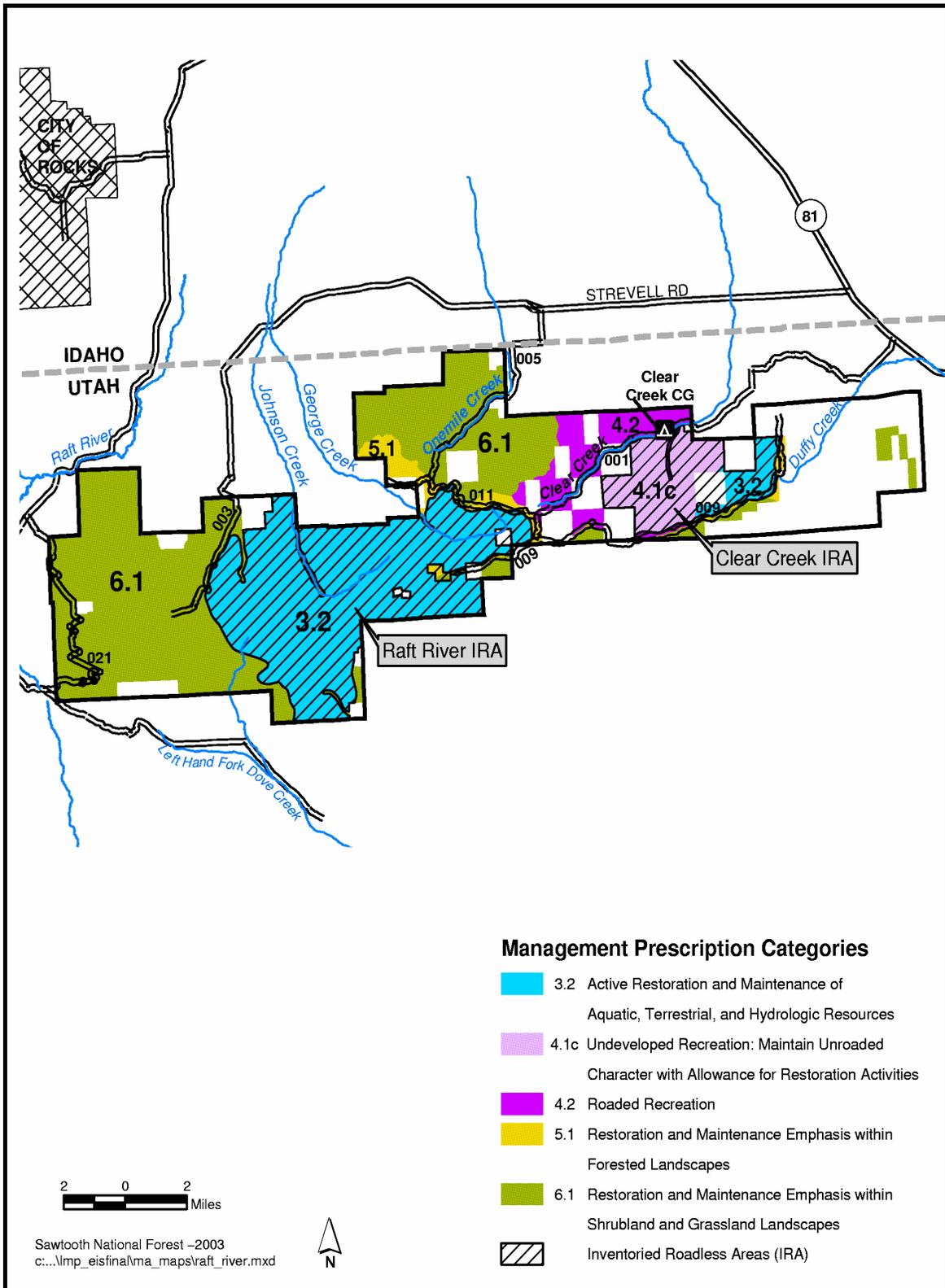


Management Area 18 – Raft River Location Map



## Management Area 18 Raft River

### MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

**Management Prescriptions** - Management Area 18 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
3.2 – Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	36
4.1c – Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities	7
4.2 – Roaded Recreation Emphasis	6
5.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	3
6.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Shrubland & Grassland Landscapes	48

**General Location and Description** - Management Area 18 is comprised of Forest Service lands in the Raft River Mountain Range (see map, preceding page), which lies just south of the Idaho-Utah border. The area is in Box Elder County in northwest Utah, and is administered by the Minidoka Ranger District. There are many small communities in the vicinity, but the nearest towns of any size are Snowville, Utah, and Oakley and Malta, Idaho. The management area is an estimated 92,200 acres, including numerous private land inholdings that, together, make up about 25 percent of the area. The main private inholdings are on the eastern end of the management area. About 1,400 acres of State land also occur within the area. This management area is nearly surrounded by private ranch lands. The primary uses and activities in this management area are livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, and mining.

**Access** - The main access to the area from the north is via Idaho State Highway 77, and then on well-maintained gravel roads through Yost to graveled Forest Road 005. Other roads within the management area are steep, native-surfaced, and rough. Road access through private land is restricted in the eastern third of the area. The density of classified roads is estimated at 1.5 miles per square mile. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 0 and 5.6 miles per square mile. There are many trails in the area.

**Special Features** - Clear Creek Canyon and Dunn Peak are the main geographical features in the area. The Raft River and Clear Creek Inventoried Roadless Area comprise an estimated 34 percent of the management area. One Mile Creek is potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

This area is a historical traditional pinyon pine nut gathering area of Native Americans. The One Mile Guard Station is one of the oldest, usable Forest Service guard stations. It was constructed in 1909 and used until the 1980s. The guard station has been renovated and is currently being used for administrative purposes. The area is heavily used by Hill Air Force Base and Mountain Home Air Force Base as an over-flight training range.

**Air Quality** - This management area is the only one in Utah. It lies within Utah Airshed UT-1 and within Box Elder County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management. The closest ambient air monitor is located in Twin Falls. It is used to obtain current background levels, trends, and seasonal patterns of particulate matter. There are no Class I areas within 100 kilometers of this management area.

Between 1995 and 1999, emission trends for PM 10 and PM 2.5 remained constant in the county. The most common source of particulate matter within the counties was fugitive dust from unpaved roads and agricultural activities such as tilling. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions. The amount of agricultural-related burning was moderately low (an estimated 9,600 acres) in Box Elder County. Between 1995 and 1999, the county had several point sources that contributed to the annual emissions.

**Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources** - Elevations range from around 5,200 feet on the Forest boundary to 9,925 feet atop Dunn Peak. Management Area 18 lies primarily within two subsections, Humboldt River High Plateau and Jarbidge High Mountain Ranges. The dominant landforms are glaciated mountains, fluvial mountains, plateaus and escarpments, and depositional lands. Slope gradients range from 40 to 70 percent on the glaciated mountains and the fluvial mountains, from 0 to 30 percent on the plateaus and depositional lands, to near vertical on the escarpments. The surface geology is predominantly granitic, with minor intrusions of basalt and sandstone. Soils generally have moderate erosion potential and moderate productivity. Shallow soils at higher elevations (8,500-10,000 feet) are susceptible to impacts from livestock grazing. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to high, with the majority being low (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the sub watersheds vary from high (functioning appropriately) to moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with the majority being moderate (see table below). Some areas have had impacts from roads, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation. Impacts include accelerated erosion, upland compaction, and stream bank and channel modification.

The management area is comprised of six watersheds that drain into three separate subbasins. About 70 percent of the area drains north into the Raft River Subbasin through the Junction Creek, Barnes-Wildcat, and Upper Clear Creek Watersheds. The southern edge of the area drains south into the Great Salt Lake Subbasin through the Dove Creek and Kelton Watersheds. The eastern edge drains east into the Curlew Valley Subbasin through the Crystal-Rice Watershed. The main streams in the area are Clear Creek, George Creek, Johnson Creek, Charleston Creek, One Mile Creek, Dove Creek, and Wildcat Creek. There is only one small lake located on private land in the area, and one small impoundment on Wildcat Creek. Water quality is generally good, though there are localized impaired conditions in the Johnson Creek and Nutpine Hill areas that the district is actively working to improve. Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with the majority being moderate (see table below). Some areas have accelerated sediment from roads, livestock grazing, and dispersed recreation. There are currently no 303(d) impaired water bodies in this management area, and there are no TMDL-assigned subwatersheds associated with this area.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
1	1	22	1	17	4	0	21	3	0	0	0

No Threatened or Endangered fish species occur in Management Area 18. Rainbow trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and/or brook trout are present in Wildcat, George, Clear, and One Mile Creeks, and in the Left Hand and Right Hand Forks of Johnson Creek. In other drainages, fish habitat is limited and fragmented by the small size and intermittent nature of most area streams. Aquatic habitat is functioning at risk in some areas due to sedimentation impacts from livestock grazing, roads, and dispersed recreation.

**Vegetation** - Vegetation is naturally patchy throughout much of the area, with islands of coniferous forest surrounded by open sagebrush/grassland communities. Lower and mid-elevations feature cool sagebrush/grasslands on south and west aspects. North and east aspects support pinyon-juniper communities at lower elevations, turning to dry Douglas-fir, aspen, and Engelmann spruce communities at higher elevations. Subalpine fir and limber pine occupy the highest elevations, interspersed with rock bluffs and talus slopes. This area is near the northern geographical range of pinyon pine.

An estimated 62 percent of the management area is non-forested, or covered by grasslands, shrublands, meadows, rock, or water. Much of this area is comprised of the Mountain Big Sagebrush, Basin Big Sage, Montane Shrub, and Perennial Grass slopes vegetation groups. The dominant forested vegetation groups are Pinyon-Juniper (19 percent), Aspen (4 percent), and Cool Dry Douglas-Fir (10 percent).

The Montane Shrub group is at properly functioning condition. The Mountain Big Sagebrush, Basin Big Sage, and Perennial Grass Slopes groups are functioning at risk due to fire exclusion and livestock grazing impacts, which have altered structure and species composition. Fire exclusion and livestock grazing have allowed canopy cover to increase, which has reduced the understory herbaceous cover. Understory in the Big Basin Sage group is being replaced by cheatgrass and other introduced species.

The Cool Dry Douglas-Fir, and Aspen groups are functioning at risk because fire exclusion has resulted in older, more decadent stands with more shade-tolerant subalpine fir and less seral species, particularly aspen and lodgepole pine. Aspen is present in pure stands and mixed with subalpine fir; however, most stands are dying out or being replaced by conifers. Older aspen stands are not regenerating. Many of the conifer stands in the area are old, with high tree densities and increasing mortality from insects and disease. An estimated 40 percent of the Douglas-fir stands have died within the last 10 to 15 years. Fire hazard is increasing in conifer stands. The Pinyon-Juniper group is functioning at high risk due to fire exclusion and grazing impacts that have allowed older, close-canopied stands to dominate, with fewer younger trees and herbaceous plants than desirable.

Riparian vegetation is not functioning properly in localized areas due to impacts from roads, livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, and fire exclusion. Structural stages are not diverse, and introduced grasses and noxious weeds are replacing native plants. Aspen and willow communities are becoming old and decadent, and are not regenerating due to fire exclusion and livestock use. Snag levels are likely below historic levels in many areas due to fuelwood gathering.

**Botanical Resources** – Cottam cinquefoil, a current Region 4 Sensitive species, is found in this area. Additionally, Grouse Creek rockcress, a proposed Region 4 Sensitive species, is known to occur in this area. No federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, but potential habitat exists for Ute ladies'-tresses. Ute ladies'-tresses, a Threatened species, may have moderate potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas from 1,000 to 7,000 feet. Slender moonwort, a Candidate species, may occur in moderate to higher elevation grasslands, meadows, small openings in spruce and lodgepole pine, and open rocky outcrops.

**Non-native Plants** – Black henbane, Medusa head, and Canada thistle occur in the management area, especially along main travel corridors and in areas of high activity. The main weed of concern is Canada thistle, which currently occurs in small, scattered populations. An estimated 37 percent of the management area is highly susceptible to noxious weed and exotic plant establishment and spread. Locoweed also limits management opportunities in some areas.

Subwatersheds in the table below have an inherently high risk of weed establishment and spread from activities identified with a “yes” in the various activity columns. This risk is due to the amount of drainage area that is highly susceptible to noxious weed invasion and the relatively high level of exposure from those identified vectors or carriers of weed seed.

Subwatershed	Road-related Activities	Livestock Use	Timber Harvest	Recreation & Trail Use	ATV Off-Road Use
Upper Dove Creek	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Corner Creek	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wildcat Creek	Yes	No	No	No	No
Rocky Canyon-Lynn	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Upper SF Junction Creek	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

**Wildlife Resources** - Because most of this management area lies above 5,500 feet, the terrestrial and avian wildlife to be found are generally high-elevation species. The cool sagebrush, grasslands, and forests provide habitat for sage grouse, and big game summer range for mule deer and some elk, with limited winter range. Dry forests at lower elevations provide habitat for the Region 4 sensitive goshawk, and Townsend's big-eared bat. High-elevation cold forests provide habitat for migratory land birds, as well as summer range for mammals such as deer, elk, black bear, and mountain lion. Deer and sage grouse populations appear to be declining. Terrestrial habitat is functioning at risk in localized areas due to impacts to habitat from fire exclusion and introduced plant species. The level of human disturbance is low to moderate, and habitat fragmentation from roads, development, and fire is also low to moderate.

**Recreation Resources** - The only developed campground in the management area is Clear Creek, with 12 units. There are also summer homes located on private land within Clear Creek Canyon. The rest of the management area provides high quality dispersed recreation opportunities year-round, primarily big game hunting, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. Pinyon pine nut gathering still occurs, but is not a major use. The area is in Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Big Game Management Unit 1. Many of the recreation users come from Snowville and the Wasatch front in Utah, including cities from Tremonton to Ogden. Most of the trails are open to motorized use. Road and trail corridors are considered visually sensitive. There is one special use authorization for an outfitter and guide for big-game hunting.

**Cultural Resources** - Cultural themes in this area include prehistoric, timber, ranching, and Forest Service Administration. Several prehistoric sites have been recorded in the One Mile Creek area, and they are associated with nearby known camping locations for Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and their ancestors. The area was used for pinyon nut gathering. Two late Native American Indian sites--juniper corrals likely used for game or stock drives--are especially unique to the Sawtooth Forest and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The One Mile Guard Station is a NRHP eligible compound constructed in 1909. The area was historically used for grazing and timber. Historic sawmill sites have been recorded.

**Timberland Resources** - Of the estimated 10,100 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 2,800 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 2 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPCs 4.2, 5.1, and 6.1, as shown on the map displaying the MPCs for this management area. Lands within MPC 3.2 and 4.1c are identified as not suited for timber production. Opportunities are limited by access restrictions across private land. Some light timber harvest has occurred. Forest products such as fuelwood, posts, poles, and Christmas trees are collected in designated areas.

**Rangeland Resources** - The management area contains all or portions of two sheep allotments and ten cattle allotments. Management Area 18 provides an estimated 30,900 acres of capable rangeland, which represents about 6 percent of capable rangeland on the Forest. Range-related activities include fence construction and maintenance, water development and maintenance, and livestock grazing that ranges from multiple-pasture rest rotations to sheep herding. Rangeland conditions have recently improved due to intensified grazing management practices and prescribed and wildland fire.

**Mineral Resources** - Current and past mining activity in Management Area 18 includes gold claims, Oakley stone, and other miscellaneous building materials. Although the use of Oakley stone is growing, the potential for other mineral development is considered low to moderate.

**Fire Management** - Prescribed fire is used to improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage conditions. No large fires have occurred within the area in the last 15 years. There are no National Fire Plan communities or wildland-urban interface subwatersheds in the area. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be 100 percent mixed1 or 2. None of the area regimes has vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. However,

28 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are moderately departed from their historical range. Wildfire in these areas may result in larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity.

**Lands and Special Uses** – See the Recreation Resources section for recreation special uses.

## MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In addition to Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines that provide direction for all management areas, the following direction has been developed specifically for this area.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 3.2 Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources</b>	General Standard	1801	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary (up to 3 years) or short-term (3-15 years) time periods, and must be designed to avoid degradation of existing conditions in the long-term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	1802	Vegetative restoration or maintenance treatments, including wildland fire use, mechanical, and prescribed fire, may only occur where they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or</li> <li>b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species; or</li> <li>c) Reduce risk of impacts from wildland fire to human life, structures, and investments.</li> </ul>
	Road Standard	1803	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or</li> <li>b) To respond to statute or treaty, or</li> <li>c) To support aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed restoration activities, or</li> <li>d) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.</li> </ul>
	Fire Guideline	1804	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies and tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
<b>MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities</b>	General Standard	1805	Management actions—including mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, wildland fire use, prescribed fire, special use authorizations, and road maintenance—must be designed and implemented in a manner that would be consistent with the unroaded landscape in the temporary, short term, and long term. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1c Roads standards, below.
	Road Standard	1806	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or</li> <li>b) To respond to statute or treaty.</li> </ul>
	Fire Guideline	1807	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the unroaded landscape in the area.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 4.2 Roaded Recreation Emphasis</b>	Vegetation Guideline	1808	Vegetation management actions—including wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments—may be used to maintain or restore desired vegetation and fuel conditions provided they do not prevent achievement of recreation resource objectives.
	Fire Guideline	1809	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to recreation developments and investments.
<b>MPCs 5.1 and 6.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested (5.1) and Shrubland/Grassland (6.1) Landscapes</b>	Vegetation Guideline	1810	The full range of treatment activities may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire use. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	1811	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
	Road Guideline	1812	Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat, or d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or e) To meet access and travel management objectives.
<b>Air Quality and Smoke Management</b>	Guideline	1813	Coordinate with Mountain Home and Hill Field Air Force Bases to avoid conflicts with management activities and Air Force over-flights.
<b>Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources</b>	Objective	1814	Restore hydric species composition and streambank stability in the Johnson Creek, George Creek, Dove Creek, Nut Pine Creek, and Wildcat Creek drainages to address impacts from the 1983-84 floods and livestock grazing.
	Objective	1815	Maintain or restore habitat in perennial streams for resident rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout.
<b>Vegetation</b>	Objective	1816	Open pinyon-juniper stands up through prescribed burning in the Bally Mountain, Wildcat Creek, Lynn Springs, and Johnson Creek areas.
	Objective	1817	Restore aspen through an active prescribed fire program in the Dove Creek, Nut Pine Hills, Black Hills, Johnson Creek, Wildcat Creek, and George Creek areas.
	Objective	1818	Restore and maintain species composition, productivity, vigor, and canopy cover (as described in Appendix A) of the Mountain Big Sagebrush vegetation group in the George Peak, The Meadows, and the Rosevere Point areas.
	Objective	1819	Restore early seral aspen and Douglas-fir in the Cool Dry Douglas-Fir vegetation group to improve wildlife habitat.
	Objective	1820	Restore willow, aspen, and cottonwood regeneration and release in the Dove Creek, Johnson Creek, and George Creek riparian areas through modifications of livestock management.
<b>Botanical Resources</b>	Objective	1821	Maintain and restore populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS species, including Cottam cinquefoil and Grouse Creek rockcress, to contribute to their long-term viability of these species.

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description											
<b>Botanical Resources</b>	Objective	1822	Emphasize reducing Canada thistle and other non-native species within TEPCS plant actual and potential habitat.											
	Guideline	1823	Coordinate forested and grassland/shrubland restoration, riparian management, prescribed fire, and non-native plant eradication efforts with a Forest botanist to minimize impacts to TEPCS plant species, potential habitat, and pollinators.											
<b>Non-native Plants</b>	Objective	1824	Control or contain Canada thistle, dyers woad, and other noxious weed infestations.											
	Objective	1825	Reduce locoweed infestations in areas where they are limiting management opportunities.											
<b>Wildlife Resources</b>	Objective	1826	Restore or maintain sage grouse habitat through shrubland vegetation management.											
	Objective	1827	Maintain or improve mule deer winter habitat around Bally Mountain.											
	Guideline	1828	Management actions in sage grouse habitat should be designed to meet the desired conditions for sagebrush described in Appendix A. Where greater than 40 percent of the sage grouse habitat in the management area has less than 10 percent canopy cover, management actions should be designed to maintain or restore canopy cover conditions.											
<b>Recreation Resources</b>	Objective	1829	Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy ( $\pm 5\%$ ):											
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ROS Class</th> <th colspan="2">Percent of Mgt. Area (<math>\pm 5\%</math>)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Summer</th> <th>Winter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Semi-Primitive Motorized</td> <td>44%</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Natural</td> <td>5%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roaded Modified</td> <td>51%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above numbers reflect current travel regulations. These numbers may change as a result of future travel regulation planning</p>	ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area ( $\pm 5\%$ )		Summer	Winter	Semi-Primitive Motorized	44%	100%	Roaded Natural	5%	0%
ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area ( $\pm 5\%$ )													
	Summer	Winter												
Semi-Primitive Motorized	44%	100%												
Roaded Natural	5%	0%												
Roaded Modified	51%	0%												
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Objective	1830	Complete the interpretive strategy for the Raft River Division to guide development of interpretive opportunities.											
<b>Timberland Resources</b>	Objective	1831	Designate firewood-gathering areas in order to maintain snags and large woody debris components for wildlife and aquatic habitat, and soil stability and productivity.											
	Objective	1832	Provide for commercial harvest opportunities associated with restoration activities to reduce fire and insect hazard in the management area.											
<b>Rangeland Resources</b>	Objective	1833	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from livestock grazing activities in the Upper Dove Creek, Rocky Canyon-Lynn, and Upper SF Junction Creek subwatersheds. Methods to consider include changes in the timing, intensity, duration, or frequency of livestock use; the location of salting; and restoration of watering sites.											
<b>Fire Management</b>	Objective	1834	Identify areas appropriate for Wildland Fire Use. Use wildland fire to restore or maintain vegetative desired conditions and to reduce fuel loadings.											
<b>Lands and Special Uses</b>	Objective	1835	Obtain rights-of-way to improve public access on the Clear Creek, George Creek, and Meadows Roads.											

Resource/Program	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>Facilities and Roads</b>	Objective	1836	Comply with Box Elder County Ordinance 222 – Travel routes are closed unless designated open.
	Objective	1837	Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from road management activities in the Upper Dove Creek, Corner Creek, Wildcat Creek, Rocky Canyon-Lynn, and Upper SF Junction Creek subwatersheds. Methods to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ When decommissioning roads, treat weeds before roads are made impassable.</li> <li>➤ Schedule road maintenance activities when weeds are least likely to be viable or spread. Blade from least to most infested sites.</li> <li>➤ Consult or coordinate with the district noxious weed coordinator when scheduling road maintenance activities.</li> <li>➤ Periodically inspect road systems and rights of way.</li> <li>➤ Avoid accessing water for dust abatement through weed-infested sites, or utilize mitigation to minimize weed seed transport.</li> </ul>