

STRATEGIC PLANNING ISSUES

The Region needs to identify the broad strategic issues that will drive the development of Forest Plan revisions. Forests were asked to identify the key issues they must address in revision. These were reviewed by the Regional Leadership Team and three issues were identified that apply across the Southwestern Region. All issues are multi-faceted and interconnected. There will need to be integration of approaches to address these issues.

How will we manage to contribute to ecological sustainability?

Connected Questions:

- What are the reference, current and desired conditions of major vegetation groups?
- What are the reference, current and desired conditions of riparian and aquatic systems?
- What are the appropriate tools to create this landscape, e.g. wildland fire use, prescribed fire, mechanical treatments?
- Where is it appropriate to apply these tools?
- What will be the effects of this created landscape on other resource values, e.g. wildlife, fisheries, water, soil, air, visuals, cultural etc.?
- How do we manage for Threatened and Endangered species and species at risk?
- How do we address invasive species?
- Do we have species of interest and species of concern that require specific management?
- What will be the effects of prolonged drought?

How will we manage to contribute to social and economic sustainability?

Connected Questions:

- How will increasing populations change the use of NFS lands?
- How will we manage to protect communities and other wildland urban interface areas?
- Which lands are suitable for timber production?
- Which lands are suitable for livestock grazing?
- Which lands are suitable for minerals and energy production?
- Which lands are suitable for special uses, communications sites or other social infrastructure needs?
- Which lands are suitable for OHV and other backcountry recreation use?
- What are the appropriate roads and trail system and access management needs?
- What is our desired land ownership pattern?

Which areas should receive or be proposed for special designation?

Connected Questions:

Which areas should be recommended for wilderness?

Which streams are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation?

Which streams should be recommended as suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation?

Which areas should be designated Research Natural Areas?