Appendix C

WCNF Revised Forest Plan Direction

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Management Area: Cache Box Elder

Area Setting Description:
The analysis area is part of the Cache-Box Elder management area is located in the Bear Range of northern Utah. The analysis area is located in Cache Front. The diverse character of the well-defined plateaus, wide valley floor, and sharply rising mountains is the consequence of a turbulent geologic history. The limestone walled canyons are a result of sediment left by a shallow tropical sea. Glaciated cirques and upland basins are the result of ancient glaciers. The mountain range included in the analysis area is the Bear River Mountains with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 feet.

Management Prescriptions

The WCNF Revised Forest Plan includes two management prescriptions relevant to the Millville Peak/Logan Peak Road Relocation project, 3.1w Watershed Emphasis and 2.7 Special Interest Areas (Revised Forest Plan, pages 4-58 through 4-70).

Management Prescriptions, as defined in the Revised Forest Plan, are "management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple use and other goals and objectives." Management Prescription Categories provide a general sense of the management or treatment of the land intended to result in a particular condition being achieved or set of values being restored or maintained (See Revised Forest Plan, page 4-58). These Categories are not intended to stand alone. They are just one part of the total management direction that includes goals, objectives, desired future conditions, standards and guidelines, and monitoring requirements. The entire management direction package for an area must be considered, not just the prescription. Where an activity is allowed within a prescription, it must be done so within the parameters established by all the above (USDA Forest Service 2003).

Management prescriptions within the analysis area include:

- **3.1w Watershed Emphasis**

Emphasis is on protection, maintenance, and/or restoration of quality aquatic habitats, watershed conditions, and terrestrial habitats. This prescription can include areas where resource and habitat values are not at desired conditions and need to be actively restored. It also can include areas where these values are at desired conditions and need to be conserved. Other uses and activities are allowed provided they can be conducted within the standards and guidelines. Grazing by livestock is allowed as managed to meet standards and guidelines which support desired hydrologic, aquatic, and terrestrial conditions.

The importance of these areas is for meeting mid to long-term watershed and habitat objectives, with the strategy of taking a low to moderate risk approach to managing for biodiversity and population viability this planning period (10-15 years). The tools associated with this prescription are of moderate intensity and can provide for improvement of existing conditions through natural processes and/or moderate management activities. Management activities are designed to pose low risk of sediment delivery and low risk of adversely affecting the hydrologic regime, riparian areas, and important terrestrial habitat.

3.1W consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

- **2.7 Special Interest Areas and Special Areas**

Manage to protect particular values or unique qualities of special interest. Objectives for **Special Interest Areas** is "to protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, palentological, or other special characteristics. To classify areas that possess unusual recreation and scientific values so that these special values are available for public study, use, or enjoyment" (FSM 2360.2). Objectives for **Special Areas** are: "To protect and manage for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, archaeological, or other special characteristics or uniques values." (FSM2372.02) Special Interest and Special Areas may have management plans developed to address specific needs and opportunities for the individual area.

(S2.7) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G2.7-1) Vegetation/fuels treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed in circumstances where these activities help perpetuate the unique ecosystem, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface .

(G2.7-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.7-3) New trail construction is allowed if associated with resource interpretation and public study, use, or enjoyment.

(G2.7-4) Allow manipulative restoration where needed for scientific study and increased public understanding of the unique values of the area.

A review of the WCNF Revised Forest Plan provides the following direction applicable to this project, listed by resource topic.

Aquatics

Standards and guidelines

The WCNF standards and guidelines S2, S3, S17, S20, G9, G11, and G12 apply to this project. These read as follows:

(S2) Apply runoff controls during project implementation to prevent pollutants including fuels, sediment, oils, from reaching surface and groundwater

(S3) Unclassified roads and trails will be administratively closed and rehabilitated.

(S17) All decommissioned roads/trails will be properly drained

(S20) When constructing or maintaining roads, trails, and facilities, use Best Management Practices to minimize sediment discharge into streams, lakes, and wetlands

(G9) Avoid soil disturbing activities (those that remove surface organic matter exposing mineral soil*)* on steep, erosive, and unstable slopes, and in riparian, wetlands, floodplains, wet meadows, and alpine areas.

(G11) Use Best Management Practices and Soil and Water Conservation Practices during project level assessment and implementation to ensure maintenance of soil productivity, minimization of sediment discharge into streams, lakes and wetlands to protect of designated beneficial uses.

(G12) Locate new actions (such as incident bases, fire suppression camps, staging areas, livestock handling facilities, recreation facilities, roads and improvements including trails) outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. If the only suitable location for such actions is within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, sites will be located to minimize resource impacts.

Recreation

Forest Plans provide management direction for a variety of land uses and activities. The 2003 Forest Plan contains goals, standards, and guidelines that provide general guidance for managing recreation use. Guidance related to the issues for this project is listed below:

Forestwide Goal 5-Road/Trail and Access Management
Provide a road and trail system that is safe, responsive to public and agency needs and desires, affordable and efficiently managed. Provide an access system that minimizes negative ecological effects and is in balance with available funding. Focus on achieving an integrated transportation system that serves multiple functions and is consistent with desired future conditions for a given area.

5c. Provide a variety of opportunities for motorized access while avoiding or reducing undesirable social and resource impacts.

Forestwide Goal 6-Recreation
Manage for an array of recreation opportunities and settings to improve the quality of life for a variety of Forest recreation users. Balance growth and expansion of recreation by managing within the capability of sustainable ecosystems found on the Forest for today and the future.

6e.Manage recreation use of undeveloped areas on the forest to provide for desirable opportunities while preventing or reducing resource impacts and social conflicts.

Forestwide Goal 8-Enforcement
Increase Forest Service field presence in key areas, improve effectiveness of public information on restrictions, and increase participation of individuals and organized groups in monitoring uses.

Objectives for OHV and Non-Motorized Travel

To provide a variety of recreation access opportunities both motorized and nonmotorized that meet user needs and desires while at the same time protecting and restoring watersheds, and providing for the needs of wildlife. To reduce conflicts between recreation users.

Standards for Road/Trail and Access Management

(S17) All decommissioned roads and trails will be properly drained

(S20) When constructing or maintaining roads, trails and facilities, use Best Managment Practicies to minimize sediment discharge into stream, lakes and wetlands

Guidelines for Road/Trail and Access Management:

(G44) When constructing and reconstructing roads, trails, and facilities minimize potential effects on habitat of species at risk and key big game winter and spring ranges.

(G45) Access routes for heavy equipment should be selected to limit disturbance to riparian vegetation and to limit the number of stream crossings.

(G46) Specify and control locations for water supply points, service areas, and any other needs for road and facility construction projects.

Guidelines for Recreation Management:

(G49) Manage recreation opportunities consistent with Management Prescriptions Categories (MPCs*),* Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes, Landscape Character Themes (LCTs), Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs), and in accordance with Winter Recreation Maps as well as District Travel Management Plans.

(G50) Design, construct, and operate recreation facilities trails, and concentrated use areas to provide a beneficial recreation experience, reducing social conflicts and minimizing or avoiding adverse effects on wateshed integrity, soil productivity, aquatic/riparian systems, terrestrial species and their habitats, and cultural resources.

(G51) In Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized areas, use of motorized equipment may be approved for administrative purposes.

Guidance for the Cache-Box Elder Management Area

The Forest Plan provided additional guidance for specific geographic areas within the forest. This project is entirely within the Cache-Box Elder Management Area. The following is relevant to roads, trails, and access issues.

"Roads and trails will be designed and maintained to protect watersheds while providing a variety of recreation and access opportunities"

> "Roads and travel ways not needed as part of the road system will be closed and restored to production of vegetation and protection of watersheds."
>
> "Opportunities for motorized recreation will be provided through a series of roads and trails (mostly derived from existing routes) with varying degrees of difficulty, opportunities for viewing scenery, and access to attractions."

The Forest Plan provided additional guidance for recreation issues within this area.

> "A variety of recreation opportunities will be provided."

The Forest Plan provided additional guidance for Non Recreation Special Uses.

"The use of Logan Peak, Logan Hill, Wellsville, Red Spur and Mud Flat as designated communication sites will continue."

Additional Forest Plan Direction

The Forest Plan includes multiple map layers with accompanying definitions and management direction. The primary maps are Management Prescriptions (MP), Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Winter Recreation (WR), and the Scenery Management System (SMS). Management Prescriptions define the primary land use allocation with the other three map layers further defining intended management for a given land area.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

The Forest Service has used the Recreation Opportunity spectrum (ROS) since the 1980's as a management tool to describe and allocate outdoor recreation settings. ROS establishes zones of uses (settings) where allowed activities provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy their public lands and attain desired beneficial experiences. As a tool ROS helps visitors decide which areas, or settings, are the best choice for their desired experience by letting them know what physical, social and managerial setting are available to them. For Forest Plan direction, ROS is applied only to non-snow seasons and is a key component of management direction in this Forest Plan. In general the summer ROS in this area is Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) along open travel routes with Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized areas outside of the road buffer of SPM.

The relationship between ROS mapping and Travel Management Plans must be defined because each has some effect on the other. During development of the Revised Forest Plan of 2003, it became clear that ROS mapping should be used as guidance for management of recreation settings with access type (such as motorized or non-motorized) allowances determined through site-specific planning.
For example, .a mapped ROS Class such as Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized is not intended to preclude consideration of future motorized routes in that area. Likewise, an area mapped as Semi-Primitive Motorized, because of an existing motorized trail, is not

intended to be precluded from consideration for closure and return to non-motorized status.

ROS maps provide direction for managing recreation settings until Travel Management Plans are updated through site-specific analysis. As Travel Plans are updated, the site-specific analysis can include alternatives that would amend the Forest Plan ROS maps. In other words, ROS mapping necessarily follows Travel Management Plan updates, rather than precluding certain changes to them. This ensures that a range of options can be considered at the site-specific level, which is the appropriate scale for decision-making on designated open travel routes. This is an expected and appropriate type of adaptation of the Plan to changes in the future.

ROS also has implications for road maintenance objectives. The ROS classification encourages a particular maintenance level for a road and a distinction is made in travel ways, based on the design and ability to allow passenger car travel. In the State of Utah licensed vehicles can drive on all roadways that allow travel, whereas unlicensed vehicles are only allowed on primitive roadways that are not designed or maintained for passenger car travel.

In general, Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) denotes travel ways that are not maintained for passenger car use (i.e. more primitive type roads). However, there are instances where SPM may be mapped over higher maintenance level roads.

Finally, it is important to recognize that the ROS maps are not Travel Management Maps and do not show which routes are designated as open to motorized uses. A ROS class of motorized on the map may be the result of motorized routes nearby that influence the recreation setting.

Scenery

Forestwide Desired Conditions – Scenery Management System

> The Wasatch-Cache National Forest provides a balance of diverse landscapes and natural settings. The scenic environment within the Forests ranges from landscapes with high scenic quality displaying little or no evidence of management activities, to landscapes with different scenic quality that have dominant visible evidence of management activities. The high scenic quality in areas of outstanding value, and other highly used recreation areas and corridors are protected or enhanced.

Forestwide Subgoal – Scenery Management System

6f. Recognize and manage for the importance of scenic forest landscapes to overall recreation settings as well as to the quality of life for communities adjacent to the Forest.

6g. Restore, maintain or enhance landscape scenic integrity across the variety of landscape character themes found on the Forest.

Standards for Scenery Management

(S22) Management actions that would result in a scenic integrity level of Unacceptably Low (defined in Glossary) are prohibited in all Landscape Character Themes.

Guidelines for Scenery Management

(G59) Manage Forest landscapes according to Landscape Character Themes, and Scenic Integrity Objectives as mapped. (See Chapter 4, A.7. Scenery Management for definitions).

(G60) Resource management activities should not be permitted to reduce Scenic Integrity below Objectives stated for Management Prescription Categories.

(G62) For management activities viewable from Concern Level 2: (defined site-specifically) use areas and travelways (viewshed corridors <1/2 mile) apply the Landscape Character Theme in which the management activity occurs and apply a Scenic Integrity Objective of at least moderate.

(G63) Duration of visual impacts to allow for herbaceous and woody plants are established will be determined during project planning by the following criteria:

- Capability of the landscape to recover
    - The relationship of management activity to the seen area of sensitive, use areas and travel ways.

(G64) Establishment of herbaceous vegetation may extend to 3 years after project completion for foreground and middleground in Concern levels 1 and 2 use areas and travel ways. Consider immediate initiation of reseeding in these areas where natural recovery is questionable.

Scenery Conversion Table

Management Prescription Categories	Landscape Character Theme	Scenic Integrity Objective
2.7 Special Interest Area	Natural Appearing	High
3.1w Watershed Emphasis	Natural Appearing	High

1.1.1.1.1 Wasatch-Cache National Forest

1.1.1.1.2 Landscape Character Theme with Landscape Character Description and Scenic Integrity Objective

1.1.1.1.3 Definition Table

Landscape Character Theme	1.1.2 1.1.3 Landscape Character Description
Natural Appearing	The existing landscape character has been influenced by both direct and indirect human activities, but appears natural to the majority of viewers. Natural elements such as native trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, rock outcrops and streams or lakes dominate the views. While there is evidence of human influence from historic use, campgrounds, small organization camps, rustic structures and management activity, it *is* part of the *valued built environment in the* landscape to the majority of viewers.

SIO	Landscape Integrity Description	
High	Landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely, and at such scale, that they are not evident.	
	Landscape Elements	**2 Landscape Integrity Attributes**
	Land Form	Dams with vegetated faces. Roads where the geometry of road in cuts and fills would not be evident, but would appear to be part of the landscape.
Natural Appearing	Vegetation	Mechanical treatment and fire use mimics natural appearing openings, lines, edges and form found in the surrounding landscape. Fuel breaks are mitigated to mimic natural appearing lines, forms and edges found in the existing landscape. Manage vegetation for properly functioning condition at landscape scale (see Revised Forest Plan Vegetation Landscape Structure and Pattern Types for Properly Functioning Condition Table).
	Water Form	Reservoirs that have minimum water levels maintained for conservation pools and canals that mimic natural appearing lines, forms and edges found in the existing landscape. Stock ponds that mimic natural appearing lines, forms and edges found in the existing landscape.

1.1.1.1.1 Wasatch-Cache National Forest

1.1.1.1.2 Landscape Character Theme with Landscape Character Description and Scenic Integrity Objective

1.1.1.1.3 Definition Table

Landscape Character Theme	1.1.2 1.1.3 Landscape Character Description		
Natural Appearing		Cultural Features	Campgrounds, group sites, organization camps, picnic areas, recreation cabins, and organizational sites follow architectural themes and harmonize with the surrounding landscape. Historic sites are maintained or enhanced to propagate their inherent values. Roadway guardrails integrate into the surrounding landscape. Bridges complement the surrounding landscape. Fences are subordinate to the landscape by use of color and blending with the historical cultural context of the communities. Parking lots, trailheads, restrooms are present. Architecture is thematic and borrows from the form, line, color and texture of the surrounding landscape. Parking lots, roads, and other amenities appear to be part of the natural appearing landscape by eliminating the geometry of the built feature upon the landscape. For example, road cuts do not slice through the landscape, but are shaped, contoured and constructed so that the landscape is only interrupted by the track of road.

Soil and Water

Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition for watersheds within the Logan Peak Road Realignment project area is taken from the Cache Box Elder Management area descriptions in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan.

> Watersheds will be properly functioning with adequate ground cover to prevent soil erosion, and provide infiltration and moisture holding for storage and release

of water to streams and aquifers. Stream flows will remain natural with the exception of the three Logan River dams and the municipal water withdrawals. Spring sources and associated wetlands will be protected from excessive use and will be restored to proper functioning. Riparian areas will be properly functioning with deep-rooted vegetation or armoring along banks to allow for sediment filtering and erosion prevention. Riparian areas will be protected from overuse and trampling from livestock grazing and recreation uses. Spring sources will be fenced and provide water for livestock. Designated access points will be provided to stream-sides for recreation along popular creeks. Where dispersed recreation is heavy, or expected to become heavy, restore vegetation to trampled areas (USDA Forest Service, 2003b).

The Cache-Box Elder Management Prescriptions for the Logan Peak Road Realignment project area are designated for watershed protection, maintenance or restoration of biophysical resources to improve watershed health. Watershed health depends on factors of ground cover, soil organic matter; soils must have adequate physical properties for vegetative growth and soil hydrologic function. Soil-hydrologic function and productivity in riparian areas is protected, preserving the ability to serve as a filter for good water quality and regulation of nutrient cycling. Soil productivity, quality, and function are restored where adversely impaired and contributing to an overall decline in watershed condition (USDA Forest Service, 2003b).

Standards and Guidelines

Forestwide Standards and Guidelines shall be enforced for maintaining and/or improving watershed, riparian, and aquatic habitat health are binding limitations to be placed on management activities of the Logan Peak Road Relocation project. Due to the ephemeral or seasonal nature of the stream and the two lakes in the upper watershed of Providence Canyon, only Forestwide Standards and Guidelines S2, S3, S17, S20, G11, G45 are applicable to this project and are described in detail below (USDA Forest Service, 2003b):

S2 –Apply runoff controls during project implementation to prevent pollutants including fuels, sediment, oils, from reaching surface or groundwater.

S3—Unclassified roads and trails will be administratively closed and rehabilitated.
S17–All decommissioned roads/trails will be properly drained.S20—When constructing or maintaining roads, trails and facilities, use Best Management Practices to minimize sediment discharge into streams, lakes and wetlands.

G9 – Avoid soil disturbing activities (those that remove surface organic matter or that expose mineral soil) on steep, erosive, and unstable slopes, and in riparian, wetlands, floodplains, wet meadows, and alpine areas.

G11—Use Best Management Practices and Soil and Water Conservation Practices during project level assessment and implementation to ensure maintenance of soil

productivity, minimization of sediment discharge into streams, lakes and wetlands to protect of designated beneficial uses.

G45—Access routes for heavy equipment should be selected to limit disturbance to riparian vegetation and to limit the number of stream crossings.

Also, RFP guidance relating to vegetation ground cover thresholds (S7) and area limitations on allowable amounts of soil disturbance (G4) are not applicable to a system road construction project such as this.

Vegetation

Standard and Guidelines

S13 - At least 20 percent of each forested cover type by ecological section (McNab and Avers 1994) shall be maintained with old forest landscape structure with patch sizes of at least 10 acres. These old forest areas are dynamic, changing location as disturbances occur.

G14 - Manage vegetation for properly functioning condition at the landscape scale. Desired structure and pattern for cover types of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (from USDA Forest Service 1996) are as follows except in the Wildland Urban Interface (defined in Glossary), where vegetation structure and pattern should be managed to reduce threat of severe fire to property and human safety.

Wildlife

Forestwide Goal 3 - Biodiversity & Viability

Provide for sustained diversity of species at the genetic, populations, community and ecosystem levels. Maintaining communities within their historic range of variation that sustains habitats for viable populations of species, restores or maintains hydrologic functions, and reduces potential for uncharacteristic high-intensity wildfires, and insect epidemics.

To achieve sustainable ecosystems, meet properly functioning condition (PFC) criteria for all vegetation types that occur in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Focus on approximating natural disturbances and processes by restoring composition, age class diversity, patch sizes, and patterns for all vegetation types. Guideline G-11 contains the desired landscape scale structure and pattern for vegetation cover types.

Forestwide Subgoals – Biodiversity and Viability

3a. Maintain or restore viability of populations of species at risk, Watch List Plants, and rare communities.

3b. Maintain pollinators and minimize impacts to pollinators or their habitats.

3f. Maintain or restore species composition, such that the species that occupy any given site are predominantly native species in the kind and amount that were historically distributed across the landscapes.

3g. Maintain and/or restore tall forb communities to mid seral or potential natural community (PNC) status.

3i. Maintain viability of species-at-risk (including endangered, threatened and sensitive species and unique communities).

3j. Manage Forest Service sensitive species to prevent them from being classified as threatened or endangered and where possible provide for delisting as sensitive (FSM 2670).

3l. Provide suitable habitat for prey species such as hares, squirrels, and small mammals.

3n. Maintain or restore aquatic and riparian habitats, through recognition and management of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas for metapopulations of cutthroat trout, recognizing the relative degree to which these fish depend on National Forest lands and conditions of these habitats off-forest.

3o. Provide adequate habitat components for sustainable big game populations coordinated with State wildlife management agencies, private lands and other resource needs and priorities.

Forestwide Subgoal – Noxious Weed Control

3s. Greatly reduce known infestations of noxious weeds and rigorously prevent their introduction and/or spread.