- DECISION MEMO -
UINTAH HIGHLANDS HAZARDOUS FUELS PROJECT
Weber County, Utah
Ogden Ranger District,
Wasatch-Cache National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Uintah Highlands Hazardous Fuels Project area consists of approximately 400 acres on the Ogden Front directly north of the mouth of Weber Canyon. The project area is located between Dry Creek and Burch Creek in Sections 13 and 14, T5N, R1W and Section 18, T 5N, R1E. The area's proximity to private land, frequently used railroad tracks and Interstate 84 gives it a high potential for human caused fires. To address this risk, mechanical treatments (hand line) along approximately 1 mile of National Forest System (NFS) land, as well as prescribed burning of about 400 acres, will be implemented. Although the project area's close proximity to private and/or state lands increases the complexity of implementing a prescribed burn, burning combined with mechanical treatment is the most effective method to reduce fuels and protect the community from catastrophic wildfire.

This Decision Memo documents: **1)** background information about the project and how the proposal was developed; **2)** the purpose and need for the project and; **3)** other treatment options considered; **4)** the details of the decision and rationale for it; **5)** review of potential extraordinary environmental circumstances; and **6)** implementation dates and conditions for the project.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the build-up of high levels of woody material in forest and shrub lands has been highlighted across the western United States as wildfires burn increasingly greater acreages than they did historically. Nearly a hundred years of fire suppression has resulted in fuel accumulations that often far exceed what would have occurred under more natural conditions. Historically, "fire-dependent" ecosystems developed in response to fairly regular, lower intensity wildfires that kept the fuel build-up in check. In current times this accumulation of both dead and down material and overly dense live vegetation, combined with a long-term drought, and residential development into fire-prone areas, has created a dangerous situation. Today's wildfires burn at higher intensities, are more difficult and costly to control, and more often threaten residences and communities. In addition, these more intense fires have the potential to cause fundamental changes to ecosystems because they burn hotter and over larger areas.

The build-up of forest fuels has been recognized by the Chief of the Forest Service as one of the four major threats facing the sustainability of our nation's forests. Streamlining the environmental review processes to approve fuel reduction projects in a timelier manner was the subject of the Healthy Forests Initiative, developed by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior in 2002. In 2003, Congress passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, which encouraged expeditious hazardous fuel treatments on public lands

at risk of wildfire, and called for greater involvement of state and local governments and citizens in wildland fire planning.

On a local level, the 2003 fire season demonstrated that fuel accumulations are a serious problem along the Wasatch Front. Five separate wildfires burned over 3,200 acres in Weber and Davis Counties. Experienced firefighters were surprised at the rate at which these fires spread and how difficult they were to control. In several instances, the loss of homes was narrowly averted. While the 2003 wildfires did reduce fuels where they burned, there are still substantial hillside areas supporting dense, mature and sometimes decadent mixed stands of Gambel oak and bigtooth maple that could present threats to residential areas. The project described in this Decision Memo is designed to address the area above the Uintah Highlands community (referred to as the project area). This area was selected because of the high potential for human-caused fires resulting primarily from its proximity to private land along the Ogden Front and secondarily to the railroad tracks and Interstate 84 to the south in Weber Canyon. Additionally, there is a strong desire within the wildland-urban interface community to address the fuels and wildfire issue. A map showing the location of the project area is attached to this Decision Memo.

FOREST SERVICE FUEL TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Project Proposal

The project proposal presented for public comment in May 2005 involved reducing wildfire fuels on NFS land east of the Uintah Highlands Community using multiple techniques. Specifically, the proposed Project included:

- a combination of prescribed burning and mechanical removal of brush, on approximately 400 acres between the Dry and Burch Creek drainages with a contingency area of just over 2,000 acres between Spring and Bues Canyons (refer to Map 1). A contingency area provides a buffer zone in which fire is not intended or encouraged to enter but where effects will not be detrimental should fire enter.

- Installation of approximately one mile of fire line associated with the prescribed burning (refer to Map 2). This temporary line is designed to function as a fire break and would be constructed by a hand crew using chainsaws and other hand tools. Brush would be cleared to a width of approximately 15 feet and the leaf litter would be scraped to bare mineral soil to a width of approximately 2 feet.

- Ignition would occur only during the spring, and depending on soil moisture conditions, generally prior to April 15.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for this project has three primary components that are discussed below.

a) Reduce hazardous fuels loads on NFS lands near the Uintah Highlands community to help protect residential areas from wildfire.

The need for this project was illustrated by five different wildfires that threatened residences in nearby communities during the summer of 2003. Fuel loads observed in these mixed Gambel oak/bigtooth maple shrub communities average 25 to 35 tons per acre and canopy heights in many places range from 20 to 30 feet. Prescribed burning would reduce the older, decadent shrub stands by consuming dead wood and leaf litter accumulations and kill the above ground portions of 40 to 60 percent of the Gambel oak in patches scattered over the treatment areas. The optimum outcome would be to break up the thick, continuous stands of brush to produce more of a mosaic pattern of uneven-aged brush and some open grassy areas. This would reduce the fuel height, resulting in a vegetation structure mosaic that will help to reduce the potential of the rapid spread of future wildfires.

Reducing fuel loads on these NFS lands will help to lower fire intensities when future wildfires occur and reduce the potential for their spread into adjacent residential areas. In addition, the creation of fuel breaks along the NFS - private land boundary will help to provide additional assurance that evening down slope winds are less likely to "push" a wildfire into developed areas.

b) Improve the ecologic health of Gambel oak/bigtooth maple vegetation between the Dry and Burch Creek drainages.

Fire suppression activities over the last century have interrupted the natural role of fire over much of the western U.S. As a result, the Gamble oak/bigtooth maple community across the Wasatch Front consists of predominantly older, less healthy age classes of shrubs. A measure used by the Forest Service to assess the degree to which natural conditions have been affected by fire suppression and other factors is called *Fire Regime Condition Class* and its results correlate directly to how vegetation composition, stand age, structure, and landscape patterns have been affected. On NFS lands adjacent to the Uintah Highlands community, wildfires historically burned the same area on cycles ranging from 35 to 100 years. Thus, fire suppression has meant that many areas have missed one or more burn cycles over the past decades. This means that the vegetation within this watershed falls into a highly departed (Class 3) Fire Regime Condition Class and that it is at high risk of losing key ecosystem components in the event of wildfires.

Although recent wildfires along the Wasatch Front have provided some younger age class patches, additional young shrub stands are needed in order to bring this landscape into proper functioning conditions for ecological processes. In addition, the prescribed fire treatments would increase forage for wildlife, particularly for deer; increase opportunities for wildlife viewing; and potentially draw deer use out of residential areas and onto the National Forest. Prescribed burning is also likely to increase plant species diversity.

3. Modify fuel patterns in the area to help provide for more effective, timely and safe fire suppression efforts for future wildfires.

Large, contiguous areas of overly dense Gambel oak/bigtooth maple vegetation along the Wasatch Front in Weber and Davis Counties present serious difficulties in controlling wildfires. Depending on wind and a variety of other factors, this vegetation pattern can tend to allow fires to move quickly across multiple drainages. Additionally, the lack of natural fuel breaks and steep side slopes severely limits the capability of firefighters to safely suppress fires at mid-slope positions. These limitations force more reliance on air tanker and helicopter resources, which add considerable complexity and cost to fire suppression efforts. In addition, aerial retardant drops have limited effectiveness in areas of high, dense shrub vegetation where wildfires can creep under retardant lines and spread. Though treated areas may burn in subsequent years, fuel heights and overall fuel loads would be reduced which will aid in achieving containment and control of wildfires.

Other Options Considered

A variety of other options for reducing wildfire threats were considered during the environmental review process. These are discussed below, along with an explanation of why they were not selected.

1. **Livestock grazing**

   In the early 1900s, livestock grazing was common in this area. At the current time no livestock grazing is permitted within the project area. While cattle prefer grass and herbaceous vegetation sheep are known to use herbaceous material and some shrubs, but generally not Gambel oak or bigtooth maple. Thus, grazing using these animals would do little to address the build-up of fuels.

   In recent years, research in Utah suggests that concentrated, closely managed grazing with domestic goats may be effective in reducing or maintaining shrub densities and the wildfire hazard. This is an approach that could be considered in the future in selected areas and could be authorized following a subsequent detailed environmental review.

2. **Mechanical thinning and removal across the treatment units**

   Steep slopes, rocky soils and high costs make mechanical thinning on a large scale difficult impractical. Most areas are not suitable for mechanized equipment and would have to be done by hand crews using chainsaws.

3. **Hand thinning in selected areas to remove dead and down woody shrub material**

   During scoping it was suggested that thinning should be conducted only in the immediate area surrounding homes and that larger scale fuel treatments were

unnecessary. Similarly, it was recommended that pockets of dead and down material could be removed from the project area by hand, or placed in piles and burned. Hand thinning and removal is an important technique to help establish prescribed fire control lines in areas near private property, but is an impractical approach at a larger scale. Further, selected removal in the manner suggested would not have addressed the ecological needs across the broader project area in terms of restoring vigor and diversity to plant communities because larger scale mechanical thinning or burning stimulates sprouting of new stems, opens the shrub canopy to the sun, and returns nutrients to the soil. Finally, hand thinning in selected areas would not substantially provide for safer and more effective suppression of future wildfires.

4. No Action

Fire-dependent ecosystems, such as this one, will burn at some point and many of these stands of oakbrush have probably missed multiple cycles of burning because of past fire suppression efforts. Records indicate fairly regular lighting-caused ignitions and that increasing levels of recreational activity along the foothills has resulted in more cases of human-caused wildfires. If no action is taken, future wildfires will be increasingly difficult and costly to contain, will burn at higher severities and over greater areas than they would have historically, will have greater potential for damaging soils and creating runoff related problems, and will have a higher probability of permanently altering vegetative conditions because of their higher severities. Finally, taking no action will also mean that it will be increasingly difficult to protect residential areas from wildfires near the project area.

Forest Plan Consistency

The project area is located in the Revised Forest Plan's North Wasatch-Ogden Valley Management Area (FEIS 4-140 to 4-150) and has a 3.1W management area prescription, which emphasizes maintaining or improving watershed conditions (FEIS 4-68 to 4-70). The proposed vegetation treatments are consistent with applicable standards and guidelines for 3.1W areas.

This project is consistent with, and advances the goals and objectives of, the Revised Forest Land and Resource Management Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003). In particular, the Revised Forest Plan notes:

- Reduce hazardous fuels (prescribed fire, silvicultural and mechanical treatments) with emphasis on interface communities (wildland/urban) and increase proactive participation of communities at risk. (Subgoal 4d, page 4-21)

- Treat approximately 2,000 wildland urban interfaces acres annually for a 10-year total of 20,000 acres. (Objective 4.a, page 4-31)

- Fuel loads, especially in oakbrush across the urban interface in Box Elder, Weber, and Davis Counties, will be reduced and broken up to protect life and property. Access will be provided for fire protection. (FEIS 4-142)

- Maintain an age class distribution in the Gambel oak cover type of about 10-20% in the grass/forb stage, 20-40% in the early seral stage, 20-40% in the mid seral stage, and 20-40% in the late seral stage, across a landscape scale. (FEIS 4-41)

DECISION AND RATIONALE

I approve the reduction of hazardous fuels on approximately 400 acres of land adjacent to the Uintah Highlands community using a combination of mechanical and prescribed fire methods. These treatments will be implemented in the springtime only when the fuel and weather conditions exist to properly and safely manage a prescribed burn.

I remain convinced of the need for fuels reduction work on a large scale. Hand and mechanical thinning and construction of fuel breaks without prescribed fire will do little to affect the overall build-up of fuels and the potential for catastrophic wildfires. In addition, these limited efforts will not create the landscape mosaic that will slow advancing wildfires, or provide healthy and properly functioning ecosystems. The oak brush vegetation along the Wasatch Front in Weber County is an ecosystem that evolved in response to frequent wildfires that removed the build-up of hazardous fuels. Fire suppression over the past 75 years has only delayed the inevitable and made the consequences of future wildfires much more detrimental.

Accordingly, my decision includes the following components and conditions:

- Use prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 400 acres between the Birch and Dry Canyon drainages. Ignition would be conducted by a combination of hand and helicopter applications. Constructing a fireline on portions of the northern, western and southern boundary and burning to snowline and/or damp conditions on the northern and eastern boundaries will minimize the potential for escape. Along the southern, western and northern boundaries, a combination of damp fuel conditions, sparse fuels, and hand (holding) crews will also be used.

- Prescribed burning will be conducted only within the specific weather and fuel conditions outlined in the Burn Plan. In addition, the ignitions will be managed to achieve the objectives of the Burn Plan, specifically to create a mosaic pattern of low and moderate intensity burns interspersed with unburned vegetation.

- Approximately 30 acres will be effectively protected by constructing a firebreak with a hand crew using chainsaws that will be approximately one mile long and 15 feet wide. The cut brush will be stacked inside the fire line and will be burned. The cleared area will be water-barred and reseeded as needed following the burn.

Treatments here will be focused on creating a firebreak between and along the private–public land boundary.

- Ignition will occur only during the spring, and generally prior to April 1st. If ignition must occur after April 1st, soil moisture contents should average greater than 25% by volume across the treatment area.

- A post fire assessment of burn severity will be conducted by members of the forest Burned Area Emergency Response team. This team will assess threats to life and property from the implemented project, and recommend treatments where needed to reduce the risk from post fire flooding.

- Post fire ground cover will be supplemented in flood source areas with assessed high burn severity conditions. In the flood source areas of these watersheds, the extent of post fire bare soil should not exceed 40%. If needed, post fire ground cover may be supplemented with any suitable mulch material.

- Temporary sediment detention structures will be installed, as needed, within the drainages below severely burned flood source areas. Storage structures may consist of wire/filter cloth fences or small basins depending on topography and access.

OTHER RESOURCE ISSUES:

- Watershed, mudslide potential – Direct effects from this project could result in a reduction in soil productivity by altering the physical and chemical properties that influence biologic and hydrologic functions. Fire can also indirectly increase soil erosion by burning ground protecting vegetation and decreasing soil permeability. This can indirectly affect water quality and soil productivity below the project area through soil erosion and deposition. After the prescribed fire burn, the project area will be susceptible to higher rates of erosion until hillside vegetation grows thick enough to protect the soil surface which is estimated to be within a few weeks of the completion of the burn. If a high intensity rain storm occurs within the project area during this time period there is a possibility of erosion and sediment movement from the burned areas into the drainages below.

- The following measures will be used to reduce the potential for erosion.

    - Once the project is completed a Forest Service Burn Area Emergency Response Team will conduct a post fire assessment to determine burn severity. This team will assess threats to life and property and recommend treatments where needed to reduce the risk from post fire flooding.
    - Post fire ground cover will be supplemented in flood source areas with assessed high burn severity conditions. In the flood source areas of these watersheds, the extent of post fire bare soil should not exceed 40%. If

needed, post fire ground cover may be supplemented with any suitable mulch material.

- Temporary sediment detention structures will be installed, as needed, within the drainages below severely burned flood source areas. Storage structures may consist of wire/filter cloth fences or small basins depending on topography and access.

- Noxious and Invasive Weeds – Noxious weeds are non-native, invasive plants that have been designated noxious by the federal, state, and/or county governments because they have significant negative effects (or potential) on agriculture, economics, or ecosystems. Examples of noxious weeds in this general area include dyer's woad, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow starthistle, spotted knapweed, and musk thistle. Other invasive weeds not listed as noxious include cheatgrass and bulbous bluegrass. Noxious and invasive weeds are a big concern on the Wasatch Front because they are already present and increasing, and replace desirable native vegetation. Noxious and invasive weeds often increase after a fire because the competing vegetation has been reduced. By burning in the spring when soil moisture conditions are favorable the intensity and severity of the fire will be better controlled. A less intense fire would reduce the fuel load but not adversely impact the native vegetation which is critical to out-compete potential increases in weed infestations. Other strategies would be to concentrate on burning the Oak/Maple patches, where the heaviest fuel loads are, and avoid the open grassy areas where weed infestations would initiate. Observations of wildfires along the front show that weed infestations occur in the open grassy areas that were severely burned. Good healthy ecosystems with native vegetation are the best defense against noxious weed invasions.

  The project area will be surveyed by the Forest Botanist both before and after treatment to evaluate the potential for an increase in noxious weeds. The Uintah Highlands Hazardous Fuels project includes funding for the treatment of any increase in noxious weeds that are attributable to the project.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION AND EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES SUMMARY

Categorical Exclusion

A project may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement if it falls within one of the defined categories and there are no extraordinary circumstances (FSH 1909.15, Ch. 30.3). It is the degree of the potential effect on specific resources, which determines whether or not there are extraordinary circumstances (FSH 1909.15-2004-1). In this case, the applicable category is in FSH 1909.15 Chapter 30 Section 31.2 Category #10:

> "Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire, not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres."

This Project conforms with other requirements pertaining to this category. Specifically, this Project: 1) is located within a wildland-urban interface area; 2) is in Fire Regime Condition Class 3 and Fire Regime Group III; 3) has been developed using a community-based, collaborative approach; 4) is consistent with applicable Forest Service and USDA procedures and the 2003 Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan; 5) will not be conducted in a wilderness area or affect wilderness study areas; and 6) does not involve the use of herbicides, pesticides, or the construction of new roads or other infrastructure.

Extraordinary Circumstances Summary

Below is the list of resource conditions that must be considered and a brief discussion of how this project relates to each.

a) **Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.**

A Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation were completed by Forest Service biologists for this Project. Determinations for pertinent wildlife species are noted below:

For threatened, endangered, candidate, and proposed species, the project will have no effect on the bald eagle, Canada lynx, yellow-billed cuckoo, and Ogden rocky mountainsnail.

For sensitive species a finding of may impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species for the Townsend's big-eared bat and spotted bat. A finding of no impact is given to the, great gray owl, three-toed woodpecker, pygmy rabbit, boreal owl, northern goshawk, flammulated owl, sage grouse, Columbia sharp-tailed grouse, peregrine falcon, wolverine, and Bonneville cutthroat trout.

b) Flood plains, wetlands or municipal watersheds.

The project area is located in a portion of the Uintah Highland's municipal watershed. The streams within the project area are steep and do not have a floodplain in the sense that a floodplain is a generally flat area located adjacent to the stream in which high water inundates the flat area. No known wetlands occur in the project area. No adverse effects are expected to occur to wetlands, floodplains because they don't occur in the area. No adverse effects are expected to municipal watersheds as a result of the treatments because springs used for culinary water will not be burned, the prescribed fire will be conducted under conditions which minimize adverse effects to soil resources, and vegetation is expected to grow back quickly producing adequate ground cover which should result in very little sediment movement.

c) **Congressionally designated areas, such as Wilderness, Wilderness study areas or National Recreation Areas.**
No Congressionally designated areas are located in the area, or would be affected.

d) **Inventoried roadless areas.**

The Project is located within the Burch Creek inventoried roadless area, but it will not have adverse effects on roadless values. Activities such as reduction of hazardous fuels and restoration of essential wildlife habitat are allowed to occur in roadless areas. No new permanent or temporary roads will be constructed.

e) Research Natural Areas (RNAs).

The Project Area is not located within any RNA.

f) **American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.**

This Project complies with the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. In addition, the Forest Service consulted with potentially affected Tribes during scoping. There will be no significant effects to religious or cultural sites.

g) **Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.**

Surveys were completed for these sites and areas and a "no properties affected" determination was made.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

Forest Plan Consistency (National Forest Management Act). As noted above, this Decision complies with the goals, standards, and guidelines of the Forest Plan, and other provisions of the National Forest Management Act.

Endangered Species Act. In association with the environmental review for this Project, a Biological Assessment was completed. The determination for federally listed species is noted above.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Priority migratory bird species that occur within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest identified in the Utah Bird Conservation Plan (Utah Partners in Flight 2002) and/or those identified by USFWS as birds of conservation concern have been selected as species at risk in the Revised Forest Plan. Of these species, three species (black-throated gray warbler, Virginia's warbler, and the broad-tailed hummingbird) may be affected by the prescribed burn. The effects of the proposed action are mitigated through the use of timing restrictions: Burning activities would occur prior to April 15 or after August 30th. Also, substantial acres of mature oak vegetation

occurs within the Wasatch-Cache NF; this project would move toward restoring a balance of age-classes and benefit those species which prefer younger stands.

Clean Water Act. Compliance with this Act has been provided for through Project design and implementation of watershed best management practices.

Clean Air Act. The analysis indicates that, though there may be some short term lingering smoke during and immediately after the treatments in adjacent communities, this can be minimized by closely following standards in the Utah Smoke Management Program. The analysis for the original proposal also concludes that no Class I air sheds would be adversely affected and emissions modeling indicates that there should be no violations of Federal particulate matter standards (PM 10 and PM 2.5). The prescribed burning involves approximately 400 acres. The Burn Plan will further address conformance with the Clean Air Act.

Healthy Forest Restoration Act. This Project would reduce hazardous fuels conditions that have moderate to high departure from the natural fire regimes in an urban interface area. As such, this Project would further the goals of this Act.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Public involvement for the Uintah Highlands Hazardous Fuels Project was conducted to involve the local community, county and city fire officials and to involve Wasatch Front residents.

Informal discussions began between the Forest Service, community and local government officials about the need to address the wildfire hazard in this area while the 2003 wildfires were still in progress. In the summer of 2003, the Forest Service, Weber County, and Ogden City fire officials met with the Uintah Highlands Fire Council to promote fire wise communities through various treatment alternatives. On June 7, 2005 and again on July 26, 2005 the Forest Service along with State and County officials presented this fuels reduction proposal to the Fire Council.

A scoping document, which detailed the Project proposal, was mailed to citizens and organizations and Federal, State and local governments and groups in May 2005 and was posted to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest web site. As a result of this scoping effort the Ogden District received a number of emails and letters. A collaborative process to develop a formal proposal was initiated on June 7, 2005, when Forest Service staff presented a conceptual plan to the Uintah Highlands Wildfire Community, the Weber County Warden and the Northern Utah State Fuels Specialist.

Following the meeting on July 26, I asked the Fire Council to assist in setting up another public meeting that was held on August 23, 2005 at the Uintah Elementary School. A brochure describing the Project was hand delivered or mailed to over 100 local residents and businesses. The brochure described the proposal and invited residents to a public meeting on August 23rd for discussions about the proposal. Approximately 70 people

attended this public meeting. A compilation of questions and answers that was generated at this meeting is included in the project file.

Records from the various meetings are included in the Project file, as well as other information related to public involvement and the scoping process. This Project was also discussed in the Ogden Standard Examiner published on July 30, 2005.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE(S)

This decision may be implemented immediately, though completion of the Project may span a number of years. It is estimated that acceptable burn conditions may exist only during the spring season. If weather and fuel conditions are not acceptable during this period in any given year, the prescribed burn treatments will be deferred to the following year. It is estimated that the hand and mechanical thinning will be initiated during the spring of 2006 and that the work will take several weeks to complete.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. Appeals must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 days of the publication of this notice in the Ogden Standard Examiner. The Appeal Deciding Officer is Faye Krueger, the Forest Supervisor. Appeals must be sent to: Appeal Deciding Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or by fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Emailed appeals must be submitted in rich text (rtf) or Word (doc) and must include the project name in the subject line. Appeals may also be hand delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CONTACTS

Further information about this decision can be obtained from Colt Mortenson, North Zone Fire Management Officer, (801-625-5112) during normal working hours (week days, 8am to 4:30pm) at the Ogden Ranger District office (507 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401). E-mail: (csibbernsen@fs.fed.us)

__/s/ Chip Sibbernsen__ January 27, 2006

CHIP SIBBERNSEN Date
District Ranger

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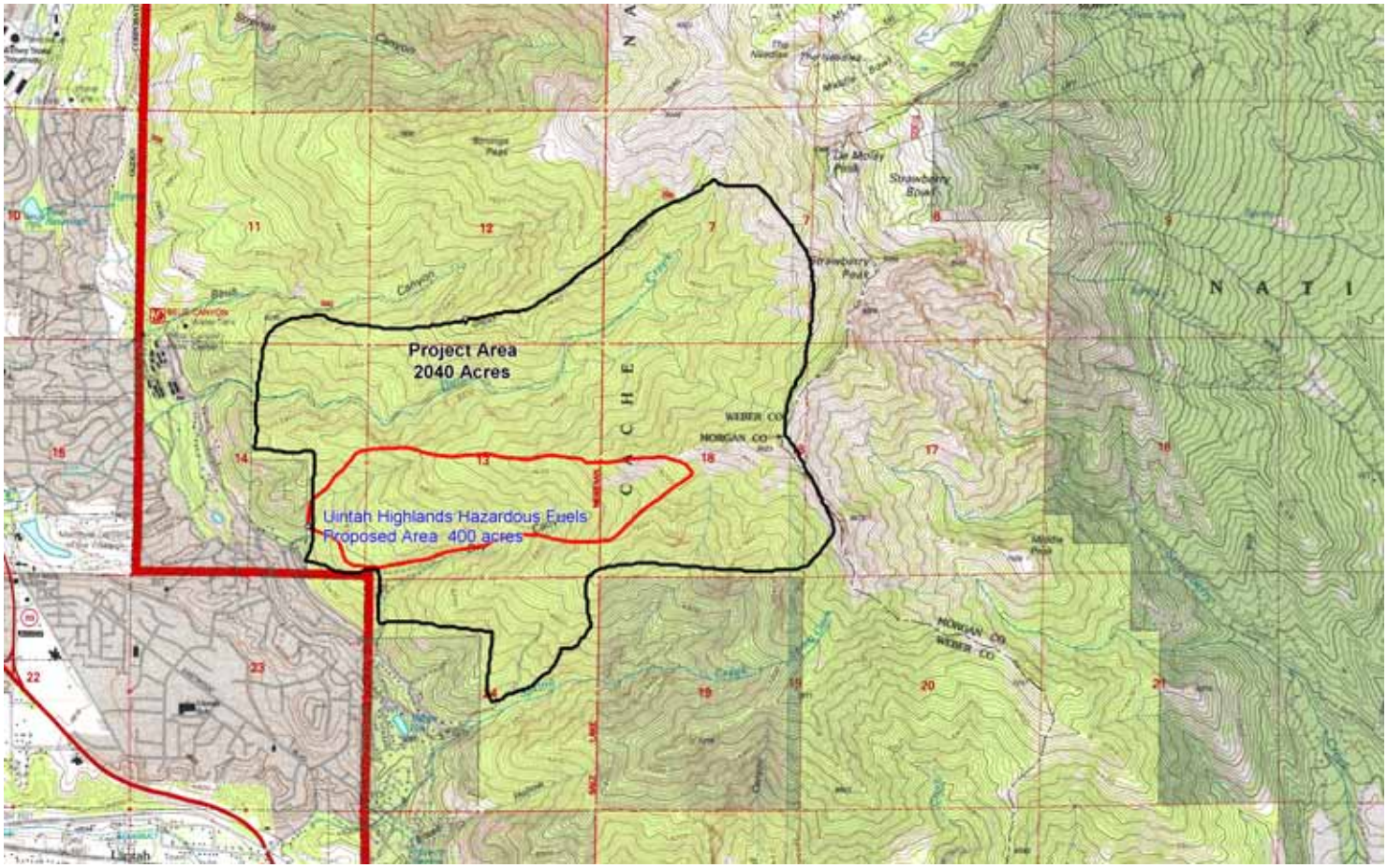
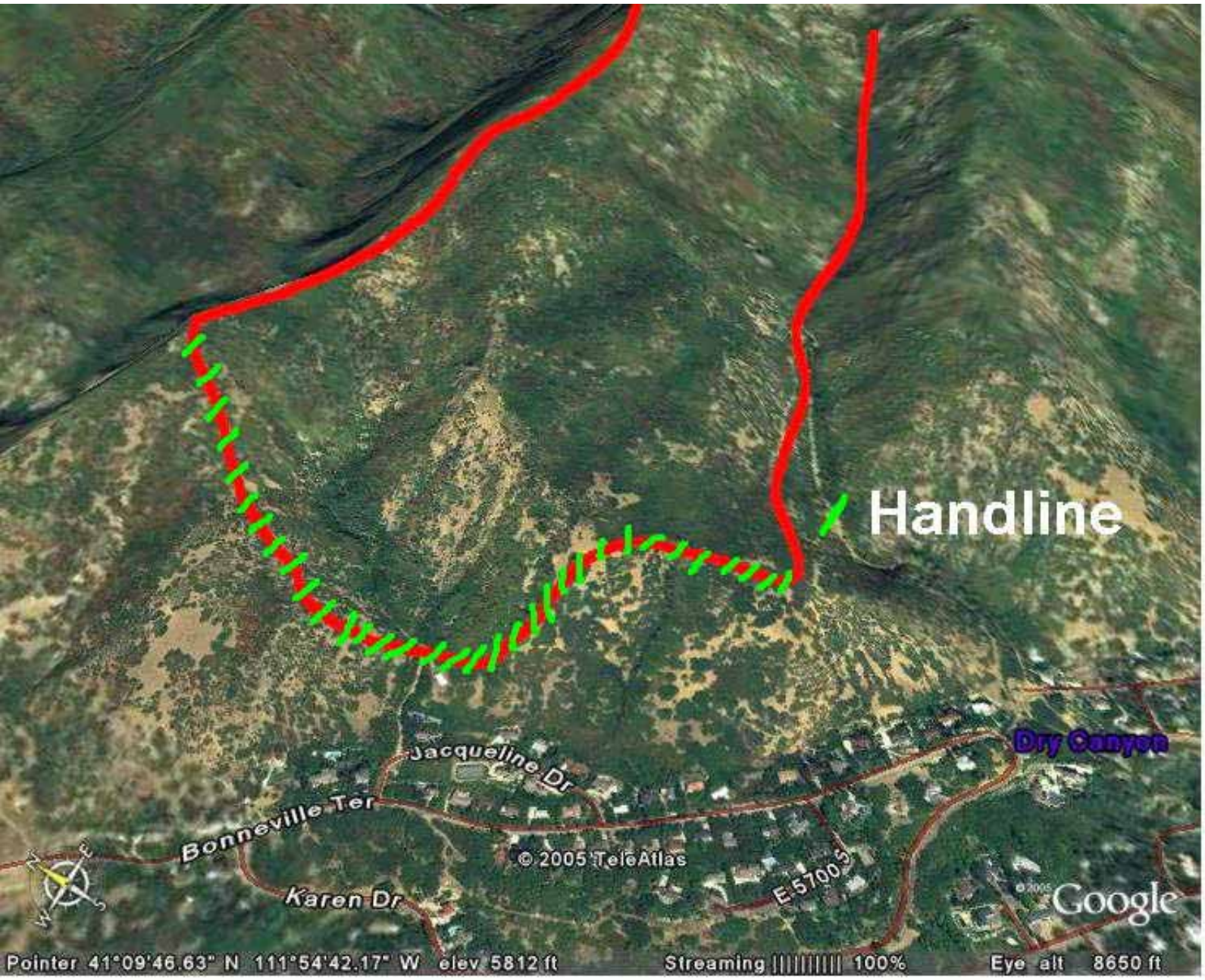


Map 1. Approximate Location of Treatment Area and Project Contingency Area



Map 2. Approximate Location of Hand Constructed Fire Line