



United States Department of Agriculture

Fishlake National Forest 2016 Report



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Our Vision of the Fishlake National Forest

We are dedicated to relationships and the land.

The Fishlake National Forest reflects a small-town feel and values – a place where people want to work and live. We are a cohesive, happy, informal, professional workforce engaged with our communities and fostering strong, collaborative partnerships. We take pride in the work we accomplish. We respect and trust each other, working towards common goals with dedication and open lines of communication.

We practice outstanding natural resource stewardship. We actively manage our ecologically diverse landscape to: protect the Forest's flora, fauna, and clean water and air; allow desirable disturbance to function; limit invasives; and ensure the stability and productivity of our soils. We strive to protect and interpret the rich historical and cultural resources on the Forest.

The Fishlake National Forest is a place where people have positive, one-of-a-kind experiences because we provide personalized customer service and high-quality recreation opportunities.



Table of Contents

Our Vision of the Fishlake National Forest	2
Table of Contents	3
Forest Restoration	4
Recreation	5
Range Management	6
Engineering	7
Energy & Minerals	8
Working With Us	9
Vicinity Map and Office Information	10

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

Caring for the Land and Serving People



Forest Restoration

Healthy, resilient forest resources benefit people and wildlife, providing clean water and clear air. The Fishlake utilizes a variety of tools to implement restoration activities including timber sales, thinning, and prescribed fire and mechanical fuel treatments. The Monroe Mountain Aspen Ecosystems Restoration Project is an example that utilizes all of these methods. The main purpose of this project is to restore aspen ecosystems at the landscape level on Monroe Mountain. In December 2015, the Richfield District Ranger signed the Final Record of Decision authorizing aspen ecosystem restoration treatments to occur on approximately 42,000 acres of Monroe Mountain. Aspen grows on approximately 79,200 acres of the 175,000 acres administered by the Richfield Ranger District on Monroe Mountain. This project is located in south-central Utah. Monroe Mountain rises to just over 11,000 feet and runs approximately north-south between the towns of Koosharem to the east and Marysville to the west. This project was planned through successful collaboration with the Monroe Mountain Working Group.

Fire/Fuels Management

This is a focus area for the Forest. In 2015 crews treated 11,426 acres using mechanical and prescribed fire methods, as well as wildfire. Of these acres 5,367 acres were treated in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), with 6,059 acres treated in non-WUI areas.

Fire suppression crews respond to a number of wildland fires annually. The number and size of the incidents differ depending on burning conditions on a year-by-year basis as shown below.

- 2013 – 51 fires for 92 acres
- 2014 – 32 fires for 197 acres
- 2015 - 27 fires for 2, 640 acres*

** The Old Woman and Solitudes fires were managed under modified suppression response to reduce forest fuels and restore forest health, as well as other stated objectives.*



Timber Management

The 3-year average of acres of timber harvested is 771. There are currently 18 active timber sales. Sales are comprised of thinning as well as clear cuts.



Recreation

Providing quality recreation experiences to the public is a focus of the Fishlake National Forest. The Fishlake has a variety of recreation opportunities including fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, prospecting, rock hounding and of course, off-highway vehicle riding.

Recreation Facilities

- 109 recreational sites
- 1,173 miles of non-motorized trails
- 656 miles of motorized trails
- 3,081 miles of open roads
- 4 scenic byways
- 127 recreational residences



Recreation Trails

The Fishlake National Forest manages 656 miles of motorized trail (630 Fishlake and 26 Dixie-Teasdale portion) and 1,173 miles of non-motorized trail (1,012 Fishlake and 161 Dixie –Teasdale portion). Approximately 500 to 700 miles of trail are maintained annually. This varies slightly from year to year due to uncontrollable and inconsistent factors such as weather and available funding. About 65 percent of the maintenance performed is on motorized trails, with 35 percent on non-motorized trails.

Motorized trails are maintained at a higher level due to the notoriety and use levels of the Paiute Trail system, availability of grant funding and partnership participation. Motorized trail maintenance partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Parks, Otter Creek State Park, Fremont Indian State Park, Paiute Trail Committee and several local ATV/OHV clubs. Funding comes from several avenues including Forest Service appropriated funds, BLM appropriated funds, Utah OHV Program funds, RTP grant funding and donations from the Paiute Trail Committee and local clubs.



Non-motorized trail maintenance is performed mostly by seasonal employees through Forest Service appropriated funds. Some work is accomplished through groups such as the American Conservation Experience, Utah Conservation Corps and Back Country Horsemen.

Est. 589,000 Visitor Days
(per 2013 National Visitor Use Monitoring)



Range Management

Approximately 154,938 AUMs (animal unit months) of permitted livestock graze on the Forest. By livestock kind: cattle 146,416, horse 130 and sheep 8,392.

The permitted AUMs on the Forest has been relatively stable since about 1950. There has been annual variation largely from individual grazing permittee business decisions. The annual variation has ranged from 154,852 AUMs in 1950 to 136,852 AUMs in 2009, to 2014's level of 154,938 AUMs.

There are 75 active allotments with 212 grazing permittees.

Of the 1,817,943 acres administered by the Forest, 1,645,604 acres or 90% are allocated for livestock grazing.



Up to \$160,572 are paid annually for grazing fees, by livestock kind: cattle \$152,874, horse \$146 and sheep \$7,552.

*These amounts for grazing fees are based on full number and season occurring in a given year. Actual amounts may be less due to non-use.



The Fishlake National Forest continues to work with grazing permit holders to provide a sound, sustainable program in line with the standards and guidelines of the Land and Resource Management Plan, while looking for ways to improve range conditions for present and future generations. In some instances corrective action has been taken in an effort to resolve issues with meeting utilization standards and permit requirements. The Forest continues to work with permittees and their representatives on these issues.



Engineering

Road Maintenance

Of the 3,081 miles of roads located in the Fishlake National Forest, the Forest Service is responsible for the maintenance of 2,441 road miles, and outside entities (state, counties, towns, and private parties) are responsible for the maintenance of the remaining 640 road miles. The Forest maintains about 350 miles annually with a forest road crew. This work includes road blading, cleaning culverts, cleaning side ditches, cleaning cattle guards, cleaning lead off ditches, installing proper road drainage, clearing vegetation, installing and maintaining signs. In addition to typical road maintenance, the road crew also performs as a project crew for site specific projects such as rock blasting, stock pond maintenance, stream channel stabilization, and sediment basins,

The Forest Service pays counties via project agreements to perform maintenance on 115 miles of Forest Service roads. The Fishlake cooperates with Sevier County, Millard County, Piute County, Beaver County, Wayne County, and Garfield County.



A project agreement of significant value is one made with Beaver County and the Indian Creek road culvert replacements. In this agreement the Forest transferred \$160,000 to Beaver County and they hired an engineering firm, designed, bid, and constructed/replaced 4 damaged vented fords.

It took a lot of coordination to get this done, and the Regional Office came through with yearend National Forest Resource Restoration funding to the tune of \$130K plus \$30K from Forest NFRR funds.

Facilities Maintenance

2015 Facilities Maintenance and contract work included:

- Refinishing floors in buildings at the Gooseberry Administrative site
- Installation of a new CXT toilet at Salina Reservoir
- Installation of two new toilets at Oak Creek Campground on the Fillmore District



Gooseberry Rec Hall



Salina CXT



Energy & Minerals

The Fishlake supports the development and delivery of energy resources. In 2014, Forest personnel completed the Fishlake Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis for potential oil and gas development which is the first step to making national forest system lands available to oil & gas leasing through the Bureau of Land Management lease sale process.

The Forest is participating in the analysis for two future transmission lines, the Transwest Express Powerline and the Energy Gateway South Powerline projects. Additionally, along with the Bureau of Land Management the Forest has published the Greens Hollow Coal Leas Tract Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, consenting to the BLM sale of a new coal lease adjoining the Sufco coal mine.



Minerals Management

Number of community or County specific gravel pits/
construction rock sources: 13

2 commercial sales of mineral materials in 2015

Number and type of mining operations

- Geothermal power production
 - ENEL Green Power at Sulphurdale(ENEL has proposed a second plant) and is pursuing a power purchase agreement
- Leasable Minerals
 - Sufco Coal Mine
 - Koosharem Clay Pit
- Locatable Mineral Exploration
 - Deer Trail Mine (Beaver Ranger District)
 - Horner (Beaver Ranger District)
 - Johnson (Beaver Ranger District)
 - Recreational Dredging (Beaver Ranger District)
- Number and type of oil & gas operations. None
- 2 abandoned mining portals/shafts closed



Working With Us

Volunteer and Partnership Programs

The Forest has strong partnership and volunteer programs and hosts 315 volunteers annually. \$1,387,570.00 is received by the forest in partnership contributions from grants and agreements and through partnership contributions. Partner and cooperator organizations include:

- Wild Turkey Federation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
- Southern Utah University
- Utah State University
- Millard County Sheriff's Office
- Sevier County Sheriff's Office
- Piute County Sheriff's Office
- American Conservation Experience



Heritage Resources

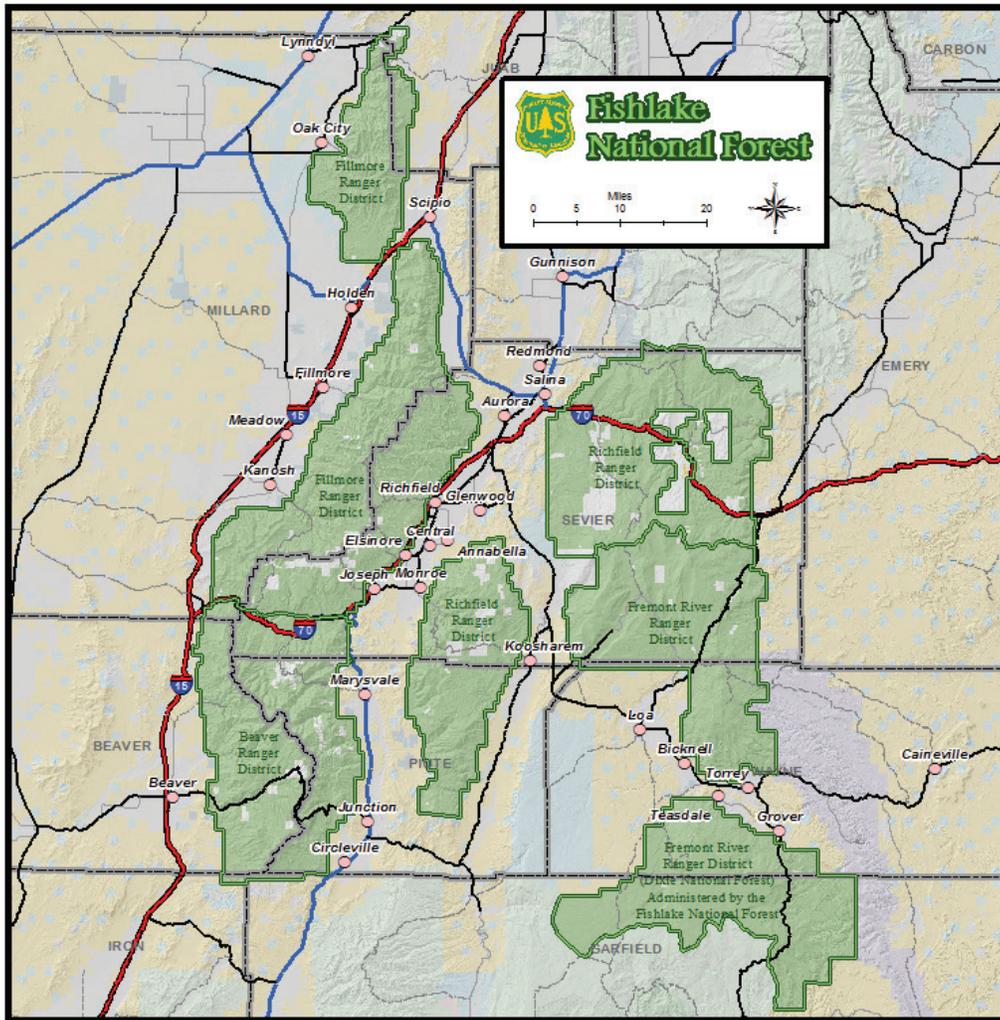
The Forest Heritage Resource Program serves to preserve our cultural and natural history. Archeological surveys conducted in advance of timber sales, revegetation projects, road building and ground-disturbing projects on the Fishlake have recorded over 2,200 sites.



Along with inventorying archeological sites, the Fishlake has interpreted a number of these heritage resources for the benefit of the public. In 2015, the new Jedediah Smith interpretive site, located east of the Fremont Indian State Park Visitor Center and Museum off Clear Creek Canyon Road was completed thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Fishlake National Forest, Fremont Indian State Park, and The Old Spanish Trail Association,

One aspect of this program that provides an opportunity for the public to get hands-on experience is the Passport in Time program. Information about this program may be found at the Passport in Time Clearinghouse at www.passportintime.com. Joining one of these projects will be an unforgettable adventure that also allows you to actively engage in the preservation of America's heritage.





Offices

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 Forest Supervisor
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Fillmore Ranger District
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 Fillmore, UT 84631
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Fremont River Ranger District
 138 South Main St.
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