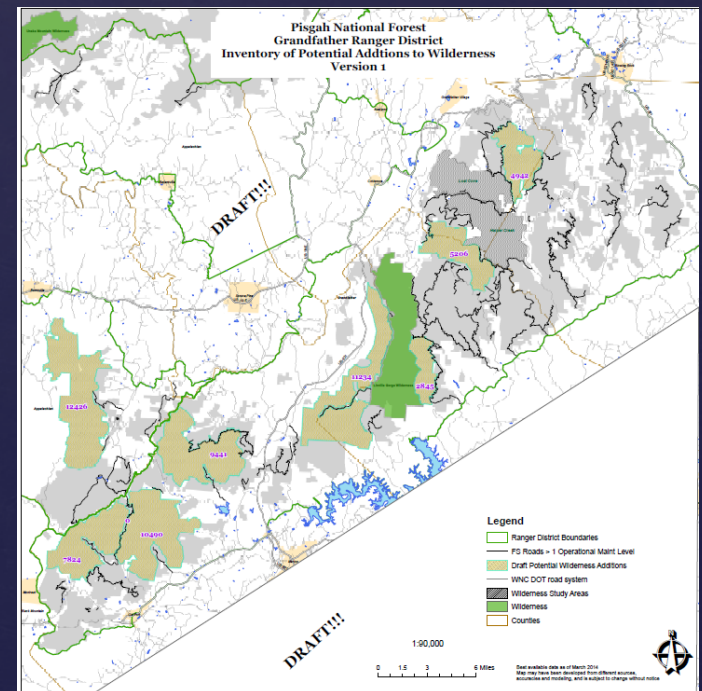
- **Priority Watersheds – Identify watersheds that are a priority for maintenance or restoration**
- **Management approaches - convey a sense of priority and focus among plan objectives**
  - **Recreation Settings**

# Update for Potential Wilderness Addition Process



We are here

- Original inventory maps shared in April 2014.
- Comments on inventory maps are being used to refine the inventory.



# Update for Potential Wilderness Addition Process

- The updated inventory maps will be available on-line by mid-November
- Next Step: **Evaluation** of areas for wilderness characteristics
- *Inclusion in the inventory is not a designation that conveys or requires a particular kind of management.*

The screenshot displays the website for the National Forests in North Carolina. The main content area is titled "Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan Revision" and features a map titled "Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Assessment". The map shows the geographical layout of the forests with various management areas highlighted in green and orange. Below the map, there is a section titled "NEW! Fall 2014 Public Meetings" which includes text about the upcoming public meetings and the development of the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. The website also has a search bar, a navigation menu on the left, and a "Quick Links" section on the right.

# Update for Potential Wilderness Addition Process

- Solicit public input through an on-line interactive tool

Tell us if ...

**It is** *affected primarily by the forces of nature*

**There are** *opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation*

**It is** *practicable to both allow use and maintain an unimpaired condition*

**It has** *unique ecological, geological, or other features*

**We could** *preserve the wilderness characteristics*

*It is not a requirement to use the online mapping tool to submit comments, we will always accept input by email and by postal mail*

# Starting Point

**US FOREST SERVICE**  
*100 Years of Caring for the land and serving people*

## Talking Points - A Collaborative Mapping website

Home

### WELCOME TO THE NANTAHALA AND PISGAH NATIONAL FORESTS , INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL ADDITIONS COLLABORATION MAPPING WEBSITE.

The purpose of this website is to broaden your ability to communicate and link your comments to specific areas of the Forest--in short, to engage in "collaborative learning" with other members of the public and the staff of the National Forest System. Your comments, questions, and suggestions, like those of others, are valued and will be reviewed by the staff on a regular basis to help inform them of forest conditions, uses, and trends. In addition, it may help you to understand how others feel about the National Forest in these areas.

In this website you will be able to identify and draw one or more areas of the National Forest (as a point, a line, or a polygon) and leave a related comment for all public and Forest Service users to see and reply to. Pop-up user guides are available on the website to assist you in utilizing the website to its fullest capabilities.

Before continuing please note the following about use of this website:

- Use of this website is not subject to provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act governing the collection of public information.
- Your use of this website is entirely voluntary , and without penalty, on your part. We encourage you to use the website as a way to provide the National Forest with an easy means to voice your thoughts on forest planning and management.
- Your personal identity and information will not be disclosed on the website to other members of the public unless you agree. It will, however, become part of a record of public involvement subject to Freedom of Information Act provisions.
- Your use of this website does not confer upon you any legal "standing" for any existing or future NEPA decision.
- The National Forest reserves the right to remove any offensive, obscene or other language otherwise deemed inappropriate for the website content, including advertising, political statements, or religious messages.

Please note that this site has been developed for purposes of enhancing collaboration and public involvement. We welcome your comments and suggestions. However, we ask that you please refrain from posting any of the following:

- Obscenities, obscene pictures, or links to websites containing obscenities or obscene pictures
- Overtly or inflammatory partisan political messages, or links to websites containing overtly or inflammatory partisan political messages
- Promoting or facilitating illegal activities, or links to websites promoting or facilitating illegal activities
- Any other "spam" content

All of the above will be removed promptly by the site manager -- and in so doing ALL of your comments or content will be removed.

If you understand the purpose and limitations to the use of this website please check the box below and you will be directed to the next step in using this website.

Check this box to continue with the next step:



# Navigation and Commenting

To enter a comment associated with a point, line, or polygon on the map, click the "Draw" buttons below. [Commenting Help and Instructions](#) [Put map in full view](#)

Map Display Options

Public Comments

- Turn On/Off Public
- Comment is Te
- Comment has a

Map Display Layers

Visibility	Layer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Draft_P
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Range
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trails
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inv_Ro
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manag
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wilden
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest

*These areas do not represent the final inventory maps for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs*

Draw" buttons below.

put map in full view

### Leave A Comment:

The form below can be used to submit your comments. All contact information is optional and is used by the Forest Service only for possible follow-up to this comment.

Comments must be between 1 and 1024 characters.

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Full Address

Preferred Contact Method

Email  Mail  None

Comment Text (required)

Select Keyword...

### Map Display Options

#### Public Comments

Turn On/Off Public Comments

Comment is Text only

Comment has a Picture (Dashed Border)

#### Map Display Layers

Visibility	Layer Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Draft_Proposed_wild_add
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ranger District Boundaries
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trails
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads - FS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inv_Roadless Areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management Areas 1994 Plan Amendment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wilderness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest Service Lands
<input type="checkbox"/>	
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# Reading All Comments

To view all comments click [Here](#).

To enter a comment associated with a point, line, or polygon on the map, click the "Draw" buttons below.

**Map Display Options**

**Public Comments**

- Turn On/Off Public Comments
- Comment is Text Only
- Comment has a Photo

**Map Display Layers**

Visibility	Layer Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Draft_Proposed_wild_add
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ranger District Boundaries
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trails
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads - Public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inv_Roadless Areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management Plans
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wilderness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest Service Lands

*These areas do not represent the final inventory maps for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs*



# Reading All Comments

17698	Reply Received 09/10/2014 17:17		<i>You are correct and no one recommended for wilderness is in this area. Thank you for letting us know there was a problem so we could fix the data error</i>	
17697	09/14/2014 18:06		The scoping states that areas with authorized motorized trails will not be considered for the wilderness inventory. Perhaps due to scale of the map not all areas with authorized motorized trails are visible, but if the statement is true the Northern Piute Mtns (approximate area within polygon) should not be brought forward for addition to the wilderness inventory. Using the Kern River Motor Vehicle Opportunity Guide as a reference there is a significant number of highly important authorized motorized trails in that area, including but not limited to: 34E42 Woolstaff 34E44 Stonehouse 34E31 Dry Canyon/Long Meadow 34E41 Willow Gulch 32E52 Little Dry Meadow 33E45 Clear Creek 34E43 34E46 I realize this area never went through Travel Management, but these trails are listed in the INFRA database as well as on the MVUM giving them legal status. Thanks you.	<a href="#">see on map</a>
18285	Reply Received 09/17/2014 17:23		<i>I wholeheartedly agree with the comment above. My family and I regularly take the grandparents into this area via our SUV for short hikes to Alaska Flat and Inspiration Point. They would have no way to enjoy this area if it is made wilderness and there are lots of roads and multi-use trails existing. Thanks, Ed Paulsen</i>	
17700	09/14/2014 18:17		It appears from the interactive map that portions of the Breckinridge IRA have authorized motorized trails present (grey color). These areas should include 32E51 Remington and 31E78 Mill Creek trails that are presently listed on various Forest maps as authorized motorized routes. Thank you.	<a href="#">see on map</a>
17703	09/14/2014 18:28		I've indicated a polygon where I believe you have reserved space for 33E52 Cannell trail, an authorized motorized route. It also looks as if there is another area for 33E23 Rincon and 33E26 Cedar Canyon as well as 33E24, but it is difficult to tell from the map. Of course the Kern Plateau system is "grey" indicating it will be set aside because of the motorized trail system there.	<a href="#">see on map</a>
17868	09/15/2014 16:27	General comment	yes, this map and comment system doesn't work with older mac or any other I-product like an Ipad due to the requirement to have modern adobe flash player. Bummer for those of us on old macs. This type of product is a good step for the agency to gather site specific input, however. thanks and maybe next time use something on google earth/maps that works on nearly every platform. Off to find a PC...	no map point
18288	09/17/2014 17:34		Overall I see no benefit in designating so much more of this land as wilderness. We already have plenty of quality wilderness areas. This specific area includes the bull run basin that is a historical mining area with lots of roads to explore and old mines to visit.	<a href="#">see on map</a>
18293	09/17/2014 17:43	General comment	I have a question, are the areas for proposed wilderness only the dark green? Or are the magenta areas proposed also? It looks like the magenta areas were evaluated but not recommended for wilderness. Please respond as soon as possible so I know what I am looking at. Thanks, Ed Paulsen	no map point

# Potential Wilderness Addition Process



- Evaluation will inform the selection of recommendations and alternatives
- Recommendations and alternatives will be analyzed with plan alternatives in the DEIS
- Final recommendation does not equal designation, only Congress can designate wilderness

**Draft  
Environmental  
Impact  
Statement**

# Next Steps

1. Public comments will be used to further develop the plan components – including objectives, standards, and guidelines
2. Alternatives will be developed based on input received
3. Analysis of proposed plan and alternatives – Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
4. June 2015 – DEIS available for public comment, additional public meetings

# Review Displays and Maps

1. All materials shared here tonight are DRAFT
2. Management area designations are still subject to change in the proposed plan
  - Areas recommended for wilderness have not yet been identified and are not indicated on the maps
3. Forest-wide Desired Conditions
4. Recreation Settings
5. Proposed Priority watersheds

