

Sanpete Mayors:

The growth of outdoor recreation and tourism in Sanpete County is important to the local economy. Hotel and restaurant taxes increased by an incredible 176% since 2007. The North Zone of the Manti-LaSal National Forest is one of the best places in the nation for high-mountain motorized recreation, so it's important to preserve this unique opportunity. Visitors and local residents enjoy the Arapeen OHV Trail in the summer, as well as backcountry snowmobiling in the winter.

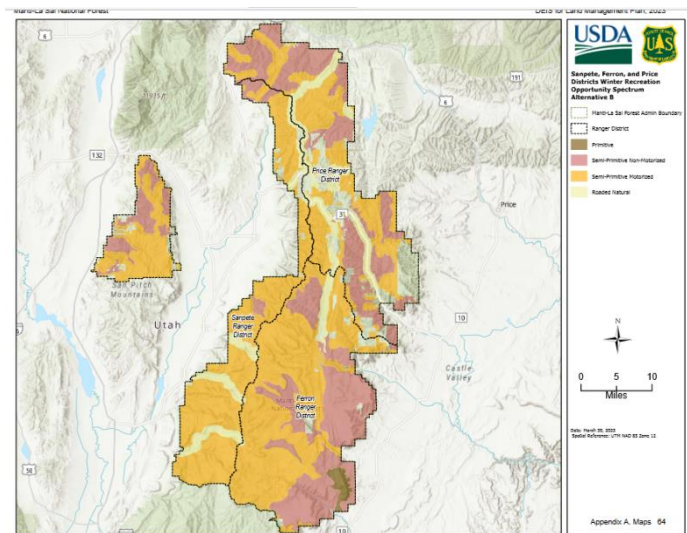
Here is a list of issues with the Manti-LaSal National Forest Resource Management Plan. The forest is divided into several sections. All of the issues stated below are for the North Zone- near Sanpete County.

WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS) MAP

The draft plan states:

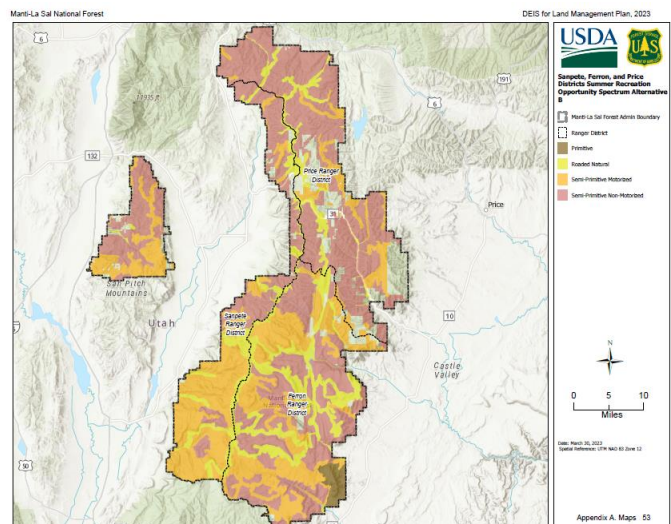
TO MANAGE FOR AND PROVIDE A DIVERSITY OF WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, MOTORIZED, OVER-SNOW TRAVEL IS NOT SUITABLE IN PRIMITIVE AND SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM CLASSES EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES OR ADMINISTRATIVE USES.

Also, large area of the Winter ROS map (right) have been designated as SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED areas. If the above regulation and the attached Winter ROS map are adopted, Snowmobiles would not be allowed in the RED areas of the Winter ROS map.



SUMMER RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS) MAP

Likewise, the Summer ROS map to the right (known as Alternative B) classifies much of the North Zone as SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED. **Alternative A** (not shown) is the preferred option for the Summer ROS map for the North Zone, as it removes much of the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized areas. This change is necessary to help ensure that the forest remains accessible to everyone, regardless of age, physical capabilities, or disabilities- while also supporting the local economy.



By removing SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED areas from the North Zone- on both the Summer and Winter ROS maps, we can protect this outdoor tradition for generations to come.

PROPOSED WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT AREA

The draft plan proposes 7 areas on the north zone for wilderness, specifically:

1. Blind canyon
2. Mill fork
3. Fish creek
4. Candland mountain
5. Gentry mountain
6. Canal canyon
7. Sanpitch

The plan also creates the following standards, objectives, & guidelines that would essentially allow the areas to be managed as wilderness, without a Congressional wilderness designation.

OBJECTIVES (MA-RECWILD-OB) - PAGE 4-95

01 TO ENSURE MAINTENANCE OF THE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS THAT COULD ALLOW THESE AREAS TO BE ADDED TO THE WILDERNESS SYSTEM, CLOSURE ORDERS FOR COMMERCIAL FILMING AND LAUNCHING SHOULD BE WRITTEN WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF PLAN APPROVAL.

02 OVER THE LIFE OF THE PLAN, REQUEST THAT ALL RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS BE WITHDRAWN FROM MINERAL ENTRY IN CONFORMANCE WITH SECTION 204 OF THE FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976).

STANDARDS (MA-RECWILD-ST)

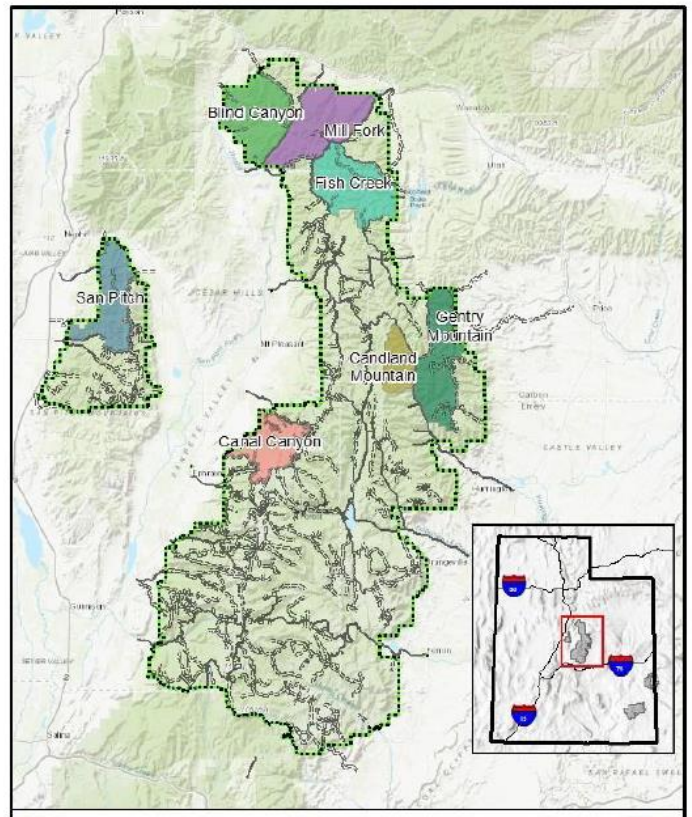
01 COMMERCIAL FILMING SHALL NOT BE AUTHORIZED IN RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS.

02 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM CLASSIFICATION OF PRIMITIVE.

03 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS SHALL NOT BE SUITABLE FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION.

04 TIMBER HARVEST IN A RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA SHALL ONLY OCCUR IF REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS OF THAT AREA.

Proposed Wilderness for Further Analysis, North Zone



05 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS SHALL BE SUITABLE FOR WATERSHED RESTORATION ACTIVITIES WHERE THE OUTCOMES WILL PROTECT THEIR WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS, IF THE ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION ARE MAINTAINED AND PROTECTED.

06 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS SHALL NOT BE SUITABLE FOR MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED TRANSPORT, UNLESS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, VALID EXISTING RIGHTS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE USE.

07 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS SHALL NOT BE SUITABLE FOR NEW MOTORIZED OR MECHANIZED ROADS OR TRAILS.

08 SCENERY MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE SCENIC INTEGRITY OBJECTIVE OF HIGH OR VERY HIGH.

GUIDELINES (MA-RECWILD-GD)

01 TO MAINTAIN WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS, FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIONS SHOULD APPLY MINIMUM IMPACT STRATEGIES AND TACTICS, EXCEPT WHEN DIRECT ATTACK IS NEEDED TO PROTECT LIFE, ADJACENT PROPERTY, OR TO MITIGATE RISKS TO RESPONDERS.

02 TO ENHANCE OR IMPROVE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS, VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN USING THE MINIMUM TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES NECESSARY.

03 TREE CUTTING MAY OCCUR INCIDENTAL TO OTHER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, TRAIL MAINTENANCE, REMOVAL OF HAZARD TREES, OR FIRELINE CONSTRUCTION.

Wilderness areas should not be considered on the North Zone, as this designation would unnecessarily restrict historic and future uses on the Forest.

To make a comment online, please go to:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=50121> before November 16, 2023.