

# **Management Direction Package**



**Fishlake National Forest**  
***Draft Version 1.0***  
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## Part One – Vision

### **BROAD VISION STATEMENT FOR DIXIE AND FISHLAKE NATIONAL FORESTS**

The Dixie and Fishlake National Forests are integral parts of the ecology, economy, and society in southern Utah. The forests contribute natural resource and recreation opportunities to the nation and surrounding communities in a manner that sustains healthy diverse ecosystems. The mountains, plateaus, and canyons of the forests collect and distribute water to the arid ecosystems, conserve high-elevation habitats, and provide a wide variety of recreation settings. Forest management activities maintain and improve these features.

### **SETTING OF THE DIXIE AND FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**

The Dixie National Forest (Dixie NF) is the largest of six national forests in Utah. It covers almost two million acres and stretches over 200 miles of land in the Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, Wayne, and Washington counties. There are four ranger districts on the forest with offices located in St. George, Cedar City, Panguitch, and Escalante. Interstate 15 runs along the western edge of the forest (the Pine Valley Ranger District (RD) is west of I-15). State Highway 89 runs north and south through the middle of the forest. State Highway 12, an All-American Road, bisects much of the forest from east to west. The forest is adjacent to the wonders of Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef National Parks, as well as the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Cedar Breaks National Monuments. (Ref Map)

The Fishlake National Forest (Fishlake NF) is located in south central Utah, with district offices in Richfield, Fillmore, Beaver, and Loa. The forest encompasses 1.5 million acres in Wayne, Garfield, Sevier, Piute, Beaver, Millard, Juab, and Sanpete counties. I-70 runs through the middle of the forest and I-15 runs along the west side. State Highway 89 also runs north and south through the middle of the forest. The Fishlake NF is extensively bordered by public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is bordered on the east by Capitol Reef National Park (Ref. Map)

The Teasdale RD on the Dixie NF and the Loa RD on the Fishlake NF have been combined and will be called the Fremont River RD. This new district will be managed by the Fishlake NF. However, the former Teasdale RD will still comply with direction in the Dixie NF Plan. (Ref. map)

### **Vegetative, Hydrological and Geological Features**

The variety of vegetation is reflective of the soils, climatic patterns, disturbance history, and elevations of the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests. The lower and drier slopes are dominated by pinyon pine and juniper mixed with sagebrush and interspersed with an occasional meadow or riparian zone. Ponderosa pine appears at the mid elevations as moisture increases. Higher elevation areas are dominated by aspen mixed with Englemann spruce and subalpine fir. In the fall, gold and red leaves can be seen as

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thousands of acres of aspen change color. Other vegetation types occur at different elevations and moisture regimes including mixed conifer and mountain shrubs. Mixed conifer ecosystems offer a variety of green textures and colors based on the composition of the species. Bristlecone pine, one of the oldest living organisms on the planet, is locally endemic to the forests.

The current mix of vegetation on the forests is constantly changing. Natural disturbances such as fire or insects have affected the mix. Today many of these natural disturbance processes are not operating as they have in the past. Examples of the changes include many of the large aspen stands are being replaced by spruce/fir forest, and pinyon pine and juniper have invaded grass/forb and sagebrush areas, and sagebrush areas have a reduced grass/forb component.

Water is especially important in this semiarid climate. Streams from the forests "feed" the valleys with this most valuable commodity. Many local communities obtain at least part of their culinary water supply from spring sources within the forest boundary. In addition to culinary water uses, a system of ditches and diversions provides water for irrigation and agricultural operations.

Geographically, the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests straddle the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. There is a mix of sedimentary and volcanic rocks as this is the transition zone. On the Dixie NF, elevations vary from 2,800 feet near St. George to 11,322 feet at Blue Bell Knoll on Boulder Mountain. Boulder Mountain is one of the largest timbered high elevation plateaus in the United States. On the Fishlake NF, elevations vary from 12,169 ft at Delano Peak to about 4,800 ft near Oak City.

### **Weather**

During winter and spring, deep snowpack accumulates in many of the high elevations. By late spring, temperatures warm up in the canyon country and low elevations, while the mountain snowpack begins to melt. The high mountain roads and trails are usually free of snow by mid to late June. Summer brings warm temperatures to most areas, with hot temperatures in the canyon country. Afternoon thunderstorms become common by June and can be expected into September. With these storms, flash flooding is a possible hazard in gullies and narrow canyons.

Temperature extremes can be impressive with summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the lower valleys and winter lows as cold as negative 30 degrees on some of the plateau tops.

### **Wildlife**

The Dixie and Fishlake National Forests support a variety of wildlife species in Southwestern Utah. Healthy populations of wildlife, including big game, inhabit all vegetation types within the forests. Additionally, many lakes and reservoirs and hundreds of miles of streams provide good opportunities for anglers to catch native trout species such as the Bonneville and Colorado cutthroat trout. Two native species of wild turkey

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can be found in the forests the high spruce and fir landscapes and the low elevation riparian bottoms.

In addition to game species, the forests provide a home for numerous other species of wildlife. The forests contribute toward meeting recovery goals for several threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

### **Recreation**

The forests continue to provide a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. Pine Valley, Box Death Hollow, and Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Areas make up 83,000 acres of the Dixie NF. Areas also exist on both forests and accommodate such activities as: hiking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, camping, picnicking, resort lodging on the forests and adjacent areas, biking, snowmobiling, cross-country, downhill skiing, fishing, hunting, and viewing scenery.

Forest campgrounds offer opportunities for family and group camping. On the Fishlake NF, sites range in size from 7 to 68 units. On the Dixie NF, campgrounds can accommodate from 6 to 98 units. Campgrounds on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests can be found from 5,700 ft in elevation to 9,300 ft. Dispersed camping is also available throughout much of the forests.

Mountain bikers, hikers, OHV enthusiasts, and horseback riders will all find a trail to suit their interests. The Fishlake NF provides over 1,100 miles of non-motorized trails offer a variety of hiking, backpacking and horseback opportunities. The Fishlake NF has two National Recreation Trails: Fish Lake Shoreline Trail and the Skyline Trail in the Tushar Mountains, and the Dixie NF has the Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail. The Dixie has 1311 miles of hiking trails with 143 miles within wilderness areas. On the Fishlake NF, the Paiute ATV Trail is approximately 850 miles of designated routes that winds over three mountain ranges including side trails to communities. It is a combination of roads open to use by OHVs and trails wide enough for all-terrain vehicles (ATV's). Full-size 4x4 vehicles can use the road portions of this designated route. The Great Western Trail crosses the eastern portions of both forests on its way to the Mexican border from Canada. It also accommodates vehicle, horse, and foot traffic.

### **Historic and Cultural Sites**

The areas now managed as part of the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests have been used by human beings for over 10,000 years. Our cultural history is rich and diverse. Both forests have numerous archaeological, historical and paleontological resources. Archaeological sites found on the forests include, lithic scatters, ceramic scatters, kill sites, tool manufacturing sites, habitation sites, Pectoglyphs and Pictographs, and ceremonial sites of the Paleo-Indians, Archaic, Fremont, Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi), and Ute and Paiute cultures. Historic sites dating from the immigration of the Anglo cultures into the area in the 1800's include: sawmills, mines, homesteads, ranches, corrals, recreation facilities, Forest Service Administrative sites, campgrounds, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps, and numerous roads and trails throughout the forests.

## **ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS**

### **Dixie National Forest**

As a part of the world-renowned landscapes of Southern Utah, the Dixie National Forest provides a backdrop and serves as a gateway to surrounding high visibility National Parks and Monuments. Within its boundaries, the forest is marked by extreme landform contrast ranging from low elevation Mohjave Desert scrub, to desert mountains, to red rock canyons, and high-elevation plateaus and lakes. Nationally recognized highways and trails course through the Forest and provide ready access to unique natural highlights of the forest landscape.

The majority of forest visitors drive for pleasure and enjoy relaxing and viewing scenery. Interpretation of the unique natural, cultural, and historical settings occurs at facilities along the scenic highways to enhance the experience. Many visitors hike, fish, hunt, mountain bike, camp, ski, and ride OHVs. Some of these visitors seek and find a relative sense of solitude in the high plateaus and the wildernesses areas. In summer, visitors seek and find respite from the desert heat and the noise and stress of urban and suburban communities. In the winter, Brian Head ski resort attracts recreationists interested in downhill and cross-country skiing, and Duck Creek Recreation Area accommodates snowmobiles.

Among the Dixie National Forest's vast natural resources, the Paunsagant deer herd is known for producing outstanding trophy deer. Many of the rivers and creeks throughout the forest provide habitat for endemic trout populations, particularly Bonneville cutthroat trout and Colorado cutthroat trout. In addition to supporting wildlife biodiversity, these water resources provide culinary water to adjacent communities.

### **Fishlake National Forest**

The Fishlake NF is known for its extensive aspen forest and the deep cold waters of Fish Lake. The plateaus and high elevation lakes of the forest characterize the forest's unique geologic features. The dispersed recreation experience is exceptional in the region, characterized by ATVs and dispersed camping. On the Fishlake NF, motorized recreation events such as the Rocky Mountain ATV Jamboree, attract visitors from across the nation. The setting has also made group camping and family reunions popular activities.

The outstanding ecological features of the Fishlake NF are important to humans, plants, wildlife, and aquatic species. The Tushar Mountains are the third highest mountain range in Utah, the upper elevations of which are characterized by a unique alpine meadow habitat. The Fishlake NF also provides habitat to support trophy elk populations on Monroe Mountain and the Pahvant mountain range. Many of the rivers and creeks throughout the forest provide habitat for endemic trout populations, particularly Bonneville cutthroat trout and Colorado cutthroat trout. In addition to supporting wildlife biodiversity, these water resources provide culinary water to adjacent communities.

## **FOREST-WIDE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES**

This section is intended to highlight the most pressing challenges in management of the forests across disciplines. The health of the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests depends on our ability to reconcile these challenges to forest and community sustainability.

### **Changes in Social Conditions**

#### *Demographics*

Population growth and migration in the American West have increased demands on the forests. Increased visitor use of these forests is putting pressure on the landscapes, wildlife, and vegetation that depend on these lands. Local use of these forests has increased. However, much of the new use has come from population centers like Las Vegas and the Wasatch Front. In addition to the increased use of the forest, lands adjacent to the forests that once helped maintain natural systems are being developed for residential and commercial uses. The development of lands adjacent to the forest has increased concern about wildland-urban interface fire risks and encroachment on key wildlife habitats.

An increasing number of local and regional residents rely on the forests for recreation opportunities and for resources in ways that are not always compatible. The increased popularity of motorized recreation on, and off, existing trails has generated conflicts in use that have decreased the availability and the quality of non-motorized opportunities.

#### *Economics*

The forests' resources generate a variety of economic activities that contribute to the stability of communities. These activities do not always consider and contribute to the forests' desired conditions related to wildlife, watersheds, and vegetation

#### *Technology*

Technological advances have changed the day-to-day activities of forest visitors and the way people recreate. These changes have also affected impacts on the forests. Changes in motorized technology have increased the ability of humans and machines to go to remote places. Larger and more powerful ATVs and snowmobiles are available. In addition, the advent and popularity of cell phones has created additional demand for electronic sites. Technology is constantly changing and it is a challenge for the forests to address the demands that new and unforeseen advances in technology may bring.

### **Changes in Vegetative Conditions**

Fire suppression and federal land management practices are one source of changes in vegetation conditions. Compounded with other changes in the forests' ecosystems, several threats to vegetative health and diversity have emerged. Increased access and uses have contributed to the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and other invasive plants. The distribution and health of aspen stands has significantly declined; pinyon-juniper stands occupy a larger percentage of the landscape and are denser than was historically the case; and rare and endemic plant habitat such as tall forb communities, rock garden communities, and bristle cone pine stands face threats.

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**Conflicting Management Strategies for Range and Wildlife**

Big game and other species populations are managed by the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has oversight of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Habitat for all wildlife on the National Forest is managed by the USDA Forest Service. The Forest Service also administers a variety of permitted uses such as livestock grazing and timber. Coordination between these agencies is critical to providing sustainable forage for wildlife and livestock. However, despite UDWR, USFWS, and Forest Service attempts to work collaboratively, the missions of the agencies are not always coordinated. The result is on-the-ground difficulties in managing for ecosystem health.

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### **DESIRED CONDITIONS**

Desired Condition statements are an attempt to describe the preferred state of the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests. The statements are written in the present tense, however, the desired condition may currently exist or it may be a target that will take many decades to reach. The statements try to paint a “word picture” of a condition. Occasionally, these word pictures are supplemented with photographs.

It is important to understand that the described desired conditions are intertwined and provide support for each other. Nevertheless, they occasionally conflict. In such a situation, a project-specific evaluation may be required to resolve the conflict. The desired conditions are organized along resource disciplines.

The following desired conditions apply to both forests. More specific desired conditions have also been prepared for some geographic areas. This geographic area specific information can be found in the Strategy section of this document.

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**VEGETATION – DESIRED CONDITION****Guiding Vision for Vegetation**

- The composition, structure, and function of vegetative conditions ensure resilience to natural role disturbances.
- The composition, abundance, and patchwork of vegetation conditions provide high water quality to local communities.
- Vegetative conditions provide sustainable levels of products such as forage or wood fiber for public needs at local and regional levels consistent with other desired conditions and ecosystem processes.
- Diversity of structure, species composition, and successional stages provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

**General**

Landscape vegetation diversity includes an ever-changing patchwork of plant communities and structural conditions that are resilient, and operate at site potential. Disturbances play their natural role in stimulating vegetation diversity. Abundant ground cover and resilient plant communities support stable watershed conditions. Standing dead trees along with down woody debris provide vital ecologic functions, such as habitats, nutrient cycling, and soil protection.

**Desired Conditions by Specific Vegetation Groups***Aspen*

Aspen ecosystems contain a variety of age classes and structural components distributed across the landscape. Aspen systems regain dominance, reclaimed mainly from Englemann spruce/subalpine fir and mixed conifer types accompanied by marked increases in understory vegetation and groundcover. Conifers occupy less than 15% of the canopy (Campbell and Bartos, 2001). Mature and old aspen stands comprise about 30% of the structural class distribution. Young aspen comprise about 40% of the structural class distribution. Dominant aspen trees are generally less than 100 years old. Other age classes are evenly distributed between early, young, and mid age classes. Diverse aspen conditions support a large variety of animals. (See Terrestrial and Aquatic Desired Conditions) Associated herbaceous and woody vegetation are highly variable. Perennial grasses and forbs dominate these areas with a range of shrub cover resulting in minimal bare ground within aspen systems. Site productivity generally determines individual stand densities. Aspen regeneration success is achieved through an integrated sprout protection program.

*Pinyon/Juniper*

The extent of pinyon and juniper (p/j) ecosystems is reduced closer to historical levels (O'Brien, 1999). Areas formerly dominated by p/j begin to be restored to grass/forb/shrub systems. Increases in grass, forbs, and shrubs contribute to improve watershed conditions (see Hydrology desired conditions). Mature and old structure

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conditions account for about 40% of p/j acres generally located within shallow, rocky soils and rough topography where fuels are sparse. The remainder occurs in earlier successional stages containing a patchwork of shrubs and forage components. Natural disturbance regimes (generally fire) encourage an ever-changing patchwork restraining p/j from becoming dominant within sagebrush systems. Stand densities are generally low due to low site productivity. A variety of successional and structural stages promote habitats for a variety of species. (See Terrestrial and Aquatic Desired Conditions) Microbiotic crusts, which are generally found only in lower elevation p/j or dry sagebrush types, are present, protected, or re-established.

### *Sagebrush, Grasses and Forb*

Sagebrush (mainly basin big sage, mountain big sage, Wyoming big sage, silver sage, and black sage) along with a variety of grasses and forbs present a range of successional stages, sizes, and ages across the landscape. In these sagebrush systems 20-40% of the acres are in mid seral or climax successional stages. Herbaceous layers and microbiotic crusts are well developed. This cover type is an irregular patchwork of successional stages. Grass, forb, and shrub ecosystem increases generally result from p/j treatments. Ground cover is characterized by perennial vegetation, moss, microbiotic crusts, litter, and/or naturally occurring rock that stabilizes soil and minimizes surface runoff.

### *Mountain brush*

Mountain brush communities (combinations of mainly curl leaf mountain mahogany, birch leaf mountain mahogany, serviceberry, manzanita, currant, ceanothus, nine bark, bitterbrush, cliffrose, Gambel oak, Sonoran scrub oak, and sagebrush of various species) along with a variety of grasses and forbs consist of multiple vegetation layers with alternating vertical dominance. Alternating prominence of shrub and herbaceous components relate to disturbance history. Sprouting species, such as the oaks, dominate where they are present. Soil type, elevation, precipitation patterns, and disturbance history influence specific combinations of species present. Ground cover, characterized by perennial vegetation, moss, litter, and naturally occurring rock, stabilizes soil and minimizes surface runoff.

### *Meadows*

Meadows (generally open tree-less herbaceous community types dominated by grasses, forbs, and/or sedges) are restored, enhanced, or protected. Meadows encompass a broad environmental spectrum including: wet meadows (perennially saturated), dry meadows (only wet early in growing season), alpine meadows (high elevation), bogs (always wet, somewhat stagnant), and seeps. Ground cover is sufficient to provide protection from erosion.

### *Englemann spruce-subalpine fir*

Englemann spruce-subalpine fir communities are composed either of pure Englemann spruce or mixed stands of spruce, subalpine fir and aspen. The mature and old structure components represent about 40% of the spruce-fir systems with the remainder distributed within younger structural classes (Reynolds et al. 1992, Graham et al. 1999, Utah Goshawk Amendment). Insect and disease populations are generally at endemic levels.

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Localized insect or disease outbreaks are generally confined by a variety of structural and successional stages. Total acres in spruce-fir systems are reduced due to aspen reestablishment.

### *Mixed Conifer*

Mixed conifer ecosystems are pure or mixed stands of, Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, white fir, ponderosa pine, blue spruce, limber pine, Englemann spruce, and aspen. Specific species composition is generally controlled by elevation, aspect, soil type, and disturbance history. Mixed conifer forests are a variety of age classes, densities, and successional stages in varying patch sizes. Mature and old structure represents about 40% of conifer systems (Reynolds et al. 1992, Graham et al. 1999, Utah Goshawk Amendment). Other structural classes are evenly distributed between early, young, and mid age stands. Insect outbreaks occur in localized areas due to a variety of densities, structural, and successional stages. Total acres in mixed conifer systems are likely to decline due to aspen reestablishment or returning drier mixed conifer areas to historic ponderosa pine dominated systems.

### *Ponderosa pine*

Ponderosa pine dominated systems generally occur at mid elevations on drier sites with ponderosa pine comprising more than 75% of the tree species composition. The mature and old structure components represent about 40% of the ponderosa systems with the remainder distributed within younger structural classes (Reynolds et al. 1992, Graham et al. 1999, Utah Goshawk Amendment). Insect and disease populations are generally at endemic levels. A variety of structural and successional stages generally confines localized outbreaks of insects. Stand densities will vary depending upon stand-level objectives and site productivity. Low intensity disturbances occur at relatively short intervals.

### *Riparian*

Riparian area vegetation is a diverse mix of species and structural stages. Riparian area vegetation includes (though not limited to): conifers, aspen, willows, box elder, maple, dogwood, birch, alder, cottonwoods, sedges, rushes, and grasses. The stream substrate, gradient, elevation, and disturbance history determine plant occurrence. Plant communities are healthy and self-perpetuating. Woody vegetation provides a variety of size classes, wildlife habitats, stream shading, snags and down logs, aesthetic values, and supports other ecosystem functions. (See Terrestrial and Aquatic Desired Conditions) Riparian areas are dynamic and resilient to disturbances in structure, composition, and processes as a result of interactions among geology, soil, water, and vegetation. (See Watershed desired condition)

### *Unique Vegetation*

Unique or small population communities (such as Bristlecone pine or tall forb) display diversity in age and structure over the range of the community. These unique communities retain their viability through site-specific analysis and applying the most current knowledge to management. Restoration of historic unique plant community sites occurs where site features and availability of local genetic stock make projects feasible.

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*Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive plants*

Activities or the lack of activity will not result in the listing of a new species. Site specific actions, based on best current knowledge, recovery plans, conservation strategies and agreements, are applied to prevent declining or promote increasing population trends and distribution of these plants. Monitoring of plants that have been identified endangered, threatened, sensitive, proposed, or candidate plant species continues.

*Noxious Weed Infestations*

Established noxious weed infestations do not increase, occur at low densities, or are reduced where appropriate. New infestations of noxious weeds are contained, reduced, or eradicated. The State of Utah and individual counties maintain current noxious weed lists.

*Exotic species*

Native plants from local genetic sources dominate landscapes. However, the use of exotic (non-native) species may be used to rebuild soils, limit invasive species expansion, limit noxious weed expansion, or limit erosion until native species can reoccupy the area. Exotic species may also be used in areas where native plants are likely to be poor competitors (such as campgrounds, rock pits, frequent disturbance areas, road banks or other heavy use areas) or fire breaks (wildland-urban interface) to help modify fire behavior. In addition some exotic plants have become established (examples: Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome, crested wheat grass) and are considered “naturalized.” They will continue to remain significant components of those systems.

## **DISTURBANCE PROCESSES – DESIRED CONDITIONS**

### **Guiding Vision for Disturbance Processes**

- Disturbance events such as native insects and diseases, fires, winds and floods are essential elements of dynamic and sustainable ecosystems.
- Human initiated disturbances mimic natural role disturbances and are planned within known resilience limits.
- Reintroduction of fire, either as prescribed fire or wildfire use fire, is an essential disturbance component for restoring ecosystem dynamics, viability and function.
- Societal concerns, requirements and considerations may limit natural role disturbance processes or events.

Disturbance processes (insects, diseases, fires, winds, floods) perform their natural roles in timing, intensities, duration, and scales. Human initiated disturbances (livestock grazing, tree harvest, recreation activities, prescribed fire) are designed to mimic natural role disturbances and operate within known resilience limits with any product removals being sustainable through time. In some cases social considerations may limit the role of natural disturbance processes or events.

### **Fire**

Ecosystems are restored and maintained, consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes, through wildland fire use and prescribed fire. Human life (firefighter and public safety) is always the highest priority with property, natural and cultural resources being lower priorities. Restoring fire to fire dependent plant communities contributes to long-term resiliency, integrity, and sustainability of ecosystems. Reintroducing wildland fire or prescribed fire, to its natural role will require careful and appropriate application. Social concerns (such as; proximity to structures, smoke management requirements, public health and safety) may limit the scale of fire short of historical levels. Other treatment techniques do not mimic the same effects as fire and can possibly influence future successional pathways. (Utah Fire Amendment 2000)

All fires of human origin (accidental or arson) are considered unwanted fires and are fully suppressed. Natural ignitions are suppressed when the area is not covered by an approved fire management plan. The full range of suppression tactics is available forest-wide, consistent with local management objectives. (Utah Fire Amendment 2000)

Hazardous fuels are reduced around communities at risk (i.e., in the wildland-urban interface) and in ecosystems, restoring fuel loads to more historic levels. Defensible space is created around structures (defensible space is defined as: the space where fuel has been modified to reduce wildfire intensity and where fire fighters can safely be placed to fight fire in cooperation with adjacent owners and other agencies). These wildland-urban interface areas retain some ecological functions, such as soil protection, some habitats, and nutrient cycling. Treated wildland-urban interface zones serve as a

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fire break for fire traveling from developed areas onto national forests as well as influencing fire spread from national forests to adjacent private land. Wildland-urban interface areas with adjacent structures require periodic maintenance to retain defensible space characteristics.

### **Insects and Disease**

Many insects, diseases, fungi, bacteria, and viruses are essential to ecosystem processes (for example; pollination, decay processes, nutrient recycling, food for higher organisms, provide habitat, or population control of forest “pests”). Ever-changing landscapes provide a variety of species composition, structural and successional stages along with adequate snags and down wood and debris to assure continuation of these essential insects, diseases, and associated processes.

Outbreaks of bark beetles and defoliators occur in cycles generally linked to stand density, age, species composition and are often triggered by climatic influences. Localized outbreaks of bark beetles or defoliators are generally confined by a variety of structural and successional stages. If outbreaks of bark beetles or defoliators have the potential to impact recovery of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, then a timely evaluation will be conducted to determine need of treatment. In some situations social considerations may trigger treatments, such as impacts to critical watersheds or may lead to high wildfire hazard.

Several native diseases, which are wood decay fungi, have the potential to impact desired conditions especially related to timber management or wildlife habitat objectives. The three major native diseases involved are: s-type Annosus root disease (impacts primarily white fir and Douglas-fir), Indian paint fungus (a heart rot that impacts primarily white fir), and tomentosus (a heart rot that impacts spruce). None of these native diseases have direct control possibilities and will persist. In some instances, management actions are used to minimize the spread or influence of these native diseases which can be implemented, as needed, to meet desired conditions and ecosystem processes.

Dwarf mistletoe, a parasitic plant that is generally host specific, will continue to be part of ecosystems providing habitat and a food source for wildlife.

There are no known exotic insects or diseases within the Dixie or Fishlake National Forests. If exotic insects or diseases are identified, then prompt evaluation will be required to determine potential impacts on desired conditions followed by appropriate and timely treatments if necessary.

### **Human Disturbances**

Human influences play major or substantial roles in plant community composition, structural distribution, and disturbance intensities, patterns, and duration. Human activities (such as; timber harvest, domestic livestock grazing, fire use, or recreation) mimic historical disturbance(s) and are designed to meet desired conditions, move toward desired conditions, or at least do not impair desired conditions. Associated product removal does not exceed sustainable capabilities. Examples include:

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- Livestock grazing is permitted as an appropriate tool for achieving site-specific conditions and livestock grazing may also help meet social and economic desired conditions.
- Tree harvesting is an appropriate tool for achieving site specific structural and species composition desired conditions. Tree harvesting may also help meet social and economic desired conditions.
- Previous structure and species modification projects, such as chainings, are maintained for their original purpose, integrated into the landscape patchwork of structural and successional features, or continue on successional pathways.
- Prescribed fire and wildfire use fire are appropriate tools to achieve or move towards desired conditions in accordance with Fire Management Plans, project level assessments, or other assessments such as wilderness plans and in compliance with air quality standards, public safety, or other requirements.

## VISION

**WILDLIFE AND FISH – DESIRED CONDITIONS****Guiding Vision for Wildlife and Fish**

- There are sufficient populations, distributions and genetic variability to ensure the long term persistence of native wildlife and fish.
- Native and desired non-native wildlife and fish populations exist within habitat capabilities. This includes game species.
- Species at risk trends are stable or reversed. No new species are added as a result of human action or inaction
- Diverse and dynamic habitats are dominated by native vegetation that support life phase events and processes.

**Introduction**

The abundance and distribution of native wildlife and fish found on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests have sufficient populations and distributions to ensure their long-term persistence. Wildlife and fish species contribute to biodiversity of ecosystems, recognizing that there are inherent limitations for restoring historic conditions.

Native and desired non-native wildlife and fish populations are healthy. Populations exist within habitat capabilities, including predator/prey and food chain relationships, and are resilient to disturbances of various sizes and intensities. Disturbance regimes such as fire, beetle infestations, and floods occur at frequencies and magnitudes that maintain the mosaic of structural and age variances over time, supporting disturbance-dependent species. Disturbed habitats recover over time restoring disturbed lands to desired conditions or at least to conditions present prior to the disturbance. Time needed for restoring conditions varies depending on the site potential. Natural processes shape the vegetative composition and structure where possible. Management activities, such as prescribed fire, wildland fire use for resource benefit, and mechanical treatments, emulate natural processes. Age classes presently in low quantities (primarily mature and old age classes) increase over time moving the age classes over the landscape toward desired vegetative conditions (see Vegetation Desired Conditions).

**Species of Concern**

Declining population trends of terrestrial and aquatic species are halted and/or reversed. Hence, species are not listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, or listed as sensitive by the State or Regional Forester. Habitats are suitable and distributed as described in Recovery Plans, Conservation Strategies and Agreements, recommendations, and best available scientific knowledge. No additional species demonstrate declining population trends because of forest practices.

**Habitats***Terrestrial*

Terrestrial wildlife habitats are diverse with native plant communities dominating the landscape. These communities are a mosaic that vary in age, structure, patch size, and

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contain components considered important to sustaining wildlife populations (e.g. snags, mast, down logs, understory vegetation) (see Vegetation Desired Conditions).

Un-fragmented habitat patches of varying sizes are connected and allow movement of species between these patches, unless to provide barriers to spread of exotic plants and animals. Different vegetation types within large landscape patterns are connected, especially riparian and adjacent upland vegetation. These habitats, along with non-vegetative habitats (such as lava fields) support a diversity of species. Effective corridor habitat is provided and management actions consider and mitigate impacts to corridors wherever possible.

Key or unique habitats, such as primary feeding areas, winter ranges, riparian habitat, breeding areas, birthing areas, rearing areas, migration corridors, animal concentration areas, wooded draws, and riparian areas provide habitat characteristics to function in their respective roles. Areas of varying sizes provide refuge and security for a variety of wildlife species. Unique habitat types, such as riparian areas, natural springs, wetlands<sup>1</sup>, organic bogs, seeps, meadows, bristlecone pine, and tall forb communities provide suitable habitat for wildlife species that use these habitats.

Riparian habitats have a variety of vegetative vertical structure and patch sizes commensurate with site capabilities. These characteristics are determined by stream gradient, channel and floodplain width, elevation, and soil (see Watershed Desired Conditions).

Wildlife are generally not disturbed during vital time periods such as nesting, brooding, and wintering when the disturbance could cause reproductive failure, or inordinate stress.

Vertebrate and invertebrate interactions (such as pollination, parasitism, and symbiosis) occur within appropriate vegetation and aquatic habitats.

### *Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic*

Water bodies, riparian vegetation, and adjacent uplands provide habitats for self-sustaining native and desired non-native aquatic communities, including fish, amphibians, invertebrates, plants, and other semi-aquatic species. Aquatic habitats are diverse, with channel characteristics and water quality reflective of the climate, geology, and natural vegetation of the area (see Watershed Desired Conditions). Habitat loss does not occur from human activities.

Stream connectivity provides for processes such as re-colonization and/or gene flow, and for life history function (e.g. movement from summer holding to fall spawning areas). Stream barriers provide protection to species that are vulnerable to competition from other species, particularly from non-native fish.

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<sup>1</sup> For regulatory purposes under the Clean Water Act, the term wetlands means "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas."

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**Species of Interest***Game Species*

The roles of big game management and conservation are important biologically and socio-economically. Big game summer, winter, and transition ranges are a desired mix of forage, cover, water, and security areas. Hiding cover within Geographic Areas ranges from 30% to 60%, depending on the plant community, open roads, and motorized trails. This hiding cover is well distributed and in varying patch sizes over the Geographic Area (rock and water, which cannot provide either forage or cover, are not included in calculating percent cover areas). Densities of open roads and motorized trails are generally low, and/or distances between open roads and motorized trails are greater in forested habitats that have low amounts of hiding cover and security areas (Rowland et al. 2004). These habitats contribute, within the capabilities of the systems, toward meeting population objectives approved by the Utah Wildlife Board.

Mule deer winter ranges contain cover and high quality forage, including a mix of seral stages and age classes of sagebrush, oak, and other winter forage species (see Vegetation Desired Conditions). On critical mule deer winter range<sup>2</sup>, at least two shrub species occur in shrub plant communities capable of growing two or more shrub species. From 30 to 50 percent of these shrubs are mature, and at least 10 percent are in young age classes.

Access for hunting and fishing consists of a variety of difficulty and convenience opportunities, ranging from easy access by motor vehicle to opportunities where horse or foot travel is necessary.

*Migratory Birds*

Terrestrial and aquatic vegetative conditions provide suitable nesting, migration and wintering habitats for migratory and resident birds. Habitats for migratory birds represent guidelines established for or through the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#), Executive Order 13186 (2001), and [Utah Partners in Flight Conservation Strategy](#), and [North American Landbird Conservation Plan](#) (2004).

**Wildlife Viewing and Education**

Unique ecosystems and restored habitats, particularly for listed and sensitive species, are interpreted with signing and through other education media.

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<sup>2</sup> As defined by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and verified by field biologists.

## RECREATION – DESIRED CONDITION

### Guiding Vision for Recreation Conditions

- Maintain areas of sufficient size and configuration to avoid conflicts between non-motorized and motorized users.
- Appropriately locate and maintain trail network.
- Continuing active involvement of outside agencies and the public in providing “all-season” recreation opportunities; and subsequently educating users concerning responsibilities.
- Develop a balance of safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible experiences for people of all abilities.
- Allow opportunities to be available for a wide variety of users as appropriate to other resource concerns.

The Dixie and Fishlake National Forests’ diverse landscapes offer a variety of settings for a broad range of activities. These landscapes include primitive settings where there are opportunities for solitude, risk and challenge, to more modified settings where there are opportunities for social interaction, comfort, and less risk. Local communities, partnerships and volunteers are actively involved and benefit from their roles in providing recreational opportunities. Recreationists understand the potential for impacts to resources and other users and actively assist in caring for the land and resolving conflicts.

The relatively open and remote landscapes of the forests offer unparalleled recreation opportunities that provide both challenge and solitude. These opportunities span four seasons and include (but not limited to): camping, hunting, backpacking, OHV use, and fishing. Quality recreation developments are strategically located at key destinations to accommodate concentrations of use and provide staging areas into the more remote parts of the forest.

The forests’ location near state parks, national parks, and national monuments suitably compliments and appropriately contrasts these internationally popular attractions. Key travel corridors link to these parks or monuments and associated outlying communities. Quality developed recreation opportunities are located along these corridors to highlight unique natural and cultural features. Emphasis exists on successfully accommodating the number and diversity of tourists visiting the area.

The great mix of summer and winter recreation opportunity is consistent with more specific Geographic Area direction.

### Developed Recreation

The forests offer a balance of safe, efficient and environmentally responsible developed recreation experiences and opportunities. Developed recreation facilities are continually upgraded as funds are available to meet established national standards. Recreation

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facilities are designed to provide the most current information/ interpretation for people of all abilities providing amenities to meet their needs.

### **Dispersed Camping**

Dispersed camping opportunities are available for a wide variety of users. However, dispersed camping is limited in some areas due to resource and wildlife concerns, activity conflicts, or overuse.

The Forest Service works in concert with groups and other agencies to educate campers about potential resource impacts, user responsibilities, and camping ethics. Teach dispersed campers to be respectful of other resources and other forest uses. Educate forest users to respect each other and minimize impacts by removing trash and camping debris from site. They inform the public of the harmful effects of leaving human and animal waste and reducing the evidence of these substances on the forest.

Dispersed camp sites are on native material in designated areas. New sites are discouraged to preserve vegetation and soil. People use existing fire rings and refrain from establishing new ones. Camp sites are clear of debris and do not grow over time. They are not located in riparian areas where flooding can wash loose soils and debris into streams.

### **Non-motorized Recreation**

Non-motorized areas have sufficient size and configuration to minimize disturbance from other uses. The non-motorized trail network is appropriately maintained and accesses locations of interest for a variety of users. Collaboration and education with other agencies and user groups results in associated ethical behavior most effectively reinforced by peers. Motorized users do not use non-motorized trails.

### **Motorized Recreation**

Motorized recreation is a suitable use of the National Forest. However, this use is restricted in some areas primarily due to resource concerns, activity conflicts, or overuse. Varying degrees of challenge, user comfort and social interaction characterize motorized recreation opportunities. Snow machines are allowed in areas with adequate snow cover.

Local communities, partnerships and volunteers are actively involved and benefit from their roles in providing motorized recreation opportunities. The Forest Service works with other agencies and groups to comprehensively educate recreationists about potential resource impacts and user responsibilities or ethics. Accordingly, recreationists actively assist in caring for the land and in resolving associated concerns.

A suitable designated route network exists for a variety of appropriate winter and summer uses. These routes are well marked to encourage proper use and support meaningful law enforcement. User-created trails are monitored and subsequent action is determined as appropriate. Maps that clearly display the summer and winter routes are readily available. The routes also access surrounding communities where amenities (lodging,

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gas and food) are available. The motorized recreation network complements trails available to non-motorized users.

## WATERSHED – DESIRED CONDITION

### Guiding Vision for Watershed Conditions

- Watersheds exhibit high geomorphic, hydrologic and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition<sup>3</sup>.
- Management activities have no negative effects on overall stream channel stability, soil productivity, soil-hydrologic function, or native aquatic species sustainability.
- All ground and surface waters meet State water quality standards and are maintained as high quality waters.
- Favorable conditions of water flow<sup>4</sup> occur in watersheds, streams, lakes, springs, wetlands and aquifers to fully support State designated beneficial uses<sup>5</sup>, existing biological resources and effective discharges<sup>6</sup>.

### General

Watersheds, stream channels, riparian areas and wetlands have a level of stability that can absorb and reduce the impacts from floods and other disturbances without producing rapid erosional changes in the system. Physical, chemical and biologic conditions indicate that soil, riparian and wetland systems function as a sponge and filter to absorb, clean, store and release water. Watershed processes operate within their perceived natural range of variability and respond to disturbances with a trend toward the watershed's "norm" over time.

### Riparian and Wetland Areas

Riparian and wetland plant communities found in conjunction with perennial, ephemeral and intermittent waters are properly functioning for their natural potential condition. Plant communities are healthy and self-perpetuating, with a diverse mix of desired species and age classes. These communities are resistant and resilient to rapid change from large disturbances such as floods and are capable of maintaining themselves during dry periods. Exotic vegetative species and noxious weeds are rare or absent.

Riparian areas and wetlands store and release enough water to maintain favorable conditions of water flow. Natural patterns of recharge and discharge provide ground-water levels and flows that are critical for wetland integrity. Vegetative cover on channel banks, wetland areas, and shorelines is sufficient to catch sediment, prevent erosion, stabilize stream banks, and promote floodplain development. Riparian vegetation is also

<sup>3</sup> Source: FSM 2521.1.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Guiding Principles for Water Resource Management, principle #2 and Boise Adjudication team edits.

<sup>5</sup> Beneficial uses, both consumptive and non-consumptive could be defined in the glossary.

<sup>6</sup> Effective discharge could be defined in a glossary. Some key concepts with effective discharge are: channel maintenance, sediment transport, aquifer recharge, maintain natural channel shape

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present for wildlife habitats, stream shading, in-channel woody material, aesthetic values and other ecosystem functions (see also Vegetation Desired Condition).

### **Stream Channels and Floodplains**

Stream channels are linked to their floodplains. Seasonal water elevations include channel maintaining flows that access the floodplain regularly. These seasonal flows recharge riparian aquifers, alleviate spring flood effects and provide late season stream flows and cool water temperatures necessary to fully support State water quality beneficial uses<sup>7</sup>. Sediment deposits from over-bank floods allow floodplain development and the propagation of flood dependent species such as cottonwood. Channel width-to-depth ratios, entrenchment ratios, slope and sinuosity are commensurate with the appropriate channel type, vegetation and capability of the stream.

Stream channels and floodplains are in proper functioning condition consistent with the in-situ climate, basin morphology, geology, soil, water and vegetation. Although stream channels and floodplains are ever changing, they are resistant and resilient to accelerated changes from management activities or other disturbances. The water balance between each stream and its watershed allows for a natural frequency and magnitude of base flows and flood flows.

### **Soils**

Soils have protective ground cover, organic matter and coarse woody material commensurate with the soil type. Vegetative cover and litter are sufficient to prevent soil movement and maintain soil productivity. Soils have adequate physical properties for vegetative growth, nutrient cycling and soil-hydrologic function. Physical, chemical and biological processes in most soils function similarly to soils that have not been detrimentally disturbed. Soil-hydrologic function and productivity in riparian areas and wetlands provides a filter for water quality and a sponge which stores and releases water.

Microbiotic crusts are present, protected, or encouraged to re-establish where appropriate. Microbiotic crusts (also known as cryptogamic, cryptobiotic, or microphytic crusts) are formed by living organisms and their by-products, creating a crust of soil particles bound together by organic materials that limit erosion and contribute to soil nutrients. Microbiotic crusts are composed of combinations of cyanobacteria (photosynthetic bacteria), green and brown algae, mosses, lichens, liverworts, fungi, and bacteria (see also Vegetation Desired Condition).

### **Aquatic Biota**

Soils, riparian areas, aquifers and stream channels support habitats for a variety of aquatic and semi-aquatic species, including desired fish, amphibian, macro-invertebrate and periphyton communities. Physical habitat characteristics, such as bank stability, pool/riffle ratio, pool depths, water temperature, and substrate composition, support and sustain all life stages of desired aquatic species. Ground-water levels and flow to ground-

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<sup>7</sup> Source: Regional Forest Plan Consistency in Livestock Grazing Administration (Winward and Heffner)

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water dependent ecosystems are maintained through natural patterns of recharge and discharge.

Aquatic habitats and watershed conditions support the long-term sustainability of native aquatic species, such as Bonneville cutthroat trout and Colorado River cutthroat trout. Watersheds that contain native cutthroat trout populations, or other important aquatic communities (e.g. state sensitive species, trophy fisheries, unique aquatic community structure), support the long-term sustainability of these unique aquatic resources. Metapopulations are well connected. Cold water fisheries habitat sustains desired fish species. Aquatic habitats promote native species composition, and aquatic nuisance species are rare or absent.

### **Municipal Watersheds**

All municipal water sources provide high quality water for the designated communities and beneficial uses. Multiple uses within these watersheds are compatible with desired water quality. Water diversion and conveyance facilities have appropriate access and do not impair watershed, channel or biological processes. Surface water resources are not altered or adversely affected by withdrawals from water supply wells.

### **Monitoring Measures**

- Proper Functioning Condition assessments for key watersheds, riparian and wetland areas.
- State water quality monitoring, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Water Quality.
- Population monitoring of native aquatic species.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC – DESIRED CONDITION

### Guiding Vision for Social and Economic Conditions

- The Forests provide a wide variety of predictable and sustainable opportunities that contribute to social and economic conditions.
- The predictions and sustainability of these opportunities are periodically monitored and updated.
- Forest planning and implementation of the plan continue to be collaborative

In southern Utah, the social conditions and economic conditions are intertwined to an extent that it is difficult to discuss them separately. Some economic factors can be tied to production revenues and other quantifiable economic values. Most social and cultural values are not easily quantifiable; however, they often have an even greater impact on people's lives. The forests can directly and indirectly impact local economies, individuals, and businesses. For those reasons, the following section considers social and economic desired conditions as a single unit.

The Dixie and Fishlake National Forests contribute to the sustainability of the social and economic systems in southern Utah<sup>8</sup>. The National Forests do not independently sustain a social and economic system, but are critical contributors to the system. Forest managers recognize the numerous ways people are linked to the forests. These links are balanced within the managers' decision space. Forest managers understand how their decisions may affect current and future social and economic conditions. Responsible officials reach objective decisions considering science, balanced multiple uses, sustainability, and desired conditions with the good of the land over time.

Forest users participate in appropriate activities. Forest users also understand how their actions may affect others. This understanding is supported by cooperative education programs. Forest users are good stewards of the land: they exhibit responsible behavior, encourage others to do the same, and contribute to society's responsibility for the long-term sustainability of the forests.

### Social and Economic Opportunities

The forests provide a wide variety of opportunities that contribute to social and economic sustainability. Prehistoric, historic, current residents, and communities near the forests have strong ties to the land. Economic linkages include but are not limited to wood for homes and fuel, water, forage for livestock, and food sources. Social linkages include recreation, traditional activities, family events, and an intangible feeling of interest. These and other traditional linkages and their associated activities are given consideration

<sup>8</sup> For social and economic analysis, the primary area of analysis is southwest Utah. However, the two Forests are also a smaller part of the social and economic fabric of the southwest United States and of the entire Nation.

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in the decision-making process. The forest has a high capacity for sustainability and is managed with a multiple use philosophy. The following bullet statements describe the desired conditions of the more significant contributions (the list does not include all contributions):

- **Timber** – The forests provide a sustainable and predictable level of timber and wood products. These products are made available to the local and regional economies. The resulting timber industry, in southwest Utah, is a reliable, capable, and appropriate tool for forest management. In turn, the timber industry provides stable employment opportunities for the community.
- **Livestock Grazing** – Livestock grazing continues to be an appropriate land use and is well managed. The livestock grazing program is sustainable and does not degrade the long-term productivity of the forage and water resources. The livestock grazing opportunity is supported by a combination of open land on federal and private range. Thus, landscape fragmentation is minimal and there is low risk of fragmentation caused by future development. Grazing operators continue to be an important thread to communities' social fabric. The Forest Service and permittees recognize their mutual legal obligations under the permitting system.
- **Recreation** – A wide variety of opportunities are available for both private and commercial recreation. The opportunities continue to be widely available to local, regional, and national visitors. These opportunities are in harmony with long-term resource sustainability. Incompatible uses are zoned to appropriate locations.
- **Minerals** – The exploration, development and production of mineral and energy resources occur in response to and to assist in meeting, local, state, and national demand. Although some areas are not available, most of the forest remains open to mineral activities. Leases, exploration plans and mining plans include mitigation measures, stipulations and monitoring items to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and forest plan requirements, to protect other resources. Energy exploration and development is compatible with ecosystem capabilities and other resource values. Facilities and landscape modifications may be visible but are reasonably mitigated to blend and harmonize with natural features. Surface disturbance from mineral and energy development are restored through effective reclamation techniques. Upon cessation of mineral and energy activities, disturbed sites are returned to a condition consistent with management emphasis and objectives. The development and production of mineral materials (saleable minerals, for example, gravel and cinders) emphasizes Forest Service and other government agency use over commercial and personal uses.

## VISION

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- **Culture** – Historic and cultural values are respected and integrated into decisions and actions. These values reflect the prehistoric and historic occupants of the area and are sustained for current future generations’ enjoyment and education.
- **Quality of Life** – The forests continue to be part of the context for life in southwest Utah. They are a source of clean air and water. The forests provide visually pleasing landscapes and their existence increases the quality of rural life.
- **Water** – Many communities exist within close proximity of the forests and are dependent upon water resources developed within or impacted by National Forest management. Water rights are recognized. Existing water sources are appropriately managed. Communities future water needs are considered.
- **Tribal** - Self-perpetuating populations of culturally important plants continue to be available for collection under Tribal rights.

### **Air Quality and Smoke Management**

Air quality is affected by both natural and human caused events. Natural events include smoke from wildland fires and wildland fire use; human caused events include smoke from prescribed burning, recreational campfires and fugitive dust from unpaved roadways and other activities. Areas affected by smoke from prescribed fires and other management activities will meet the federal air quality standards to protect public health. (see Disturbance Processes Desired Conditions)

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) will not be violated by prescribed fires or wildland fire use. All ignitions must be cleared through the State’s smoke manager. All wildland fire use and prescribed fires will be cleared through the State of Utah Division of Air Quality’s Smoke Manager before being utilized. Impacts to air quality do not exceed standards allowed under law. Prescribed fires will meet Clean Air Act standard (Public Law 95-95).

### **Planning**

National Forest planning is collaborative. It builds trust, reaches substantial agreement, and encourages a sense of stewardship to achieve the stated desired conditions. Governments (state and local), groups, and individuals are welcomed partners in the planning process. Local cooperating agencies maintain their status after plan revision. Tribal governments participate through their government-to-government relationship with the federal government. Forest Service officials retain their delegated decision-making authority. However, their decisions result from an open, established, and accepted process. Knowledge and learning are shared among all partners.

### **Implementation**

Forest plan implementation is coordinated with other federal, state, and local agencies or governments. Effective communication channels are maintained. Partnerships and

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agreements cooperatively implement strategies described in the plan. The Forest Service and neighboring communities cooperatively share resources, planning goals, and expertise to achieve desired conditions across the landscape. The Forest Service fosters a relationship of mutual respect with forest users and their various links to the forests.

### **Monitoring measures**

Comparison of predicted and actual outcomes for:

- Timber – Level of wood products offered
- Livestock Grazing – Number of range permittees and number of permitted Head Months (HMS)
- Recreation – Number and types of visitors, number and types of commercial recreation guides
- Minerals – Number and type of bonded mineral operations
- Water – Number and quality of municipal water sources
- Planning – Number of governments, groups, and individuals actively involved with Forest Planning and Implementation.

## HERITAGE RESOURCES– DESIRED CONDITIONS

### **Guiding Vision for Heritage Resources**

- No disturbance of heritage sites.
- The forest archeologists complete forest-wide surveys of heritage resources.

The desired condition for heritage resources on both forests is that the sites continue to exist in an undisturbed condition. Erosion and weathering, natural and human caused, poses the greatest threat to these resources. Development projects proposed by the agency will be surveyed prior to the implementation of the project to avoid or mitigate those potential effects to these sites as part of the project.

The public will continue to be afforded access to sites which have been stabilized and are maintained for interpretation of the cultural history of the area. Vandalism of sites will be prevented by continued law enforcement presence and public awareness of the problem. Prosecution of vandals will be a priority of the agency.

American Indians will continue to be allowed access to those sites of a sacred nature to their communities and people. Working in partnership, the governments of the Tribes and the Forest Service will see that this continued access is maintained.

## VISION

**TRANSPORTATION – DESIRED CONDITIONS****Guiding Vision for Transportation Conditions**

- The transportation system provides safe and efficient access for the public and for the agency to National Forest System Lands.
- The transportation system is designed and maintained for a low level of environmental impacts. Unavoidable impacts are minimized and mitigated.

The transportation system provides safe and efficient public and agency access to National Forest System Lands. It is economically viable, environmentally compatible, responsive to public needs and desires, and efficiently managed. The system provides a balanced mix of road and trail access for recreation, special uses, management, and fire protection activities while supporting forest-management objectives. User experience, safety, and resource protection are emphasized in the transportation system planning, design, and operation.

Management of the transportation system is commensurate with expected levels of use and environmental sensitivity, and is prioritized within available funds, emphasizing safety, resource protection, economic viability, and user experience. As supported by science-based analysis and prioritized to meet forest-management objectives, unnecessary roads and trails are removed from the system and decommissioned. Over the planning period, the total mileage of classified and unclassified roads and trails is reduced, impacts from retained roads and trails are reduced, and the development and proliferation of unauthorized roads and trails is minimized.

The transportation system is efficiently interconnected to state, county, local public and other Federal roads and trails through collaborative access and travel management planning. Rights-of-way to access National Forest System Lands respond to public access needs, facilitates, and planned resource activities.

The transportation system provides access needed to maintain facilities and infrastructure such as: buildings, recreation facilities, municipal water systems, dams, reservoirs, range improvements, electronic and communication sites, and gas and water lines.

**Monitoring measures**

Total miles of road and trail by management category

## Part Two – Strategy

### INTRODUCTION

This is the second of the three parts of the Fishlake National Forest land management plan. It describes the strategic direction that will be employed over the next 3 to 5 years to move toward realizing the desired conditions described in Part 1-Vision of the land management plan. Part 2 is intended to supplement Part 1 of the plan.

Part 2 includes:

- National Goals:** A discussion of strategic goals that apply to the National Forest System
- Prospectus:** A description of past program performance history and anticipated performance over the next 3 to 5 years. The prospectus includes strategies and priorities, objectives, performance monitoring items to track and adapt predictions of outputs and performance, and risks to performance.
- Suitable uses:** A description of land use zones and descriptions of allowable uses and opportunities.
- Special areas:** A description of special areas that are specifically designated because of their unique or special characteristics.
- Geographic Area Based Direction:** More specific desired condition description and objectives organized by place-based geographic areas.

### NATIONAL STRATEGIC GOALS

#### Strategic Plan 2004-2008

The Strategic Plan embodies the Forest Service’s many areas of responsibility, as captured in the agency’s mission statement:

**“The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”**

#### *Summary of Goals*

1. **Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire:** Restore the health of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to increase resilience to the effects of wildland fire.
2. **Reduce the impacts from invasive species:** Restore the health of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to be resilient to the effects of invasive insects, pathogens, plants, and pests.
3. **Provide outdoor recreation opportunities:** Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to meet the Nation’s recreation demands.
4. **Help meet energy resource needs:** Contribute to meeting the Nation’s need for energy.
5. **Improve watershed condition:** Increase the number of forest and grassland watersheds that are in fully functional hydrologic condition.
6. **Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals:** Conduct research and other mission-related work to fulfill statutory stewardship and assistance requirements.

*Additional details about these goals and associated objectives can be found in the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan for 2004-2008.*

STRATEGY

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The National Strategic Plan goals of the Forest Service in effect during plan implementation will guide the priorities of all National Forest units. The accomplishments of Fishlake National Forest will contribute to the National Strategic Goals, consistent with the direction in the Forest Plan.

## STRATEGY

## Prospectus

The Prospectus describes the program areas of the Fishlake NF Plan. Within each of those program areas are the following headings:

- **Introduction** – The scope and program of work for the program area.
- **Trends Affecting Program Management** – The trends that impact how the strategies and objectives are defined and how the plan will be implemented by the program area.
- **Strategy (and Priorities)** – Management activities which are necessary for achieving the desired conditions. However, strategies do not measure progress toward desired conditions. For example, following best management practices may improve the operations of the program area but is not measurable or time-specific. Priorities are areas that will be emphasized by the program area but may be promoted or demoted in importance due to changes in conditions.
- **Objectives** – A list of concise projections of intended outcomes of projects and activities to contribute to maintenance or achievement of desired conditions. Objectives are measurable and time-specific, but are not commitments, obligations or final decisions approving projects and activities.
- **Performance Monitoring Items** – Performance measures that will be used to evaluate progress towards desired conditions based on the program area objectives.
- **Risks to Performance** – Factors which may impede implementation of the plan and prevent the program area from achieving its objectives.

## PROGRAM AREAS

Program Area	
Road Management	
Recreation	
Minerals and Geology	
Livestock Grazing Management	
Timber and Forest Products	
Watershed and Riparian Management	
Fish	
Wildlife	
Fire and Fuel Management	
Heritage	

## STRATEGY

## ROAD MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

Road Management includes activities associated with the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of roads that are in the Forest Service road system. Forest Service roads are maintained according to five maintenance levels.

The following table displays the miles of road by maintenance level for the Fishlake National Forest. This list does not include Federal highway, state, county, and private roads.

**Table 1 – Miles of Road by Objective Maintenance Classification** – Levels 3, 4, and 5 are suitable for use by passenger cars. Level 2 is suited for high clearance vehicles like pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. Level 1 roads are closed but retained for future management uses.

Objective Maintenance Level	Miles of road (2004)
5	8
4	18
3	259
2	1532
1	6

The Fishlake National Forest also has about 814 miles of motorized routes that are not part of the classified road system. (There are about 108 miles of non-motorized routes that are not classified systems.) These routes include motorized trails, temporary roads, routes that have been removed from the classified system, and user-created routes.

### Trends Affecting Program Management

- Some classified and unclassified routes present environmental concerns.
- Creation of new unclassified routes continues to be a problem forest wide.
- The historical funding provided for road management has not been sufficient to meet all road management objectives. We do not foresee a significant increase in funding.
- Over time the number of roads are expected to go down as non-essential roads are identified through the RAP/NEPA process and are scheduled for decommissioning.
- The public expectations for access and road comfort may increase.

### Strategy

All of the roads suited for passenger car travel (maintenance levels 3-5) should be inspected annually and receive maintenance as needed. The remaining resources should be divided relatively evenly across the Forest to maintain a portion of maintenance level 2 (high clearance vehicle) roads each year. Non-system roads that may be causing environmental damage are prioritized for route decommissioning or rehabilitation. Routes that provide redundant access are removed.

Standard maintenance, construction, and reconstruction strategies for arterial and collector and local roads can be found in the [7709.58 - Transportation System Maintenance Handbook](#).

## STRATEGY

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### **Objectives**

The objectives for road management are to

- Perform maintenance activities on 75% of low clearance (level 3-5) roads each year
- Perform maintenance activities on 10% of high clearance roads (level 2) each year
- Decommission about 2 miles of routes each year.

### **Performance Monitoring Items**

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Miles of road maintained (both high and low clearance)
- Miles of road reconstructed
- Miles of road decommissioned
- Total miles of roads within riparian influence zones (300 feet from channel)

### **Risks to Performance**

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Future budget levels are uncertain
- Due to other priorities and available resources, NEPA analysis to authorize decommissioning may not be completed in timely manner.
- Changes in fixed costs (overhead, salary, and equipment) could reduce available budget for performance activities.
- Increased use will lead to increased maintenance needs.

STRATEGY

## RECREATION

### Introduction

The Recreation program of work includes:

- Management and operation of developed recreation sites,
- Interpretive services,
- Scenery management,
- Recreation special use permits,
- Management of statutorily designated areas such as Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, and National Trails,
- Collection and recreational resource revenues.
- Management of dispersed recreation such as dispersed camping and OHV use.
- Activities associated with the construction and maintenance of trails in the Forest Service trail system and facilities associated with the trail system.

Source: FSH 6509.11g - Service-Wide Appropriation Use

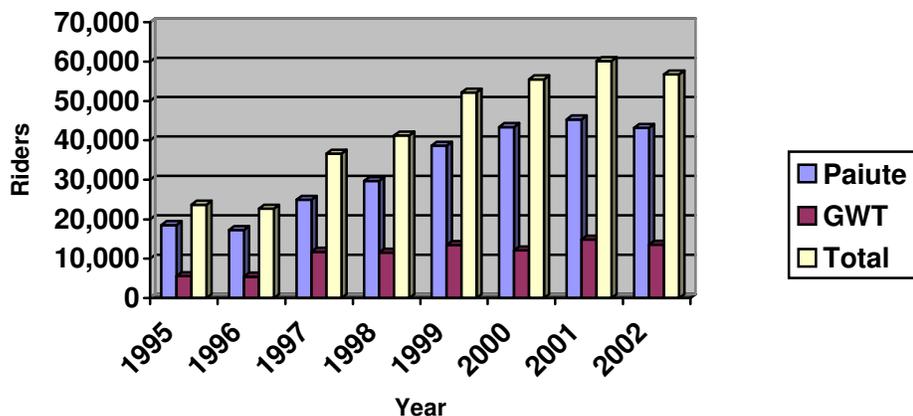
The Fishlake National Forest manages 27 developed recreation sites, thousands of dispersed camp sites, over 2,300 miles of motorized trail (most of this system is a mixed-use portion of the classified road system), and approximately 1,000 miles of non-motorized trails.

### Trends Affecting Program Management

One trend we anticipate to continue is a steady increase in visitors from Clark County, Nevada (especially on the Beaver District) and from the Wasatch Front, Utah (especially on the Fillmore, Richfield and Fremont River Districts). We expect to see an increase in general summer use, hunting, and motorized winter recreation use.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use has seen an increase in recent years. The following graph displays Annual OHV Use for Fishlake National Forest based on two popular trail systems: the Paiute and Great Western Trails.

(These numbers are statistical projections based on actual trail count data.)



Non-motorized trail use is also popular on the Fishlake NF. The 2003 visitor use monitoring indicates that of the 447,000 visitors, approximately 29% participated in walking or hiking as one of

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their activities, 26% in OHV travel and 1% in horseback riding. It is likely that many motorized and non-motorized users were not counted in this study (National Visitor Use Monitoring Results, July 2003).

In some places, unmanaged dispersed recreation (dispersed camping and off-trail OHV use) threatens resources and other forest uses.

### Strategy

Recreation strategies on the Fishlake NF are guided by the recreation strategy document (1994), and the Regional Recreation Strategy and Niche document (2002).

A priority for the next 3 to 5 years is to increase emphasis on scenery management and dispersed recreation uses. The Fishlake NF will improve existing visual management system by converting to a more comprehensive scenery management system. For developed recreation the priority is to maintain the current quantity and increase the quality of the opportunities available.

The strategy over the next several years with regard to OHV use of trails revolves around the Forest policy of use on designated trails only. The management tools to be used include education, enforcement, and monitoring. The Forest will use a combination of CMTL and NFRW funds to implement this new OHV policy.

Emphasis for non-motorized trails will be on better signing, mapping, and maintenance. Priority areas include Fishlake Hightop, the Windstorm Loop (Monroe Mtn.), Thousand Lake Plateau, and the White Ledges.

### Objectives

The objectives for recreation management are

- Generally, decisions on future management actions or activities should be consistent with the assigned ROS classification as displayed on the final ROS map in the Revised Forest Plan.
- Decisions on future management actions, activities or projects should be consistent with the adopted or final Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO's) formally mapped in the Revised Forest Plan using the new Scenery Management System.

### Performance Monitoring Items

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Miles of Trails maintained
- Number of visitors served as measured by the National Visitor Use Monitoring survey at least every five years.
- Number of motorized visitors as measured by annual trail counts.

### Risks to Performance

The forest's ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Available budget may not support increases in staffing or needed trail work
- Increased visitor use may change priorities for different types of recreation use.
- Litigation of changes to access management may slow implementation of projects.

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- Changes in population and demographics could change projected use levels and activity types.
- Advances in motorized technology may produce unanticipated uses.
- Pattern of visitor use may change in response to facility changes such as the paving of the Gooseberry road.

## **MINERALS AND GEOLOGY**

### **Introduction**

The Minerals and Geology program covers the administration of:

- Leaseable minerals such as oil, gas geothermal, and coal;
- Locatable (hard rock) minerals such as gold, silver and lead;
- Saleable, common variety minerals such as cinders, gravel and rocks; and
- A geology program, including abandoned mine cleanup and management of special geologic areas.

Source: FSH 6509.11g - Service-Wide Appropriation Use

Numerous and diverse laws, regulations, and policies apply to each of these four mineral classifications and program areas (see Design Criteria).

### **Trends Affecting Program Management**

The number of active locatable mining operations and saleable permits is expected to remain about the same over the next five years. Interest in exploration for these minerals in one or more specific locations may occur, requiring extensive NEPA analysis and documentation (an EA or EIS) and administration, but the small number of such operations over the past ten years does not portend large, significant projects in the foreseeable future.

By contrast, recent interest and activities related to leaseable minerals, particularly oil and gas and geothermal, suggest that this program of work could greatly expand over the next five years. Within the course of 2004, leaseable program activity has gone from a minor program to a large workload that the Forest workforce is hard pressed to process. The Forest has been hindered by a lack of leaseable minerals administrators. The national energy policy has also added to the interest in this program of work.

Surface facilities for the SUFCO underground coal mine are located on the forest. Removal of coal through the SUFCO mine portal in Convulsion Canyon and hauling across the forest in and near Salina Canyon is expected to continue into the distant future.

### **Strategy**

In response to growing industry interest, the Fishlake is planning to conduct a forest-wide oil and gas leasing analysis (EIS) within the next 3 years. The analysis is required before forest land can be offered for leasing. It would be completed under contract with outside sourcing and would require a special funding allocation to accomplish. The leasing analysis will require a significant amount of Forest resource specialists' time for coordination and review, plus the time of a project manager to oversee the project.

The Forest Service authorizes common variety mineral exploration and disposal under terms and conditions to prevent, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on surface resources and uses. The strategy of reclamation requirements is to return disturbed land to the planned uses.

### **Objectives**

The objectives for minerals and geology management are to

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- Process all geophysical Notices of Intent. Expected number for the next 5 years: 2-3 per year.
- Process all exploratory geothermal drilling permits. Expected number for the next 5 years: 1 per year.
- Process all plans of operation for locatable minerals exploration. Expected number for the next 5 years: 1 per year.
- Administer all bonded mineral operations to standard. Expected number for the next 5 years: 14 annually.

### **Performance Monitoring Items**

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Bonded minerals operations processed per year. This would be the number of significant minerals proposals processed completely including NEPA and authorization of a plan of operations.
- Number of bonded minerals operations administered to standard.

### **Risks to Performance**

The forest's ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Forest mineral activity is dependent upon industry-initiated proposals, which are based on dynamic market forces that are cyclic and difficult to predict.
- No growth assumptions have been made for the locatable and saleable minerals programs. A significant discovery or proposal could require a one-time program change, including earmarked funding and additional minerals specialist assistance.
- For leaseable energy minerals, the growing short-term activity is expected to continue over the next few years. The growing workload will need to be matched by increased allocations of minerals funding; if not, additional proposals would need to be carefully considered. Indications over the past year suggest that additional funding will be available, so the risk of not receiving adequate funding is small.
- Although unlikely, a drop in demand for energy minerals could require the Forest to downsize its mineral program to pre-2004 conditions.

## LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

### Introduction and Context

Livestock Grazing Management is generally considered to have two components: Rangeland Vegetation Management and Grazing Management.

**Rangeland Vegetation Management** which includes monitoring effectiveness, inventories, and analysis, is considered the key to maintaining and restoring healthy rangeland ecosystems that are characterized by productive soils and high water quality. These ecosystems, in turn, provide forage for livestock and wildlife. This activity includes 1) establishing and maintaining desired vegetation to achieve healthy, sustainable conditions and monitoring to ensure conditions are maintained, 2) planning and implementing non-structural rangeland improvements that contribute to ecological objectives, provide sustainable forage for livestock and wildlife, improve soil stability and water quality, and protect watersheds, and 3) managing infestations of noxious weeds and preventing further infestations through implementation of Forest Service and USDA noxious weed strategies.

**Grazing Management** accommodates a legitimate use of public lands by allowing permitted livestock grazing in balance with other resource needs, including wildlife habitat and recreation. This occurs through the authorization and administration of grazing permits and the application of sound management practices on grazing allotments. The livestock grazing administration program includes 1) Authorizing, administering, and monitoring livestock grazing, 2) Planning and constructing structural rangeland improvements that contribute to ecological objectives which provide sustainable forage for livestock and wildlife, improve soil stability and water quality, and protect watersheds, and 3) analysis and plans.

### Trends Affecting Program Management

Emphasis in monitoring and improving rangeland vegetation has shifted in recent years as priority has been placed on accomplishment of range permit administration. This shift has resulted in incomplete, inconsistent, and out-of-date rangeland monitoring. There is a lack of spatial and tabular electronic data, which is needed to support all aspects of rangeland management.

Many areas on the Fishlake National Forest have been chained, Dixie harrowed, chemically sprayed, and/or reseeded. These treatments have been successful and have provided beneficial forage for livestock and big game. The emphasis on accomplishment and maintenance of nonstructural improvements includes the use of prescribed fire, mechanical, and chemical treatments.

A gap exists between the desired level of rangeland management and the level that can be achieved with current funding and staffing. Inflation, static range budgets, increasing environmental documentation requirements, and increased support and overhead costs challenges our ability to provide efficient and effective administration of livestock grazing and rangeland resources on the National Forests. Over the last twenty years, society's needs and values have placed more emphasis on managing for sustainable rangeland ecosystems, healthy wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and threatened and endangered species. This emphasis on vegetation and other resources adds a level of complexity to the range management program.

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Three trends are recognized: 1) livestock grazing will continue to be permitted at, or near, current levels, and 2) for the foreseeable future, range budgets will not significantly increase sufficiently to fully implement a complete range program, and 3) increased data collection and reporting requirements will significantly reduce on the ground administration of allotments.

### Strategy and Priorities

The overall strategy is to permit livestock grazing on a sustainable basis while ensuring the ecological health and diversity of rangeland ecosystems. The strategies for the range program are:

- Permit administration - Administration of livestock grazing to ensure compliance with decisions made and implementation of mitigation measures. Take immediate, appropriate action on all known permit non-compliance. Prepare annual allotment operating instructions for every allotment.
- Inventory and monitoring - Range vegetation is inventoried and monitored.
- Structural improvement – Plan, construct, and maintain structural improvements (fences, cattleguards, water developments, handling facilities, etc.).
- Non-structural improvements – Plan and coordinate with other program areas to implement, and maintain non-structural improvements (vegetation treatments) on range allotments.
- Records and reporting - Keep accurate performance records and comply with annual agency reporting requirements.
- Analysis and plans – Complete the analysis and planning that is needed to meet agency business requirements to continue vegetation management and grazing management activities. Assess the effectiveness of management and trends toward sustainable ecosystems. Complete NEPA documents. Prepare, update, and adjust Allotment Management Plans.

The priorities are

- Controlling and eradicating noxious weeds and invasive species. Reduce and/or eliminate impacts from noxious weeds and invasive plants.
  - Cooperation with focus on establishment of Cooperative Weed Management Areas and alternate funding sources.
  - Early detection, rapid response, 100% treatment of new and small infestations of noxious weeds.
- Complete long-term vegetation trend monitoring.
- Encourage permittee stewardship, including monitoring responsibilities. Develop permittee monitoring procedures, with standardized protocols, to meet the requirements found in the term grazing permit.
- Complete NEPA documents on allotments.
- Keep the integrated vegetation 5 year action plan current.

### Objectives

The objectives for livestock grazing management are to

- Administer 75% of all allotments to the agency standard of 2-3 visits per year.
- Process 100% of permit applications, waivers, and Bills for Collection.
- Accomplish short-term monitoring on 50% of allotments within 10 years.
- Accomplish long-term vegetation trend monitoring at 5-10 year intervals.
- Re-inventory 20% of structural range improvements each year.

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- Maintain current non-structural improvements at least 70% of optimum forage production.
- Permit approximately 127,000 head months of livestock grazing per year through the planning period.
- Improve approximately 500 acres of vegetation per year through the planning period.

### **Performance Monitoring Items**

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Number of acres administered to standard
- Permitted head months of grazing,
- Acres of rangeland vegetation improved,
- Units of structural range improvements (fences, water development, corrals, cattle guards, etc.),
- Number of NEPA decisions signed
- Acres of noxious weeds inventoried
- Acres of rangeland meeting or moving toward desired condition.

### **Risks to Performance**

- The consequences of static range funding must be understood and managed. If funding remains static or continues to be reduced, the integrity of the overall range program will be insufficient to meet desired conditions.
- Lack of staff with adequate scientific expertise, training, and experience to manage vegetative conditions, resource issues, and technological advancements decreases productivity.
- Lack of cooperation and integration of range vegetation management with other programs (e.g. watershed, timber, wildlife, fire and fuels, recreation) can lead to unexpected management conflicts.
- Conflicts between competing uses can eliminate flexibility in program.
- Vegetation communities operate near the edge of sustainability or become non-sustainable.
- Other program and agency priorities and initiatives that conflict with available time and funding can leave the program short on resources to complete projects planned within a particular fiscal year.
- Increasing workload associated with FOIA; NEPA, and data management, reduces the amount of time that can be spent on projects in the field.
- Litigation could prevent or delay implementation of projects.
- T&E species consultation or potential new listings could cause unexpected impacts on individual projects or program objectives.
- Disturbance processes and other vectors that allow rapid expansion of noxious weeds and invasive plants can reduce available forage.

## **TIMBER AND OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS**

### **Introduction**

The timber and forest products program includes:

- inventory, develop, prepare, and update commercial timber resource information for timber analysis and monitoring at the project level,
- prepare National Forest System timber for sale
- administer timber sales.
- Providing other forest products such as Christmas trees, seed gathering, post and poles, or firewood.

### **Trends Affecting Program Management**

Management direction is to use new authorities in stewardship contracting that emphasizes on-the-ground results aimed at improved health.

With anticipated budget reductions, retaining skills specific to timber related activities such as: prescription preparation, sale preparation, cruising, appraisals, contract administration, or reforestation, will be increasingly difficult.

Traditional funding sources for timber production activities are anticipated to decline while funding related to ecosystem management and restoration goals are expected to increase. As these funding sources change there will be an increased need for more detailed planning and coordination of budgets and workforce with other resource areas. Instead of being a primary product tree cutting will become one of many tools to achieve desired conditions.

### **Strategy**

The primary program strategy is to continue to address the trend of beetle infestation when outbreaks are determined to be threats to desired conditions. This takes two forms, the first is salvage harvest in response to beetle attacks; the second is green harvest to reduce overall stand susceptibility. This usually takes the form of a thinning to reduce stand density. Priority stands include dense spruce or fir stands that are in areas readily available for treatment.

Another strategy is to use mechanical harvest to reduce fuel loadings. This treatment is used in areas where there is commercial timber value that can be recovered and in areas prescribed fire may not be appropriate. In cases where commercial value can be recovered, the funds are used to offset the cost of reducing fuels.

A third strategy is to restore the abundance of aspen ecosystems where losses have occurred because of changed disturbance regimes and increased ungulate pressure. Priority stands include aspen that is being overtopped by spruce or fir and yet can still respond to treatment.

Priority areas for the next few years for all forms of stand treatments include: Monroe Mountain, and the Beaver River, Fremont River, and Salina Creek watersheds.

### **Objectives**

The objectives for timber management are to

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- Treat 2,000 acres of aspen ecosystems each year.
- Treat 5,000 acres of fuels with mechanical treatment or prescribed burning each year.
- Treat 1,000 acres of spruce or fir ecosystems each year.
- Implement 3 stewardship contracts per year.

### **Performance Monitoring Items**

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Acres of aspen ecosystems treated
- Acres of spruce or fir ecosystems treated
- Acres of ponderosa pine ecosystems treated.
- Acres entered into stand database
- Number of stewardship contracts issued.

### **Risks to Performance**

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Reduced budgets could hamper ability to complete projects.
- Timely completion of NEPA analysis may be difficult.
- Lack of local industry to bid on and accomplish treatments.
- Increases of bark beetle or defoliating insect populations to epidemic levels could change priorities.
- Litigation of treatment proposals may delay implementation.

## **WATERSHED, SOIL AND RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT**

### **Introduction**

The watershed and riparian program supports activities associated with the maintenance, protection, restoration, inventory, monitoring and evaluation of soil and water related resources. Protection and prevention of management related impacts are the priority in properly functioning watersheds. In watersheds where degraded conditions occur, restoration of soil and water resources is the focus. The inventory, monitoring and evaluation of watershed conditions including soil resources, water quality and quantity, riparian areas, wetlands and stream channels are also important components of this program. Additionally, the program supports the administration and analysis of water rights uses and issues, to support both consumptive and non-consumptive beneficial uses.

### **Trends Affecting Program Management**

Given the numerous and increasing demands for consumptive water use both on and off the forest, it is difficult to retain sufficient water in streams, lakes, springs, wetlands and aquifers within the National Forest to fully support non-consumptive uses, such as existing biological resources and effective discharges that maintain natural channel patterns and vegetative composition.

The riparian and wetland areas of the forest provide important ecological, social and economic values. The multiple uses that occur in these areas often compete for the same resources, creating issues that are difficult to resolve. Increased recreation use concentrated in riparian corridors, along with existing uses such as wildlife and livestock are issues that need to be addressed.

Tamarisk and other aquatic invasive species have spread to parts of the forest. These non-native species can alter native riparian vegetation composition, increase the salinity of the surrounding soils and potentially change the flow regime of springs and streams by lowering surface water tables. The altered flow regimes and water tables have the potential to dry up springs and convert perennial streams to intermittent, or intermittent streams to ephemeral (particularly in small stream systems).

### **Strategy**

Since the watershed, soil and riparian program is very diverse and includes various disciplines, the strategies have been separated into the following topic areas: general, riparian and wetland areas, stream channels and floodplains, groundwater and springs, water quality and soils. The following strategies are a major component of this program in maintaining, protecting and restoring soil and water resources.

#### *General*

The general watershed strategies are to

- Protect watersheds that are in properly functioning condition.
- Expand from the protection of watershed resources to restoration, where appropriate. Highest restoration priorities are placed on watersheds that are functioning at-risk or contain native cutthroat trout populations. The next level of restoration priorities are placed on watersheds not in properly functioning condition. Watershed restoration should focus on system processes, rather than repairing individual sites. Priorities for restoration will be based on analysis of beneficial uses that are at risk.

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- Restore degraded watershed conditions through a range of actions, including but not limited to stabilizing soil, maintaining long-term soil productivity, controlling surface runoff and erosion, reducing induced flood potential, and stabilizing the drainage network.
- Minimize the effects of management activities on overall stream channel stability and hydrologic function.
- Monitor effectiveness and maintenance needs of watershed improvements.
- Place priority on the completion of environmental analysis for restoration projects.
- Implement road and trail obliteration associated with the OHV route designation project.
- Implement and monitor BMP (best management practices) or SWCP (soil and water conservation practices) at the project level.

### *Riparian and Wetland Areas*

The riparian and wetland area strategies are to

- Complete Forest-wide coverage of the Level II integrated riparian surveys, along with the fisheries population and habitat baseline inventories. This forest-wide data will be used to prioritize protection, restoration, inventory and monitoring program needs.
- Redesign and/or relocate selected road segments that are causing riparian impacts or are contributing and depositing sediment off-site.
- Reduce or mitigate the net impacts to riparian and wetland values from other forest uses including but not limited to wildlife and livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, motorized recreation and dispersed camping. This could include an educational component.
- Reduce the presence and extent of exotic, invasive and noxious vegetative species where appropriate.
- Maintain or enhance the amount of wetlands on National Forest System lands.
- Increase the diversity and extent of riparian vegetation, including more late seral age classes, where appropriate.

### *Stream Channels and Floodplains*

The stream channel and floodplain strategies are to

- Limit management related disturbances so they do not negatively alter stream channel conditions, such as channel substrate (including fine sediments), channel dimensions within the bank full elevation, overall stability of the stream channel, and the native riparian plant community.
- Maintain or restore where appropriate, stream channel connectivity to floodplains.
- Re-measure all stream cross-sections to survey cross-section profile, pebble counts, slope and sinuosity over a 10-year period and compare these results to the past and existing channel geometry.
- Maintain or enhance stream channel integrity.

### *Aquatic Biota*

See the fish/aquatic strategy section of the prospectus.

### *Groundwater and Springs*

The groundwater and spring strategies are to

- Prevent or minimize adverse impacts to surface water resources (e.g. springs, riparian areas and wetlands) and groundwater dependent ecosystems from ground-water pumping.

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- Maintain the natural patterns of recharge and discharge and minimize disruption to groundwater levels that are critical for riparian and wetland integrity.
- Manage springs and their riparian areas as a unit.
- Protect ecological processes and biodiversity of ground-water-dependent ecosystems.

*Water Quality*

The water quality strategies are to

- Public waters are improved or restored where water quality does not support State designated beneficial uses (as identified on State of Utah 303d lists). Otherwise, water quality is maintained or improved.
- Work with the State, Tribes and other agencies and organizations to prioritize restoration needs and to bring 303d listed water bodies into compliance with State water quality standards in a reasonable time frame.
- Visit each of the municipal watersheds or municipal points of diversion within the next 10 years to determine if past, present or future actions are impairing the water quality or quantity for designated uses.
- Work to eventually have all of the summer homes in the Fishlake basin connected to the sewer system.
- Reduce or eliminate the input of pollutants from national forest system lands, that could affect the attainment of Colorado River salinity control requirements.

*Soils*

The soils strategies are to

- Restore or improve soil productivity and function where detrimentally disturbed and contributing to an overall decline in watershed condition.
- Restore and prevent soil compaction, particularly in riparian areas.
- Prevent degradation of soil quality and loss of soil productivity.
- Protect microbiotic (microphytic and cryptogamic) soil crusts from management disturbances.
- Ensure that enough litter remains within the Pine/Fir areas to form litter debris dams that hold the soil in place during runoff events.
- Monitor upland areas adjacent to riparian management areas.
- Monitor compaction and detrimental soil disturbances related to management activities.
- Conduct project level monitoring of mitigation requirements related to soil resources. At least one project per year per ranger district.
- Perform soil survey activities.
- Maintain soil and water resource improvement needs inventory in NRIS.

**Objectives**

Since the watershed, soil and riparian program is very diverse and includes various disciplines, the objectives have been separated into the following topic areas: general, riparian and wetland areas, stream channels and floodplains, water quality and soils. These objectives represent more specific and measurable actions intended to help achieve desired conditions.

*General*

The general watershed objectives are to

- Restore 100 - 200 acres of watershed each year

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- Improve drainage and surfacing or relocate 5-15 miles of road in the next 10 years.
- Decommission, through active and passive restoration, 100-200 miles of road in the next 5 years.

### *Riparian and Wetland Areas*

The riparian and wetland objectives are to

- Enhance and restore 200-300 acres of wet meadows across the forest in the next 10 years.
- Improve or restore 35-70 acres of riparian habitat and across the forest over the next 10 years.
- No loss, or a net gain of wetlands across the forest.
- Net decline in invasive tamarisk populations across the forest.
- Develop an inventory of tamarisk extent and drainage presence-absence on the forest within 10 years, to track changes in populations over time.
- No net loss, or a net gain in cottonwood gallery extent and age class diversity.
- No net increase or a net reduction of road and trail mileage within riparian and wetland influence zones. The completion of the Forest plan marks the baseline measurement for road and trail mileage.

### *Stream Channels and Floodplains*

The stream channel and floodplain objectives are to

- Decommission or relocate 100-130 miles of road that are negatively impacting the stream system and riparian habitat over the next 5 years.

### *Water Quality*

The water quality objectives are to

- Measure 1-4 streams annually for compliance with State water quality standards, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Water Quality
- Maintain or increase the number of surface waters on the forest that meet the State water quality standards for assigned beneficial uses over the next 10 years.

### *Soils*

The soils objectives are to

- Measure long-term soil productivity in 2-4 projects a year.

## **Performance Monitoring Items**

Since the watershed, soil and riparian program is very diverse and includes various disciplines, the performance and monitoring items have been separated into the following topic areas: general, riparian and wetland areas, stream channels and floodplains, water quality and soils. The following items will be used to measure progress toward desired conditions:

### *General*

- Watershed acres improved through restoration projects, including but not limited to, fencing, road drainage improvement, road reconstruction, road and trail decommission, willow and cottonwood planting, and upland habitat improvement.
- Acres of watershed in proper functioning condition
- Acres of watershed in functioning at risk condition

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- Acres of watershed not in proper functioning condition
- Number of projects monitored for BMP (best management practices) or SWCP (soil and water conservation practices) effectiveness

### *Riparian and Wetland Areas*

- Riparian or wetland acres improved through restoration projects
- Acres of wetland in stable or improving condition
- Acres of wetland lost or in declining condition

### *Stream Channels and Floodplains*

- Acres of cottonwood galleries in stable or improving condition
- Miles of motorized routes within 300 feet of stream channels, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands

### *Water Quality*

- Number of water bodies in compliance with State water quality standards

### *Soils*

- Number of projects monitored for BMP (best management practices) or SWCP (soil and water conservation practices) effectiveness

## **Risks to Performance**

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Budget levels are uncertain.
- Time and costs associated with NEPA analysis can be unpredictable.
- Endangered species listing is possible for cutthroat trout or amphibians.
- Watershed objectives and priorities have potential conflicts with terrestrial restoration program objectives (primarily fire use and fuels treatments)
- The spread of whirling disease or aquatic “nuisance” species.
- New priorities such as oil and gas development are forthcoming.
- Mitigation of impacts to riparian areas from livestock and wildlife grazing and browsing is dependent on cooperation between Forest Service, the permittee, and the State wildlife agency.
- Climactic factors (e.g. drought and flood) can impact implementation of program priorities and objectives.
- Private property within and adjacent to NFS lands have the potential to affect water quality and watershed condition.

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### FISH

#### Introduction

The fish program studies, surveys and inventories the diverse aquatic biota found on the Fishlake National Forest. Inventories include population monitoring, baseline monitoring, riparian surveys and distribution surveys. The fish program designs and implements habitat restoration projects that directly protect, restore and improve aquatic habitats for native species, such as Bonneville and Colorado cutthroat trout. Project level support related to aquatic issues is an additional component of this program.

The Fishlake National Forest has over 400 miles of streams with potential for perennial fish habitat. Most of the forest is part of the Sevier River Basin which is a closed habitat system draining into the Great Basin. Some eastern parts of the forest are part of the Colorado River Basin.

#### Trends Affecting Program Management

Many of the fish populations on the forest are isolated by natural and man-made migration barriers. This reduces opportunities for mixing of genetic diversity and colonization of new habitat, however, it also protects the isolated stocks from invasive species. The vegetation conditions in some watersheds present a high risk of wildfire and related adverse impacts such as sedimentation and debris flows. This could lead to extirpation of isolated fish stocks. Given these circumstances, active management such as transplanting and re-introduction will be necessary in some cases, to maintain these populations over time. Currently, many of the reintroduced populations are in streams with marginal habitat.

Many of the water bodies on the forest have been stocked with non-native fish, which compete for habitat and can hybridize with native species. Some water bodies also contain aquatic nuisance species such as: Eurasian milfoil, New Zealand mud snail, and whirling disease. Drought conditions can also intensify the risks to native aquatic species.

Recently it has been difficult to find and hire quality seasonal employees with fisheries experience. This makes meeting survey and habitat work objectives more difficult.

#### Strategy

The program strategy for the next two years is to focus on completing Level II integrated riparian inventory and population distribution surveys. The strategy for the next 3 to 5 years is to focus on riparian habitat improvement projects and possibly R1-R4 stream habitat surveys on high priority streams. The priorities would be Colorado Cutthroat and Bonneville trout streams (e.g. UM Creek, Fish Creek, Sevenmile creek, and Manning Creek) and high value recreation streams (e.g. Birch Creek, Beaver River, Corn Creek, and Salina Creek)

Over the long term, the program intends to increase the number, size, and quality of watersheds that support Bonneville and Colorado cutthroat trout meta-populations and isolated replicates. Where feasible, opportunities in increase meta-population connectivity should be pursued. In some situations, barriers are desired to protect isolated populations from non-native species. The program will also work to prevent the spread of whirling disease and other aquatic nuisance species. Additionally, the program should design and implement protocols and infrastructure that would allow an emergency response when unique genetic stocks of native cutthroat are threatened by events such as severe wildfire and associated debris flows. Another priority is to coordinate and integrate aquatic restoration and risk management into terrestrial restoration activities. The strategy

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is to have no loss of cold water fisheries habitat as a result of land management direction or actions, especially in watersheds containing native cutthroat trout.

### **Objectives**

The objectives for fisheries management are to

- Complete 10-20 miles of population distribution surveys per year.
- Complete about 65 miles of habitat treatment or fish reintroductions over the next five years. (The actual fish reintroduction is completed by UDWR.) This could include habitat improvement work on Fish Creek, Birch Creek (east), Birch Creek (west), North Fork of North Creek, and Ten Mile Creek.

### **Performance Monitoring Items**

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Acres of lakes and miles stream habitat work completed
- Miles of stream inventories completed
- Miles and acres of habitat supporting native cutthroat populations.
- Miles of stream impacted by whirling disease and aquatic nuisance species.

### **Risks to Performance**

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Available budget to complete objectives.
- Amount of resources requested for support of other project work may divert resources from objectives.
- Amount of resources required to respond to unforeseen court challenges.
- One half of the Fishlake fisheries program is dependant on funding from the State Division of Wildlife.

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## STRATEGY

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### **WILDLIFE**

#### **Introduction**

More than 300 species of wildlife and fish inhabit the Fishlake National Forest for all or a portion of their life cycle. Consumptive and non-consumption uses are an important part of the wildlife program on the forest.

The wildlife program includes studies, surveys, inventories, provides project support, population trend monitoring, baseline monitoring, distribution surveys, designs vegetation management projects to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat, including threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

(source: [FSH 6509.11g - Service-Wide Appropriation Use](#))

#### **Trends affecting Program Management**

Competing demands for resources and habitats limit our ability to maintain and improve habitat. For example, maintaining snags in ponderosa pine plant communities may conflict with efforts to reduce insect outbreaks and spread or the effects of unregulated firewood cutting. Another example is recovering riparian shrub and tree habitat with current grazing levels. Maintaining wildlife habitat within wildland urban interface areas can be challenging. These issues must be balanced at the site level with an eye toward the forest-wide desired conditions. Increase uses of the National Forest will also present potential conflicts in uses, particularly with motorized uses.

Lack of funding in other resources and priorities for available resources can impact our ability to maintain or restore riparian and upland habitats. Over the planning period, large portions of localized Englemann spruce and subalpine fir stands may be regenerated to early seral stages and to more dominant aspen plant communities. This could produce a net reduction of late seral habitat that could persist for many years.

#### **Strategy**

The emphasis on monitoring threatened, endangered, and sensitive species will continue. Incorporating habitat needs with fuels reduction projects will be a priority for the next three to five years. Identifying common vegetation management needs cooperatively with fire, timber, and range will be a priority as well.

Gathering more data on two sensitive species (pygmy rabbit and sage grouse) recently added to the R-4 list is needed to learn proper techniques and designs to maintain habitat in sagebrush ecosystems.

Vegetation management of habitat is an important aspect of the wildlife program. Planning the rate and juxtaposition of aspen treatments will be important over the landscape in order to maintain connectivity and patch sizes. Maintenance and restoration of riparian communities is important for many species of wildlife for all or part of their life cycle. These communities have been lost from a variety of impacts and restoring those remaining is critical. Shrub management for species composition and seral stage diversity at the landscape level will be needed.

Continuing to seek partnerships and outside funding opportunities to conduct survey and inventories as well as maintain and enhance wildlife habitats for a variety of species will be an important part of the strategy.

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## STRATEGY

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### Objectives

The objectives for wildlife management are to

- Prevent the listing (endangered, threatened, sensitive or candidate) of any new species as a result of the management activity on the forest.
- Complete \*\*\* population distribution and trend surveys per year.
- Complete about \*\*\* acres of habitat restoration and enhancement for sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, and other endangered, threatened, sensitive or candidate species over the next five years.
- Implement \*\*\* conservation strategies and agreements, and recovery plans

### Performance Monitoring Items

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Number of population distribution and trend surveys completed per year
- Acres of sage grouse habitat restored and enhanced.
- Number of conservation strategies and agreements implemented.

### Risks to Performance

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Available budget to complete objectives. Rules regarding partnerships sometimes decrease our ability to obtain outside funding.
- Availability of seasonal employees with wildlife expertise to conduct monitoring and inventory.
- Amount of resources requested for project support may divert resources from objectives.
- Amount of resources required responding to unforeseen court challenges.
- Amount of time and dollars to fulfill appropriate NEPA requirements.
- Appropriate scales of restoration or rehabilitation to ensure dynamic habitat diversity and genetic variability may not be achievable due to social regulations (such as smoke restrictions) or funding limitations.

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## STRATEGY

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### **FIRE AND FUELS**

#### **Introduction**

The fire and fuels program consists of three major divisions 1) Hazardous fuels, 2) Wildfire preparedness and 3) Wildfire suppression.

The hazardous fuels program treats hazardous fuels across the forest in multiple vegetation and fuel types. Fuels are considered hazardous when they present a threat to values or ecosystems (consider definition from 10-yr strategy report here). The program is also used for wildland fire suppression and emergency rehabilitation of National Forest System lands damaged by wildland fire.

The wildfire preparedness program is for wildland fire preparedness activities in advance of wildfire occurrence. The Fishlake NF is part of an interagency fire program that covers over 12 million acres. The information presented here relates only to the Fishlake National Forest portions.

#### **Trends Affecting Program Management**

Across the Nation, the trend over the last few years has been an increase in wildfire acres. Locally there has been an increasing trend on acres of hazardous fuels treated.

Traditional funding sources will be changing with an emphasis towards ecosystem management requiring more detailed planning and coordination of budgets and workforce.

Most wildland-urban interface areas will have initial treatments completed resulting in a shift in fuels treatments to other priorities.

#### **Strategy**

The Fishlake expects to increase the acres of hazardous fuels treated over the next five years. This increase will primarily come from areas outside of the Wildland-Urban-Interface (WUI). The objectives will be dominated by sagebrush and grass community restoration and aspen restoration. The treatments will include use of prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical.

Priorities for treatment are guided by:

- Proper functioning condition analysis
- Fire Regime Condition Class analysis
- Completion of broad scale assessments (like watershed or geographic area analysis)
- The 12 identified WUI areas on the forest

Near-term priorities include Fish Lake Basin and Manning Meadows.

The projected increase in wildland fire activity is cause to reiterate that our number one priority is safety. Safety is directly related to training, protective equipment, readiness, and leadership.

The wildland-urban interface areas are treated to reduce fuel loads. These treatments should be scheduled for maintenance at appropriate intervals to ensure that their effectiveness is maintained over time.

## STRATEGY

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The Fishlake NF is part of an interagency fire center that covers over 12 million acres of Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service, State, and County lands. This interagency strategy provides economies of scale with regards to overhead, equipment, and personnel. The strategy allows more money for crews and equipment on-the-ground and requires that less be spent on fixed overhead costs. In addition, the National Fire Plan has provided additional funds to equip and train volunteer fire departments. This has improved readiness and responsiveness.

An accurate vegetation database with sufficient detail for project planning is critical to program management. Collection and maintenance of vegetation data is needed to support analysis of hazardous fuel treatment.

### **Objectives**

The objectives for fire and fuels management are to

- Treat hazardous fuels on over 10,000 acres per year.
- Ramp up, over the next three to five years, to 5,000 acres of fuels treatments per year per district (20,000 acres across the forest) limited by dollars, burning window, and litigation
- Insert a reasonable and measurable safety objective here.
- To contain 98% of wildfires during initial attack if wildland fire use is not appropriate.

### **Performance Monitoring Items**

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Acres of hazardous fuels treated per year.
- Acres of wildland fire use per year.
- Percent of fires contained within the first burning period.
- Firefighter Production Capacity. ? how useful
- Safety monitoring

### **Risks to Performance**

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Timely completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation can be threatened by lack of availability of specialists to complete analysis and lack of available data to analyze.
- Regional and National changes in priorities, such as, high levels of wildfire activity in other locations.
- Availability of burning windows (suitable conditions) for both prescribed fire and wildland fire use can change rapidly.
- Weather can be unpredictable.
- Readiness and responsiveness can be challenged by an active national-level fire season.
- The timing of any particular ignition can make meeting the containment objective difficult.
- Unforeseen events such as imposed limitations on ignition of fires or allowing fires to burn may limit the forest's ability to use fire as a tool.

## HERITAGE RESOURCES

### Introduction

The following list briefly identifies some of the activities undertaken by the program:

- Managing and keeping of files and maps on the entire Archaeological and Historic Site Resources of the Forest.
- Keeping and managing the Forest's Historic documents and photos and the clearinghouse for paleontology reports and documents conducted under SUP's.
- Preserving and stabilizing frequently visited sites.
- Providing volunteer opportunities for the public to get involved with the Archaeology of the Forests such as Passport in Time Projects, Archaeology Camps, Natural Resource Camps, Sierra Club service Projects.
- Provide interpretive talks to other agencies, private organizations, and schools.
- Consultation with American Indian tribes on cultural resource issues, NAGPRA, ARPA, and Traditional Cultural Properties.
- Consultation with State Historic Preservation Officers, Advisory Council of Historic Preservation and other State and Federal Agencies
- Document, evaluate and nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Conduct damage assessment studies for ARPA violations and testify in Federal Court.
- INFRA steward for Heritage data.

### Strategies and Priorities

The Heritage Program is trying to provide opportunities as guided in the National Strategy for The Heritage Program "It's About Time" The strategy outlines the program of work the Forests should be providing the agency and the Public.

The public is continuing to request opportunities to work with the Heritage Program and these will need to be provided at an increased rate. The opportunities could be increased but due to budget and time restraints they will remain at the same level of output for the next 5 years. Priorities for the Forest will be to stabilize those sites that are being visited and impacted by the public and provided some opportunities for the public to continue to be involved in assisting.

In its mission to protect cultural and historic resources from adverse impacts and deterioration, the heritage program will complete the following planning and monitoring activities:

- In order for the desired condition for Heritage sites to be met the public, livestock, wildlife, and resource projects and such would be removed from the Forest. As that will never happen avoidance of sites involved in resource project activities are outlined in the project. Recommendations in the project report will indicate if monitoring of project activities before, during or after the implementation is needed.
- Sites heavily used or visited by the public are examined each year to identify use and prevent damage. Preservation and stabilization methods are applied to necessary sites.
- Administrative building identified for future restoration and maintenance are visited on a yearly basis and the outlined repair needs are reexamined.
- Completion of compliance reports tied to NEPA projects are done in a timely manner. If we can't get them done an evaluation and prioritization should be conducted by staff and Rangers.

## STRATEGY

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The Heritage Program's priorities are two fold. **One priority** is conducting cultural resource surveys and evaluations as part of all ground disturbing projects proposed on the Forest as mandated by law. The **second priority** is to manage those Archaeological and Historic sites on the Forest. This may include restoration and or stabilization of resources.

### Objectives

The objectives for facilities management are to

- Prepare a Forest Interpretive Plan for Heritage Program
- Providing public outreach programs
- Provide Rustic Cabin Rental Cabins
- Stabilize high-risk sites in high use areas.
- Continued public outreach to prevent vandalism
- Prepare an updated Forest History book
- Continue providing services to District projects
- Assist with ARPA cases
- Provide assistance to the Forest Staff in Tribal Consultation matters

### Performance Monitoring

The Forest Service will monitor the following items to measure progress toward desired conditions:

- Number of sites managed to Standard
- Number of Programs offered to the Public
- Meeting our goals as outlined in the Agreement with the Paiute Tribe of Utah (see Reference)

### Risks to Performance

The forests ability to accomplish its objectives and desired conditions for this management program is limited by the following conditions and trends:

- Budget trends will continue to decrease funds available for Heritage Programs
- Increased visitors to the backcountry of the Forest will increase vandalism opportunities.
- Increased activities in areas of significant cultural resources increase potential for damage to sites
- Lack of Law Enforcement personnel on the Forest deal with ARPA violations
- Increased costs to repair and restore administrative buildings (the older they get the more it costs).
- Pressure to meet target deadlines from other resource projects with a limited Heritage staff.
- Increase for compliance requests from Forest Projects and not enough time given to complete before project implementation.
- Increased fuel loading in significant Cultural Resource areas.
- Erosion caused by activities impacts sites.

A lot of these risks are present at this time and they will only increase as the visitor use increases on the Forest.

## Suitable and Unsuitable Land Uses

National Forest System lands within this plan area are generally suitable for multiple uses unless identified as unsuitable for one or more uses. Projects implemented under this plan direction will have appropriate level of site-specific analysis including a site-level verification of suitability.

### TIMBER

The timber suitability map (figure xx) displays areas that are considered suitable for timber management on the forest. The following factors are considered in determining timber suitability: (Section § 219.12, p. 1059 Proposed Planning Rules of January 5, 2005)

- 1) Statute, Executive order, or regulation does not prohibit timber production on the land; or
- 2) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service has not withdrawn the land from timber production; or
- 3) The land is forest land (land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest uses); or
- 4) Timber production is compatible with the achievement of desired conditions and objectives established by the plan for those lands.

The Forest has about 300,000 acres that are considered suited for timber management. That represents about 20% of the Fishlake National Forest. The biological aspects of timber suitability should be reviewed at a smaller, site-specific scale. This will provide a more accurate determination that should be more useful for project planning.

### RANGE

The range suitability map (figure xx) displays areas that are considered suitable for livestock management on the forest. Areas have been removed from suitability because of conflicts with administrative sites, resource damage, and accessibility. The forest has about 700,000 acres that are considered suited for livestock management. That represents about 50% of the Fishlake National Forest.

### MOTORIZED RECREATION

Motorized recreation (excluding winter snow travel) is limited to designated routes and areas. Motorized use outside of those routes and areas is not a suitable use. The designation of routes and areas is a site specific decision. Refer to the Fishlake National Forest Travel Map for additional details.

### UTILITY CORRIDORS

The Utility Corridor Map (figure xx) displays the designated utility corridors for the Fishlake National Forest

The following areas are generally not suited for placement of utility corridors:

- 1) Developed recreation sites and developed winter sports sites.
- 2) Areas emphasizing semi-primitive recreation.
- 3) Riparian areas.
- 4) Municipal water supply and municipal watersheds.

## STRATEGY

**TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT**

The following areas are generally not suited for new permanent or temporary road construction:

**Big Game Winter Range**

Exceptions must meet the following criteria:

- 1) No feasible location exists for the road outside the area. The road is essential to achieve goals and objectives of contiguous management areas, or to provide access to land administered by other government agencies or contiguous private land.
- 2) The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is fully involved in the road location, planning and alternative evaluation.
- 3) Planned management of road use during winter will prevent or minimize disturbance of wintering big game animals, or will allow hunting and other management activities needed to meet wildlife management objectives.
- 4) Roads are constructed to the minimum standards necessary to provide safety for the road use purpose.
- 5) Roads cross the winter range in the minimum distance feasible to facilitate the necessary use.

**Riparian Areas**

Exceptions must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Alternative routes have been reviewed and rejected as being more environmentally damaging.
- 2) Road location avoids parallel stream construction.
- 3) Road location crosses streams at right angles.
- 4) Crossings are at points of low bank slope and on firm surfaces.

**Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, or Candidate Species Locations**

Exceptions must meet the following criteria:

- 1) In the case of listed species the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service must approve the action.
- 2) In the case of non-listed species the Biological Evaluation must stipulate no effect or list required mitigation measures.

**Archaeological, Cultural Resources or Historical Sites**

Exceptions must meet the following criteria:

- 1) All cultural resource surveys and reports must be completed and the Utah State Historical Preservation Office must concur.

**COMMUNICATION AND ELECTRONIC SITES**

Existing communication and electronic sites are depicted on the Electronic sites Map (see figure xx).

## Special Areas

Special areas are areas within the NFS designated for their unique or special characteristics. These areas include wilderness, wild and scenic river corridors, research natural areas, and other areas. Some of these areas are statutorily designated. Other areas may be designated through plan development, amendment, revision, or through a separate administrative process with an appropriate NEPA analysis (36 CFR 219). Appropriate plan components are provided for existing designations and recommended areas. This may include desired conditions, management objectives, and guidelines. The following section outlines the desired conditions, name of areas, size of areas, and description of the areas.

### STATUTORILY DESIGNATED AREAS

#### Recommended Wilderness

Areas recommended to Congress for wilderness consideration are managed to maintain existing wilderness character. Activities in recommended wilderness do not compromise the wilderness character or reduce the area's potential for wilderness designation. Generally, all current activities will continue until Congressional action on the recommendation.

Name of Area	Size in Acres	Area Type
Delano	23,300	Recommended Wilderness
Tushar	27,500	Recommended Wilderness

#### Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

River segments and their corridors that are eligible as Wild and Scenic Rivers are managed to retain their free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values. (Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report, 2004).

Eligible Segments	Length of segment (miles)
Corn Creek	2
Fish Creek	15
Pine Creek	4
Salina Creek	6
Quitcupah Creek	From 2004 Richfield RMP (BLM) analysis

Length of segments from analysis done by other agencies is available by contacting the appropriate agency

### ADMINISTRATIVELY DESIGNATED AREAS

#### Backcountry Areas

Name of Area	Size in Acres	Area Type
Beehive Peak	29,700	SPNM Back Country
Signal Peak	16,700	SPNM Back Country
White Mountain	28,900	SPNM Back Country
Fishlake Hightop	20,100	SPNM Back Country
Wayne	11,300	SPNM Back Country
Bullberry	2,500	SPNM Back Country

## STRATEGY

Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top	2,000	SPNM Back Country
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Backcountry areas are identified as special areas to highlight the non-motorized recreation opportunities (See Figure xx). Although these are not the only areas of the forest that provide non-motorized opportunities, these are areas that offer unique opportunities, characteristics, destination attractions, or have otherwise developed a “sense of place. The backcountry areas will also be used to help prioritize future investment for enhancement of non-motorized recreation.

### *Desired Conditions*

Backcountry areas are managed to meet the physical, managerial, and social settings consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum descriptions for semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) recreation. They provide a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities and settings. Natural processes are the primary agents for vegetative change, with vegetation management used only to protect the resource or complement the recreational value. Remote habitat for native or naturalized species of game and non-game wildlife is provided consistent with the natural vegetation. Existing openings and grasslands are managed to enhance SPNM recreational opportunities, including wildlife viewing. Generally, the non-motorized setting does not apply to winter recreation uses such as snowmobiles.

Non-motorized recreation opportunities are featured. Trails and closed roads provide abundant opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. High scenic integrity is maintained along visually sensitive viewpoints and travel ways. Moderate Scenic Integrity Objectives are allowed to maintain recreation values, provide for public safety, or to restore ecological communities or natural habitat structure.

The areas are characterized by a predominantly natural-appearing environment where there is a moderate to high probability of solitude. Recreation opportunities generally require a high degree of self-reliance, and pose a moderate to high degree of risk. Although there may be some evidence of other land uses, there is a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sounds and sights of man. Structures are rare, but may include rustic shelters, bridges and signs, and primitive sanitary facilities.

### Beehive Peak Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The Beehive Peak Backcountry is an area with little motorized access. The area totals about 29,700 acres. Trails in this area include the Red Canyon Trail (015), Mill Canyon Trail (622), and the South Cedar Ridge Canyon Trail (028). The area is dissected with steep canyons cut into sedimentary formation of sandstone, shale, and limestone. The erosion patterns have carved interesting features such as Beehive Peak, Strawberry Canyon, and South Cedar Ridge Canyon.

### Fish Lake Hightop Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The Fish Lake Hightop Backcountry area is northwest of Fish Lake. The area totals about 20,100 acres. The area is dominated by a high plateau of about 5,000 acres. The plateau features high elevation open grass meadows, unusual rock formations, and outstanding views of Fish Lake and the surrounding areas. There are a number of trails that provide access to the area. These include: Doctor Canyon (124), Pelican Canyon (125), Tasha Creek Trail (126), and the Seven Mile Trail (158). The Fish Lake Hightop trail (123) follows the plateau. The area is adjacent to the Fish Lake Basin recreation area and provides a stark contrast to the developed recreation opportunities offered in the Basin.

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**White Mountain Backcountry Area** (Figure xx)

The White Mountain Backcountry area is a large (about 28,900 acres) non-motorized area north of Accord Lakes. The non-motorized character was created when numerous roads were closed in the 1990's for soil protection purposes. The old road beds are now managed as trails. Primary uses include hunting and horseback riding. The trails include: White ledges (102), Salina Creek (263), (426, (157) (265), (269), and Skumpah Canyon (266). The area features steep narrow canyons and relatively broad flat gently rolling mesa lands.

**Signal Mountain Backcountry Area** (Figure xx)

The Signal Mountain Backcountry area is non-motorized area on Monroe Mountain east and south of Monroe City. The area transitions from the steep slopes of the west side of Monroe Mountain to the relatively flat plateau on the top. The area contains a number of popular horse and hiking trails including: Koosharem Guard Station (081), (083), (084), and Nielson Canyon (086).

**Bullberry Backcountry Area** (Figure xx)

The Bullberry Backcountry area is non-motorized area on the eastern edge of the forest between Bullberry Flat and Capital Reef National Park. The area is rugged and steep with deep dissected canyons. The area does not contain significant non-motorized trails. The area does help to compliment the Park Service management goals in the western edge of the Waterpocket Fold

**Wayne Wonderland Backcountry Area** (Figure xx)

The Wayne Wonderland Backcountry area is non-motorized area on the eastern edge of the forest between The Great Western Trail and Capital Reef National Park. The area is rugged and steep with deep dissected canyons. The area contains the Paradise Flats trail (154) that drops into the Park. The area also helps to compliment the Park Service management goals in the Paradise Flats and Chimney Rock areas.

**Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top Area** (Figure xx)

The Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top area is non-motorized area in the southern portions of the forest, north of Torrey, Utah. The area is a plateau of about 2,000 acres surrounded by steep cliffs. The Flat top is accessed by several horse and foot trails. Trails include Bull Run Flat trail (176), the Snow Lake trail (178), and the Flat Top trail (149).

**Municipal Water Sources**

Figure xx displays the known water sources for culinary and municipal water supplies. Those sources are to be protected according to the provisions within the Utah State Source Protection Plans. *Include url reference here.*

**Botanical and Geologic Areas**

Name of Area	Size in Acres	Area Type
Ant Hill	500	Botanical
Billings Pass	400	Botanical
Little Bryce		Geologic

Desired conditions for geologic areas emphasize protection of the geologic resources for which the area is valued. Desired conditions for botanical areas emphasize protection of the botanical

## STRATEGY

resources for which the area is valued. Secondary emphasis for these areas is allowed for public appreciation of the botanical resources and the geologic conditions or for research of these features.

Ant Hill and Billings Pass are also being considered for inclusion in the Research Natural Area program. These areas will be administratively managed as Botanical Areas. Resolution of the RNA considerations may alter this designation.

Ant Hill

The Ant Hill is a dome-shaped mountain, reaching 9,291 feet in elevation, on the southern end of Thousand Lake Mountain in south central Utah. The west and south sides are encompassed by a ring of 100 to 200 foot red Kayenta/Wingate sandstone cliffs, and the east side by a continuation of these cliffs which extend upward into the Navajo formation to create a 600 to 700 foot sheer wall of sandstone. The north side reaches down to a saddle adjoining Thousand Lake Mountain. These cliffs make access very difficult, which has protected this dome from most resource uses.

Geology of the upper portion of the Ant Hill (excluding the north slope) appears to be from a volcanic intrusion as soils are not from the sandstone below and the area is covered with medium to large lava boulders. Most of the south side of the Ant Hill, extending from the cliffs to nearly the top, is covered with old-growth pinyon pine and juniper.

Billings Pass

Billings Pass is an area of diverse vegetation with regionally endemic plants. This is along the boundary with Capital Reef National Park. The unique plants and features of this area exist on both sides of the agency boundary. Management goals for this area should work cooperatively with the Park Service.

Little Bryce

Little Bryce is an area of unique geologic formations that are reminiscent of Bryce Canyon National Park.

**Forest Service Scenic Byway**

- Fish Lake scenic byway (Forest Road 25)
- Loa to Hanksville scenic byway (Highway 24)
- Beaver Canyon scenic byway (Highway 153)

**Research Natural Areas (RNAs) of the Fishlake NF**

<i>Bullion Canyon RNA</i>	Beaver District
	Established: 2/2/88
<i>Upper Fish Creek RNA</i>	Beaver District
	Established: 2/2/88
<i>Partridge Mountain RNA</i>	Fillmore District
	Established: 7/9/79
<i>Old Woman Cove RNA</i>	Richfield District
	Established: 11/20/98

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## STRATEGY

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### *Desired Conditions for RNAs*

Research natural areas (RNA's) are part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. Research natural areas are for nonmanipulative research, observation, and study. They also may assist in implementing provisions of special acts, such as the Endangered Species Act and the monitoring provisions of the National Forest Management Act.

Research natural areas are "a physical or biological unit in which current natural conditions are maintained insofar as possible. These conditions are ordinarily achieved by allowing natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human intervention. However, under unusual circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be utilized to maintain the unique feature that the Research Natural Area was established to protect." (Federal Committee on Ecological Reserves, 1977.)

### *Objectives and Management Guidelines*

Management direction for RNA's is outlined in the Forest Service Manual at FSM 4063. This direction includes objectives and guidelines for management.

### **National Recreation Trails**

The Fishlake NF has two designated national recreation trails and two proposed.

- Lakeshore National Recreation trail
- Skyline National Recreation Trail
- Paiute ATV trail (Main loop recommended)
- Great Western Trail (Recommended)

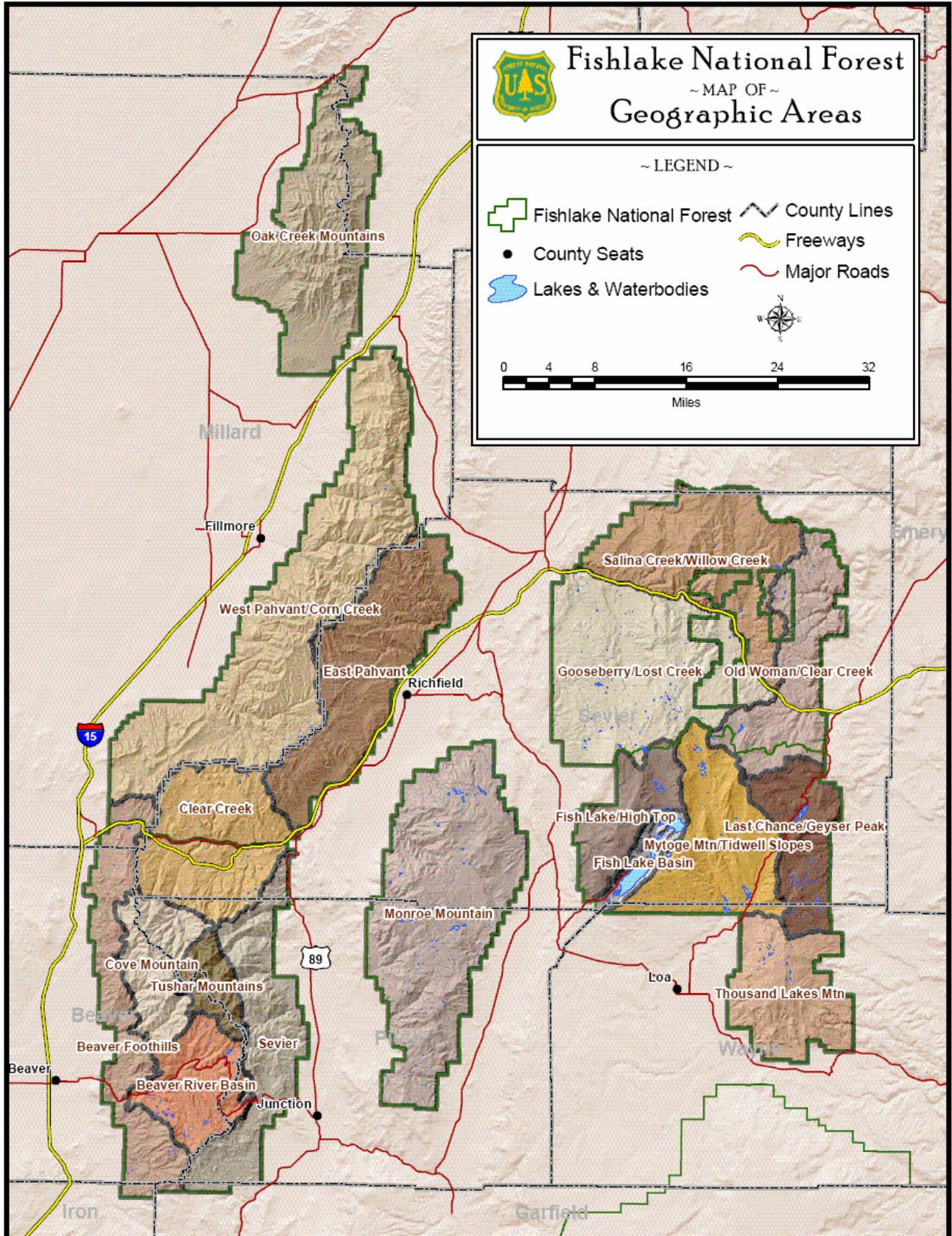
## Geographic Area Based Emphasis

### INTRODUCTION

Generally speaking, Forest-wide direction applies to the entire Forest. This section of the plan provides direction at the smaller geographic area level. The geographic area emphasis does not replace the Forest-wide direction. However, it provides an opportunity to clarify, be more specific, or describe how the Forest-wide direction may need to be modified in each area.

<b>Geographic Area Name</b>	<b>Ranger District(s)</b>	<b>Size in Acres</b>
East Pahvant	Fillmore	112,012
Oak Creek Mountains	Fillmore	119,744
West Pahvant	Fillmore	210,281
Fish Lake Basin	Fremont River	??
Fish Lake Hightop	Fremont River	60,107
Last Chance	Fremont River	50,012
Mytoge	Fremont River	81,886
Thousand Lakes	Fremont River	65,801
Beaver Foothills	Beaver / Fillmore	78,188
Beaver River Basin	Beaver	50,312
Clear Creek	Beaver / Fillmore	88,957
Cove Mountain	Beaver	43,896
Sevier	Beaver	81,462
Tushar Mountains	Beaver	21,098
Gooseberry	Richfield	130,769
Monroe	Richfield	175,706
Old Woman	Richfield / Fremont River	68,978
Salina Creek	Richfield	93,613

STRATEGY



## STRATEGY

**EAST PAHVANT**

<i>Acres</i> 112,012	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, sagebrush, aspen	
<i>Location</i> Northwest of Richfield, West of I-70	<i>District(s)</i> Fillmore	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Beehive Peak, South Cedar Ridge Canyon, Little Valley, Maple Grove CG		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The East Pahvant geographic area is the watersheds that flow east from the Pahvant mountain range towards the Sevier River (see figure xx). The area is characterized by deep canyons of red rock and dissected ground. The area is very rough with only a few trails and roads that cross it.

The area provides primitive recreation opportunities, remote wildlife habitat, and it contributes to water sources for communities to the east (Richfield, Elsinore, Joseph, etc). Vegetation is strongly influenced by low levels of precipitation. Plant communities are dominated by pinyon pine and juniper and sagebrush, mountain brush.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Area is very dry due to rain shadow effect
- The rough terrain and soil make further road and trail development and improvement very difficult.
- There are many non-system motorized trails.
- Sensitive soils (north horn formation) are highly susceptible to erosion.
- The road from Richfield to Fillmore is very popular, however, further development may be technically difficult and expensive.
- Illegal dumping from adjacent communities.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

A small area west of Richfield is available for cross-country travel (See Travel Management Map). Access to cabins from Joseph and Elsinore is provided. The GA is clear of waste from illegal dumping.

**Strategies and Priorities**

## STRATEGY

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The Joseph road should continue to be maintained with the existing partnership. The effects of management activities in north horn formation soils are minimized. Clean up areas with existing waste from illegal dumping through management activities and partnerships with adjacent communities. Prevent future dumping with enforcement and education.

Priorities for this area include: oversight of maintenance of livestock water and fence structures, implementation of the travel plan, maintenance of existing vegetation treatments, and new treatments of sagebrush and grass in the areas adjacent to the Clear Creek GA and the West Pahvant GA.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Winter mule deer habitat
- Winter and summer elk habitat
- Summer band-tailed pigeon habitat

## STRATEGY

**OAK CREEK MOUNTAINS**

<i>Acres</i> 119,774	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, oak shrub	
<i>Location</i> West of I-70, east of Oak City	<i>District(s)</i> Fillmore	<i>Ecoregion</i> Great Basin
<i>Landmarks</i> Oak Creek, Partridge Mtn RNA, Eight-mile canyon, Plantation Flats		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Oak Creek Mountains geographic area is formed by the Canyon Range Mountains west of I-15 (see figure xx). This is the only part of the Fishlake National Forest that is west of I-15.

This area is only part of the Fishlake National Forest that is within the Great Basin ecoregion. The geology is characterized by steep peaks and dissected canyons. The area provides livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, and unique geologic formations. The area experiences relatively frequent fires caused by lightning. The current condition is dominated by grass in burned areas. Recreation use in Plantation Flats is dispersed camping and day use.

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Cross-country ATV use on undesignated trails is increasing.
- Dispersed camping and day use are causing soil compaction, vegetation disturbance, excessive cross-country ATV use in Plantation Flats.
- Oak Creek Canyon is a popular area for recreation. It is also steep and dry. The coexistence of these features presents a wildfire management challenge.
- Oak Creek Canyon has high level of dispersed use, especially in the summer.
- Finding and determining significance of archeological sites may affect choice of management activities.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

Broad diversity of vegetation across the unit especially in the areas impacted by fire is maintained. Cliffrose, bitterbrush, and sagebrush vegetation are present on north facing slopes. There is continued dispersed motorized and non-motorized recreation use of Plantation Flats; this use is controlled but not “developed”. The use at Plantation Flats moves towards designated dispersed camping and managed road and trail use. The pines of Plantation Flat are healthy and maintained.

**Strategy**

Future utility development should focus on existing utility corridors.

## STRATEGY

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Control dispersed recreation in Oak Creek Canyon through creative design that recognizes the social and cultural significance specific to this area. Dispersed recreation should be managed with designated access to campsites, hardening of campsites in Plantation Flats, (north walker, south walker, little creek, Radford canyon, Lyman canyon) installation of fire rings, and hardening of access roads. However, the area should not include a developed campsite. A comfort station could be installed at the North Walker site.

Maintaining and enhancing fuel breaks around Wildland Urban Interface of communities is a priority for this area. Continued maintenance of roads with emphasis on existing county partnerships. Maintain water systems and comply with special use permits for culinary and irrigation sources.

Increase diversity of vegetation to improve browse quality and quantity for wildlife winter ranges on the north-facing slopes especially in areas disturbed by fire over last 30 years. Maintain forage vegetation treatments throughout the lower slopes of the GA. (southern portions, eastern, whiskey creek south). Use hand cutting, burning, and mechanical treatment to reduce density of pinyon juniper. Reseed recently thinned areas. Thin the pine trees at Plantation Flats to improve forest health and reduce fire risk.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Winter wild turkey habitat
- Summer mule deer habitat
- Summer elk habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Winter chukar habitat
- Mule deer fawning habitat

## STRATEGY

**WEST PAHVANT**

<i>Acres</i> 210,281	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Oak shrub, pinyon pine and juniper	
<i>Location</i> East of Fillmore and I-15	<i>District(s)</i> Fillmore	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Corn Creek, Chalk Creek, Mount Catherine, White Pine Peak		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The West Pahvant geographic area is formed by the watersheds that flow west from the Pahvant range and that flow into Scipio reservoir (see figure xx). Major streams include: Ivy Creek, Pioneer Creek, Chalk Creek, Corn Creek, Dry wash, and Dog Valley Creek.

The area provides livestock grazing, motorized recreation, culinary water sources, and wildlife habitat. The lower elevations are popular recreation areas. This area is the primary site of the annual National ATV Jamboree.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Opportunities for expansion and improvement of road and motorized trail networks are limited by terrain and soil.
- Overnight camping in Chalk Creek is constrained by terrain and the road location.
- Sensitive soils (north horn formation) are highly susceptible to erosion.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

High quality forage conditions are provided in the winter range south of Kanosh.

**Strategy**

Maintenance of roads is continued with existing county partnerships. The Adelaide campground needs reconstruction in about 5 to ten years. Some reconstruction is needed in the Chalk Creek day and overnight use areas.

Maintain WUI fuel treatments along western front of Forest. Fuel treatment and maintenance around communication site (Grabalt). Improve forage through prescribed burning and mechanical and hand treatment of juniper and pinyon especially in areas South of Kanosh. Terraced areas may need maintenance or stabilization.

## STRATEGY

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The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Yearlong wild turkey habitat
- Winter mule deer habitat
- Winter and summer elk habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Mule deer fawning habitat
- Elk calving habitat

## STRATEGY

**FISH LAKE BASIN**

<i>Acres</i> ??	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Aspen, sagebrush	
<i>Location</i> Around Fish Lake	<i>District(s)</i> Fremont River	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Fish Lake		

**Setting and Management Challenges of Geographic Area**

The Fish Lake Basin geographic area is bounded by the ridge above Fish Lake to the south, by Johnson Valley Reservoir to the east, and by the extent of the recreation summer homes to the northwest (see figure xx).

The Fish Lake Basin is recognized as a special area for developed recreation. There are 13 developed recreation sites within this geographic area. Recreation use is generally centered in the vicinity of Fish Lake. Activities include: boating, fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, ATV use, hunting, and winter sports. The Lakeshore Trail is a national recreation trail.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Utah Prairie Dog
- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Water quality has been a concern in Fish Lake and Johnson Valley reservoir.
- The presence and management of summer homes produce a variety of challenges.
- Non-native species are transported to the lake by watercraft.
- Eurasian milfoil and non-native species are disrupting aquatic systems. Eurasian milfoil and non-native species are disrupting aquatic systems.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The Fish Lake Basin is dominated by developed recreation facilitates and uses. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the area is roaded natural. The area features large open grown trees and snags. The lodge sites are safe, functional, and attractive. Emphasis is on developed camping and day use. The Fish Lake Basin continues to be closed to OHV use. Trails are designed and maintained for horse, foot, and mountain bike use. Opportunities for non-motorized and more primitive recreation are provided in the Fish Lake Hightop Geographic area to the west. Opportunities for motorized OHV use are provided in the Mytoge Geographic area to the east.

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## STRATEGY

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Fish Lake continues to meet state water quality standards.

### **Strategy**

Overall recreation management could be organized and scheduled through preparation of a recreation use plan for the Fish Lake Basin. The recreation use plan should also address WUI concerns around the developed recreation facilities including summer residences. An increased interpretive presence and an upgrade of the roads and water systems are priorities for this area.

In the Fish Lake Basin, the summer recreation homes are an important feature. Management of these special use permits should include guidelines for size of development, materials used, and season of use. All residences should have an approved and functional sewer system which minimizes impact to water quality.

Capacity and function of the developed sites could be improved by enlarging selected camping spurs and upgrading the restrooms and parking areas to accommodate winter use.

A priority for Fish Lake is to address the water quality concerns (Phosphorus) to prevent a state listing for poor water quality. Vegetation and soil conditions in Lake Creek Meadow can be improved through water and grazing management and through eradication of Eurasian Millfoil weed.

The southeast portion of this GA offers potential to maintain and improve pygmy rabbit habitat.

Resolve dispersed camping issue at the south end of the lake [How?]

Promote compatibility of recreation uses with historical cattle drive past Fish Lake. [How?]

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Protect and enhance Utah Prairie dog habitat

### **GA-Specific Guidelines**

- There are no designated OHV routes in this GA

## STRATEGY

**FISH LAKE HIGHTOP**

<i>Acres</i> 60,107	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, aspen, oak brush	
<i>Location</i> West of Fish Lake	<i>District(s)</i> Fremont River	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Fishlake Hightop, Daniels Canyon, Pelican Canyon		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Fish Lake Hightop Geographic area is the area west of the Fish Lake Basin (see figure xx). The most prominent feature is the Fish Lake Hightop Plateau. This area also contains Daniel's Canyon.

This area provides excellent motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities; for example, fishing in Sevenmile creek is considered good, mountain bike riding is popular, and outdoor schools often use this area for education purposes. This area is a major source of water to Fish Lake, as such; management activities in this GA can impact Fish Lake.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Potential phosphate inputs to Fish Lake from this area include the volcanic geology and livestock grazing.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

There are healthy populations of Arizona willow, especially in the Sevenmile creek area. The tall forb community in Upper Sevenmile creek, where appropriate, is restored. Through-access for ATVs is provided in the Sevenmile area. This area provides opportunities for hiking, horse, OHV (seven mile), and snowmobile trail use, as well as, dispersed camping and mountain biking.

Impacts on Fish Lake water quality due to management activities are minimized.

**Strategies and Priorities**

It is important to maintain access and working relations with private land owners (re: fences, water developments). A priority for this area is to use vegetation treatments to reduce fuel levels and regenerate aspen. There is an opportunity for restoration of the tall forb community in Upper Sevenmile Creek area. Other priorities include: enhancement of the fisheries in Sevenmile Creek, maintenance and improvement of riparian enclosures in Sevenmile creek and improvement of other

## STRATEGY

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riparian areas. Strategically, management should implement the practices from the Fremont River Watershed Analysis.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Winter and summer elk habitat
- Summer mule deer habitat
- Yearlong moose habitat
- Yearlong Blue and Ruffed grouse habitat
- Mule deer fawning and elk calving habitat
- Utah Prairie dog habitat

Rehabilitate sagebrush in critical mule deer winter habitat and sage grouse brooding habitat.

## STRATEGY

**LAST CHANCE**

<i>Acres</i> 50,012	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Sagebrush, pinyon pine and juniper	
<i>Location</i> West of Capital Reef NP	<i>District(s)</i> Fremont River	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Hogan's Pass, Limestone Cliffs, Willow Basin		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Last Chance Geographic area is on the east side of the Forest and south of I-70. It includes watersheds that drain to the east (see figure xx). Major creeks in the area include: Last Chance and Solomon. Lake Creek drains into Capital Reef National Park.

This area is adjacent to Capital Reef National Park and provides scenic vistas into Cathedral Valley. The area's ponds are popular for trout fishing and recreation. The Great Western Trail is on the western side of the area. The area provides livestock grazing, motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities, and big game habitat.

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Population of trophy deer seems to be in decline
- The parent soil material presents potential erosion problems.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The area continues to provide critical winter range, fawning and calving habitat for deer and elk. Areas in and around the sage grouse lek are managed for sage grouse habitat; the State continues its monitoring of the area.

**Strategies and Priorities**

This area has several locations of rare and endemic plant habitat that need protection.

Priorities for this area include: maintenance of the check dams, maintenance of current levels of access and parking, maintenance of the Willie's Flat Reservoir Trail. Maintenance of vegetation treatment is needed.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Brooding habitat for Parker Mountain/John's Valley sage grouse Leks
- Winter and summer mule deer habitat

## STRATEGY

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- Winter elk habitat
- Yearlong moose habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Yearlong chukar habitat
- Mule deer fawning habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Restore critical mule deer habitat as a result of pinyon and juniper invasion. (Solomon Basin/Gordon Basin area).

Restore sagebrush, grasses and forbs in critical mule deer winter habitat and sage grouse brooding habitat (East Gyser, Paradise Valley, East of Paradise Valley, Last Chance, and Frying Pan areas).

## STRATEGY

**MYTOGE MOUNTAIN / TIDWELL**

<i>Acres</i> 81,886	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Sagebrush, aspen, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, pinyon pine and juniper	
<i>Location</i> North of Loa and Lyman	<i>District(s)</i> Fremont River	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Forsyth Reservoir, Mill Meadow Res, UM Creek, Danish Meadows		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Mytoge Mountain Geographic area is principally formed by the UM creek watershed and the Fremont River watershed below Johnson Reservoir. (see figure xx) The area contains both Fosyth and Mill Meadow Reservoirs. These reservoirs are the main water storage for the Fremont River Irrigation district.

This is a productive forage area for livestock and wildlife, and that use has historically dominated this area. The area is also popular for motorized recreation.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- There are beetle infestations in the spruce stands of this area.
- Colorado cutthroat trout populations are present in this GA.
- Browse pressure between big game and livestock present challenges to successfully regenerating aspen.
- The Fremont River is 303d listed for water quality.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

There is high quality habitat for deer, elk, pygmy rabbits, prairie dogs, and sage grouse. The overall diversity of vegetation is increased over current (2004) levels. The riparian areas and watersheds provide high quality and quantity of water and riparian habitat.

**Strategies and Priorities**

Priorities for this area include implementation of the travel plan; this should have the added benefit of reducing disturbance and improving habitat for big game. Other wildlife priorities include protection of Colorado cutthroat trout in UM Creek and the potential to reintroduce beavers into areas of UM creek. Riparian habitats and fish habitats could be improved through waddling of additional willows.

## STRATEGY

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Dispersed camping sites within riparian areas should be designated and hardened, especially within the Fremont River watershed.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Pygmy rabbit habitat (Sage Flat)
- Sage grouse brooding habitat for Parker Mountain/John's Valley leks
- Winter and summer mule deer habitat
- Winter elk habitat
- Yearlong moose habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Yearlong chukar habitat
- Winter pronghorn habitat
- Historic sage grouse leks
- Mule deer fawning habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Maintain or enhance Colorado Cutthroat trout population in UM Creek.

Restore sagebrush, grass and forb systems in critical mule deer winter habitat and sage grouse brooding habitat (West Tidwell Canyon, Tidwell Slope, and Sage Flat areas).

## STRATEGY

**THOUSAND LAKE**

<i>Acres</i> 65,801	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Sagebrush, pinyon pine and juniper, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir	
<i>Location</i> West of Capital Reef NP	<i>District(s)</i> Fremont River	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Thousand Lake Flat Top, Ant Hill, Velvet Ridge, Neff's Reservoir, Sand Creek		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Thousand Lakes Geographic area is the most southeastern part of the Fishlake National Forest. It contains the Thousand Lake Mountain Plateau, and a number of streams that flow east into Capital Reef NP, south to the communities of Torrey and Bicknell, and west towards Loa and Fremont (see figure xx). The eastern boundary adjoins Capitol Reef National Park.

This area contains the Elk Horn Guard station and a number of Fremont Indian archeological sites. There are unique geologic features especially in the SE section of the area. The viewshed offers spectacular vistas of the park and surrounding lands. The Great Western Trail passes through this area. These parts of the GWT trail are used for both foot/horse and ATV. The area provides critical habitat for big game winter range, calving, and fawning. The area also provides livestock forage and timber harvest opportunities.

The following are listed species or habitats that have been identified within this GA:

- Last chance Townsendia
- San Rafael Cactus
- Maguire Daisy
- Wintering bald eagles
- Critical Habitat for Mexican Spotted Owl

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Because of the soil parent material, there have been high rates of erosion on Table Mountain and on the western portions.
- There are some issues with ATV use in sensitive soils.
- A number of boundary management issues are related to adjacency to the Park.
- The spruce stands on Table Mountain are over-mature and susceptible to insects and disease.
- Area features rare and endemic plants.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

## STRATEGY

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This area produces high quality habitat for northern goshawk, three toed woodpecker, sage grouse, Colorado cutthroat trout, and Boreal toads.

### **Strategies and Priorities**

Vegetation priorities include regeneration of aspen stands and treatments to improve forage quality and quantity in winter range areas.

Maintenance of Riley Springs, Sunglow, and Elkhorn campgrounds is a recreation priority for this area.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Winter and summer mule deer habitat
- Yearlong wild turkey habitat
- Winter elk habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Yearlong Gambel's quail habitat
- Yearlong moose habitat
- Mule deer fawning habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Restore critical mule deer habitat due to pinyon and juniper invasion (S E Thousand Lakes) and reintroduce sagebrush, grasses and forbs (Velvet Ridges, Sand Creek area)

Restore sagebrush, grasses and forbs as a result of pinyon and juniper invasion (Lyman Bench Area).

## STRATEGY

**BEAVER FOOTHILLS**

<i>Acres</i> 78,188	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, oak-shrub	
<i>Location</i> Western foothills of Tushar range	<i>District(s)</i> Beaver, Fillmore	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Thompson Ridge, Rattlesnake Peak		

**Setting and Management Challenges of Geographic Area**

The Beaver Foothills geographic area is the lower elevation portion of the Beaver RD that faces west. The area parallels I-15 from the Cove Fort area to the southern edge of the Forest. The eastern edge is defined by a combination of small watersheds and vegetation changes (see figure xx).

The vegetation of this area is dominated by pinyon pine and juniper and mountain brush. The area is characterized by rolling lands broken by steep canyons. A number of streams flow through this area. The area provides ATV recreation, livestock grazing, and big game habitat. The southern portions are big game winter range. Geothermal wells are present and active in this GA.

Pine Creek supports Bonneville Cutthroat trout and good riparian vegetation for a diversity of wildlife.

Beaver River, South, North, Indian and other creeks are important riparian areas and large cottonwoods provide roost sites for bald eagles and other raptors.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

No challenges have been identified for this area.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The Indian Creek area is not suited for OHV use. Non-motorized use is similar to current levels (compare to 2004). The South Creek area features backcountry fishing and hiking opportunities in a semi-primitive setting with emphasize on non-motorized opportunities. High quality sage grouse and wild turkey habitat is provided. Geothermal power opportunities are provided in the Cove Fort area. The Pine Creek cabin is preserved. Opportunities are provided for mineral exploration and energy production.

## STRATEGY

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### **Strategies and Priorities**

Use fire and other treatments to create diversity and break-up continuity of pinyon and juniper plant communities; these treatments should prioritize expansion of sagebrush and grass communities.

Improve habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout by maintaining sufficient water flow and vegetation.

Priorities for this area should include rehabilitation of existing mining roads and reduction of airborne dust. Additionally, reduce input of radiation and heavy metal from mine tailings in Indian Creek. Other priorities for this area include an emphasis on big game habitat and livestock grazing. Treatments could include creation and maintenance of forage and browse opportunities.

Requests from geothermal plant for additional spring sources should receive priority consideration.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Winter and yearlong wild turkey habitat
- Winter mule deer habitat
- Winter elk habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Summer band-tailed pigeon habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Vegetation treatments to improve habitat, forage, and browse conditions as a large part of the Beaver Mountain deer herd utilize this area for winter range.

Maintain or enhance the Bonneville Cutthroat trout population in North Fork North Creek, South Creek, Senseball Lake and Mumford Reservoir.

## STRATEGY

**BEAVER RIVER BASIN**

<i>Acres</i> 50,312	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, aspen, aspen-mixed conifer	
<i>Location</i> Middle of Beaver RD	<i>District(s)</i> Beaver	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Big John Flat, Big Flat, LaBaron Lake, Kent's Lake		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Beaver River Basin Geographic area is largely formed by the watershed of the Beaver River. Some portions of the watershed, above the tree line, have been excluded from this GA and the portion of the watershed below the power substation is part of the Beaver Foothills GA (see figure xx).

The area provides a wide variety of multiple uses including: fish and wildlife habitat, timber production, recreation, water quality protection, and livestock grazing. SR-153 and major road corridors have been developed for licensed vehicles and drivers only.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- The area contains several large blocks of private land. This requires additional consideration of public/private use coordination.
- The Elk Meadows ski area presents unique issues of transportation, water development, beetles, and fire control.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

Dispersed camping occurs in designated sites away from riparian areas. Opportunities for hydro-electric power generation are provided. Winter recreation is highlighted. Current opportunities for group use facilities are available, but not expanded.

**Strategies and Priorities**

To highlight winter recreation, maintenance and improvement of snowmobile trails should be prioritized. Activities to manage year-round recreation should include improving developed campgrounds within existing sites and provision of group use preferred areas within existing sites. Dispersed camping areas should be designated with hardened sites, and managed access for ingress/egress only (especially the LeBaron area). One strategy could be a “rest-rotation pattern” of dispersed sites and acceptable change limits associated with vegetation.

## STRATEGY

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Other recreation priorities include: provision of restroom facilities at day use access sites, maintenance of trails, and improved trail head and fishing access.

Limit road density increases to improve wildlife habitat.

Vegetation treatments should be used to maintain insect and disease at low levels, reduce fuel levels, provide high quality forage areas, and reduce fuel levels and fire risk in the wildland urban interface areas of Elk Meadows, the Hi-Low and Lebaron.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Summer wild turkey habitat
- Summer mule deer habitat
- Summer elk habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat

Maintain or enhance the Bonneville Cutthroat trout populations in Hy Hunt Creek, Lower Kents Lake, Middle Kents Lake, Upper Kents Lake, and Ward's Cache Pond.

## STRATEGY

**CLEAR CREEK**

<i>Acres</i> 88,957	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, oak shrub, sagebrush	
<i>Location</i> Clear Creek Watershed	<i>District(s)</i> Beaver, Fillmore	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> I-70 corridor		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Clear Creek Geographic area is largely the watershed that flows into Clear Creek. The upper reaches of Fish Creek and Shingle Creek have been excluded. Interstate Highway I-70 passes through the middle of this geographic area(see figure xx).

The vegetation of this area is dominated by pinyon and juniper and mountain brush. The area is characterized by rolling lands broken by steep canyons. A number of streams function as tributaries to Clear Creek. The area provides diverse and high quality elk habitat. Bonneville Cutthroat trout have been reintroduced into several streams in this area. This area also provides motorized recreation, non-motorized recreation, livestock grazing, and big game habitat. Exceptional Fremont Indian artifacts have been documented in this area. There are some aspen stands in higher elevations.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- This area is part of the viewshed associated with I-70.
- Rock art and historic mine sites are present.
- Scattered private land presents issues of WUI, cabins, and property boundaries.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

Dispersed camping opportunities in Clear Creek Canyon, Mill Creek, Shingle Creek are stable (compared to 2004). The Castle Rock campground is managed for ATV use. Administrative sites (Shingle Creek, Belknap Ranger Station, Mill Creek) are free from safety hazards. Non-motorized opportunities are provided west of Shingle Creek. The I-70 corridor is closed to livestock grazing (Shingle Creek to Fremont Indian State Park to Fish Creek). Historic areas are protected and interpreted. NFS land is contiguous and provides public access.

STRATEGY

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**Strategy**

Fillmore RD vegetation treatments, mostly mechanical, of sagebrush and grass communities overlap with West Pahvant and East Pahvant. Vegetation priorities include: establishing vegetation in old mining areas and mining roads, maintaining forage areas, continuing to fence cattle out of Shingle Creek from State Park to Fish Creek. About 5,700 acres of sagebrush and grass community treatments are projected.

Selected dispersed camping sites should be hardened to alleviate erosion and stabilize soil. Creation of restroom facilities can manage sanitation concerns. The old cellars at administrative sites are a safety hazards that should be mitigated. The Mill Creek gravel pit should be managed as a motorized trailhead, however, the area west of Shingle Creek should continue to be managed as non-motorized.

Improve the condition of floodplains in Pole Creek, Grass Creek, Three Creeks, Fish Creek and Mill Creek through management of OHVs (designated routes) and livestock (timing and use). Fish habitat improvements (fence on upper end) on Sam Stowe creek should be maintained as well as the bank stabilization work that has been completed along Clear Creek (fencing along Beaver side).

The campgrounds are managed in partnership with the state park.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Yearlong wild turkey habitat
- Winter mule deer habitat
- Summer elk habitat
- Sage grouse brooding habitat (Clear Creek Canyon)
- Winter chukar habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat

Maintain or enhance the Bonneville Cutthroat trout population in Sam Stowe Creek.

## STRATEGY

**COVE MOUNTAIN**

<i>Acres</i> 43,896	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Mixed conifer, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, oak shrub and aspen	
<i>Location</i> East of Manderfield, West of Tushar mountains	<i>District(s)</i> Beaver	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Indian Creek Grand Station, Manderfield Reservoir		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Cove Mountain Geographic area contains the upper portions of Fish Creek, Shingle Creek, Indian Creek, and North Creek (see figure xx). This area represents a transition between the alpine areas in the Tushar Mountain GA and the pinyon juniper areas in Beaver Foothills and Clear Creek areas.

The vegetation of this area is dominated by conifers. The area is characterized by steep slopes. The area provides a combination of motorized recreation and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The area provides diverse habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The area offers good to excellent forage. A number of streams offer habitat suited for Bonneville Cutthroat trout.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- Dense coniferous stands present potential fire hazard.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The setting is mostly semi-primitive and non-motorized. Oak-type fuel conditions are low risk. Riparian habitat conditions are stable and incorporate natural disturbances. An excellent foot and horse trail network exists; opportunities for mountain bikes are offered. Trail conditions provide safe travel. Water channels demonstrate natural channel formation process. Opportunities for quiet and solitude are provided. Motorized dispersed camping is maintained and managed. The forested high-country functions as a non-motorized big game sanctuary to balance the hunting pressure from the lower elevations.

## STRATEGY

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### **Strategy**

Restore stream vegetation with treatments to increase diversity of aquatic habitat and to build resilience to disturbances.

Upland vegetation priorities include: management of forage through livestock grazing, reduction of density of coniferous stands to improve forest health, and restoration and regeneration of aspen stands.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Summer wild turkey habitat
- Summer mule deer habitat
- Summer elk habitat
- Summer band-tailed pigeon habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat

Maintain or enhance the Bonneville Cutthroat trout population in North Fork North Creek

## STRATEGY

**SEVIER**

<i>Acres</i> 81,462	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, sagebrush and Englemann spruce and subalpine fir	
<i>Location</i> West of Circleville (Hwy 89)	<i>District(s)</i> Beaver	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> City Creek, Circleville Mountain, Deer Creek, Big Rock Candy Mountain, Miners Park, Bullion Canyon, Bullion Falls, Silver King mine		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Sevier geographic area is the lower elevation portion of the Beaver RD that faces east. The area parallels the Sevier River and US Highway 89. The east side of the district is steeper and drier than the west side. This area overlooks the communities of Marysville, Junction, and Circleville. (see figure xx).

The vegetation of this area is dominated by pinyon and juniper and mountain brush. The area is characterized by steep slopes and canyons. The area provides mining (current and historic), livestock grazing in the lower elevations, and big game habitat. ATV riding and horse riding are common recreation activities in this area. The Miner's Park driving tour is a popular interpretive recreation experience.

**Management Challenges**

No GA-specific management challenges were identified.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The "Cottonwood" allotment remains closed to livestock grazing. The old growth pine forests in the head of Beaver and Bullion Creek are retained and healthy.

**Strategies Priorities**

The Silver King mine tour would be more popular with improved signing and advertisement. Recreation travel priorities include: improving trailheads and snowmobile access to winter recreation opportunities from Hwy 153; and improved maintenance of OHV trails especially where they connect to communities. Dispersed camping sites in vicinity of meadows should be hardened or pulled back.

Vegetation treatments in sagebrush and grass communities should be designed to improve quality of sage grouse habitat.

Erosion control structures in the Price-Cougar sub-drainage of City Creek and in Tenmile Creek should be stabilized.

## STRATEGY

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The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Yearlong wild turkey habitat
- Winter and summer mule deer habitat
- Sage grouse brooding habitat
- Winter chukar habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Mule deer fawning habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Maintain or enhance the Bonneville Cutthroat trout population in Pine Creek

## STRATEGY

**TUSHAR MOUNTAINS**

<i>Acres</i> 21,098	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Englemann spruce and subalpine fir, high alpine meadow	
<i>Location</i> Tushar high peaks	<i>District(s)</i> Beaver	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Delano Peak, Mt. Holly, Mt. Belknap, other high Tushar peaks		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Tushar Mountains Geographic area is defined largely by vegetation. The geographic area encompasses the portions of the Tushar mountain range that are largely above the natural tree line (see figure xx).

The area is valued for summer and winter high mountain recreation opportunities. The area also provides habitat for mountain goats and a number of rare endemic plants.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- In some areas, the primitive camping experience has been degraded by motorized use.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The setting is mostly semi-primitive and non-mechanized. Opportunities for quiet and solitude are provided. Mountain goats have quality habitat. There is one motorized route (Piute Trail) that provides access over the top of the mountain range. The public is aware of avalanches and wet trail conditions and safely avoids dangerous situations. Motorized dispersed camping opportunities are maintained and managed. An excellent foot and horse trail network exists. The Skyline Trail is maintained as non-motorized. Trail conditions provide safe travel. Scenic overlooks are provided for both motorized and non-motorized trails. Requests for communication sites are incorporated at existing locations.

**Strategy**

Rehabilitate non-system trails and restore old mining roads, unclassified roads, user-created roads and trails to original conditions; recondition desired high mountain system trails. Prioritize trail maintenance to high use areas. Non-motorized use can be encouraged through design of facilities and trail heads.

## STRATEGY

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To maintain non-motorized areas, motorized dispersed camping in the Bullion Pasture area should be limited to areas closer to the road. The Big John Flat area may be designed to better accommodate horse riding.

To reduce erosion (gullies) from roads and user created trails, inherently unstable areas are a priority. Terraced areas may need maintenance or stabilization.

Consolidate sites; eliminate FS telecommunications box; seasonally close access.

Do not increase number of communication sites, use existing sites to meet future needs.

Provide access for maintenance of Elk Meadows and Le Baron water systems.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Summer wild turkey habitat
- Summer mule deer habitat
- Summer elk habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Mule deer fawning habitat

### **Suitability Determinations**

The area is not suited for establishment of firefighting base or spike camps.  
The area is not suited for Helicopter skiing.

## STRATEGY

**GOOSEBERRY**

<i>Acres</i> 130,769	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, oak shrub, aspen	
<i>Location</i> East of Richfield and South of I-70	<i>District(s)</i> Richfield	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Gooseberry Administrative site, Rex Reservoir, Browns Hole, Lost Creek Reservoir		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Gooseberry Geographic area is a triangle formed by I-70, the western agency boundary, and watershed boundaries to the south (see figure xx). The area includes Yogo Creek, Niotche creek, Gooseberry Creek, and Lost Creek.

The area provides diverse recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat. The riparian areas are in pretty good shape, however, there is a lot of fishing pressure. Many of the aspen stands are over-mature and could have health problems. There is a wireless telephone, gas, electric corridor along I-70; the corridor is about a mile wide.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Utah Prairie Dog (on adjacent private land)
- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- The paving of the Gooseberry road may result in increased use and a change of recreation patterns.
- Gooseberry has been identified as a state ATV Hotspot. This area has the heaviest use of ATV's on the Richfield District.
- The area contains several large blocks of private land. This requires additional consideration of public/private use coordination.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

The Gooseberry GA offers additional opportunities for developed recreation [compared with 2004]. There are paved sites, and amenities for scenic travelers. In the Niotche Creek riparian area, Arizona Willow is thriving. The existing utility corridors supply adequate transmission capability. The day-to-day management of the Gooseberry Guard Station is handled with a partnership agreement. Vegetation diversity is increased in this area.

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## STRATEGY

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### Strategy

Expected camping pressure could be relieved with additional developed camp sites including vault toilets. Maintenance of the guard station could be improved through a partnership. Any agreements should allow for continuation the Gooseberry school education program.

Implementation of the travel plan is a priority. In this area actions could include: hardening of campsites, use of barriers and signs to aid enforcement. The motorized trail system needs to be maintained and improved.

Fencing may be needed to address livestock and dispersed recreation use in “Rose Meadow” riparian area of Lost Creek. Fences may also be needed to protect selected riparian zones in the Taylor Flat area.

Vegetation priorities include: treatment of noxious weeds (Musk Thistle in Antionne Hollow; Rabbit brush), treatment of forage enhancement areas to maintain early seral vegetation, and treatment of fuel conditions in WUI areas. Several agency boundaries may need to be verified using cadastral surveys.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Yearlong turkey habitat
- Winter and summer mule deer habitat
- Winter and summer elk habitat
- Limited yearlong moose habitat
- Sage grouse brooding habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Limited band-tailed pigeon habitat
- Yearlong ruffed grouse habitat
- Yearlong Ring-Necked pheasant habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Rehabilitate or reintroduce sagebrush, grass and forbs into critical mule winter deer habitat (Black Mountain, Triangle Mountain, Mud Springs/Scorrupt Meadow, Flat Top, Rex’s Reservoir).

## STRATEGY

**MONROE**

<i>Acres</i> 175,706	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Sagebrush, pinyon pine and juniper, aspen, Englemann spruce and subalpine fir	
<i>Location</i> East of Monroe, South of Annabella, West of Koosharem, North of Kingston Canyon	<i>District(s)</i> Richfield	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Monroe Peak, Signal Peak, Marysvale Peak, Manning Meadows Reservoir		
<i>Special attribute(s):</i> •		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Monroe Mountain Geographic area is an isolated block of Forest Service system lands between the Sevier River and Otter Creek (see figure xx). The area includes Monroe Mountain, Signal Peak, Langdon Mountain, and Marysvale Peak.

The area provides a balance of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The area also provides opportunities for livestock grazing and timber harvest.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

The unique features of this geographic area which may raise special management concerns include:

- The State's elk herd population objectives may conflict with vegetation desired conditions.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). Desired conditions more specific to this GA are detailed below.

Dispersed camping sites are designated with well-defined access/egress into camps. The overall number of sites is stable, but the sites may be smaller in size and in different conditions [compared to 2004.] Non-motorized recreation has increased emphasis in this GA. Willow is a prominent presence in many riparian areas. Cheat grass is under control on south-facing slopes and dry-site regimes. Suitable sage grouse habitat is provided in the Kingston and Forshea areas. Vegetation in the uplands around Manning Creek Reservoir support non-lethal wildfire activity. The affect of phosphate (soil erosion) in Box Creek and Manning Reservoir is limited. Roads and trails are clearly marked. Vegetation diversity is increased.

## STRATEGY

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### **Strategy**

Dispersed recreation should move towards designated dispersed camping site within riparian areas and hardening of dispersed sites throughout the area. Maintenance of the non-motorized trail system is a priority. Selected road surfaces should be graveled to reduce potential contribute to sediment problems.

Prescribed burning activities may need supplemental seeding on south and west slopes. Management of sage grouse habitat is a priority in state designated areas.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Yearlong wild turkey habitat
- Winter and summer mule deer habitat
- Winter and summer elk habitat
- Sage grouse brooding area (Forshea Mountain)
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Restore of sagebrush, grass and forb communities in critical mule deer winter range areas invaded by pinyon and juniper (NE of Piute Reservoir).

## STRATEGY

**OLD WOMAN / CLEAR CREEK**

<i>Acres</i> 68,978	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Sagebrush, pinyon pine and juniper, aspen	
<i>Location</i> Eastern edge of Fishlake NF	<i>District(s)</i> Richfield, Fremont River	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau, transitions into Colorado Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Old Woman Plateau, Sheep Valley Reservoir, Moroni Peak, Accord Lakes, Red Creek Hole		
<i>Special attribute(s):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old Woman RNA</li> </ul>		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Old Woman / Clear Creek Geographic area is on the Eastern edge of the Forest. The area includes the watersheds of north Creek, Saleratus Creek, and Quitchupah Creek. (see figure xx)

This area includes the Old Woman Plateau Research Natural Area. Recreation use in this area is very dispersed, mainly hunting. The Sheep Valley Reservoir area has the highest ATV use in this GA. Although the Accord Lake area (road is paved to Canyon Mine) is also popular for ATV recreation. The area provides livestock grazing and a rugged remote nature.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Last chance Townsendia
- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

- There has been an increase in use in Accord Lakes area; many mountain properties are for sale and there is potential for more sales. This area is a potential WUI concern.
- Proposed paving of the Quitchupah road could change recreation use patterns.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). The following are more specific applications or how the desired condition for the GA is a little different than the Forest.

White Mountain undeveloped area provides semi-primitive non-motorized opportunities.

**Strategy**

Non-motorized recreation could be improved with better maintenance of the foot and horse trail down South Water Hollow. Dispersed camping sites along Red Creek may need to be designate and harden with hardening of the access road. Overall increase of vegetation diversity should be a priority for this area.

## STRATEGY

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The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Winter mule deer habitat
- Winter elk habitat
- Yearlong moose habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Yearlong ruffed grouse habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Rehabilitate or restore of sagebrush, grasses and forbs in critical mule deer winter range and sage grouse brooding habitat.

## STRATEGY

**SALINA CREEK / WILLOW CREEK**

<i>Acres</i> 93,613	<i>Dominant Vegetation</i> Pinyon pine and juniper, oak shrub, aspen	
<i>Location</i> North of I-70	<i>District(s)</i> Richfield	<i>Ecoregion</i> Utah High Plateau
<i>Landmarks</i> Steves Mountain, Salina Creek, Willow Creek, Bull Valley Mountain, Musina		
<i>Special attribute(s):</i> •		

**Setting of Geographic Area**

The Salina / Willow Creek area is a triangle formed by I\_70 to the south, the forest boundary to the north, and the Salina Creek Watershed to the east (see figure xx). The area includes Salina Creek, Willow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Water Hollow.

The area is valued for its “fragile” nature and the variety of recreation opportunities provided. The western portion provides important winter range habitat for big game. The Old Spanish Trail passes through a portion of this area. The western side of the Accord Lakes development has a large number of roads on private land.

The following are listed species that have been identified within this GA:

- Wintering bald eagles

**Management Challenges**

- There is a backlog of trail maintenance in this area.
- The road management between the Manti LaSal NF and the Fishlake NF is not always consistent. This has led to public confusion.
- The North-Horn soil formation can be susceptible to erosion problems.

**Integrated Desired Conditions**

The Forest-wide desired conditions capture most of the desired condition for the Geographic Area (GA). The following are more specific applications or how the desired condition for the GA is a little different than the Forest.

Dispersed camping in Salina Creek is limited and the riparian area at Second Crossing is functioning properly. In the sensitive North-Horn soil formation, soils are protected; erosion is limited.

**Strategy**

To reduce erosion and riparian impacts, dispersed campsites at Second Crossing should be hardened and moved further away from riparian areas. A fence may be needed to address conflicts between cattle and dispersed recreation in Anthony Flats. Equestrian trails in this area are in need of

## STRATEGY

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improvement. Opportunities for interpretation of historic use of Spanish Trail, Capitan Gunnison, and the Petroglyphs should be considered.

Overall the increase of vegetation diversity is a priority in this area. Specifically, maintenance of big game habitat improvements and forage in winter range, and treatment of noxious weeds in the Water Hollow Drainage (Musk thistle) are priorities.

Wildfires in White Ledges area should be managed with a confinement strategy to reduce potential soil impacts. All projects in the sensitive North-Horn soil formation should consider erosion potential.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identifies a number of vital and critical habitats within this geographic area. These vital and critical habitats should be considered when vegetation manipulations are planned within this geographic area:

- Yearlong moose habitat
- Winter and summer mule deer habitat
- Winter and summer elk winter habitat
- Yearlong blue grouse habitat
- Limited band-tailed pigeon habitat
- Yearlong ruffed grouse habitat
- Elk calving habitat

Rehabilitate or restore sagebrush, grass and forb communities in critical mule deer winter habitat and sage grouse breeding habitat (Johnson Mountain Ranch area).

## **Part Three - Design Criteria**

Part 3 is the design criteria. The design criteria includes guidelines and a reference to other applicable guidance that the Forest Service uses during project planning and implementation. The other guidance includes applicable Federal laws and regulations, executive orders, Forest Service directives (manuals and handbooks), and local laws and regulations from the state. This version of the draft does not include guidelines. A draft of the guidelines will be made available, in this location, as soon as possible.

## **STATUTES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS**

This document contains a listing of relevant statutes, regulations, policies and agreements applicable to the Forest Service. This section has been updated to include brief summaries of the statutes, regulations and Executive Orders. Web site locations where the text of the documents can be obtained are also provided where available. Most of the links work, although they change enough that it is difficult to keep up with them. If you cannot get one to work, try deleting off the tail end of the url to get to the main website.

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**DESIGN CRITERIA**

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**Federal Statutes**

Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/43/ch39.html>

Provides for appropriate and consistent policies to protect natural resources and habitat areas around shipwrecks, to guarantee recreational exploration of shipwreck sites, and to allow for appropriate public and private sector recovery of shipwrecks consistent with the protection of historical values and the environmental integrity of the shipwrecks and the sites.

Agricultural Research Act, also known as the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935  
Ch. 338, 49 Stat. 436 (7 U.S.C. 427–427j)

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/asm/nilca/toc.html>

Established Conservation System Units in Alaska in order to preserve the scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species, including those species dependent on vast relatively undeveloped areas; to preserve in their natural state extensive unaltered arctic tundra, boreal forest, and coastal rainforest ecosystems; to protect the resources related to subsistence needs; to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites, rivers, and lands; to preserve wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities within large arctic and subarctic wildlands and on freeflowing rivers; and, to maintain opportunities for scientific research in undisturbed ecosystems. This Act also provides direction for the management of Conservation System Units and other public lands in Alaska.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, as amended

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/43/ch33.html>

Provided for the immediate settlement of all Alaska Native claims against the United States, the State of Alaska, and other persons, that were based on aboriginal right, title, use or occupancy of land or water areas in Alaska.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of August 11, 1978

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=42&sec=1996](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=42&sec=1996)

Protects and preserves for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/statute.html>

Provides a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; for clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities; to ensure that the federal government plays a central role in enforcing the standards

## DESIGN CRITERIA

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established in this Act on behalf of individuals with disabilities; and to invoke the sweep of congressional authority, including the power to enforce the fourteenth amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced by people with disabilities.

Anderson-Mansfield Reforestation and Revegetation Act of October 11, 1949

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=581j](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=581j)

Provides for the reforestation and revegetation of National Forest lands and other lands under the administration or control of the Forest Service.

Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/anti1906.htm>

Prevents the appropriation, excavation, injury, or destruction of any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the United States without the permission of the Secretary of the Interior having jurisdiction over the lands on which said antiquities are situated; and authorizes the President to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land needed for the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of October 31, 1979, as amended 1988

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/laws/archprotect.htm>

Enacted to secure the protection of archaeological resources and sites on public and Indian lands and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community and private individuals having access to and information related to these resources.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/4151.html>

Ensures that standards for the design, construction, and alteration of buildings owned, leased, or funded by the United States are prescribed to insure, wherever possible, that physically handicapped people have ready access to and use of such buildings.

Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/bankjon.html>

Directed the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land conservation and utilization in order to correct maladjustments in land use and thus assist in such things as control of soil erosion, reforestation, preservation of natural resources, and protection of fish and wildlife.

Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get\\_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=106-291](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=106-291)

Clarke-McNary Act of June 7, 1924

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<http://www.senate.gov/~agriculture/Legislation/Agricultural Law/Forests/cma.pdf>

Authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with land grant colleges and universities or with other suitable state agencies, to aid farmers through advice, education, demonstrations, or other similar means in establishing, renewing, protecting, and managing wood lots, shelter belts, windbreakers, and other valuable forest growth, and in harvesting, utilizing, and marketing the products thereof. The Act also authorizes the Secretary to accept, on behalf of the United States, title to any land donated by private land owners to assure future timber supplies or for other national forest purposes.

Clean Air Act of August 7, 1977, as amended (1977 and 1990)

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/unframed/42/ch85.html>

Enacted to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources; to initiate and accelerate a national research and development program to achieve the prevention and control of air pollution; to provide technical and financial assistance to state and local governments in connection with the development and execution of their air pollution prevention and control programs; and, to encourage and assist the development and operation of regional air pollution prevention and control programs.

Color of Title Act of December 22, 1928

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/43/ch25A.html>

Granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to issue patents up to 160 acres to claimants that had held a tract of public land in good faith and in peaceful, adverse possession and had made valuable improvements on the land or reduced it to cultivation. The Act reserved the rights to coal and all other minerals contained therein to the United States.

Common Varieties of Mineral Materials Act of July 31, 1947

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/30/601.html>

Authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, under such rules and regulations as they may prescribe, to dispose of mineral materials (including but not limited to common varieties sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay) and vegetative materials (including but not limited to yucca, manzanita, mesquite, cactus, and timber or other forest products) on public lands of the United States, if the disposal of such materials is not otherwise expressly authorized by law, is not expressly prohibited by laws of the United States, and would not be detrimental to the public interest.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode42/usc\\_sec\\_42\\_00009601----000-notes.html](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode42/usc_sec_42_00009601----000-notes.html)

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of July 1, 1978

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/2101.html>

## DESIGN CRITERIA

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Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to assist in the establishment of a coordinated and cooperative federal, state, and local forest stewardship program for the management of non-federal forest lands and forest lands in foreign countries.

Disaster Relief Act of May 22, 1974

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/ch68.html>

Provides an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the federal government to state and local governments in developing, coordinating, and carrying out their disaster relief programs, and provides federal assistance programs for both public and private losses sustained in disasters.

Eastern Wilderness Act of January 3, 1975

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=1132](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=1132)

Established Wilderness areas in the eastern United States, proposed several more for Wilderness Study, and authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire, through purchase, by gift, exchange, condemnation, or otherwise such lands, waters, or interests therein as determined necessary or desirable for the purposes of the Act.

Economy Act of June 30, 1932

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/31/1535.html>

Authorizes the head of a federal agency or major organizational unit within an agency to obtain goods or services from a major organizational unit within the same agency or another agency if amounts are available; if it is determined to be in the best interest of the United States government; the agency or unit is able to provide or get by contract the ordered goods or services; and the head of the agency decides ordered goods or services cannot be provided as conveniently or cheaply by a commercial enterprise.

Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get\\_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=104-231](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=104-231)

Emergency Flood Prevention (Agricultural Credit Act) Act of August 4, 1978

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/2201.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to undertake emergency measures for runoff retardation and soil-erosion prevention, in cooperation with land owners and users, as the Secretary deems necessary to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode42/usc\\_sec\\_42\\_00011001----000-notes.html](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode42/usc_sec_42_00011001----000-notes.html)

Endangered Species Act of December 28, 1973

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/esact.html>

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch35.html>

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Authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened; prohibits unauthorized taking, possession, sale, and transport of endangered species; provides authority to acquire land for the conservation of listed species, using Land and Water Conservation Funds; authorizes establishment of cooperative agreements and grants-in-aid to states that establish and maintain programs for endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; authorizes the assessment of civil and criminal penalties for violating the Act or regulations; and, authorizes the payment of rewards to anyone furnishing information leading to arrest and conviction for any violation of the Act or any regulation issued there under. Section 7 of the Act requires federal agencies to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat.

Energy Security Act of June 30, 1980

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d096:SN00932:@@L|TOM:/bss/d096query.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make available timber resources of the National Forest System, in accordance with appropriate timber appraisal and sale procedures, for use by biomass energy projects.

Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972

[http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/public\\_laws/federal\\_advisory\\_committee\\_act/01.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/public_laws/federal_advisory_committee_act/01.html)

Sets standards and uniform procedures to govern the establishment, operation, administration, and duration of advisory committees.

Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of November 18, 1988

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/caveres.html>

Established requirements for the management and protection of caves and their resources on federal lands, including allowing land managing agencies to withhold the location of caves from the public, and requiring permits for any removal or collecting activities in caves on federal lands.

Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of August 4, 1976

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d094:SN00391:@@L|TOM:/bss/d094query.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to divide lands, subject to the Mineral Lands Leasing Act, which have been classified for coal leasing into tracts of such size as he finds appropriate and in the public interest and which can be economically extracted, and, in his discretion, upon the request of any qualified applicant or on his own motion, from time to time offer such lands for leasing by competitive bid.

Federal Insecticide, Rodenticide, and Fungicide Act of October 21, 1972

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/unframed/7/ch6.html>

Requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to prescribe standards for the certification of individuals authorized to use or supervise the use of any

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pesticide that is classified for restricted use; regulates the sale of restricted use pesticides; and provides penalties for the unauthorized use or sale of restricted use pesticides.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/unframed/43/ch35.html>

Requires that public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use. Also states that the United States shall receive fair market value of the use of the public lands and their resources unless otherwise provided for by law.

Federal Noxious Weed Act of January 3, 1975

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/fednox.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to designate plants as noxious weeds by regulation; to prohibit the movement of all such weeds in interstate or foreign commerce except under permit; to inspect, seize and destroy products, and to quarantine areas, if necessary to prevent the spread of such weeds; and to cooperate with other federal, state and local agencies, farmers associations, and private individuals in measures to control, eradicate, prevent, or retard the spread of such weeds.

Federal Power Act of June 10, 1920

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/fedpowr.html>

Provides for cooperation between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other federal agencies, including resource agencies, in licensing and relicensing power projects.

Federal-State Cooperation for Soil Conservation Act of December 22, 1944

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/33/701-1.html>

Authorized the adoption of eleven watershed improvement programs in various states for the improvement of water runoff, water flow retardation, and soil erosion prevention.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Amendments of 1972 (Clean Water Act)

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=33&sec=1251](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=33&sec=1251)

Enacted to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and ecological integrity of the Nation's waters. Provides for measures to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution; recognizes, preserves, and protects the responsibilities and rights of states to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution, and to plan the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources; and provides for federal support and aid of research relating to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution, and federal technical services and financial aid to state and interstate agencies and municipalities for the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution. Established goals for the elimination of water pollution; required all municipal and industrial wastewater to be treated before being discharged into waterways; increased federal assistance for municipal treatment plant construction; strengthened and

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streamlined enforcement policies; and expanded the federal role while retaining the responsibility of states for day-to-day implementation of the law.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act of July 9, 1965

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/unframed/16/4601-12.html>

Requires that recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement opportunities be considered in the planning and development of federal water development.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of September 15, 1960

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/unframed/16/670a.html>

Requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, in cooperation with state agencies, to plan, develop, maintain, and coordinate programs for the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife, fish, and game on public lands under their jurisdiction.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of March 10, 1934

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/fwcoord.html>

Authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce to provide assistance to and cooperate with other federal and state agencies to protect, rear, stock, and increase the supply of game and fur-bearing animals, as well as to study the effects of domestic sewage, trade wastes, and other polluting substances on wildlife. The Act also authorizes the preparation of plans to protect wildlife resources, the completion of wildlife surveys on public lands, and the acceptance by federal agencies of funds or lands for related purposes provided that land donations receive the consent of the state in which they are located.

Forest Highways Act of August 27, 1958

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/unframed/23/205.html>

Requires that funds available for forest development roads and trails be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay for the costs of construction and maintenance thereof, including roads and trails on experimental and other areas under Forest Service administration, or for adjacent vehicular parking areas and sanitary, water, and fire control facilities. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into contracts with a state or civil subdivision thereof, and issue such regulations as he deems desirable.

Forest Products Act

May 22, 1928, ch. 678, 45 Stat. 699 (16 U.S.C. 581 et seq.)

Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of August 17, 1974

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch36.html>

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a Renewable Resource Assessment every ten years; to transmit a recommended Renewable Resources Program to the President every five years; to develop, maintain, and, as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System; and to ensure that the development and administration of the resources of the National Forest System are in full accord with the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield.

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Forest Reserve Act (California) of Oct. 1, 1890  
ch. 1263, 26 Stat. 650

Forest Reserve Homestead Act of June 11, 1906  
ch. 3074, 34 Stat. 233

Freedom of Information Act of November 21, 1974  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/5/552.html>  
Governs which government records are released to the public either automatically or upon request.

Geothermal Steam Act of December 24, 1970  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/30/1001.html>  
Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to issue leases for the development and utilization of geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources in any lands administered by him or by the Department of Agriculture, and to prescribe such rules and regulations, as he deems appropriate to carry out the provisions of the Act.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/5/306.html>  
Provides for the development of long-term strategic plans, annual performance plans, and annual performance reports. The Forest Service Strategic Plan provides the national strategic framework for all Forest Service operations and activities.

Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/581i-1.html>  
Authorizes the Forest Service to spend appropriated funds on buildings, lookout towers, and other structures on lands owned by states, counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions, corporations, or individuals; to procure and operate aerial facilities and services for the protection of National Forests; to cooperate with and assist public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals in performing work on non-Forest land for the administration, protection, improvement, reforestation, and other kinds of work as the Forest Service is authorized to do on Forest land; to deposit sums from timber purchases to cover the costs of disposing of brush and debris; to permit the use of structures under its control; to sell nursery stock; and other purposes.

Healthy Forest Restoration Act of December 3, 2003  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/includes/hfr2003.pdf>

Historic Sites Act of 1935  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/461.html>  
Establishes a policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the benefit of the people.

Historic Preservation Act of October 15, 1966  
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/nhpa1966.htm>

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Establishes a program for the preservation of additional historic properties throughout the nation, and for other purposes.

Joint Surveys of Watershed Areas Act of September 5, 1962

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1009.html>

Authorizes and directs the Secretaries of the Army and Agriculture to make joint investigations and surveys of watershed areas in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and to prepare joint reports setting forth their recommendations for improvements needed for flood prevention, for the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and for flood control.

Knutson-Vandenberg Act of June 9, 1930

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/576.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish forest tree nurseries; to deposit monies from timber sale purchasers to cover the costs of planting young trees, sowing seed, removing undesirable trees or other growth, and protecting and improving the future productivity of the land; and to furnish seedlings and/or young trees for the replanting of burned-over areas in any National Park.

Land Acquisition Act of March 3, 1925

<http://www.wildrockies.org/appeals/68-575.htm>

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch3.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase land for National Forest headquarters, Ranger Stations, dwellings, or other sites required for the effective performance of the authorized activities of the Forest Service.

Land Acquisition-Declaration of Taking Act of February 26, 1931

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=40&sec=258a](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=40&sec=258a)

Provides for the immediate transfer of land to the United States and for just compensation for such lands.

Land Acquisition – Title Adjustment Act of July 8, 1943

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=7&sec=2253](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=7&sec=2253)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to execute and deliver title adjustments if, after the acquisition of the land, the title thereto is legally insufficient for the purposes for which the land was acquired or if the land was acquired through mistake, misunderstanding, error, or inadvertence.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of September 3, 1964

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/4601-4.html>

<http://classweb.gmu.edu/jkozlows/lwcfregs.htm>

Authorizes the appropriation of funds for federal assistance to states in planning, acquisition, and development of needed land and water areas and facilities and for the federal acquisition and development of certain lands and other areas for the purposes of preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to outdoor recreation resources.

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Law Enforcement Authority Act of March 3, 1905

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cascode/uscodes/16/chapters/3/subchapters/i/sections/section\\_559.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cascode/uscodes/16/chapters/3/subchapters/i/sections/section_559.html)

Authorizes all Forest Service employees to make arrests for the violation of the laws and regulations relating to the national forests.

Leases Around Reservoirs Act of March 3, 1962

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/460d-2.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to amend any lease with respect to lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service providing for the construction, maintenance, and operation of commercial recreational facilities at a federal reservoir project so as to provide for the adjustment of the amount of rental or other consideration payable to the United States under such lease.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918

ch. 128, 40 Stat. 755 (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.)

Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 1998

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get\\_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=105-312](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=105-312)

Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920

<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/minerall.html>

Provides that the deposits of certain minerals on land owned by the United States shall be subject to lease to citizens of the United States, provided royalties on such deposits are paid to the United States.

Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands Act of August 7, 1947

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=30&sec=351](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=30&sec=351)

Extended the provisions of the “mineral leasing laws” to those lands previously acquired by the United States for which they had not been extended, and lands thereafter acquired by the United States.

Mineral Resources on Weeks Law Lands Act of March 4, 1917

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=520](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=520)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to permit the prospecting, development, and utilization of the mineral resources of the lands acquired under the Weeks Law.

Mineral Springs Leasing Act of February 28, 1899

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=495](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=495)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to rent or lease to responsible persons suitable spaces and portions of ground near, or adjacent to, mineral, medicinal, or other springs within any National Forest where the public is accustomed to or desires to frequent for health or pleasure.

Mining Claims Rights Restoration Act of August 11, 1955

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/30/621.html>

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States that all public lands belonging to the United States which have been withdrawn or reserved for power development or power sites shall be open to entry for location and patent of mining claims and mineral development, subject to certain conditions.

Mining and Minerals Policy Act of December 31, 1970

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/30/21a.html>

States that it is the policy of the federal government to foster and encourage the development of economically sound and stable domestic mining, minerals, metal, and mineral reclamation industries; the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources, reserves, and reclamation of metals and minerals to help assure satisfaction of industrial, security, and environmental needs; mining, mineral, and metallurgical research to promote the wise and efficient use of our natural and reclaimable mineral resources; and the study and development of methods for the disposal, control, and reclamation of mineral waste products and the reclamation of mined land.

Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960

<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/multiu.html>

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc\\_sec\\_16\\_00000528----000-notes.html](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc_sec_16_00000528----000-notes.html)

States that it is the policy of Congress that the national forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes, and authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and administer the renewable surface resources of the national forests for the multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services obtained therefrom.

National Environmental Education Act of November 16, 1990

<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/natened.html>

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get\\_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=101-619](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=101-619)

Enacted to establish and support a program of environmental education for students and personnel working with students in schools, institutions of higher education, and related educational facilities, and to encourage postsecondary students to pursue careers related to the environment.

National Environmental Policy Act of January 1, 1970

<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/nepa/nepaeqia.htm>

Directs all federal agencies to consider and report the potential environmental impacts of proposed federal actions, and established the Council on Environmental Quality.

National 1990 Farm Bill (title XII – Forest Stewardship Act) Act of November 28, 1990

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=582a](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=582a)

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a competitive forestry, natural resources, and environmental grants program, and provides for other research programs.

National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act of 1990

[7 U.S.C. 6601 note](#)

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National Forest Management Act of October 22, 1976

<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/nfma.html>

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc\\_sec\\_16\\_00001600---000-notes.html](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc_sec_16_00001600---000-notes.html)

The National Forest Management Act reorganized, expanded and otherwise amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, which called for the management of renewable resources on National Forest lands. The National Forest Management Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to assess forest lands, develop a management program based on multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and implement a resource management plan for each unit of the National Forest System. It is the primary statute governing the administration of National Forests.

National Forest Roads and Trails Act of October 13, 1964

[http://www.house.gov/resources/105cong/reports/105\\_a/roads\\_.pdf](http://www.house.gov/resources/105cong/reports/105_a/roads_.pdf)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of forest development roads within and near the National Forests through the use of appropriated funds, deposits from timber sale purchasers, cooperative financing with other public agencies, or a combination of these methods. The Act also authorizes the Secretary to grant rights-of-way and easements over national forest lands.

National Historic Preservation Act of December 12, 1980 as amended (1980 and 1992)

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/470.html>

Authorized the federal government to accelerate its historic preservation programs and activities; to give maximum encouragement to agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means; and to assist state and local governments and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities.

National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968

<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/nattrail.html>

Established a national system of recreation, scenic, and historic trails by designating the initial components of the system and prescribing the methods and standards through which additional components may be added.

National Trails System Act Amendments of 1983

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc\\_sec\\_16\\_00001241----000-notes.html](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc_sec_16_00001241----000-notes.html)

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of November 16, 1990

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/25/3001.html>

Directs that the ownership and control of Native American human remains and objects shall be given to the ancestors of the Native American or to the appropriate Native American tribe.

Occupancy Permits Act of March 4, 1915

[http://www.wy.blm.gov/Information/fai/wynf.0001\(99\).pdf](http://www.wy.blm.gov/Information/fai/wynf.0001(99).pdf)

<http://www.wildrockies.org/appeals/63-293.htm>

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Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to permit, under such regulations as he may prescribe, the use and occupancy of suitable areas of land within the National Forests for the purpose of constructing or maintaining hotels, resorts, or other structures necessary or desirable for recreation, public convenience, or safety; to permit the use and occupancy of suitable land for the purpose of constructing or maintaining summer homes; to permit the use and occupancy of suitable land for the purpose of constructing or maintaining buildings, structures, and facilities for industrial or commercial purposes when such use is consistent with other uses of the National Forest; and to permit any state or political subdivision thereof to use or occupy suitable land for the purpose of constructing or maintaining buildings, structures, or facilities necessary or desirable for education or for any other public use or in connection with any other public activity.

Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d100:HR03545:@@D|TOM:/bss/d100query.html>

Amended the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 regarding competitive leasing of oil and gas for onshore federal lands. Sets forth guidelines for the promulgation of regulations regarding lease sales, and prohibits the issuance of oil or gas leases upon certain lands allocated or designated as Wilderness areas.

Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=473](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=473)  
<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/fsact.html>

Authorizes the President to modify or revoke any instrument creating a National Forest; states that no National Forest may be established except to improve and protect the forest within its boundaries, for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations to regulate the use and occupancy of the National Forests.

Petrified Wood Act of September 28, 1962

<http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=36872922698+0+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations under which limited quantities of petrified wood may be removed from the National Forests.

Pipelines Act of February 25, 1920

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/30/185.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior or appropriate agency head to grant rights-of-way through any federal lands for pipeline purposes for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced there from to any applicant possessing the qualifications provided in the Act. .

Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Data Act of May 24, 1974

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/laws/archpreserv.htm>

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Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to undertake the recovery, protection, and preservation of significant scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archeological data whenever any federal agency finds or is notified that activities in connection with any federal construction project or federally licensed project, activity, or program may cause irreparable loss or destruction of such data.

**Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976**

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/40/chapters/12/sections/section\\_601a.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/40/chapters/12/sections/section_601a.html)

Authorizes the federal government to acquire and utilize space in suitable buildings of historic, architectural, or cultural significance, unless use of such space would not prove feasible and prudent compared with available alternatives; to encourage the location of commercial, cultural, educational, and recreational facilities and activities within public buildings; to provide and maintain space, facilities, and activities, to the extent practicable, which encourages public access to and stimulates public pedestrian traffic around, into, and through public buildings, permitting cooperative improvements to and uses of the area between the building and the street, so that such activities complement and supplement commercial, cultural, educational, and recreational resources in the neighborhood of public buildings; and to encourage the public use of public buildings for cultural, educational, and recreational activities.

**Public Land Surveys Act of March 3, 1899**

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/488.html>

[http://www.lib.duke.edu/forest/usfscoll/publications/1905\\_Use\\_Book/092-097.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/forest/usfscoll/publications/1905_Use_Book/092-097.htm)

Provides that all standard, meander, township, and section lines of the public land surveys shall be established under the direction and supervision of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, whether the lands to be surveyed are within or without reservations, except that where the exterior boundaries of public forest reservations are required to be coincident with standard, township, or section lines, such boundaries may, if not previously established in the ordinary course of the public land surveys, be established and marked under the supervision of the Director of the United States Geological survey. This act made the surveying of forest-reserve lands identical, in all but the establishment of boundaries, with that of the public domain.

**Public Rangelands Improvement Act of October 25, 1978**

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/43/chapters/37/sections/section\\_1901.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/43/chapters/37/sections/section_1901.html)

Establishes and reaffirms the national policy and commitment to inventory and identify current public rangeland conditions and trends; manage, maintain and improve the condition of public rangelands so that they become as productive as feasible for all rangeland values in accordance with management objectives and the land use planning process; charge a fee for public grazing use which is equitable; continue the policy of protecting wild free-roaming horses and burros from capture, branding, harassment, or death, while at the same time facilitating the removal and disposal of excess wild free-roaming horses and burros which pose a threat to themselves and their habitat and to other rangeland values.

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Regulatory Flexibility Act of Sept. 19, 1980  
5 U.S.C. 601

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/29/chapters/16/miscs/0/sections/section\\_701.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/29/chapters/16/miscs/0/sections/section_701.html)

States that it is national policy that the federal government plays a leadership role in promoting the employment of individuals with disabilities, and in assisting states and providers of services in fulfilling the aspirations of such individuals with disabilities for meaningful and gainful employment and independent living.

Renewable Resources Extension Act of June 30, 1978  
[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/16/chapters/36/subchapters/iii/sections/section\\_1671.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/16/chapters/36/subchapters/iii/sections/section_1671.html)

Authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the state Directors of the Cooperative Extension Service programs, to provide educational programs relating to forest and rangeland renewable resources.

Reorganization Plan Numbered 3 of 1946  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title5a/5a\\_4\\_8\\_.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title5a/5a_4_8_.html)

Creates the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), abolishes the Federal Water Quality Administration under the Department of the Interior, and transfers those functions to the EPA.

Research Grants Act of September 6, 1958  
<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/researc.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with educational institutions, public or private agencies or organizations, or persons to conduct scientific or technological research.

Right of Eminent Domain Act of August 1, 1888  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/40/258a.html>  
<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/40/257.html>

Grants the Secretary of the Treasury or any other officer of the government who has been authorized to procure real estate for the erection of a building or for other public uses the authority to acquire such real estate by condemnation, provided such acquisition is otherwise authorized by statute.

Rural Development Act of August 30, 1972  
<http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/legis/ruraldev.htm>

Enacted to provide multi-state regional agencies, states, counties, cities, multicounty planning and development districts, businesses, industries, Indian tribes on federal and state reservations or other federally recognized Indian tribal groups and others involved with public services and investments in rural areas or that provide or may provide employment in these areas the best available scientific, technical, economic,

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organizational, environmental, and management information and knowledge useful to them, and to assist and encourage them in the interpretation and application of this information to practical problems and needs in rural development.

Safe Drinking Water Amendments of November 18, 1977

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d095:SN01528:/TOM:/bss/d095query.html>

Amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to authorize appropriations for research conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to safe drinking water; federal grants to states for public water system supervision programs and underground water source protection programs; and grants to assist special studies relating to the provision of a safe supply of drinking water.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c106:6:./temp/~c106gaHNvd:>

Through this law the Forest Service gives rural communities the means to build and improve schools, provide road maintenance, emergency services, and conservation programs for their citizens. Thus, communities are no longer dependent on federal timber sales from national forests to improve local schools and roads.

Sikes Act of October 18, 1974

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/sikes.html>

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/670a.html>

Provides for cooperation between the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior to provide for conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

Small Tracts Act of January 22, 1983

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/521e.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell, exchange, or interchange by quitclaim deed all right, title and interest, including the mineral estate, of the United States in and to certain lands within the National Forest when the secretary determines it to be in the public interest.

Smokey Bear Act of May 23, 1952

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/18/parts/i/chapters/33/sections/section\\_711.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/18/parts/i/chapters/33/sections/section_711.html)

Prohibits the unauthorized use of the “Smokey Bear” character or name.

Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of November 18, 1977

<http://ipl.unm.edu/cwl/fedbook/soilwate.html>

Provides for a continuing appraisal of the United State’s soil, water and related resources, including fish and wildlife habitats, and a soil and water conservation program to assist landowners and land users in furthering soil and water conservation.

Solid Waste Disposal (Resource Conservation & Recovery Act) Act of October 21, 1976

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/6901.html>

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Promotes the protection of health and the environment and the conservation of valuable material and energy resources by providing technical and financial assistance to state and local governments and interstate agencies for the improvement of solid waste management techniques.

Stock-Raising Homestead Act of Dec. 29, 1916  
ch. 9, 39 Stat. 862 (43 U.S.C. 291 et seq.)

Supplemental National Forest Reforestation Fund Act of September 18, 1972

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/576c.html>

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a supplemental national reforestation fund, and states that money transferred to this fund shall be available to the Secretary for the purpose of supplementing programs of tree planting and seeding on National Forest lands determined by the Secretary to be in need of reforestation.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of August 3, 1977

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/30/chapters/25/subchapters/i/sections/section\\_1201.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/30/chapters/25/subchapters/i/sections/section_1201.html)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with landowners, providing for land stabilization, erosion, and sediment control, and reclamation through conservation treatment, including measures for the conservation and development of soil, water, woodland, wildlife, and recreation resources, and agricultural productivity of such lands.

Sustained Yield Forest Management Act of March 29, 1944

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=583](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=583)

Authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to establish by formal declaration cooperative sustained-yield units which shall consist of federally owned or administered forest land under their jurisdiction and, in addition thereto land which reasonably may be expected to be made the subject of one or more of the cooperative agreements with private landowners authorized by section 2 of the Act in order to promote the stability of forest industries, of employment, of communities, and of taxable forest wealth through continuous supplies of timber and forest products; and in order to secure the benefits of forests in the maintenance of water supply, regulation of stream flow, prevention of soil erosion, amelioration of climate, and preservation of wildlife.

Telecommunications Act of 1996

[http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get\\_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=104-104](http://assembler.law.cornell.edu/usc-cgi/get_external.cgi?type=pubL&target=104-104)

Timber Export Act of March 4, 1917

Permits the Secretary of Agriculture to allow timber or other forest products to be cut or removed from a national forest and exported from the state or territory in which that national forest is situated.

Timber Exportation Act of April 12, 1926

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/617.html>

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Authorizes the exportation of lawfully cut timber from the state or territory where grown if the supply of timber for local use will not be endangered, and authorizes the Secretary to issue rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act.

Title Adjustment Act of April 28, 1930

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=43&sec=872](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=43&sec=872)

Authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to execute a quitclaim deed where an application for a conveyance of land has been withdrawn or rejected.

Toxic Substances Control Act of October 11, 1976

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/15/chapters/53/subchapters/i/sections/section\\_2601.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/15/chapters/53/subchapters/i/sections/section_2601.html)

Grants the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to regulate chemical substances and mixtures, which present an unreasonable risk of injury to the public health or the environment, and to take action with respect to chemical substances and mixtures, which are imminent hazards.

Transfer Act of February 1, 1905

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=472](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=472)

Transferred the management and control of the Forest Reserves from the General Land Office (GLO) in the Department of the Interior to the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture.

Twenty-Five Percent Fund Act of May 23, 1908

<http://www.wildrockies.org/appeals/60-136.htm>

Provides that twenty-five percent of all monies received from the sale of timber or other forest products shall be paid to the state in which such forest is located to be expended as the state may prescribe for the benefit of public schools and roads.

Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards U.S. Criminal Code (Title 18 USC Chapter 91 – Public Lands) Act of June 25, 1948

<http://www.wildrockies.org/appeals/80-772.htm>

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/18/parts/i/chapters/91/toc.html>

Defines the crimes and criminal procedure for crimes committed against public lands.

U.S. Mining Laws (Public Domain Lands) Act of May 10, 1872

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/30/22.html>

Provides that all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are free and open to exploration and purchase, and the lands in which they are found to occupation and purchase by citizens of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become such, under regulations prescribed by law, and according to the local customs or rules of miners, so far as the same are applicable and not inconsistent with the laws of the United States. There are a number of Acts which modify the mining laws as applied to local areas by prohibiting entry altogether or by limiting or restricting the use which may be made of the surface and the right, title, or interest which may pass through patent.

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Volunteers in the National Forests Act of May 18, 1972

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/558a.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of interpretive functions, visitor services, conservation measures and development, or other activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretary through the Forest Service.

Water Quality Improvement Act of April 3, 1970

<http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/fwatrpo.html>

Amends the prohibitions of oil discharges, authorizes the President to determine quantities of oil which would be harmful to the public health or welfare of the United States; to publish a National Contingency Plan to provide for coordinated action to minimize damage from oil discharges. Requires performance standards for marine sanitation device and authorizes demonstration projects to control acid or other mine pollution, and to control water pollution within the watersheds of the Great Lakes. Requires that applicants for federal permits for activities involving discharges into navigable waters provide state certification that they will not violate applicable water quality standards

Water Resources Planning Act of July 22, 1965

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1962.html>

Encourages the conservation, development, and utilization of water and related land resources of the United States on a comprehensive and coordinated basis by the federal government, states, localities, and private enterprises.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of August 4, 1954

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1001.html>

Establishes policy that the federal government should cooperate with states and their political subdivisions, soil or water conservation districts, flood prevention or control districts, and other local public agencies for the purposes of preventing erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds of the rivers and streams of the United States; furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and the conservation and utilization of land; and thereby preserving, protecting, and improving the Nation's land and water resources and the quality of the environment.

Weeks Act Status for Certain Lands Act of September 2, 1958

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/521a.html>

Subjects all lands of the United States within the exterior boundaries of national forests which were or hereafter are acquired for or in connection with the national forests or transferred to the Forest Service for administration and protection substantially in accordance with national forest regulations, policies, and procedures, excepting (a) lands reserved from the public domain or acquired pursuant to laws authorizing the exchange of land or timber reserved from or part of the public domain, and (b) lands within the official limits of towns or cities, notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, to the

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provisions of the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 961), as amended, and to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forest lands acquired there under.

Weeks Act of March 1, 1911

[http://www.house.gov/resources/105cong/reports/105\\_a/weeks\\_.pdf](http://www.house.gov/resources/105cong/reports/105_a/weeks_.pdf)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase lands within the watersheds of navigable streams in order to promote regulation of the flow of navigable streams or for the production of timber, provided the legislature of the state in which the lands are located consents to the acquisition. This law is the primary land acquisition authority for the Forest Service.

Wild Horse Protection Act of September 8, 1959

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/47.html>

Established the use of a motor vehicle to hunt, for the purpose of capturing or killing, any wild horse, mare, colt, or burro running at large on the public lands. Also prohibits the pollution of watering holes on public lands for the purposes of trapping, killing, wounding, or maiming any of these animals.

Wild Horses and Burros Act of December 15, 1971

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1331.html>

Protects wild free-roaming horses and burros from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and states they are to be considered in the area where presently found an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1271.html>

Instituted a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by designating the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which and standards according to which additional components may be added to the system from time to time.

Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1131.html>

Established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas" and administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as Wilderness. Provides for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness. States that no federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in the Act or by a subsequent Act.

Wildlife Game Refuges Act of August 11, 1916

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts\\_search.pl?title=16&sec=683](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/ts_search.pl?title=16&sec=683)

Authorizes the President of the United States to set aside lands for the protection of game animals, birds, or fish; and prohibits the hunting, catching, trapping, willful disturbance,

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or killing of any kind of game animal, game or non-game bird, or fish, or the taking of eggs of any such bird on any lands so set aside or in or on the waters thereof.

Wood Residue Utilization Act December 19, 1980

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/16/chapters/36/subchapters/iv/toc.html>

Enacted to develop, demonstrate, and make available information on feasible methods that have the potential for commercial application to increase and improve utilization in residential, commercial, and industrial or power plant applications of wood residues resulting from timber harvesting and forest protection and management activities occurring on public and private forest lands, and from the manufacture of forest products, including wood pulp.

Woodsy Owl/Smokey Bear Act of June 22, 1974

[http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/18/parts/i/chapters/33/sections/section\\_711a.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/casecode/uscodes/18/parts/i/chapters/33/sections/section_711a.html)

Prohibits the unauthorized manufacture, reproduction, or use of the character "Woodsy Owl," the name "Woodsy Owl," or the associated slogan "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute." Also prohibits the unauthorized manufacture, reproduction, or use of the character "Smokey Bear" or the name "Smokey Bear", or a facsimile or simulation of such character or name.

Youth Conservation Corps Act of August 13, 1970

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1701.html>

Establishes a Youth Conservation Corps whom the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture may employ without regard to the civil service or classification laws, rules, or regulations for the purpose of developing, preserving, or maintaining the lands and waters of the United States.

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**Regulations**

33 CFR 323 Permits for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material into Waters of the United States

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/33p323.htm> - 33p323s

This regulation prescribes those special policies, practices and procedures to be followed by the Corps of Engineers in connection with the review of applications for permits to authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

36 CFR 60 National Register of Historic Places

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p60.htm> - start

Sets forth the procedural requirements for listing properties on the National Register.

36 CFR 63 Determinations of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p63.htm> - start

Developed to assist agencies in identifying and evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register, and to explain how to request determinations of eligibility.

36 CFR 65 National Historic Landmarks Program

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p65.htm> - start

Sets forth the criteria for establishing national significance and the procedures used by the Department of the Interior for conducting the National Historic Landmarks Program.

36 CFR 68 The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p68.htm> - start

Sets forth standards for the treatment of historic properties containing standards for preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These standards apply to all proposed grant-in-aid development projects assisted through the National Historic Preservation Fund.

36 CFR 212 Forest Development Transportation System

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p212.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements for the development and administration of the forest development transportation system.

36 CFR 213 Administration Under Bank-Jones Act

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p213.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements relating to the designation, administration, and development of National Grasslands.

36 CFR 219 Planning

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p219.htm> - start

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Sets forth a process for developing, adopting, and revising land and resource management plans for the National Forest System.

### 36 CFR 221 Timber Management Planning

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p221.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements for management plans for National Forest timber resources.

### 36 CFR 222 Range Management

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p222.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements for range management on the National Forests, and for the administration of wild and free-roaming horses and burros and their environment.

### 36 CFR 223 Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p223.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements relating to the sale and disposal of National Forest System timber.

### 36 CFR 228 Minerals

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p228.htm> - start

Sets forth the rules and procedures through which use of the surface of National Forest System lands, in connection with mining and mineral operations, shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest System surface resources.

### 36 CFR 241 Fish and Wildlife

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p241.htm> - start

Sets forth the rules and procedures relating to the management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources on National Forest System lands.

### 36 CFR 251 Land Uses

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p251.htm> - start

Sets forth the rules and procedures relating to the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands.

### 36 CFR 254 Landownership Adjustments

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p254.htm> - start

Sets forth the rules and procedures relating to exchange and conveyance of National Forest System lands.

### 36 CFR 261 Prohibitions

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p261.htm> - start

Sets forth the general prohibitions relating to the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands.

### 36 CFR 291 Occupancy and Use of Developed Sites and Areas of Concentrated Public Use

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p291.htm> - start

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Provides for fees charged for the occupancy and use of developed sites and areas of concentrated public use.

### 36 CFR 292 National Recreation Areas

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p292.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements for the administration of National Recreation Areas.

### 36 CFR 293 Wilderness-Primitive Areas

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p293.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements for the administration of Wilderness and primitive areas.

### 36 CFR 294 Special Areas

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p294.htm> - start

Sets forth the requirements for designation of special recreation areas.

### 36 CFR 295 Use of Motor Vehicles Off Forest Development Road

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p295.htm> - start

Sets forth the rules and procedures relating to the administrative designation and location of specific areas and trails of National Forest System lands on which the use of motor vehicles traveling off of National Forest development roads is allowed.

### 36 CFR 296 Protection of Archaeological Resources

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p296.htm> - start

Implements the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

### 36 CFR 297 Wild and Scenic Rivers

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p297.htm> - start

Sets forth the rules and procedures relating to federal assistance in the construction of water resources projects affecting Wild and Scenic Rivers or study rivers on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

### 36 CFR 800 Protection of Historic Properties

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/36p800.htm> - start

Sets forth the provisions for the administration of the National Historic Preservation Act.

### 40 CFR 121-135 Water Programs

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/40p121.htm> - 40p121s

Sets forth the provisions for the administration of water programs including: State certification of activities requiring a federal license or permit; EPA administered permit programs; State program requirements; procedures for decision making; criteria and standards for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; toxic pollutant effluent standards; water quality planning and management; water quality standards; water quality guidance for the Great Lakes System; secondary treatment regulation; and, prior notice of citizen suits. Title 40 (Protection of Environment), Chapter 1 (Environmental Protection Agency), subchapter D (Water Programs).

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40 CFR 1500 Council on Environmental Quality

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/40p1500.htm> - start

Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

43 CFR 10 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act  
Regulations

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/cfr/43p10.htm> - 43p10s

Implements the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

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**Executive Orders**

EO 12898 Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/envjust.html>

Addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations and is designed to focus Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice. The order is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in Federal programs substantially affecting human health and the environment, and to provide minority communities and low-income communities access to public information on, and an opportunity for public participation in, matters relating to human health or the environment.

EO 11593 Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment

<http://archnet.asu.edu/archnet/topical/crm/usdocs/execord.htm>

States that the federal government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation, and that federal agencies shall administer the cultural properties under their control in a spirit of stewardship and trusteeship for future generations; initiate measures necessary to direct their policies, plans and programs in such a way that federally owned sites, structures, and objects of historical, architectural or archaeological significance are preserved, restored and maintained for the inspiration and benefit of the people; and, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, institute procedures to assure that federal plans and programs contribute to the preservation and enhancement of non-federally owned sites, structures and objects of historical, architectural or archaeological significance.

EO 11990 Protection of Wetlands

<http://hydra.gsa.gov/pbs/pt/call-in/eo11990.htm>

Requires each federal agency to provide leadership and to take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities for acquiring, managing, and disposing of federal lands and facilities; providing federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and conducting federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities.

EO 11644 (amended by EO 11989) Use of Off-Road Vehicles

<http://www.archives.gov/fedreg/codific/eos/e11644.html>

Establishes policies and provides for procedures that ensure that the use of offroad vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands.

EO 11988 Floodplain Management

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<http://hydra.gsa.gov/pbs/pt/call-in/eo11988.htm>

Requires each federal agency to provide leadership and to take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out its responsibilities for acquiring, managing, and disposing of federal lands and facilities; providing federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and conducting federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities.

EO 12088 Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards

(Amended by E.O. 12580, January 23, 1987)

<http://hydra.gasa.gov/pbs/pt/call-in/eo12088.htm>

Delegates responsibility to the head of each executive agency for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution. This order gives the Environmental Protection Agency authority to conduct reviews and inspections to monitor Federal facility compliance with pollution control standards.

EO 12372 Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

<http://www.nara.gov/fedreg/codific/eos/e12372.html>

Issued to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on State and local government coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct federal development. It requires federal agencies to provide opportunities for consultation by elected officials of those State and local governments that would provide the non-federal funds for, or that would be directly affected by, proposed federal financial assistance or direct federal development. It also allows states to develop their own process or refine existing processes for state and local elected officials to use in reviewing and coordinating proposed federal financial assistance and direct federal development.

EO 12862 Setting Customer Service Standards

<http://www.usbr.gov/laws/eo12862.html>

<http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/npr/library/direct/orders/2222.html>

Requires all executive departments and agencies that provide significant services directly to the public to provide those services in a manner that seeks to meet the customer service standard established in the Order, and requires agencies to identify customers, survey customers and front-line employees to determine the kind and quality of services needed and barriers to those services, benchmark customer service performance against the best in the business, make information, services, and complaint systems easily accessible, and provide a means to address customer complaints.

EO 13007 Indian Sacred Sites

<http://hydra.gsa.gov/pbs/pt/call-in/eo13007.htm>

Requires each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of federal lands, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not

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clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Where appropriate, agencies shall maintain the confidentiality of sacred sites.

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**Forest Service Directives**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/>

The following is a partial listing of national and regional Forest Service policies relevant to this Land and Resource Management Plan. A complete listing can be found in Forest Service Manuals and Forest Service Handbooks. Together, these are known as the Forest Service Directives System. The Directives System is the primary basis for the management and control of all internal programs and serves as the primary source of administrative direction for Forest Service employees. The system sets forth legal authorities, management objectives, policies, responsibilities, delegations, standards, procedures, and other instructions.

The Forest Service Manual (FSM) contains legal authorities, goals, objectives, policies, responsibilities, instructions, and the necessary guidance to plan and execute assigned programs and activities. Forest Service Handbooks (FSH) are directives that provide instructions and guidance on how to proceed with a specialized phase of a program or activity.

Handbooks either are based on a part of the Manual or they incorporate external directives.

Here follows a listing of the Forest Service Manual system and referenced Handbooks:

Forest Service Manuals

1010 Laws, Regulations, and Orders

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_1000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_1000.html)

1020 Forest Service Mission

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_1000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_1000.html)

1500 External Relations

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_1000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_1000.html)

1600 Information Resources

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_1000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_1000.html)

1900 Planning

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_1000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_1000.html)

2060 Eco-system Classification, Interpretation, and Application

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2070 Biological Diversity (Reserved)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

DESIGN CRITERIA

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2200 Range Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2300 Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2400 Timber Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2500 Watershed and Air Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2600 Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2700 Special Uses Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

2800 Minerals and Geology

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_2000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_2000.html)

3400 Forest Pest Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_3000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_3000.html)

5100 Fire Management

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_5000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_5000.html)

5400 Land Ownership

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_5000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_5000.html)

7400 Public Health and Pollution Control Facilities

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_7000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_7000.html)

7500 Water Storage and Transportation

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_7000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_7000.html)

7700 Transportation System

[http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm\\_7000.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsm_7000.html)

Forest Service Handbooks

1000 Code

1609.11 Publication Management Handbook

<http://fswb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/1609.11/>

1909.12 Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook

<http://fswb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/1909.12/>

DESIGN CRITERIA

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1909.15 Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/1909.15/>

1909.17 Economic and Social Analysis Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/1909.17/>

2000 Code

2409.13 Timber Resource Planning Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2409.13/>

2509.13 Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2509.13/>

2509.16 Water Resource Inventory Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2509.16/>

2509.18 Soil Management Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2509.18/>

2609.13 Wildlife and Fisheries Program Management Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2609.13/>

2709.11 - Special Uses Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2709.11/>

2709.12 - Road Rights-of-Way Grants Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2709.12/>

2709.15 - Hydroelectric Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/2709.15/>

5000 Code

5109.19 Fire Management Analysis and Planning Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/5109.19/>

7000 Code

7709.55 Transportation Planning Handbook

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/fsh/7709.55/>

DESIGN CRITERIA

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**State and Local Laws and Regulations**

Utah Code -- Title 19 -- Environmental Quality Code

<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE19/TITLE19.htm>

Utah Code -- Title 23 -- Wildlife Resources Code of Utah

<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE23/TITLE23.htm>

Utah Code -- Title 40 -- Mines and Mining

<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE40/TITLE40.htm>

Utah Code -- Title 69 -- Telegraphic and Telephonic Transactions

<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE69/TITLE69.htm>

Utah Code - Title 73 - Water and Irrigation

<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE73/TITLE73.htm>

Utah Division of Drinking Water - Laws, Rules and Guidance

<http://www.drinkingwater.utah.gov/rules.htm>

## Appendix A - Bibliography

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USDA Forest Service. 2000. Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment. Utah Northern Goshawk Project. USDA Forest Service. Intermountain Region. Signed March 14, 2000 By Jack A. Blackwell, Regional Forester.

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APPENDIX A

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## Appendix B - Glossary

### GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**Desired Conditions** – the social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources of the plan area is to be directed. Desired conditions are neither commitments nor final decisions approving projects and activities. Desired conditions may be achievable only over a period longer than the 15 years covered by the plan. [ planning rule slightly modified]

**Geographic Area (GA)** – A geographic division of the forest within each ranger district that is subject to the forest-wide vision and strategy, which may have additional management concerns, desired conditions, and strategies.

**Guideline** - provide information and guidance for the design of projects and activities to help achieve objectives and desired conditions. Guidelines are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities. Guidelines should provide the recommended technical and scientific specifications to be used in the design of projects and activities to contribute to the achievement of desired conditions and objectives. [from planning rule]

**Integrated Desired Conditions** – Forest-wide desired conditions integrated with Geographic Area specific desired conditions.

**Management Challenges** – Trends or condition which impacts the range of management decision for achieving desired conditions

**Objective** – concise projections of intended outcomes of projects and activities to contribute to maintenance or achievement of desired conditions. Objectives are measurable and timespecific, but are neither commitments nor final decisions approving projects and activities. Application of objectives is the same as applied under the 1982 planning rule.

**Risks** – Reasons for uncertainty in performance expectations.

**Setting** – The current conditions on the forest which give context to management activities.

**Special areas** – areas within the NFS designated for their unique or special characteristics. These areas include wilderness, wild and scenic river corridors, and research natural areas. Some of these areas are statutorily designated. Other areas may be designated through plan development, amendment, revision, or through a separate administrative process with an appropriate NEPA process.

## APPENDIX B

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Strategy – Management practices which support achievement of the desired condition and objectives.

Suitability of Areas– Criteria or map that describes what conditions make a area suitable for a particular use. The identification of the general suitability of an area in an NFS unit for a variety of uses. Areas may be identified as generally suitable for uses that are compatible with desired conditions and objectives for that area.