United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Wasatch-Cache National Forest

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File Code: 1950
Date: January 24, 2005

Dear Reader,

This letter contains my determination regarding the Table Top exploratory oil well in the Main Fork of the Bear River drainage on the Evanston District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Based on your response to previous notices you may also be receiving a paper copy of the Final Supplement to the Table Top Exploratory Oil Well Environmental Impact Statement. The Final Supplement is also available on our website at www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/projects/proposed.

In 1994, the Forest Service prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision approving the Table Top exploratory oil well. In 1995, Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining assumed control of this project and initiated construction of the access road to the drill site. The lease was suspended due to the existence of non-leased lands adjacent to the proposed site. The project was delayed until a leasing decision was made as part of the forest plan revision. Prima Exploration, in partnership with Double Eagle, is now interested in completing this project. Completing the project includes finishing 2.8 miles of a partially constructed access road, constructing a 3.5-acre drill pad, and drilling the exploration well.

When project proponents approached the Forest Service about their desire to move forward with the Table Top Exploratory Well, a review of new information highlighted several changes that deserved analysis. Specifically, the newly Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003) and the listing of the Canada lynx as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

A Notice of Intent to prepare a draft supplement was published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2004. A Draft Supplement was released for a 45-day public comment period on October 8, 2004. Ten letters were received. Substantive comments have been responded to in Chapter 9.

Conservation measures to protect the lynx will be applied. The project is consistent with the standards and guidelines from the Revised Forest Plan as listed on pages 2-21a-c of the Supplement except for Guideline 61. For a period of 6 months the top of the oil rig will be visible from the Mirror Lake Highway, a concern level one road because of its status as a Scenic Byway. Because of this the Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) of high cannot temporarily be met. Once the rig is removed the SIO will be met. I find this short-term variation from a guideline is acceptable to comply with the Revised Forest Plan (Revised Forest Plan, page 4-36).

Similarly, during construction and production the entire length of the road from the Stillwater Road to the well pad would temporarily reduce the semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) experience level. Once the drilling operation ceases the social and managerial settings of the semi-primitive experience would immediately return to the area. I find this short-term variation from a Recreational Opportunity Spectrum guideline is acceptable to comply with the Revised Forest Plan.

After a thorough review of the effects provided in the Final Supplement to the Table Top Environmental Impact Statement, I have determined that the new information is not substantially relevant to the environmental concerns and does not represent significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental effects already disclosed. I conclude that the Supplement presents no new information that would cause me to change the decision documented in the January 6, 1994 Record of Decision. I have determined that a new decision is not needed. This determination is not subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 215.12 (b). Implementation of this decision can commence according to the approved mitigation. I anticipate that Prima Oil will move forward with completion of the access road and drill the well later this year.

If you have any questions or would like to review the Final Supplement, please contact Roger Kesterson at 307-782-6555.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Tidwell

THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Forest Supervisor

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Region

Wasatch-Cache
National Forest

January 2005

Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Table Top Exploratory Oil

ABSTRACT: This Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement documents the analysis of new information since approval of the project in January 1994. It reviews relevant new management direction from the Revised Forest Plan, incorporates the 2003 Evanston/ Mountain View Travel Plan decision, and analyzes relevant new data collected since 1994. It includes only new information and should be considered together with the 1994 Final Environmental Statement.

Final Supplement to the
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

for the

TABLE TOP EXPLORATORY OIL AND GAS WELL

Summit County, Utah

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service
Cooperating Agency Bureau of Land Management

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Background

In 1992 and 1993 an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared that analyzed a proposal from Chevron Production Company for the Table Top Exploratory Oil Well in the Main Fork of the Bear River drainage on the Evanston District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. In January 1994, the Forest Service approved Chevron's Surface Use Plan of Operations for the project. Subsequently Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining assumed control of this project and in September 1995, initiated construction of the access road to the drill site. Construction was stopped in November 1995, because of frozen conditions. Due to non-leased lands adjacent to the proposed site, Double Eagle requested a lease suspension which the Bureau of Land Management granted. The project was delayed until a leasing decision was made as part of the 2003 Forest Plan Revision.

In 2003 Double Eagle acquired the oil and gas leases on those adjacent lands. Prima Exploration, in partnership with Double Eagle, is now interested in completing this project. Completing the project includes finishing 2.8 miles of a partially constructed access road, constructing a 3.5-acre drill pad, and drilling the exploration well. If the well produces, it will be completed for production. If it is a dry hole, the drill site and portions of the access road will be reclaimed.

In response to the request to complete the Table Top Project, the Forest Service prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), which was sent to the public on September 24, 2004. A number of comment letters were received from individuals and groups and these letters were reviewed by the Forest Service. Responses to comments have been incorporated into the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) sent to the public in January 2005.

The supplement is being prepared under the following guidance. The Forest Service Handbook states in 1909.15,10 sec 18.1, "If new information or changed circumstances relating to the environmental impacts of a proposed action comes to the attention of the responsible official after a decision has been made and prior to the completion of the approved project or program, the responsible official must review the information carefully to determine its importance." New information includes new management direction from the Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003) and the listing of the Lynx as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Supervisor determined a supplement was necessary.

Note to Reader

Since the 1994 EIS was completed, road numbers have been changed. The Peninsula Road (No. 306) is now recorded as 80306a and a portion of Road 80306b. For the sake of continuity roads will be referenced by their common names as shown on maps included as part of the supplement.

CONTENTS

[Addition: The Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) pages are identified with a numeric and alpha character. For example, FSEIS page 1-1a supplements 1-1 of the FEIS of the Exploratory Oil Well, Chevron Table Top Prospect]

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Chapter 1

Introduction

[Addition: Page 1-1, insert after first paragraph]

In 1995 Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining assumed control of this project. Due to un-leased lands adjacent to the proposed site, the project was delayed until a leasing decision was made as part of the forest plan revision. During that time, the leases within the Table Top unit were suspended. Currently all lease rights still exist. Recently Double Eagle acquired oil and gas leases on those adjacent lands. Prima Exploration in partnership with Double Eagle has requested to proceed with this project.

It should be understood that where Chevron was mentioned as the operator in the Table Top FEIS, Prima Exploration will be the operator.

[Addition: Page 1-1, insert after fifth paragraph]

This supplement is further supported by its own project record. It is available for public review at the Mountain View Ranger District.

Chapter 1

Relation to Forest Plan
[Addition: Page 1-4, insert after last paragraph]

Forest Plans establish guidance for project level decisions. The WCNF has recently revised the 1985 Forest Plan. The Final EIS, Record of Decision, and Revised Forest Plan were released in April 2003 (USDA Forest Service 2003). The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team has incorporated management direction, standards, and guidelines from the Revised Forest Plan into the proposed action and alternatives for this proposal. All Forest Plan direction is in effect for projects on the Wasatch-Cache. Below are the desired condition, goals, sub-goals, and management prescriptions that most directly apply to this project. For other less directly pertinent Forest Plan direction see Chapter 4 in that document. A copy of the Revised Forest Plan is available in the Project File.

Western Uintas Management Area - Desired Future Conditions

Minerals Desired Future Condition, for the Western Uintas Management Area is stated thus "The most northern portion of the management area is available for oil and gas leasing. About half of the acres allow surface occupancy with special stipulations to protect resources. The portion of the Bear River Management area managed for nonmotorized backcountry recreation opportunities will not allow surface occupancy. Once the existing leases expire in the area recommended for wilderness they will not be reissued."

Forestwide Desired Condition – Mineral Resources

Energy mineral development is compatible with ecosystem capabilities and resource values. Balanced use and development of mineral resources are allowed, while protecting other resource values with stipulations, mitigation, and careful monitoring. Facilities and landscape modifications are visible but are reasonably mitigated to blend and harmonize with natural features. Lands disturbed by minerals and energy will be restored through effective reclamation techniques.

Forestwide Goal 2 - Watershed Health

Maintain and/or restore overall watershed health (proper functioning of physical, biological and chemical conditions). Provide for long-term soil productivity. Watershed health should be addressed across administrative and political boundaries.

Forestwide Subgoals – Watershed Health

2d. Protect waters meeting or surpassing State water quality standards by **planning and designing** land management activities to protect water quality.

2f. Maintain water in streams, lakes, and wetlands of adequate quantity and quality to provide for **instream flows** and existing downstream uses including support of healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, stability and effective function of stream channels, ability to route flood discharges, and to maintain recreation opportunities.

Forestwide Goal 3 - Biodiversity and 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-14 contains the desired landscape scale structure and pattern for vegetation cover types.

Forestwide Subgoal - Biodiversity and Viability

3n. Maintain or restore aquatic and riparian habitats, through recognition and management of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (defined in Glossary) 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.

Forestwide Subgoal - Noxious Weed Control

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

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

Forestwide Goal 9 – Heritage Resources

Inventory, evaluate, protect and enhance heritage sites and landscapes.

Forestwide Subgoal – Heritage Resources

9b. Fully **integrate** the **Heritage Program** into land and resource management.

Forestwide Goal 10 – Social/Economic Contributions

Contribute to the social and economic well being of local communities by promoting sustainable use of renewable natural resources and by participating in efforts to devise creative solutions for economic health (diversity and resiliency). Provide timber for commercial harvest, forage for livestock grazing, exploration and development opportunities for mineral resources, and settings for recreation consistent with goals for watershed health, sustainable ecosystems, biodiversity and viability, and scenic/recreation opportunities.

Forestwide Subgoal – Mineral Exploration and Development

10d. Provide for **mineral and energy exploration and development** to help meet the nation's needs for these resources, while contributing to local economies through royalties and employment consistent with management direction.

Management Prescriptions

Management prescription 3.2D is applied to most of the access road and the proposed well site. A portion of the road crosses through 3.1A. About one mile of the existing Stillwater Road (FSR 057) that will be improved pass through 2.5 and 4.4.

3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and **corridors** for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

3.2D Consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving, or restoring terrestrial habitat for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and for the protection of property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specific defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

3.1A Aquatic Habitat (3.1A) Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1,to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface. They are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Recreation opportunity spectrum

The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) for the project area is ”Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized” (SPNM) and for winter recreation is Motorized (M) as mapped in the Revised Forest

Plan Western Uintas Management Area.

Scenery Management System

The Landscape Character Theme of the project area is natural appearing with a moderate scenic integrity objective as mapped in the Revised Forest Plan Western Uintas Management Area.

Chapter 2

Scoping
[Addition: Page 2-1, insert after Scoping]

On May 5, 2004 the USDA Forest Service, Wasatch- Cache National Forest published a notice of intent in the Federal Register to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement, (SEIS), for the Table Top Exploratory Oil Well on the Evanston Ranger District.

Regulations implementing NEPA require supplemental environmental impact statements to be prepared, circulated, and filed in the same fashion (exclusive of scoping) as a draft and final statement (40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4)). An informational letter was mailed to interested members of the public on June 9, 2004.

Chapter 2

Work Force and Transportation
[Replace: Page 2-3, insert after the 1st paragraph of Work Force and Transportation and delete the 2nd paragraph and bullet statements.]

The Forest Service now cooperates with Utah Parks and Recreation in the management of this section of highway for snowmobile use when the Utah Department of Transportation closes it due to snow cover. The Forest Service will manage the area as outlined in the agreement with Utah State Park and Recreation documented in the 1994 FEIS. The conditions are as follows:

The gate near Bear River Lodge will remain in its present location.

After winter closure of the gate, only Prima and its contractors, Utah State Parks and Recreation, the Forest Service, and other authorized personnel would be allowed access by wheeled vehicles.

Only one half of the road would be cleared of snow to accommodate regular maintenance of the well and hauling produced products. The other half would be groomed and maintained as a snowmobile trail.

Caution signs ("Heavy Truck Traffic") will be placed at the gate near the Bear River Lodge and along the road.

The gateway near the Bear River Lodge will remain clear of vehicles and equipment at all times so that the snow cats can access trails.

Weekend and holiday use of the road would be scheduled for early morning and or later in the evening to avoid the recreational traffic during the day.

In emergency situations, vehicles that need to be on the highway during peak use by snowmobiles would be equipped with warning and/or other devices capable of alerting snowmobiles of their approach.

TABLE 2-3
COMPARISON OF ISSUES, STIPULATIONS, FORESTS PLAN DIRECTION, AND COMPATIBILITY

Issue	Applicable Stipulation	Forest Plan (FP) Direction	Compatibility with Alternatives
Issue I - The effects of drilling and production of the well on the local and state economies	Form 3109-3 Section 2, Clause D, to pay rentals and royalties in the amounts or values of production removed or sold from the leased lands.	Provide for mineral and energy exploration and development to help meet the nations needs for these resources while contributing to local economies through royalties and employment consistent with management direction (Forest Plan, page 4-24)	All of the action alternatives would provide some jobs and income to the local and state economies. The no-action alternative would not provide additional jobs and income.
Issue 2 - The effects of drilling and production of the oil well on the values and characteristics of the roadless area	**None**	Western Uintas Management Area – Roadless Area Desired Future Condition. Wellsite A is outside of the inventoried Roadless Area. Wellsite B is within the High Uintas Roadless Area and within Prescription 4.1 that allows development with No Surface Occupancy (Forest Plan, page 4-185). A Forest plan amendment would be required to amend the prescription to 3.2D.	Wellsite A would be compatible with the Forest Plan direction. The No Action Alternative would not impact any of the roadless area. Well B is inside the roadless area. Wellsite A and its access road would affect wilderness characteristics because of the linear intrusion directly adjacent to the roadless area. Access to Alternative Well Site B would penetrate the roadless area and result in even greater effects.
Issue 3 - The effects of drilling and production of the oil well on the wildlife species and habitat.	Stipulations provide for the protection of threatened and endangered species. From 3109-3 Section 2, Clause Q provides for protection of surface, natural resources, and improvements. A controlled surface use stipulation, applicable to the T1N R10E NE 1/4 Section 17, E 1/2 Section 5, E 1/2 Section 8 (both alternative well sites) and E 1/2 Section 16 (Alternative B), is to minimize erosion, protect visual resources, watershed area, recreational resources, slopes in excess of 40% and/or wildlife habitat.	Western Uintas Management Area – Terrestrial threatened, endangered, and sensitive Species Recovery/Protection Desired Future Condition. Lynx conservation strategy and goshawk Conservation strategy will be incorporated into all management activities (Forest plan, page 4-183).	Both well sites are within Lynx Analysis Unit #35 identified as secondary habitat. The proposed project is located in winter/summer transition habitat for moose, elk, and mule deer. Both road management alternatives would limit public access during critical big game transition periods. The northern goshawk nest in the vicinity of Stillwater Road would not be disturbed.
Issue 4 - The effects of drilling and production of the oil well on existing recreation uses in the area.	Form 3109-3, Section 2, Clause Q provides for protection of surface, natural resources, and improvements. A controlled surface use stipulation, applicable to the T1N R10E NE 1/4 Section 17, E 1/2 Section 5, E 1/2 Section 8 (both alternative well sites) and E 1/2 Section 16 (Alternative Well Site B), is to minimize erosion, protect visual resources, watershed area, recreational resources, slopes in excess of 40% and/or wildlife habitat.	Western Uintas Management Area – Recreation Desired Future Condition. A wide variety of easily accessible recreation opportunities will continue to be present in the Bear River drainage. The high quality backcountry values currently present will be maintained (Forest Plan, page 4-188).	The No Action alternative and closed road alternative would be compatible with the Forest Plan direction for managing semi-primitive non-motorized opportunities. During drilling and production recreation use of the area would be curtailed. Once production has been completed dispersed users would be afforded hiking, horse back riding and mountain bike opportunities.

Table 2-3 (Continued)

Issue	Applicable Stipulation	Forest Plan (FP) Direction	Compatibility with Alternatives
Issue 5- The effects of drilling and production of the oil well on road management in the future.	Form 3109-3, Section 2, Clause Q provides for protection of surface, natural resources, and improvements	Western Uintas Management Area – Roads, Trail and Access Desired Future Condition. Roads and Trails will be designed and maintained to protect watersheds while providing a variety of recreation and access opportunities (Forest Plan pg 4-186)	Once well production has ceased and motorized access is no longer needed, the portion of the road on the east side of the bridge would be fully obliterated. On the west side the road would be open to administrative use only with the appropriate water drainage measures in place.
Issue 6- The effects of drilling and production of the oil well on water quality in Stillwater Drainage.	Form 3109-3, Section 2, Clause Q provides protection of surface, natural resources and improvement. A controlled surface use stipulation, applicable to the T1N R1OE NE 1/4 Section 17, E 1/2 Section 16 (Alternatives Well Site B), is to minimize erosion, protect visual resources, watershed area, recreational resources, slopes in excess of 40% and/or wildlife habitat. Stipulations call for disturbance to be at least 500 feet from high water line of streams.	Forest wide Goal 2 – Watershed Health – Maintain or restore overall watershed health (proper functioning of physical, biological, and chemical conditions). Provide for long-term soil productivity. Sub goal 2d. Protect waters meeting or surpassing State water quality standards by planning or designing land management activities to protect water quality (Forest Plan, page 4-4-17).	All action alternatives would incorporate best management practices or Conditions of Approval to protect water quality. A water quality monitoring program will be implemented for this project. With appropriate mitigation applied, new disturbance will be outside of 3.1A prescriptions and will meet the intent of the Forest Plan and can be approved in the Surface Use Plan. Wetland areas would be mitigated appropriately in coordination with COE.
Issue 7-The effects of drilling and production of the oil well on the aesthetic and visual characteristics of the area.	Form 3109-3, Section 2, Clause Q provides protection of surface, natural resources and improvements. Surface disturbance Stipulation No. 10, All operations will be conducted to protect aesthetic and scenic values. A controlled surface use stipulation, applicable to the T1N R1OE NE 1/4 Section 17, E 1/2 Section 8 (both alternative well sites) and E ½ Section 16 (Alternative Well Site B), is to minimize erosion, protect visual resources, watershed area, recreational resources, slopes in excess of 40% and /or wildlife habitat.	Western Uintas Management Area – Scenery Management Desired Future Condition. The outstanding scenic quality of the Mirror Lake Highway will be maintained and protected. The following landscape character theme will be found in the area: Natural Appearing with a High Scenic Integrity Objective (Forest Plan, page 4-189)	All alternatives would be compatible with the Forest Plan direction and lease stipulations except for Well site A would require a deviation from Guideline 61. Visual contrasts associated with site clearing and the presence of drilling and production equipment would be screened by tree cover except for about 20 feet of the oil rig that could be potentially seen by southbound users of the Mirror Lake Highway between the Bear River Guard Station and the intersection of the Stillwater Road. Viewing the top of the oil rig would require a short-term deviation from G61. Once the rig is removed the view would comply with a high SIO as seen from the Mirror Lake Highway, a Concern level one road.

Table Top 2-3 (Continued)

Issue	Applicable Stipulation	Forest Plan (FP) Direction	Compatibility with Alternatives
Issue 8- The Effects of Drilling and production of the oil well on water supply to the Christmas Meadows summer-home area	Form 3109-3, Section 2, Clause Q provides protection of surface, natural resources and improvements.	Forest wide Sub goals – Watershed Health. 2f. Maintain water in streams, lakes, and wetlands of adequate quantity and quality to provide instream flows and existing downstream uses including support of healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, stability and effective function of stream channels, ability to route flood discharges and to maintain recreation opportunities (Forest Plan page 4-18).	Based on available data, there is no support that this project would jeopardize water quantity of the summer-home area. A baseline flowrate was taken in 2004. A program to monitor the quality of the water in the area will be implemented.

Chapter 2

Proposed Actions
[Addition: Page 2-14, insert after the list of the proposed actions.]

The proposed project still includes the actions listed above. When construction ceased because of inclement weather not all of the proposed actions listed were completed.

The well site has not been constructed.

Restoration of the Stillwater Road was not completed.

The Peninsula Road was partially improved by removing trees. Graveling of the road surface was not completed.

The Main Fork Road was partially constructed on the west side of the drainage to the crossing of the Main Fork Creek.

The 0.8 miles of road to the well site on the east side of Main Fork Creek was not constructed.

No actions have been taken to reclaim the 4WD road/trail. Natural regeneration has healed some of the disturbed areas since the road was closed.

The gravel pit was constructed and the gravel has been crushed awaiting placement when the construction and reconstruction of all the roads and the well site.

The water well and the exploratory oil well have not been drilled.

Chapter 2

Water

[Addition: Page 2-15, insert after 1st paragraph after Water Pipeline and Hauling]

Surface waters in the state of Utah are managed by the Utah State Engineers office. Any application for use of water out of streams such as the Main Fork would have to be permitted through the state of Utah. In addition, Standard #5 of the Revised Forest Plan states: "Prior to issuance of a permit or license for activities such as mining, hydropower development and transmission facilities, in stream flows determinations will be required of all future permitted and licensed activities. For existing authorized uses and activities, minimum in stream flows will be established to meet the beneficial use of the stream, and will be a condition of any licensing or permit renewal."

The acquisition of permits for water is the responsibility of Prima Exploration and will be done through the appropriate agency.

Chapter 2

Road Upgrade and Construction
[Addition: Page 2-16, insert after 1st paragraph]

Road construction activities commenced on September 6, 1995, in accordance with the plans submitted by Chevron and approved by the Forest Service. Construction activities ceased on November 11, 1995, because of inclement weather conditions and all equipment was removed from the project area. Road construction was not completed.

Reconstruction and restoration of 0.8 miles of the Stillwater Road has not been accomplished. The Stillwater Road needs to be reshaped and graveled from the Mirror Lake highway to the turnoff at the Peninsula road.

The Peninsula Road is an existing road with gated, limited access. For the Peninsula Road to be completed it needs to be resurfaced with gravel and drainage ditches need to be functioning properly. Trees were removed on the road but the turnouts and widening has not been done.

Relocation (involving new road construction) of 2.0 miles of the Main Fork Road has been nearly completed to the proposed crossing of the Main Fork Creek. Relocation consists of removing vegetation and constructing the road template. Cross ditches have been installed about every 400 feet to drain water off of the road and to create a barrier for unauthorized motor vehicle use. Construction ended on the west side of the creek in 1995 due to wet and frozen conditions. There has not been any construction activity on the east side of the creek.

To be serviceable the Main Fork Road has to have the culverts installed and the road out sloped and graveled. To access the well site, the bridge needs to be installed and the road on the east side of the Main Fork Creek has to be constructed. This includes tree removal, constructing the road template, graveling the road surface, and installing necessary culverts and signs.

A chain link fence was constructed above the Howe Flume to prevent disturbance from any road construction activities. This was a mitigation measure included to protect the Howe Flume.

Chapter 2

Road Management
[Replace: Page 2-17, the first five paragraphs under Road Management]

In January 2003 the Travel Plan for the Evanston and Mountain View Ranger Districts was updated. The Travel Plan identifies roads open to the general public and what vehicles are allowed on those roads and trails. The Environmental Assessment for the 2003 Travel Plan examined roads in the Table Top Project Area along with other roads in the Main, Stillwater, and East Forks of the Bear River. The Decision Notice for the Travel Plan modified and superseded the open road management aspect of the Proposed Action for two roads identified in the 1994 Table Top FEIS.

0 .71 miles of the Peninsula road from the Stillwater road to the gate on the Stillwater Fork is open to passenger vehicles but closed to ATVs.

The remaining portion, about 1.4 miles, of the Peninsula Road and 2 miles of the Main Fork Road will be managed as closed to all but administrative motorized use rather than to seasonal traffic as described under the open road management alternative. This section of road will remain in place even if the well is unsuccessful. Public motorized access will be controlled with the existing gate by the bridge over the Stillwater Fork.

If the well is unsuccessful, the new road on the east side of the Main Fork will be fully reclaimed. All gravel surfacing and culverts will be removed. Erosion control structures will be installed. The road will be shaped to as near pre-construction appearance as reasonable, and reseeded. The new bridge will be removed.

After the road on the west side of the Main Fork is no longer needed for oil exploration or production, it will be managed as open for non-motorized use to the point where it crosses the Main Fork Creek. At this point only foot travel or horse travel will be allowed on to the Hell Hole area.

The 2003 Travel Plan keeps the road paralleling the power line between the Lily Lake trailer dump station and the Bear River Ranger Station (Road 84008) open rather than closing it. Rather than close Road 84008 the decision was made to close other roads and motorized trails in the Main, Stillwater, and East Fork of the Bear River drainages to reduce the road density.

Chapter 2

Gravel Source
[Addition: Page 2-19, insert after 1st paragraph under Gravel Source]

After the gravel in the gravel pit has been used for the construction and reconstruction of roads the gravel pit will be re-contoured. Any cuts made from the development of the pit will be blended with the surrounding landscape to re-establish natural drainage patterns. The bank on the north end of the pit may be used as fill. Stockpiled topsoil will be spread evenly over the disturbed area.

The pit shall be scarified to lessen compaction created from vehicle use. Scarification can be achieved by disking. When disking is not effective, the soil will then be ripped at least 6" deep and spaced no more than 12" apart. Ripping shall follow existing contours to reduce soil erosion potential.

The gravel pit will be fertilized as needed; disturbed and scarified areas will be fertilized by hand broadcasting or other dry methods. Fertilization and seeding will be applied at optimum rates based on actual site condition.

Chapter 2

Management Requirements Common to All Alternatives
[Addition: Page 2-21; insert after third paragraph]

The following forest wide standards and guidelines are included in all action alternatives.

Allow no ground-based skidding and oil and gas surface occupancy on slopes greater than 40%. (Forest Plan Standard 1)

Apply runoff controls during project implementation to prevent pollutants including fuels, sediment, oils, from reaching surface and groundwater. (Forest Plan Standard 2)

Place new sources of chemical and pathogenic pollutants where such pollutants will not reach surface or ground water. (Forest Plan Standard 4)

Prior to issuance of a permit or license for activities such as mining, hydropower development, snowmaking, or water transmission facilities, in stream flow determinations will be required of all future permitted and licensed activities. For existing authorized uses and activities, minimum in stream flows will be established to meet the beneficial use of the stream, and will be a condition of any licensing and permit renewal. (Forest Plan Standard 5)

Within legal authorities, ensure that new proposed management activities in watersheds containing 303d listed water bodies improve or maintain overall progress toward beneficial use attainment for pollutants which led to listing; and do not allow additions of pollutants in quantities that result in unacceptable adverse effects. (Appendix II provides clarification of terms used in this Standard.) (Forest Plan Standard 6)

Allow management activities to result in no less than 85% of potential ground cover for each vegetation cover type. (See Appendix VII for potential ground cover values by cover type.) (Forest Plan Standard 7)

At the end of an activity, allow no more than 15% of an activity area (defined in Glossary) to have detrimental soil displacement, puddling, and compaction and/or to be severely burned. (Forest Plan Guideline 4)

In Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (defined in Glossary) when projects are implemented, retain natural and beneficial volumes[1] of large woody debris. (Forest Plan Guideline 6). As fish bearing streams, the Stillwater Fork and the Main Fork are considered Category 1 RHCAs. As defined in the revised Forest Plan, the category of RHCA consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream from the edges of the active stream to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet including both sides of the stream channel).

[1] Defined during development of site-specific Riparian Management Objectives.

In stream channels naturally occurring debris shall not be removed unless it is a threat to life, property, important resource values, or is otherwise covered by legal agreement. (Forest Plan Guideline 8)

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. (Forest Plan Guideline 9)

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 designated beneficial uses. (Forest Plan Guideline 11)

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. (Forest Plan Guideline 12)

Any long-term crossing of stream channels containing fish habitat will provide for desirable aquatic passage. (Forest Plan Guideline 13)

In Lynx Analysis Units allow no net increase in groomed or designated open over-the-snow routes or play areas. (Forest Plan Standard 10)

Prohibit forest vegetation treatments within active northern goshawk nest areas (approximately 30 acres) during the active nesting period. (Forest Plan Standard 12)

In goshawk habitat design all management activities to maintain, restore, or protect desired goshawk and goshawk prey habitats including foraging, nesting, and movement. (Forest Plan Guideline 15)

In Lynx Analysis Units design all management activities to maintain, restore, or protect desired lynx and lynx prey habitats including foraging, denning, and movement. (Forest Plan Guideline 18)

In Lynx Analysis Units with less than 10% denning habitat well-distributed, retain disturbance areas smaller than 5 acres with tree mortality that could contribute to denning habitat. (Forest Plan Guideline 19)

In Lynx Analysis Units maintain or restore (defer action) denning habitat in patches larger than 5 acres comprising at least 10% of habitat. (Forest Plan Guideline 20)

Use native plant species, preferably from genetically local sources (harvesting seed from a project area's native species prior to project implementation), in revegetation efforts to

the extent practicable. If no native seed of suitable origin is available, then certified weed free non-persistent non-natives may be used. (Forest Plan Guideline 22)

All decommissioned roads/trails will be properly drained. (Forest Plan Standard 17)

When constructing or maintaining roads, trails and facilities, use Best Management Practices to minimize sediment discharge into streams, lakes, and wetlands. (Forest Plan Standard 20)

Waste material should be handled in a manner to avoid sidecasting materials to areas where they may enter a stream. (Forest Plan Guideline 47)

Include motorized access in authorizations such as term grazing permits, communication sites, transmission lines, permits to drill, reservoirs and weather stations when needed for management consistent with management prescription and coordinated to mitigate impacts. In Lynx Analysis Units in winter, motorized use in these authorizations will be authorized only on designated routes. (Forest Plan Guideline 48)

In Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized areas, use of motorized equipment may be approved for administrative purposes. (Forest Plan Guideline 51)

For management activities viewable from Concern Level 1: (defined site-specifically) Scenic Byways (view shed corridors 0-4 miles) and use areas, travel ways, and Scenic Back ways (view shed corridors <1/2 mile) apply the Landscape Character Theme in which the management activity occurs and apply a Scenic Integrity Objective of high. (Forest Plan Guideline 61)

For management activities viewable from Concern Level 2: (defined site-specifically) use areas and travel ways (view shed 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. (Forest Plan Guideline 62)

Restrict disruptive or surface disturbing activities during periods of concentrated public use. (Forest Plan Guideline 78)

Review undertakings that may affect cultural resources to identify potential impacts. Compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act shall be completed before the responsible agency official signs the project decision document. (Forest Plan Standard 32)

Design any mitigation measures necessary to resolve adverse affects to sites in such a way that they provide the maximum public benefit that the sites (or the information derived from them) can offer. (Forest Plan Guideline 88)

Chapter 3

Water Resources
[Replace: Page 3-9, replace Table 3-2]

When the project was first proposed, the summer homes in Christmas Meadows area used the springs in Table 3-2. These springs no longer supply the water for these residences. A new spring was developed and is currently used to supply water for the summer homes. The springs are located in Township 1 North, Range 10 East, Section 22 SW1/4 (approximately 3,670’ south and 1300’ east from the NW corner of Section 22). The water rights are held by the Forest Service to supply culinary water to the recreational residences. The new springs will be tested as stated in Appendix K of the FEIS.

Chapter 3

Surface Water
[Replace: Page 3-12, line one of the 1st paragraph]

Hayden, Main, and Stillwater Forks are designated class 2B, 3A, and 4 streams.

Chapter 3

Old Growth
[Replace: Page 3-14, replace the six paragraphs under the heading of Old Growth]

The 2003 Revised Forest Plan no longer includes designated old growth stands. Instead it provides guidance through Guideline #14 to manage lodgepole pine for a balanced range of landscape structure to include 20% of old forest. A "non-significant amendment" to the forest plan is no longer necessary.

Chapter 3

Threatened and Endangered
[Replace: Page 3-18, replace 4 paragraphs on Page 3-18 and 3-19]

Information summarized below is derived from the technical report prepared by the District Wildlife Biologist (Jauregui, 2005) and survey results.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists 4 federally listed and proposed endangered, threatened and candidate species as potentially having habitat within Summit County, Utah. These species are the Bald Eagle, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-footed Ferret, and Canada Lynx.

Habitat descriptions for these species can be found in the Wasatch-Cache Revised Forest Plan and "Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species of the Ashley, Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache National Forests - April 1996 (Updated September 2000)." Those species with specialized habitat (elevation, seasonal, prey base, etc.) will not be carried forward in further analysis.

Table S-1: Threatened and Endangered species within Summit County, Utah

Species	**Classification**	**County**	**Comments**
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucephalus*)	Threatened	Summit	Winter visitors to Utah, five known nest locations none found on the forest, winter habitat not present in project area
Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*)	Threatened	Summit	Habitat present within activity area, project occurs within LAU 35
Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)	Endangered	Summit	Specialized habitat needs dependant on prairie dog towns for forage and denning. No habitat found in project area.
Western Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*)	Candidate	Summit	Elevation limitations, specialized habitat, and structure needs for forage and reproduction. Documented occurrences along the Wasatch Front. Habitat absent from activity area.

Lynx

The Lynx Conservation Assessment Strategy (LCAS) has delineated lynx into geographic areas in the lower 48 states. The Uinta Mountains occur in the southern portion of the Northern Rockies geographic area. Primary habitat is Engleman spruce, white fir, subalpine fir and lodgepole forests at the higher elevations. Historically lynx have occurred on the Wasatch-Cache throughout the spruce-fir habitats; however, there have been no confirmed sightings of naturally occurring individuals on the forest. Recently two radio-collared lynx released in Colorado were recorded (tracked) on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in the summer and fall of 2004. The first lynx (male) traveled

north during the summer through the Ogden and Logan Districts to Idaho where it was last recorded. To date the remaining lynx (female) was last recorded in November moving north from Big Mountain to the Ogden District, an estimated 50 miles northwest of the project area. This individual has been moving on and off the forest since being discovered.

Lynx occur in relatively remote, undisturbed areas and prefer large continuous stands of conifer that provide denning and foraging habitat. Home ranges of lynx are generally 6-8 square miles, but range up to 94 square miles. Lynx are closely tied to snowshoe hare, their primary food source throughout the year. In years with low snowshoe hare populations, lynx will turn to alternate prey sources such as squirrels and grouse. A Conservation Agreement and Strategy has been developed based on a Conservation Assessment that was recently completed (Ruediger et al. 2000). The Wasatch-Cache National Forest has developed lynx analysis units (LAUs) across the forest as directed in the Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (Ruediger et al. 2000). The proposed project area occurs in Lynx Analysis Unit 35. Because of the proximity of the project to LAU 36, cumulative effects for this analysis area will be disclosed. In considering threats to lynx, one must consider that lynx have evolved to adapt to an ever-changing boreal forest and require a mosaic of appropriate species composition, varying stand ages, and structure to support abundant snowshoe hares and lynx denning habitat within the boreal forest. Additionally, one must consider scale. Lynx are highly mobile, moving long distances to find abundant prey, and using a large area on a landscape. To significantly impact a local lynx population, an activity would likely have to occur across a very large area (presumably at least the size of several home ranges), create a homogeneous forest that does not provide the various stand ages, species composition, and structure that are good snowshoe hare and lynx habitat, or result in a barrier that effectively precludes dispersal (USDI 2003).

In 1999, 2000, and 2001 a national hair snare survey was conducted to determine presence/absence of lynx. The District Biologist established survey stations in potential habitat across the North Slope of the Uintas. A student from BYU, in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Utah, established survey stations as part of a graduate study. Samples collected from the Evanston and Mountain View Districts (national study) and the graduate study were sent in for analysis; results were negative for lynx.

The Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (LCAS) list guidelines in Chapter 7-F **(**Other Human Developments: Oil & Gas Leasing, Mines, Reservoirs, Agriculture**)** for the conservation of lynx. Most of these activities affect lynx habitat by changing or eliminating native vegetation, and may also contribute to fragmentation. The main effects of leases and mines on lynx are probably related to the potential for plowed roads to provide access for lynx competitors, particularly coyotes.

Because of the proximity of the proposed project to the boundary of Lynx Analysis Units 35 and 36, analyses of affects will be conducted for each.

LAU 35

Lynx Analysis Unit 35 has a total of 47,289 acres that could be utilized as foraging and/or denning habitat. The project area does provide some denning habitat in downed, woody materials and root wads throughout the stand; however, the stand is in a mid-late seral or mature stage and may not provide the necessary horizontal cover in understory vegetation species. The vegetative species composition changes from a conifer/aspen to a mixed conifer as it progresses up canyon to the proposed well site. The majority of the conifer species is lodgepole pine, which is considered secondary habitat. There were some sign of snowshoe hare (pellets) but not in the concentrated numbers; which can be found in other habitat types that have associated dense understory species.

Table S-2: Lynx Analysis Unit 35 Acreage

LAU	Total Acres	Total Acres Suitable Habitat	Total Pre-Fire Acres Unsuitable Habitat	Acres of LAU within High/Mod Burn Severity	Post-Fire Percent Unsuitable
35	62,390	47,289	249 (0.5%)	5,871 (12.4%)	12.9%

The East Fork Fire of 2002 changed the vegetation age-class and species diversity northeast of the project area in the East Fork of the Bear, Mill Creek, and West Fork of the Blacks drainages. The fire burned 11,574 acres, which was 19% of the total 62,390 (suitable and non-suitable habitat) acres within the LAU. Of the burned area, 5,871 acres were burned at a high to moderate severity converting these acres to unsuitable habitat. This change added to what was unsuitable before the fire left 12.9% of the available suitable habitat in LAU 35 in an unsuitable condition.

LAU 36

Lynx Analysis Unit 36 consists of 67,288 total acres. There are 28,667 acres on the National Forest. Most of the remaining 38,621 acres are on private land to the north and west of the National Forest land but within the congressionally proclaimed National Forest boundary. Of the 28,667 acres of National Forest within the LAU, there are 20,653 primary/secondary acres and 8,014 acres of non-habitat. Since 1949 there have been a total of 1,696 acres of mixed conifer, mixed aspen and lodgepole pine, and lodgepole pine stands harvested from LAU 36. Of these acres, 989 acres by definition (greater than 20 years since disturbance) in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy are considered potential denning habitat.

Table S-3: Lynx Analysis Unit 36 Acreage

LAU	**Total Acres**	**Primary/Secondary on Forest**	**Past Harvest**	**Recovered acres by LCAS definition**	**% Unsuitable**
36	67,288	20,653	1696	989	4.8%

Prior to active fire suppression, stand replacing fires were the source of most early successional habitat. Timber harvest has become a source for creating foraging habitat in place of fire. The most productive foraging habitats in the analysis area are past timber harvests that were conducted between 1949 and 1982. Aerial photos and site visits have indicated that regeneration is not uniform across all types of past harvest units. Although most past harvest units are adequately stocked for silvicultural purposes, portions of past clearcuts in the spruce-fir type and part of a 1980 wildfire do not have adequate tree canopy closure to provide security habitat for snowshoe hares. Depending on the vegetation treatment (clear-cut, selection, or overstory removal), forest type, and observed recovery, a regeneration percentage was estimated and units were categorized as recovered, marginal, and/or unsuitable.

Recovered Acres – these acres are an average of the estimated percentage of recovered acres from site visits and aerial photo analysis. These areas provide the necessary characteristics of foraging and denning habitat for lynx.

Marginal Acres – these acres are estimated to have recovered enough to provide summer forage habitat for snowshoe hares. Some wintering habitat may be available along the edge where adjacent untreated areas provide security cover. Denning habitat for lynx in these areas could potentially exist where post harvest large diameter trees have fallen to the ground or have uprooted in wind events. Although these acres provide some seasonal habitat, they are considered unsuitable for determination of compliance with the LCAS standards for percentage of habitat in unsuitable condition.

Unsuitable Acres – these areas are an estimated unsuitable acreage from site visits and aerial photo analysis. These areas may provide summer forage for snowshoe hare but there may not be enough cover to provide a winter foraging area or denning habitat for lynx.

Table S-4: Categorized Acres of Past Timber Harvest within LAU 36

Past Harvest Units	**Acres**	**Recovered (suitable)**	Marginal	**Unsuitable**
1995-2004 [1]	528	363	0	165
1985-1994	210	0	0	210
1975-1984	152	24	0	128 [2]
Prior to 1975	806	516	290	0
Total	**1696**	**903**	**290**	**503**

[1] All but 17 acres cut during the past decade were spruce salvage sales. The Humpy sale in 1995 had a high percentage of dead trees removed but an estimated 60-75% of the harvest area still provides denning and foraging habitat. The Meadow Creek sales had a smaller percentage of dead and resulted in an estimated 85-95% of denning and foraging habitat remaining post harvest. This results in a 0.8% reduction in suitable habitat in LAU 36 within the past ten years.
[2] The 1980 Deer Creek Fire resulted in an estimated 90% unsuitable habitat within a 141-acre area.

Denning habitat should comprise at least 10 percent of an LAU (Ruediger et al. 2000). Almost all of the un-harvested area in LAU 36 is mature or older forest. The spruce-fir and mixed conifer types provide the best potential denning habitat. These types occupy 5,450 acres or 72% of the 7,613 National Forest forested acres in the West Bear

Ecosystem Management analysis area. (The LAU covers more area than the West Bear Ecosystem Management analysis area.) Denning habitat by definition in the LCAS can also be found in regenerating stands greater than 20 years with large amounts of coarse, woody debris, either down logs or root wads. These areas can be found in 903 acres of past timber harvest throughout the analysis area.

Past harvest units greater than 20 years old usually have adequate regeneration and canopy closure to be suitable habitat. The acres in the marginal category have been added to the unsuitable acres because they only provide summer habitat and do not provide winter habitat for snowshoe hare throughout the harvest unit.

Chapter 3

[Replace: Page 3-19, Replace 2 paragraphs on Page 3-19 under the heading Sensitive Species]

Forest Service Sensitive Species

There are 12 terrestrial wildlife species listed as sensitive on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (USFS 1999). Of those there are 3 with no suitable habitat in the project area (Table S-4). Sensitive species with no suitable habitat in the Table Top Project Area will not be discussed further.

Table S-5: Sensitive Species with No Suitable Habitat in the Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Unsuitable Because
Sharp-tailed grouse	***Tympanuchus phasianellus***	Inhabits grasslands and sage steppe, no habitat in project area.
Sage grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*	Inhabits sage steppe, no habitat in project area.
Pygmy rabbit	*Sylvilagus idahoensis*	Inhabits sage steppe, no habitat in project area.

The following 4 sensitive species have habitat present in the project area; however, the project does not affect their habitat type.

Table S-6: Sensitive Species with Unaffected Habitat in the Project Area

Common Name	Habitat Unaffected Because
Townsends big eared bat (*Plecotus townsend)*	Big-eared bats depend on very limited sites such as caves and abandoned mines for hibernating and rearing young. During the summer, bachelor males use a variety of habitats such as cliffs and buildings.
Boreal Owl *(Aegolius funereus)*	Boreal owl habitat consists of stands of spruce-fir found at higher elevations with a relatively high density of large diameter trees and a multi-layered canopy (USFS 1992). The understory is typically open, with a few shrubs or small clumps of regenerating trees. Nests are located in cavities excavated by large woodpeckers, typically in trees that range in size from 13-44 inches dbh.
Flammulated owl (*Otus flammeolus*)	Flammulated owls have been found on the Wasatch-Cache in a variety of conifer habitat types associated with aspen. Abundant conifer/aspen community types can be found in the lower portion of the drainage. The proposed project would have "no impact" on this species; the proposed work in the lower portions of the drainage would be outside of preferred nesting and foraging habitat.
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus)*	Peregrine falcons once inhabited a wide variety of habitats across North America, with nest sites on cliffs as a common denominator.

There are 5 sensitive species that have habitat present within the project area that may be affected.

Spotted bat - The spotted bat probably occurs throughout Utah. It has been mapped hypothetically by Watkins (1977) and Hall (1981), but records from extreme northern and almost all of western Utah (except for the southwest corner) are not known. Barbour and Davis (1969) conservatively mapped the distribution of *E. maculatum* as including southernmost Utah and a disjunctive occurrence in the Salt Lake City area, and Hasenyager (1980) thought "the range of the spotted bat in Utah could incorporate the southern third of the state and central portions of the west desert where suitable roosts exist, excluding the higher portions of the central mountain range." Although records of *E. maculatum* are still lacking from large parts of Utah, the fact that this species is known from all states bordering Utah supports the belief that it is of statewide occurrence, and this belief is strengthened even more by records of this bat from most of the geographic extremes of the state - the southwestern (Poché and Bailie 1974), southeastern (Benson

1954), and northeastern corners (Lengas 1994b, Storz 1995), as well as from north-central (Durrant 1935). Notable, is the absence of records of this species from most of western and northern Utah. There is evidence of both hibernation and winter activity of the spotted bat in at least southwestern Utah. The spotted bat has been captured in Utah in several habitats: lowland riparian habitat in the desert shrub community, sagebrush–rabbitbrush, ponderosa pine forest, montane grassland (grass–aspen), and montane forest and woodland (grass–spruce–aspen). It has also been occasionally found in or on buildings in Utah towns and cities (Oliver 2000).

Wolverine – The wolverine is the largest terrestrial mustelid and is found in the tundra, taiga, and forest zones of North America. Wolverines are typically associated with remote wilderness areas where minimal contact with humans or developments occurs. As a scavenger it depends largely on mammal carrion provided from kills by wolves and other predators. Delayed implantation allows wolverines to give birth during the winter when ungulate carrion is more plentiful. Information on natal den sites in North America is limited to data collected in the tundra region where dens are easily located. This species was probably never common in Utah, but it previously occurred (and still may occur) in the high mountainous areas of the state (UDWR 2004). A final report, Forest Carnivores Occurrence, Distribution & Limiting Factors: Canada Lynx and Wolverine Surveys in Utah (Flinders et al. 2004), reports the possibility of wolverine and/or fisher tracks in the High Uintas Wilderness. Historic records of fisher occurrences on the Wasatch-Cache would indicate the tracks belong to a wolverine. The UDWR Heritage database (2002) records state, identification of this species was based on tracks believed to be a fisher seen on two occasions (1938). A photograph of the tracks was examined by Durrant (1952) who agreed with the identification. This record is considered questionable without further documentation. The tracks found in the Flinders et al. study were within a 4-mile radius of the proposed project area. No surveys have been conducted for this species within the project area due to the species large home range data gathered would not clarify use of the project area.

Northern Goshawk - The Northern goshawk is a forest habitat generalist that uses a wide variety of forest ages, structural conditions, and successional stages. There are three main components of a goshawk's home range (6,000 acres): nesting area, post fledging-family area (PFA), and foraging area. Nest areas contain one or more stands of large, old trees with a dense canopy cover. Most goshawks have 2 to 4 alternate nest areas within their home range; alternate nest areas are used in different years, but some nest may be used for decades. The goshawk PFA surrounds the nest areas within a home range totaling 420 acres. Because of its size it includes a variety of forest types and conditions. The foraging areas are approximately 5,400 acres in size. Foraging goshawks are more often than not found within a mosaic of forest types and hunt in many forest conditions. The proposed project area will occur outside of all Post Fledging Area (PFA); however, the main road accessing the area runs through the Nesting Area. The proposed drill pad is an estimated 3.0 miles from the nest. Broadcast surveys have been conducted in the past since the initial project with no responses. In 2004, predawn surveys indicated an active territory and a new active nest was discovered. The condition of the nest would indicate that unless the nest is rebuilt the birds would be in an alternate nest next season.

Three-toed woodpecker - Three-toed woodpeckers range across North America, including Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. Suitable habitat is northern coniferous and mixed forest types up to 9,000 feet. Forests containing spruce, grand fir, ponderosa pine, tamarack, and lodgepole pine are used. Three-toed woodpeckers prefer to forage in mature and over mature habitat types. Three-toed woodpeckers are foraging opportunists and abundance in populations may be in response to foraging resources. Goggans et al. (1988) observed that in central Oregon three-toed woodpeckers foraged in mixed-conifer 55% of the time and mixed conifer dominated by lodgepole 20% of the time. These habitat types can be found surrounding the project area. Fire killed trees are a major source of food and may lead to local increases in woodpecker numbers 3-5 years after the fire, which has been experienced in the East Fork Fire. Three-toed woodpeckers, like others in its family respond positively to landscape disturbances that result in insect epidemics. These beetle-hit areas can be found throughout the forest. Broadcast surveys have been conducted within the project area; no responses have been recorded.

Great Gray Owl - In North America the great gray owl breeds from the boreal forests of Alaska, east to Ontario, and south to northeastern Minnesota, in northwestern Wyoming, western Montana, Idaho, and through the Sierra Nevadas of California and Nevada. All of its range in Utah is considered range of wintering vagrants. Great gray owls use mixed coniferous and hardwood forest usually bordering small openings or meadows. They forage along edges of clearings and in semi-open areas where small rodents are abundant. The long-term persistence of great gray owls south of Canada and in Alaska seems likely provided that forests of all successional stages are maintained and well dispersed on a local and regional scale. Persistence on a local geographic scale is less certain. Maintaining persistence will require special attention to the long-term persistence of mature and older forest stands on sites where natural fire is less likely to destroy the old forest and where suitable nesting platforms are abundant. These stands will be necessary to consistently produce nesting structures. Furthermore, mature and older forest likely provide important alternate foraging habitat during periods when crusted snow prevents great gray owls from accessing their preferred rodent prey. Maintaining quality great gray owl foraging habitat should be compatible with forest management for commodity resources if management takes a long-term view. Natural meadow systems must be maintained and restored through fire management. Similarly, temporal continuity of foraging habitat must be maintained through long-term harvest planning (Hayward 2004). There has been one unconfirmed reported sighting of a great gray owl on the Wasatch-Cache (1994); the great gray owl is still considered an winter vagrant to the forest. Broadcast surveys have been conducted in the project area with no responses recorded.

Other Species of Interest

Gray wolves historically occurred in the state of Utah in early settlement days. Up until 2002, the last verified gray wolf taken within the state of Utah was in 1930. Wolves were extirpated from the state when bounties were offered in the late 1800s. During the past several years, sightings of wolf-like animals have occurred in Utah. Many of these have been identified as wolf-dog hybrids (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources 2003). In

2002, a wolf from a Yellowstone National Park pack was captured near the town of Morgan in northern Utah, southeast of Ogden. Wolves are known to adapt well to a variety of habitat types. Wolves prefer covering during movement but will utilize large openings during dispersal. The animal was returned to Grand Teton National Park where it later rejoined its pack. In Utah, the gray wolf is not part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experimental recovery effort being conducted in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. There has not been a breeding pair or a pack identified in Utah to date, only a dispersing animal. If wolves from the federal recovery areas enter Utah, they will receive protection under the Endangered Species Act. Managing the forest at or toward PFC will provide cover for wolves and habitat for prey species. Wolves are not included in the list of threatened or endangered species for any county in Utah by the Utah Field Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

[Replace: Page 3-19; Replace 3 paragraphs on Page 3-19 and 3-20 under the heading of Management Indicator Species]

Terrestrial Management Indicator Species

Management Indicator Species (MIS) are used to assess the effects of management activities on a range of species. Regulations for the National Forest Management Act require the Forest Service to gather quantitative data on MIS and use it to measure the impact of management activities on species viability. This is accomplished through population trend monitoring across the forest even though some home ranges do not encompass the whole forest.

The Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan lists the following three terrestrial species as Management Indicator Species. In addition to these wildlife species, the Forest Plan lists both Bonneville and Colorado cutthroat trout as aquatic management indicator species. The Forest has also identified two management indicator communities. These are sagebrush and oak/maple, neither of which occurs on the project area.

The Forest has begun to assess population trends from existing data and data collected since the Revised Forest Plan was completed in March 2003. Species background, monitoring protocol, trend analysis techniques and assumptions, and summaries of data can be found in the (Draft) Management Indicator Species of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (USFS. 2005). Population data collected is the foundation and part of this report.

Table S-7: WCNF Terrestrial Management Indicator Species

Management Indicator Species	Associated Plant Community (Cover Type)
Goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*)	Aspen, Conifer, Mixed Conifer
Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*)	Pole/Sapling Aspen, Conifer, and Mixed Conifer
Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*)	Riparian

Snowshoe hare
Snowshoe hare was selected as a representative species in pole/sapling aspen, conifer, and mixed conifer. They are predominately associated with forests that have a well-developed understory that provides protection from predation and supplies them with food. Snowshoe hares will utilize areas of new disturbance where regeneration provides adequate horizontal cover and available forage. This is typically in 15-25 year range depending on site condition and growing periods.

For snowshoe hares, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest has been divided into two separate sub-populations the Wasatch/Bear River Range and the Uinta Mountains since the likelihood of individuals moving from one geographic area to the other is low.

Bunnell's work on the Uinta Mountains from 2001 through 2003 shows an average of .33 hares per hectare over the three-year period within mature vegetation types. Bunnell's studies are our best indication that snowshoe hare have been stable across the North Slope over this period of time.

From the analysis of data collected in 2004, the snowshoe hare population was stable or displayed very little change from the fall of 2000 to the summer of 2003 for the North Slope sub-population. From the summer/fall of 2003 to summer of 2004, the data suggests an increase in snowshoe hare numbers for the North Slope sub-population. The trend for the Uinta Mountain sub-population is considered stable (USFS, 2005. Page-177).

Monitoring data and population trends within the Wasatch/Bear River Range have also been assessed. Harvest data for the Cache and Rich Counties display similar results as those described above for Summit County. Harvest data is also supported by live capture study information for the Wasatch/Bear River Range. Pellet count data (North Amazon Basin information) suggests that the snowshoe hare population was stable or displayed very little change from the summer of 1998 thru the summer of 2001 for the Wasatch/Bear River Range. From the summer/fall of 2001 the data suggests an increase in snowshoe hare numbers with a possible peak between the summer/fall 2002 and summer 2003 for the Wasatch/Bear River Range. Numbers for the period between summer/fall 2003 and the summer 2004 remained high but displayed a slight decrease from the prior year. A one-year decrease, however, does not indicate a trend and 2004 numbers are still above the 1999 thru 2001 numbers (USFS, 2005. Page-181).

Beaver
Beaver occur throughout most of North America and are fairly common in Utah. They are found in permanent, slow-moving streams, ponds, small lakes, and reservoirs. The Uinta Mountains are classed as "substantial value" habitat for beavers (USDI 1997). Although some individuals could move across to other geographical areas on the Wasatch-Cache N.F. the likelihood is low when considering the existing barriers.

Therefore the forest population will be divided into two separate sub-populations, the Wasatch/Bear River Range and the Uinta Mountains.
At the present time the Forest has established baseline information for beaver populations on the Salt Lake, Kamas, and Evanston and Mountain View Districts. Not all sections have been surveyed on the Ogden/Logan Districts. Currently there are not enough years of USFS population data for beavers on the Forest to indicate a trend from this data. Instead we have relied on three source documents provided by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources that currently determine a trend. They are the 1979-80 (publication no. 80-12) and 1998-1999 Furbearer Harvest Reports (publication no. 02-06) and the 1971-1982 Beaver Distribution, Habitat and Population Survey (1993). The 1979-80 harvest and 1971-82 survey report displays beaver estimations by units while the 1998-1999 Harvest report considers regions (Great Basin, Rocky Mtn., Uintah Basin, and Colorado Plateau). The 1993 survey merely restates the trend stated in the 79-80' report.

Because of the minimal vegetation treatments of beaver habitat adjacent to streams and rangeland management practices it would be assumed that the determinations made in the State's survey report would not change. Therefore the trend for the Uinta Mountain and Wasatch/Bear River Range sub-populations would be stable (USFS, 2005. Page 124).

Northern goshawk
The goshawk uses a wide variety of forest habitats. The Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan lists goshawk as a management indicator of mature stands of aspen, conifer, and mixed conifer forests. Goshawks typically nest in mature and old growth forest stands, but goshawks utilize all forest types for foraging. In addition to being a management indicator species, the goshawk is also a Forest Service Sensitive Species (refer to previous discussion).

Goshawks are ranked globally as a G5 and it is relatively abundant and widespread throughout its range (NatureServe Explorer 2004). It was concluded in the Conservation Strategy and Agreement for the Management of Northern Goshawk Habitat in Utah that goshawk populations in Utah were viable (USDA 1998a). This conclusion was based on the findings of Graham et al. (1999) that good quality habitat is well distributed and connected throughout the state, the absence of evidence of a population decline on National Forest System lands since 1991, and conclusions of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service in their decision to not list the northern goshawk under the Endangered Species Act.

Territory occupancy has been monitored consistently on the Forest since 1999. This was the year the state wide Goshawk Amendment was released. When monitoring started in 1999, there were a total of 29 known territories on the Forest. Every year a percentage of territories have been monitored and new territories found. There has been a high in 2001 of 9.76 occupied territories and a low of 4.33 in 2003. These differences in years are not statistically different, showing a stable trend in the goshawk population Forest-wide (USFS, 2005. Page 151).

[Addition: Page 3-20 Insert 5 paragraphs on Page 3-20 and 3-21 under the heading of Migratory Bird Species]

Migratory Bird Species

The Utah Partners in Flight (PIF) Utah Avian Conservation Strategy Ver. 2.0 was evaluated to determine which species occurred within the project area. PIF lists the project area occurring within the Utah Mountain Physiographic Region. This region occupies 23% of Utah's land area and is made up primarily of the Wasatch and Uinta mountain ranges and their associated valleys. Elevations range from 1360m in the Salt Lake Valley at the edge of the ecoregion to 4090m on King's Peak. Most of the state's forested habitats occur within this ecoregion. At least 201,382 ha (88%) of Lodgepole Pine habitat occur within the Utah Mountains.

"The ecological tenet underlying this process, that conservation actions focused on priority species will benefit other avian species (as well as other forms of wildlife), extends the benefits to most birds in Utah".

The analysis area considered will be the Wasatch-Cache Forest, which has 61,300 total acres mapped for this community type.

Only 2 species (three-toed woodpecker and goshawk) select Lodgepole Pine as breeding habitat but none in the winter. One priority species, Three-toed woodpecker, selects Lodgepole pine as a secondary habitat for breeding. These species will be analyzed and effects determined under the R4 Sensitive Species sections.

Communication towers (radio, television, cellular, etc...) have become a concern for migratory bird species. Large numbers of killed birds have been collected at sites across the United States. It is thought that lighting is the main cause for drawing birds to towers during inclement weather; however this is not always the case. Birds being attracted to lights on tall structures have been cited in literature well into the early 1900's. The proposed oil tower would be an estimated 140 feet tall with a pilot warning light in place. The tower would be in place by July or August and removed at the end of December or early January. Additional lighting will be installed on the tower to allow drilling during nighttime hours.

Species at Risk

Appendix B2 of the Forest Plan FEIS defines other species-at-risk as species which are of concern that is not federally listed or proposed for Federal listing and have not been designated as sensitive by the Regional Forester. These species are evaluated on a coarse filter approach that puts them into groups by the major habitat (vegetation) type that they

use. The list from Appendix B2 was updated February 23, 2004 after the State of Utah published its updated sensitive species list.

Vegetation types present within the Table Top project area include aspen, lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, meadows and riparian areas.

Table S-8 SAR Listed in Vegetation Types in Project Area

Species	Primary Habitat	Other Habitats Used
Broad-tailed hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus*	Tall Forb	Aspen
Williamson's sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*	Snags*	Conifer and Aspen*
American pine marten *Martes americana*	Conifer	N/A

*Snags are a component of the conifer and aspen vegetation types.

The only species listed as primarily using riparian areas on the February 23, 2004 list is the gray catbird that uses low elevation riparian areas. Because the riparian habitat within the project area is not low elevation, it will not be discussed further.

Chapter 3

Fisheries

[Addition: Page 3-20, insert after 4th paragraph]

Information summarized below is derived from the technical report prepared by the Forest fisheries biologist (Cowley, 2004) survey results (Cowley, 2003) and (Thompson, 2003).

Stillwater Fork

Stillwater Fork is a tributary to the Bear River and flows north out of the Uinta Mountains. A site on the Stillwater Fork below its confluence with the Main Fork was sampled in 2001 and 2003. An area near this site was surveyed in 1994.

The average stream width at 2003 sample site was 6.4m. The average depth was recorded at 0.19m. Three cutthroat trout, one brook trout, four whitefish, two mountain sucker, and one hundred and thirty seven sculpin were collected. The cutthroat trout population, fish 100mm or larger, was estimated at 20 fish/km. No range is calculated because no cutthroat trout 100mm or larger were collected during the second pass. The brook trout population, fish 100mm or larger, was estimated at 10 fish/km. The whitefish population, fish 100mm or larger, was estimated at 40 fish/km.

Main Fork

Main Fork is a tributary to the Stillwater Fork and flows north out of the Uinta Mountains. Activities that have and/or do occur in the drainage include tie hacking, timber harvest, hunting, fishing, camping and hiking and oil and gas exploration. Main Fork was sampled at two different locations in 1994 and 2003. The lower section was located where the old road coming from the Hayden Fork joins with the newer road that parallels the Main Fork and goes upstream 100m. The upper sample site started 100 meters below the outlet from Hell Hole Lake and goes up to the Lake.

The lower site's average stream width was 4.6m. The average depth was recorded at 0.17m. Ten cutthroat trout were collected from the lower site in 2003. The cutthroat trout population, fish 100mm or larger, was estimated at 90 ±28 fish/km.

The upper site's average stream width was 1.1m. The average depth was recorded at 0.16m. In total, 14 cutthroat trout were collected... The cutthroat trout population, for fish 100mm and larger was 125 fish/km ± 28.

Amphibians

A limited number of amphibians are believed to exist within the project area. These include: tiger salamander, boreal chorus frogs, boreal toads, and Great Basin spadefoot

toad, woodhouse's toad, Northern Leopard Frog (Stebbins 1985, Lentsch et al. 1995). Spotted frogs are not found in the project area (Stebbings 1985, Lentsch et al. 1995. Thompson et al 2003).

Boreal Toads are known to exist in adjacent drainages. No boreal toads have been found in the project area. They have been found in the Mill City Creek Drainage, in Road Hollow, in West Fork Bear River Drainage adjacent to Whitney Reservoir and in the Gold Hill Creek Drainage (Thompson 2003, Paul Thompson Personal Communication July 14, 2004) and in East Fork Bear River. They have generally been found in close proximity to water during the surveys.

Management Indicator Species

Cutthroat trout are management indicator species on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. In the Colorado River Basin the subspecies is the Colorado River cutthroat trout. For the Bonneville Basin the subspecies of cutthroat trout identified as a management indicator is the Bonneville cutthroat trout. These two subspecies react differently to different threats. They are therefore not grouped under a single species title like cutthroat trout but are handled distinctly. This project is entirely within the Bonneville Basin and consequently the appropriate management indicator will be Bonneville cutthroat trout for aquatic environments. Bonneville cutthroat trout are found within the project area. Colorado cutthroat are not present and will not be considered further.

The Bonneville cutthroat trout found in the Stillwater and Main Fork are part of the metapopulations covering the middle section of the headwater of the Bear River. Fish can potentially migrate and interbreed between the East Fork Bear River, Hayden Fork, Main Fork, and the Stillwater Fork. Water temperatures probably restrict migration between the West Fork Bear River and the Mill Creek populations and the Stillwater/Hayden Fork population.

The mainstream Bear River, below the forest boundary, has never been considered an important cutthroat trout production area. It does provide the corridor for populations to intermix but was thought to be less important for year around production of game species. The limited populations of trout may reflect higher than historic levels of water temperature, heavy fishing pressure because of accessibility, or major impacts from historic logging practices. It is clear that trout are found in the mainstream. If trends in the Stillwater Fork and Hayden Fork continue we should see more trout in the mainstream as the riparian habitat headwaters continue to improve habitat conditions.

For the Main Fork and Stillwater Fork, condition factors on most of the populations increased. Biomass production has remained stable or decreased slightly on some cutthroat trout populations. Brook trout numbers and biomass on the lower sample site on the mainstream Stillwater Fork appears to be increasing. Although brook trout are known to exist in Ryder Lake and were collected in West Basin this is not reflected in the upper two samples of the Stillwater Fork. These same phenomena are also seen in the Logan River Drainage on Beaver Creek and Spawn Creek with brook trout being found and isolated in

the headwaters. It is unclear what causes brook trout to move up or downstream in drainage. In 2003, rainbow trout appeared to be gone from the drainage. In 2004, because of low densities of game fish in the mainstream Stillwater Fork, sterile rainbow trout were stocked into the river to meet recreational demand. This stocking is in compliance with the stocking and transfer policy of Utah Division of Wildlife resources.

In the Hayden Fork Drainage, cutthroat, brook and adult rainbow trout and whitefish, mountain sucker and sculpin were collected. The most interesting finding, in the drainage, comes from data provided in by Thompson (2003). The UDWR's lowest sample was taken 5 km up from the mouth. During their 1953 sample only sculpin (common), mountain sucker (sparse) and leatherside chub (sparse) were collected. This is quite different from their sample of 2003 that included cutthroat, brook and rainbow trout. Leatherside chub were not collected.

In view of the history and the fish that were collected in 1953 it appears that the Hayden Fork continues to recover from early land management activities. If the last major timber harvest occurred in the 1930's, the streamside vegetation would be just getting to the height that would allow shading of the stream channel. As the channel became more shaded water temperatures would have dropped and trout would have moved down into the area. The physical restoration of habitat also continues as trees are just now becoming large enough to be recruited to and held in the channel.

In the Stillwater Fork, similar to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource's sample on the Hayden Fork, a 1953 sample on the lower Stillwater Fork revealed only sculpin. The UDWR sample site is located just upstream from the Christmas Meadows Trailhead or about 7.6km upstream from the mouth.

Brook trout appear to have moved in or have been stocked in the drainage from the mainstream Bear River between 1965 and 2003. No brook trout were found in the 1994 samples in the headwater by UDWR (Paul Thompson, personal communications, May 2003) or near the mouth (Cowley 1994). Brook trout appear to be increasing in the lower reach of Boundary Creek as their biomass has more than doubled over the last 9 years and their overall fish size has increased. The number of fish has actually decreased in the section. Up the Right and Left Hand Forks the cutthroat populations appear to be doing well.

The overall trend of the metapopulations of cutthroat trout in the Upper Bear River Metapopulation, which includes the Main Fork cutthroat, is flat based on biomass, fish per mile and condition factors. Additional threats to these populations are increased access by the public and the heavy recreational pressure from anglers. As timber becomes older the threat of wild fire also increased. With this threat comes the possibility of a significant rain event on a disturbed landscape resulting in debris flows as was the case on the East Fork of the Bear in 2004 (Cowley, 2004).

The Upper Bear River Metapopulation, which includes the Main Fork cutthroat, is one of 39 metapopulations/populations of cutthroat trout on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest

(USFS, 2005). For cutthroat trout trends across the Forest refer to the Forest Plan Monitoring Report (USDA, Forest Service 2004) and (Draft) Management Indicator Species of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (USFS, 2005) and Appendix B of the FEIS for the Forest Plan (USDA, Forest Service 2003). The trend for the Upper Bear River Metapopulation, which includes the Main Fork cutthroat, is flat.

Chapter 3

Natural Integrity
[Addition; Page 3-24, insert above heading Natural Integrity]

As part of the 2003 Forest Plan revision effort, a new and updated roadless inventory was completed to address the ongoing roadless area management issues and to meet the requirements of the NFMA regulations and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984.

The inventory established through the Forest Plan revision changed the previous 1982/1983 inventory. Areas developed since 1982 and no longer qualifying were excluded while other areas were added as a result of new inventory criteria. The Wasatch-Cache portion of the High Uintas Roadless Area is 103,100 gross acres (WCNF, 2003).

Further, nine roadless area characteristics were defined through the development of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in 2001 (36 CFR 294; Federal Register 3244; January 12, 2001). Though changes to the rule are currently being proposed the nine roadless area characteristics have remained the same. The nine characteristics are: 1) high quality or undisturbed soil, water and air, 2) sources of public drinking water, 3) diversity of plant and animal communities, 4) habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species and for those species dependent on large, undisturbed areas of land, 5) primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized classes of dispersed recreation, 6) reference landscapes, 7) natural appearing landscapes with high scenic quality, and 8) traditional cultural properties and sacred sites and 9) other locally identified unique characteristics. An explanation of how the criteria were refined for local use is contained in Appendix C-2 of the Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The six attributes described in the 1994 FEIS (natural integrity, apparent naturalness, remoteness, solitude, special features, and manageability/boundaries) are considered wilderness characteristics. They were used in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan to evaluate the suitability of an area to be considered as recommended for wilderness. The decision for the Revised Forest Plan did not recommend this portion of the High Uintas Inventoried Roadless area (IRA) as wilderness. In the context of this supplement they are criteria used to evaluate the effects of the project on the High Uintas Roadless Area wilderness characteristics.

The inventory conducted for the Revised Forest Plan excluded the project area from the Inventoried Roadless Area. However, since the roadless area boundary is 300 feet from the road corridor, its relationship to the project is relevant.

Wilderness Characteristics

Most of the attributes described on page 3-24 of the 1994 Table Top FEIS remain intact for the Main Fork drainage. The portion of road that has been constructed as access to the wellsite (about 1.8 miles), although outside of the inventoried roadless area, has resulted in a linear intrusion into the roadless area. This has resulted in substantially changing the natural integrity and apparent naturalness of the adjacent roadless area. The road is an apparent recent man-made feature unlike the other constructed features that are from turn of the nineteenth century. The natural integrity of

the drainage is low. Because the constructed road is gated and managed as closed the Main Fork portion of the High Uintas IRA maintains its remoteness and continues to provide a sense of solitude.

Inventory of Roadless Values

The following inventory of values for the High Uintas Roadless Area was assessed during Forest Plan revision and is explained further in Appendix C-2 (USDA, Forest Service, 2003). It is important to note the numbers assigned to represent values were not and are not to be used mathematically; they are simply provided as a code to quickly identify values (from low to high). The inventory highlights those drainages where values are best represented.

- Soil and Water -5- Many small and some large wetlands along streams within the area.
- Sources of Public Drinking Water -5- Located about 28 miles from Park City and 59 miles from Salt Lake City and southeastern part is a surface water public drinking source for Wasatch Front.
- Properly Functioning Condition – In general the entire high Uintas roadless area has low age class diversity with most forested stands in the mature age class. Some areas have many acres of the wet meadow vegetation type that are not common elsewhere on the forest. Dyers woad is present primarily in the Stillwater/Hayden Fork portion, but Canada and musk thistle are more widespread and are next to, and potentially in, the roadless area. Also, for the High Uintas roadless area information unique to several sub areas (related to drainages) is considered for this value. 2 - Area between Duchesne and Provo River/Lost Creek - There is some age class diversity, although minor, in the forested communities; nearly all of the forested stands are mature and nearly all aspen is being replaced by conifer. 2 - Stillwater/Hayden Fork – There is little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature with some sapling-small tree stands near the wilderness boundary. 2 - East Fork Bear River – There is little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature with some sapling-small tree stands. 4 - Blacks Fork – There is very little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature. This area has over 1700 acres of the wet meadow vegetation type. 2 – West Fork Smiths Fork – There is very little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature. 3 - Henrys/Gilbert – There is very little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature. This portion has over 300 acres of the wet meadow vegetation type. 2 - Beaver Creek - There is very little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature. This portion has approximately 200 acres of the wet meadow vegetation type. 2 - Burnt Fork/Thompson/Kabell – There is very little age class diversity in the forested communities. Nearly all of the forested stands are mature.
- Vegetation Species at Risk (SAR) - 2 - Area between Duchesne and Provo River/Lost Creek Rockcress draba is present and habitat for Utah Ivesia is nearby. 1 - Stillwater/Hayden Fork – No SAR plants present. 2 - East Fork Bear River – No SAR plants are present, but rockcress draba occurs nearby and has potential to occur. 4 - Blacks Fork – Siberian aster, a globally common species, but a species rare in Utah is present. In addition, Uinta beardtongue is also present at upper elevations. 1 - Smiths Fork - No SAR

plants present. 1 - Henrys/Gilbert - No SAR plants present. 1 - Beaver Creek - No SAR plants present. 1 - Burnt Fork/Thompson/Kabell - No SAR plants present.

- Terrestrial Species at Risk – 4 - Lynx and wolverine habitat present. Goshawk and Northern three-toed woodpeckers present.
- Fish Species at Risk – 5 - This area contains a number of metapopulations of Colorado River and Bonneville cutthroat trout.
- ROS – 5 – 14% SPM, 64% SPNM. High quality backcountry values.
- Landscape Character and Scenic Integrity – 4 - Ghost roads on eastern edge of this area. Scenic Attractiveness Level: Common for mid-elevations in the Uintas with lodgepole pine and with some fir.
- Heritage Resources – 5 - Most survey data of the forest. Very high probability of historic tie hack sites as well as prehistoric sites.
- Unique Characteristics – 5 - Portions of 15 rivers found eligible in wild and scenic river inventory.
- Size and Context - Overall Score for Size and Context – 5 – (Acres and Size: 5. Large (103,071(WCNF roadless) + 460,000 (High Uintas Wilderness) + circa 250,000 adjacent Ashley NF roadless) (By far the largest contiguous roadless/wilderness area on the Forest and state, and among the larger in the lower 48.) Adjacency: 5. immediately adjacent to designated Wilderness. Context: Rank 3. Uinta Mountains. 1. Other roadless or Wilderness in section. Integrity: Cherry Stems, 1. More than 5 and/or very long and intrudes deeply. (At least a dozen cherry stems or peninsulas of roaded corridor extend into the High Uintas Roadless Area. Each is a road(s) corridor up a canyon or into the area, approaching higher elevations and eventually butting into steeper lands. The area is too large to not be subdivided when considering management recommendations and applying prescriptions, however if a generalization must be made about the whole (and from a roadless perspective) it has very great value by its size alone.)

Summary Statement

- (Refer to detailed evaluation for some drainage by drainage assessments of values.) Mostly high values. For Vegetation SAR, Blacks Fork drainage has high value; all others have low values. High values for public drinking water in Provo River drainage and for wetlands. High values for fish SAR, scenic integrity, context, and size.

Chapter 3

Wild and Scenic Rivers
[Addition: Page 3-27, insert above heading, Land Use]

In December 1994 an interagency agreement was signed by the Bureau of Land Management (Utah State Office), USDA Forest Service (Intermountain Region), and National Park Service (Rocky Mountain Region) calling for the three agencies to define common criteria and processes for use in determining the eligibility and suitability of Utah rivers for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Inventory. The new criteria established as a result of this effort required an update to the 1993 Wasatch-Cache Wild and scenic River Inventory. This update was completed in 1999 (USFS, 1999). This resulted in 33 eligible stream segments being identified on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. In the new inventory the Stillwater Fork was again found eligible; however, its segment length and classification were changed. The 1999 inventory found the Stillwater Fork eligible for 11.8 miles, with 6.2 miles classified as wild and 5.6 miles classified as scenic. The additional length was the result of including mileage within the High Uinta Wilderness. Nearby rivers also found eligible were 12.4 miles of the Hayden Fork, which was classified as recreational, and 3.8 miles of Ostler Fork which was classified as wild because of its location in the High Uinta Wilderness. Within the Table Top project area the Main Fork was not found eligible.

Chapter 3

Transportation and Recreation
[Replace; Pages 3-27 and 3-28: replace transportation and recreation section on pages 3-27 and 3-28]

Transportation and Recreation

The Bear River General Forest Area (BR-GFA) is the geographic area used to describe transportation and recreation affected environment. It is located on the Evanston Ranger District and includes the Main, Stillwater, and East Forks of the Bear River drainages.

The BR-GFA has a great variety of recreational opportunities with a supporting transportation system. This area has wilderness trailheads, developed campgrounds, dispersed camp-sites, miles of improved and un-improved roads, non-motorized trails, motorized trails, summer home sites, a boy scout camp, interpretive displays, a snowmobile parking lot, remote backcountry camping areas, etc. Recreation activities range from the Wolverine Trail system that provides a variety of terrain and loop routes for mountain bikes and ATVs to providing access to the High Uintas Wilderness.

The proximity of recreational subdivisions and availability of rental machines just outside the Forest boundary increases the use of this area.

The Evanston and Mountain View Ranger District Travel Map displays the travel management direction for both summer and winter motorized uses within the Bear River area. Decisions for winter recreation were made in the Revised Forest Plan while summer uses were decided in the Evanston /Mountain View Travel Plan Environmental Assessment (USDA, Forest Service, 2003a).

In the winter the Mirror Lake highway is gated near the Forest boundary during the winter months and is groomed as a snowmobile trail from the gate closure to another gate closure near Kamas, Utah. There were approximately 7,974 recreation visitor days (RVD) of use by snowmobilers and 1,142 recreational visitor days (RVD) of cross country skiers during the winter season of 2002 - 2003 between the Forest boundary and the Bald Mountain Pass.

This area gets very heavy winter snowmobile use due to generally good snow conditions, rental machine availability, and easy access from the Bear River Snow Park parking area, and regularly groomed trails on the Mirror Lake Highway and North Slope Road. The area generally east of Stillwater Fork is managed as open to winter motorized use.

Winter recreational activities such as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing occur extensively along the Stillwater road up to and around Christmas Meadows. Recreation use in the Main Fork drainage is light.

Recreation visitors heavily use the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway during the summer months

from May until November with July and August being the peak season of use.

The Stillwater Road receives substantial use by recreation visitors traveling to the Christmas Meadows Recreation Residence (summer homes) area, Christmas Meadows Campground, Wolverine Trail system, and the Stillwater Wilderness Trailhead. The Christmas Meadows area provides excellent fishing, site seeing, and dispersed camping opportunities.

Currently, the Main Fork Trail (#097) enters the project area from Highway 150 near the Gold Hill Road. Once it intersects with the Main Fork Road, the trail runs along the road until it intersects with the Main Fork Creek. From that point, the trail diverges from the road and continues on to Hell Hole Lake approximately three miles to the south to just inside the High Uintas Wilderness. Some limited dispersed camping has occurred along the trail and Hell Hole Lake receives light recreational use.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the BR-GFA ranges from Roaded Natural (RN) in the lower part of drainage to Wilderness/Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (W/SPNM) in the upper part. The access road is within Roaded Natural and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized. Both wellsites are within Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM). For details of these ROS classifications see the Revised Forest Plan, page 4-84 and 4-86. See Supplement Map S-2 for ROS mapping.

Access

The primary access to the project area is from State Highway 150. The turn off to FS Road 057 is 33 miles from Evanston, Wyoming, and 45.5 miles from Kamas, Utah. Access to the project from Highway 150 is on the Stillwater Road (Road No. 057) to the turnoff of the Peninsula Road.

Combined the Peninsula Road and the Main Fork Road provide direct access to the project site. In the past the Peninsula Road was used for various timber-harvesting operations in the Peninsula area.

The first 0.8 of a mile of the Peninsula Road is open to passenger vehicles. The remainder of the Peninsula and Main Fork Roads road will be open for administrative use only.

Roads Analysis

In January 2001, the Chief of the Forest Service approved a new road policy. The new policy is aimed at providing managers tools to make better, more informed decisions about where, when, and if new roads should be constructed, to close or decommission old unneeded and unauthorized ghost roads. To upgrade roads as appropriate, to meet changing uses, local communities access needs and growing recreation demands. Also to identify sustainable funding sources for maintaining forest roads system.

The Forest Service Manual 7710 provides managers direction for completing the roads analysis. It relies on the Forest Service report called *Roads Analysis: Informing Decisions About Managing the National Forest Transportation System* (USDA Forest Service 1999). Roads analysis is an integrated ecological, social, and economic science-based approach to transportation planning that addresses existing and future road management options.

A forest-wide Roads Analysis of the forest's higher standard roads, Maintenance Objective Levels 3-5, was completed during the Forest Plan Revision (WCNF, 2002). In addition, as the Evanston/ Mountain View Travel Plan were being updated, a roads analysis was completed that provided recommendations incorporated into the proposed action for the Travel Plan (Mountain View/Evanston Ranger Districts, 2003).

The Forest Supervisor determined these two roads analyses were adequate to inform the decision being made in the Table Top supplement and that an additional roads analysis document is not needed at this time (WCNF, 2004).

Road Density

The Travel Plan has 37.3 miles of Forest Service roads that are open to the public and 9.4 miles of motorized trail in the Bear River area. Road densities drop from 2.18 miles per section to 2.04 miles per section as a result of the 2003 Travel Plan.

Chapter 3

Timber
[Replace: Page 3-29, the 4 paragraphs under Timber with the following paragraphs]

Timber Management

Timber management was addressed in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan resulting in a different base for timber suitability than the 1985 forest plan. No lands within the project analysis area were assigned a Prescription 5.2 designating them as suitable timberlands. Many lands were found to be tentatively suitable, but received management prescriptions that emphasized resource management other than timber. Timber management (including commercial harvest, reforestation, and commercial and precommercial thinning) may occur on those lands, if analysis determines it is an acceptable way to achieve the management direction for the area. Within the project area harvest may be used to maintain, improve, or restore terrestrial wildlife habitat on prescription 3.2 lands. On lands assigned a 4.4 Prescription timber may be used if it is compatible with motorized recreation and does not detract from the recreation setting. Timber harvest is allowed in prescription 3.1A for the purposes of improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat.

No timber harvest is scheduled or planned within the project analysis area.

Chapter 3

Demographics

[Addition; Page 3-33, insert after Demographics]

The magnitude of growth across the two affected counties varies significantly and is displayed in table below.

Table S-11. Population for Analysis Area and States, 1991-2000.

Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 1991-2000
	people										Percent
Summit, UT	17,124	18,406	20,247	22,044	23,902	25,297	26,634	27,970	29,004	29,976	75%
Uinta, WY	19,101	19,476	19,581	19,927	19,884	19,936	19,935	20,029	19,901	19,707	3%
Utah	1,779,780	1,836,799	1,898,404	1,960,446	2,014,177	2,067,976	2,119,784	2,165,960	2,203,482	2,241,555	26%
Wyoming	459,260	466,251	473,081	480,283	485,160	488,167	489,451	490,787	491,780	494,001	8%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System, 2002.

Table S-12 highlights the racial characteristics for comparison of the analysis area. As is common in counties throughout the rural west, county populations are not as racially diverse as the general population of the United States. Over the last decade there has been a net immigration from other states, and some foreign immigration, which has markedly increased ethnic diversity in the area, mostly in people of Hispanic or Asian/Pacific origins.

Table S-12. Population Characteristics Compared for the United States, Utah, Wyoming, and Analysis Area in 2000.

Area	2000 Population	Percent of State Population	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some other race(s)	Latino or Hispanic, any race
	people	percent	percent of total population					
Summit, UT	29,736	1.3	91.8	0.2	0.3	1.0	6.6	8.1
Uinta, WY	19,742	4.0	94.3	0.1	0.9	0.3	4.4	5.3
Utah	2,233,169	na	89.2	0.8	1.3	2.3	6.3	9.0
Wyoming	493,782	na	92.1	0.8	2.3	0.6	4.3	6.4
U.S.	282,124,631	na	75.1	12.3	0.9	3.8	7.9	12.5

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce. U.S. Census Bureau, 2002.

na = not available.

Total percentages for each county may add to more than 100 percent as people can select more than one race.

Table S-13 highlights additional demographics of the analysis area. The percent of homes used as second or vacation homes indicates that Summit County attracts part-time residents to the area. Family sizes are also larger in Utah than Wyoming or the U.S. average.

Table S-13. Demographic Characteristics Compared for the United States, Utah, Wyoming and Analysis Area in 1989 and 2000.

Area	Average family size	Median age	Population 65 and over	Persons at or below poverty level, 1989*	Second or vacation homes
	people	years	percent of total	percent of total	percent of total
Summit, UT	3.30	33.3	4.8	7.1	35.0
Uinta, WY	3.31	31.4	7.0	8.5	3.0
Utah	3.57	27.1	8.5	11.2	3.9
Wyoming	3.00	36.2	11.7	11.6	5.5
U.S.	3.14	35.3	5.1	12.8	3.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 2002. 1990 Census.

*2000 poverty statistics not available at this time.

Per Capita Income

Annual per capita personal income (PCPI) in Utah in 2000 was $23,436 slightly lower than the national average of $29,469. Table S-14 below displays the 2000 per capita personal income and average annual growth rate between 1990 and 2000 and the change between 1999 and 2000 for the two counties and states in the analysis area. Because per capita income is a measure of both income and population, smaller counties in Utah often show a lower change or growth than either the state or national average due to large family sizes. Summit County has a per capita income much higher than other counties in the analysis area, the state of Utah, and the national average.

Table S-14. Per Capita Personal Income and percent change for the Analysis Area, 2000.

Area	2000 per capita Personal Income	1990-2000 change	1999-2000 change
	dollars	percent	
Summit, UT	40,528	5.7	4.5
Uinta, WY	22,042	4.1	4.1
Wyoming	27,372	4.3	5.3
United States	29,469	4.2	5.8

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System, 2002.

Employment Sector

Fifteen percent of those employed in Uinta County or about 1,400 people are employed in the agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, and mining industry. In Summit County, Utah, the percent is lower at 2.5 percent equating to 418 people (2000 Census, U.S. Census Bureau).

Chapter 3

Economic Activities
[Addition; Page 3-38, replace Tables 3-7 and 3-8.]

Updated figures for total revenue for Uinta County, Wyoming, and Summit County, Utah, were taken from their current year budget proposals and information supplied by their respective auditor's offices. The anticipated revenues of general funds for Uinta County, Wyoming, for fiscal year 2004-2005 are $22,894,227.04 and Summit County, Utah, their anticipated total revenue is $46,827,527.00.

Chapter 3

Scenic Management
[Replace: Pages 39-43]

The management of the scenic resources is a concern to highway travelers and recreation users in the area. The following will describe the situations:

- views from scenic route (Mirror Lake Scenic Highway (Utah State Highway 150) passes adjacent to the project area
- views from existing developed recreation facilities - trails, campgrounds, and day use areas
- views from summer homes
- scenic quality - the inherent aesthetic value of the natural landscape
- Landscape Character Theme (LCT) and Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)

The scenic resource inventory was conducted based on the guidelines of the Forest Service Landscape Aesthetics A Handbook for Scenery Management (Ag. Handbook 701). Data was collected from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisors Office in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Evanston Ranger District office in Evanston, Wyoming. Additional data collection consisted of information from Wasatch-Cache Corporate GIS data for roads, vegetation mapping, contacts with the Forest Landscape Architect, and literature reviews. Field reconnaissance was conducted during September 1991, and updated in July 2004. Refer to Appendix D-4 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement of the Revised Forest Plan for detailed explanation of the method used.

The analysis area is located in the Northeastern corner of Utah, next to the Southwestern border of Wyoming in the Uinta Mountains; this area rises in elevation from 6,800 in the foothills to 12,718 feet on Ostler Peak. The analysis area is positioned in 3 ecological subsections: West Flank Uintas, High Uintas, and North Slope Outwash (Nelson, 1993) and is managed by the Evanston Ranger District. The analysis area includes diverse landscapes of open sagebrush flats, aspen, and coniferous forests, high mountains, semi-circular cirque basins, deep U-shaped river valleys, grassy meadows, alpine tundra and of lakes, streams, and wetlands.

Created by glaciers, this landscape is composed of broad vistas of deep U-shaped valleys coursed by mountain streams that tumble down steps of hard quartzite stone, and meander through open grassy meadows with lush riparian borders. The Uinta Mountains, which include Kletting, A-1, and Ostler Peaks, are the dominant features of the area. The Main Fork, the Stillwater Fork, and the Hayden Fork drainages dissect the northern slopes of these mountains near the analysis area. The entire analysis area is forested largely with lodgepole pine, located primarily on slopes of the mountains. Stands of Engelmann spruce with dispersed patches of aspen occur in the rocky drainages.

Mirror Lake Highway and dispersed recreation sites adjacent to the highway may have views from the middleground and background distance zones.

The Forest Service manages the scenic resources on National Forests and grasslands with the

Scenery Management System (SMS). NEPA requires that scenic resources be evaluated for any action that could result in potentially adverse effects to the inherent scenic values of the landscape.

Scenic Attractiveness

Class A – Distinctive: Areas that fall into this class are located adjacent to the Mirror Lake Highway, in the southern central portion of the analysis area adjacent to the Main Fork drainage, and larger more open areas in the northern and eastern portion of the analysis area in Christmas Meadows.

Elevations range from 8,600 feet in areas adjacent to Hayden Fork drainage to 9,600 feet on the top ridges near the Main Fork drainage.

Vegetation consists of dense coverage of Lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce occasionally broken by stands of aspen and willow. Variety in other overstory and understory vegetation increases the diversity of the vegetation pattern. Color variations range from light softer greens, yellows and oranges in the deciduous trees during season changes to a darker more solid green of the evergreen pine and spruce.

The Hayden Fork, Stillwater Fork, Main Fork, and East Fork drainages are among the water features that meander through the analysis area. Distinctive high mountain lakes nearest to the project area in this class include Hell Hole Lake further to the south, accessed by Hell Hole Lake Trail. Cultural modifications consist of several developed campground, dispersed primitive car camps, improved and unimproved roads and trails.

Class B – Typical: Areas that fall into this class are located in the southern portion of the analysis area along the ridges between the Hayden Fork and Main Fork, Main Fork and Stillwater Fork and Main Fork and East Fork drainages.

Landform consists of moderately dissected or rolling hills generally between 30 to 60 percent slope. Some areas are steep and rocky with poor accessibility. Elevations range from 8,800 feet on the north slopes of the analysis area to 9,800 feet on ridges adjacent to the Main Fork drainage.

Vegetation consists of dense stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce occasionally interspersed with stands of aspen. Colors range from the darker greens of the pine and spruce to the lighter greens, yellows and oranges of the aspen.

Several drainages that run into the Main Fork and Stillwater Fork drainages are perennial water features that add to the character of the landscape.

Cultural modifications consist of a few trails and primitive roads dispersed throughout the area.

Class C - Indistinctive Areas that fall into this area are located in the southern portion of the analysis area along the ridges between Hayden Fork and Main Fork drainages. They typically are areas larger than 3 miles square of weak or missing attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance from background views. Landform

consists of moderately dissected or rolling hills generally between 30 to 60 percent slope. With vegetation of dense stands of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce consisting of colors of dark green with dispersed reds and grays of dead or dieing trees.

Viewpoint Inventory and Concern Level

The viewpoints in this inventory are divided into four groups. The viewpoints identified in the analysis area are listed below by group. Use of these viewpoints peaks during the summer months of July and August. Concern levels are a measure of the degree of public importance placed on landscapes viewed from travelways and use areas. Concern Level 1 is high where the travelway, use area, or destination is of national or regionally importance. Concern Level 2 is moderate where the travelway, use area, or destination is locally important. Concern Level 3 is low where the travelway, use area, or destination is not in Level 1 or 2 because of use and purpose of the user.

Roads Concern Level 1

These roads are primary travel routes with high to moderate use volume and high user attitude.
Key Viewpoint Descriptions:

Mirror Lake Scenic Byway (State Highway 150) is a paved two-lane road that runs north-south parallel to the western boundary of the project area. This road is closed in the winter months of the year and is groomed for snowmobile use, but snow is not removed for other vehicular travel. This road is a designated scenic highway and would be considered a major travel route (370 average annual daily trips (AADT)) with a high-use volume and high user attitude.

Stillwater Road (Forest Road No. 057) is accessed from Mirror Lake Highway and runs parallel to the Stillwater Fork drainage on the east of the project area.

Christmas Meadows Recreation Residence (*Forest Road No. 113)* is accessed from and runs parallel to the Stillwater Fork road in Christmas Meadows.

Table S-15 Concern Level 1 Roads

Route No.	Name	Miles
State Road 150	Mirror Lake Scenic Byway	5.83
40058	North Slope	2.35
80057	Stillwater Fork	4.32
80111	Christmas Meadow Campground	.21
80113	Christmas Meadow Recreation Residence	.07
80115	Beaver View Campground	0.41
80116	Hayden Fork Campground	0.23
80117	Stillwater Campground	1.43
80121	East Fork Campground	0.2

Roads Concern Level 2

Moderate degree of public importance placed on landscapes viewed from travelways and use areas.
Key Viewpoint Descriptions:

These roads would be considered secondary travel routes with a moderate to low use volume and moderate user attitude.

Peninsula Road (Forest Road No. 306) is accessed from Stillwater Road approximately one mile south of Mirror Lake Highway access and runs less than 0.4 miles southwest to a locked gate.

Table S-16 Concern Level 2 Roads

Route No.	Name	Miles
80120	Lily Lake	3.6
80147	Christmas Meadows. Dispersed	0.2
80150	Disney West	0.1
80306	Upper Peninsula Road	0.4
80059	East Fork Bear River	5.3
80313	Disney Road	1.5
80323	Wolverine Road	1.4
80371	Bear River Snow Park	0.2

Roads Concern Level 3

Table S-17 Concern Level 3 Roads

Route No.	Name	Miles	Route No.	Name	Miles
80172	Bear River Admin Site	0.38	80377	East Fork Cutoff	0.3
80340	Bear River Ranger Station	0.1	80378	East Fork East	0.3
80343	Trailer Dump	0.5	80379	Tie Hack West	0.3
80112	Sage Draw Cutoff	0.9	80380	East Fork Bear River Ford	0.2
80148	Disney East	0.1	80381	Lagoon Cutoff	0.2
80149	Upper Christmas Meadows	0.2	80382	Lily Lake East	0.4
80341	Sage Draw	3.9	80383	Lily Lake West	0.8
80372	Wrights	0.05	80384	Stillwater Bridge	1.2
80373	Hillard Canal 2	0.6	80661	Stillwater South	0.3
80374	Hillard Canal 3	0.1	80662	Wolverine North	0.2
80375	Hovarka Canal West	0.3	80663	Boy Scout	0.2
80376	Hovarka Canal West 2	0.2	80738	Hovarka	1.3
			80748	Elmers Road	2.7

Recreation Trails Concern Level 1

Key Viewpoint Descriptions:

This trail is a primary access to a wilderness area with a moderate use volume and a high user attitude.

Stillwater Trail (Forest Trail No. 098) begins at the end of the Stillwater Road in the Christmas Meadows and runs south into the High Uintas Wilderness. This trail also leads to the Ostler and West Basin trails.

Table S-18 Concern Level 1 Trails		
Route No.	Name	Miles
8098	Stillwater – Recreation	8.25

Recreation Trails Concern level 2

Key Viewpoint Descriptions:

These trails receive moderate use with moderate to high user attitude.

Kermsuh Lake Trail (Forest Trail No. 152) is accessed from the Stillwater Trail approximately 4.5 miles south from Christmas Meadows and runs southwest.

Amethyst Lake Trail (Forest Trail No. 149) is accessed from the Stillwater Trail approximately 3 miles south of Christmas Meadows and runs southeast to Amethyst Basin.

Hell Hole Lake Trail (Forest Trail No. 104) begins at the end of the Peninsula Road and runs south through the middle of the analysis area paralleling the Main Fork drainage and continues to the areas adjacent to Hell Hole Lake.

Table S-19 Concern Level 2 Trails					
Route No.	**Name**	**Miles**	**Route No.**	**Name**	**Miles**
8091	Bear River-Smith Fork	2.69	8139	Kermsuh Lake (GIS 152)	2.56
8097	Main Fork Stillwater	4.2	8149	Amethyst Lake	3.42
8099	Boundary Creek	4.3	8151	Left Hand Fork	4.76
8100	East Fork Bear River	9.7	9801	Wolverine ATV	18.84

Developed Recreation Sites Concern Level 1

Key Viewpoint Descriptions:

These campgrounds receive moderate use with a high user attitude.

Stillwater Campground is located in the northern portion of the analysis area accessed by Mirror Lake Highway.

Hayden Fork Campground is located in the western portion of the analysis area approximately 3 miles south of the Stillwater Campground accessed by Mirror Lake Highway.

Beaver View Campground is located in the western portion of the analysis area approximately 0.75 miles south of the Hayden Fork Campground accessed by Mirror Lake Highway.

Christmas Meadows Campground is located in the eastern portion of the study area and is accessed from the Stillwater Road approximately 3.5 miles south of Mirror Lake Highway. This campground receives a moderate use with a moderate to high user attitude.

Christmas Meadows Summer Homes are located in Christmas Meadows on the west side of the Stillwater Fork drainage and are accessed from the Stillwater Road.

Landscape Character Themes and Scenic Integrity Objectives

Within the analysis area there are three Landscape Character Themes (LCT) Natural Evolving, Natural Appearing and Developed Natural Appearing that represent a broad image of valued landscape found in this area. For each of the LCTs there are Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO) assigned that aggregates the LCT. These SIOs were delineated using criteria established during the Revised Forest Plan process they range from Very High – Low. See map S-4.

The project area is located in a Natural Appearing LCT and moderate SIO but is within the 4-mile viewshed of the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway a concern level 1 road that alters the management to a high SIO. Guideline 61, pg. 4-48 Revised Forest Plan states:

> *(G61) For management activities viewable from Concern Level 1: (defined site specifically) Scenic Byways (viewshed corridors 0-4 miles) and use areas, travelways, and Scenic Backways (viewshed corridors <1/2 mile) apply the landscape Character Theme in which the management activity occurs and apply a Scenic Integrity Objective of high.*

Chapter 3

Cultural Resources – Inventory Results
[Addition: Page 3-48, insert after last paragraph]

Information summarized below is derived from the technical report prepared by the forest archeologist and filed with the State Historic Preservation Office (Project Numbers WS-04-676; U-04-FS-0630f).

The Memorandum of Agreement that resolved the adverse effects identified in the 1994 EIS for this project was executed. The first stipulation in the agreement was carried out and the most intact portion of the Howe Flume was protected from road construction by a long chain link fence. Subsequent visits to this section of the flume indicate that the fence has worked to protect log cribbing and other features associated with that section of the flume. The second mitigation measure identified several options for interpreting tie-hacking in the area. Ultimately, the approach that was chosen was to move a tie hack cabin to the Bear River Ranger Station. The cabin was restored at this location and serves as an interpretive site for area visitors.

Construction of the road paralleling the Howe Flume along the Main Fork has brought more visitors into the area. Most of these are hiking to Hell Hole Lake, and few visitor impacts to the features of the Historic District have been observed. Overall, the Howe Flume Historic District appears to be much the same as it was in 1994, with the exception of continued weathering of the wooden features.

Not all of the original proposed access road was constructed, and fieldwork was conducted in 2004, which re-surveyed that route. Both previously recorded and newly identified features associated with the Howe Flume were found. These include five cabins in varying stages of decay, one large bridge feature, and fifteen flume segments. Many of these features are outside of the current project area.

One of the discoveries of the 2004 fieldwork is that flume segments and associated features extend at least 200 meters upstream of the current boundaries of the Howe Flume National Register District. This area is outside of the current project area.

Chapter 4

Environmental Consequences
[Addition: Page 4-1, replace the second to the last sentence in the fourth paragraph]

Forest-wide goals, subgoals, standards and guidelines and management prescriptions are found in Chapter 4 of the 2003 Revised Forest Plan. The proposed project is located in the Western Uintas Management Area (refer to Forest Plan page 4-176).

All references to Applicable Forest Plan direction made in the 1994 Environmental Impact Statement have been replaced with direction from the Revised Forest Plan. Applicable Forest Plan direction is found in Chapter 1, page 1-4a-e and Chapter 2, page 2-21a-c of this supplement.

[Addition: Page 4-1, replace the last paragraph with the following]

A list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities in the area in Hayden, Main Fork, Stillwater and East Fork Bear River drainages is shown in Appendix L. This area was chosen because generally cumulative effects will not extend beyond this range. In many cases it will be much smaller. Because the cumulative effects area is delineated based on the unique aspects of each resource activities considered relevant will vary by resource.

The Main Fork Bear Timber Sale is no longer being considered as a future project and therefore will not be considered in any effects disclosure. All references and disclosure to the Main Fork Timber Sale throughout Chapter 4 of the 1994 Environmental Impact Statement are removed (pages 4-3, 4-6, 4-10, 4-14, 4-20, 4-21, 4-24, 4-29, 4-33, 4-34, 4-35, 4-36, 4-38, 4-2, and 4-47).

Chapter 4

Water Resources
[Addition: Page 4-6, insert after 3rd paragraph under Water Resources]

The Army Corps of Engineers in Salt Lake City, Utah, were contacted early in 2004 to confirm the validity of the Nationwide Permit #26 that authorized disturbance in 1994 (Robin Smith, 2004). The Corps confirmed that because the portion of the road that affects wetlands has already been constructed, another permit would not be necessary.

Chapter 4

Ground Water
[Addition: Page 4-7, insert after 3rd paragraph under Ground Water]

Standard 5 of the Revised Forest Plan states that: " Prior to issuance of a permit or license for activities such as mining, hydropower development, snow making or water transmission facilities, in stream flow determinations will be required of all future and permitted and licensed activities." Any activities which allow water to be drawn from the Main Fork will be permitted through the Utah State Engineers Office.

Chapter 4

Mitigation
[Addition: Page 4-10, insert after the 4th paragraph]

Observations on a 2004 field trip generally indicate that the wetland areas impacted by the original Main Fork Trail/Road have actually begun to restore themselves naturally since use of this trail has been shifted to the new road. Many areas have begun to regenerate to wetland species and the trail is in stable watershed condition. From conditions noted on the field visit, it was determined that much of the wetland restoration work proposed under the 1994 decision is not needed now. Natural restoration is occurring and previously recommended restoration work would result in undesired damage to vegetation if implemented (Condrat and Flood, 2004).

Recommendations for restoring this trail include minor water bar construction at 5 locations, small amounts of seeding, and scattering of downed logs and branches along the entire route to discourage any further recreation use.

Cumulative Effects
[Addition: Page 4-10, Replace the paragraph under Cumulative Effects]

The cumulative effects analysis area for water resources is the area draining the Stillwater Fork. This was chosen because the Table Top Well Project is located within the Main Creek drainage and is a tributary to the Stillwater Fork. This area was chosen because the Stillwater Fork is a 6th code hydrologic unit and is the appropriate scale for the size of the project.

No cumulative effects to ground water resources are anticipated because there are no other ground water activities in the Stillwater drainage. The main issue with surface water is adverse effects to water quality from sedimentation of water from the Table Top project. Other activities in the analysis area that could cause sedimentation are the road to Christmas Meadows, a few miles ATV trails near the mouth of Stillwater Fork drainage, and a small area of burned conifer just below the ridge from the East Fork Fire of 2002. None of these activities have had an adverse effect on water quality in the Stillwater Fork drainage as indicated by the state of Utah's determination that the waters of the upper Bear River Utah fully meet their beneficial uses (Utah, State of, 2002). It is anticipated that the cumulative effects of Table Top project and these other activities will not adversely effect water quality because of the mitigation applied to minimize erosion of the Table Top Well Project and that these other activities are not adversely affecting water quality.

Chapter 4

Old Growth

[Delete: Page 4-11, Old Growth, delete references to old growth, this is no longer the management direction.]

Chapter 4

Mitigation
[Addition: Page 4-14, insert after paragraph on Mitigation]

A field review to the Table Top project site took place on July 1, 2004. Best Management Practices were in place which included stockpiling topsoil and the installation of culverts and road dips for the purpose of maintaining existing drainage and to provide proper road surface drainage. These practices were effective in controlling erosion as indicated by the deposition of small amounts of sediment in front of the silt fences, and the road surface having vegetation growing on it, and the lack of rills of the road surface (Condrat and Flood, 2004).

Cumulative Effects
[Replace: Page 4-14, replace paragraph under Cumulative Effects]

Information summarized below is derived from the vegetation analysis prepared by the forest ecologist (Padgett, 2004).

Figure 1 illustrates vegetation cover types and the general location of the Table Top well site within the Stillwater Fork landscape on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains. Also illustrated, is the location of the East Fork Fire that burned nearly 12,000 acres of this landscape. Lodgepole pine represents 23 percent of the acres within the burn perimeter (East Fork Salvage FEIS). Vegetation removal required for the Table Top road and well site contribute to the change in lodgepole pine cover type. Seventeen acres would be removed for the life of the road and the well site. This change is minor changing representation of the lodgepole pine cover type from 14% to 13.8% within the Stillwater landscape.

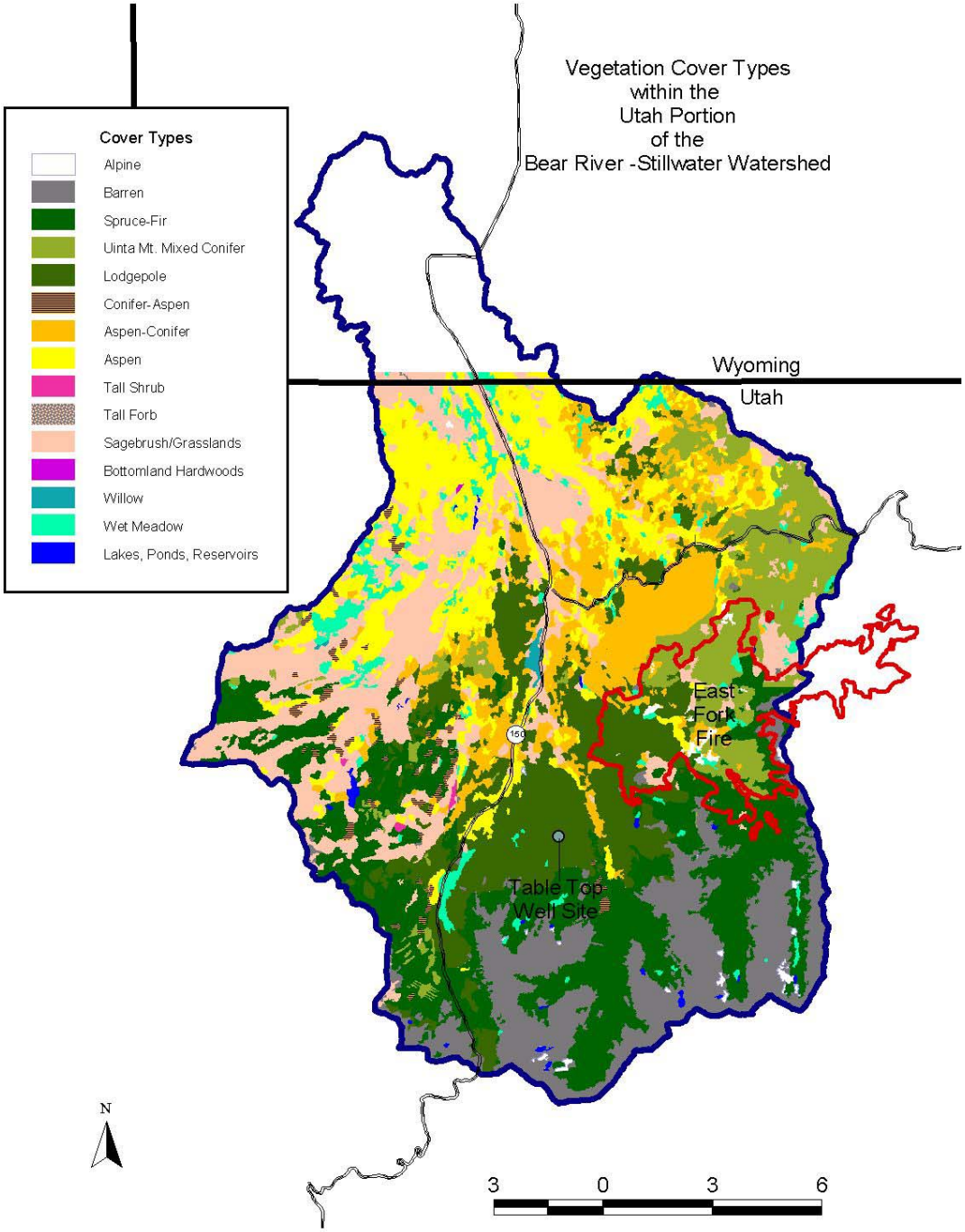

Figure 1. Table Top – Stillwater landscape vegetation cover types (area in red represents area where East Fork fire burned, reducing size and cover classes).

Chapter 4

Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate (TEPC)

[Addition; Page 4-19, insert for page 4-19]

Lynx

The proposed project may effect, but would not likely to adversely effect the Canada lynx. The effects from this project are limited to the displacement and loss of minimal habitat for lynx; however Mowart et al. reports that Staples presented data on lynx responses to close encounters with humans and found that lynx are generally tolerant of humans. The work of Staples and other anecdotal accounts of lynx behavior suggest that lynx can tolerate human disturbance even continued presence (Ruggiero et al. 1994). Ruggiero et al (1994) could not detect changes in lynx movement patterns or home ranges in northern studies despite constant, repetitive, and daily traveling through the study area to check traps and locate animals. Lynx may tend to avoid areas with higher levels of disturbance or greater fragmentation of habitat from development although this has not been rigorously tested (Ruggiero et al. 1994).

The project would affect 8 acres that could potentially be used as denning or foraging habitat by lynx and prey species within the lodgepole pine stand. There would be an additional .017% change in habitat from suitable to unsuitable within LAU 35 from the proposed test drilling. However, mature lodgepole pine stands are not considered primary denning or foraging habitat for lynx because of the lack of understory species and densities. Typical understory species in lodgepole-dominated stands consists of grasses, forbs, and sparse, low growing shrubs. Older regenerating lodgepole pine stands found in disturbances greater than 20 years could provide denning opportunities for lynx and the necessary horizontal security cover for snowshoe hares.

Habitat loss or change in vegetative species composition would be in the road right-of-way and the well pad site during construction and rehabilitation if the test hole were dry. This change in habitat (.017%) added to what occurred from the East Fork Fire would not significantly change the current percentage of LAU 35 that is unsuitable (12.9% East Fork Fire EIS Table 3.11.3). Within the East Fork Fire area there are some portions of the LAU that are inhabitable for lynx such as areas where high to moderately intense fires created openings or clearing of understory vegetation and canopy cover. The fire reduced available forage and cover for lynx and its prey species. However, there are islands and fingers of interconnecting vegetation that would provide some type of foraging or traveling opportunities for lynx. The LCAS standard for recommended denning habitat (10%) within an LAU would be exceeded. The proposed project area affects more than one prey individual. A snowshoe hare's home range is 12-25 acres and red squirrels have a home range of 5.9 acres. The proposed activities could potentially eliminate habitat in portions of these species home ranges. The probability of eliminating these species from the project area is low due to the available habitat throughout the project area.

Activities from road construction and drilling would increase noise and visual disturbance within the area. The area may be avoided by lynx and prey species until the completion of the project or until at a future time if the habitat provides the necessary requirements for denning and/or foraging. Displacement would move lynx to other areas of the LAU. Lynx are known to utilize all portions of their home range and concentrate in areas where prey species are available. These areas are typically areas of dense brushy vegetation that provide adequate habitat for snowshoe hare. Daily lynx movements are generally in the search for food. Depending on scarcity of prey species, movements can range from 2.8 to 5.5 miles. Undisturbed areas can be found at higher elevations in the wilderness (there is an estimated 24,000 acres in LAU 35 that occur within the wilderness). Prey species would probably be displaced to other areas of the stand where disturbances were lower. These distances may still be within their respected home ranges.

If this becomes a winter drilling operation, road access to the well site would have to be cleared of snow. Sections D and F, quoted below, from the LCAS are attached in their entirety.

> In the LCAS on page 7-10, under "D. Forest/Backcountry Roads and Trails," Programmatic Planning Standard 1 reads, "On federal lands in lynx habitat, allow no net increase in groomed or designated over-the-snow routes and snowmobile play areas by LAU. Winter logging activity is not subject to this restriction."

In conversations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Romin, 2004), oil and gas activities would not be subject to this restriction either.

> In the LCAS on page 7-11, under "F. Other Human Developments: Oil & Gas Leasing, Mines, Reservoirs, Agriculture," Project Planning Guideline 2 reads, "Minimize snow compaction when authorizing and monitoring developments. Encourage remote monitoring of sites that are located in lynx habitat, so that they do not have to be visited daily."

Plowing the road has the potential for reducing the competitive advantage lynx has in uncompacted snow. If the road is plowed to allow workers access for drilling operations, it will be managed as closed to snowmobile access. The area around the access road to the well site is currently managed as motorized as decided in the 2003 Travel plan.

Cumulative Effects LAU 35 & 36
Grazing, motorized/non-motorized recreation, and timber occur within LAU 35 and 36. Since the establishment of the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy, guidelines and standards have been developed to conserve lynx and to reduce or eliminate adverse effects from the spectrum of management activities on federal lands.

Grazing
There are 9 allotments (8 sheep/1cattle) that either occur or have some portion of the allotment within the boundaries of LAU 35 and 36. In riparian habitat within lynx habitat, ungulate forage use levels may reduce forage resources available to snowshoe hares. Browsing or grazing can have a direct effect on snowshoe hare habitat if it alters the structure or native plant species composition. The 2003 Revised Forest Plan has established standards (24 & 25) and guidelines (71-75) to achieve desired and properly functioning conditions on rangeland. Effects from sheep and cattle grazing would be limited to aspen stands, meadows, and other openings within the LAU. Much of the forested landscape is classified as non-range type due to steepness of slope and/or lack of forage. Monitoring vegetation utilization within cattle allotments is more effective because of plant species selection by livestock. Sheep utilize a variety of forbs, grasses, and shrubs depending on season and plant production. It is more effective to monitor ground cover to determine utilization within sheep allotments. Monitoring results in the cattle allotment within LAU 35 show it meeting Forest Plan utilization standards. The Evanston/Mountain View Range Specialist visited the sheep allotments and visually determined the ground cover was adequate or within utilization standards (Zobell 2004).

Roads
Roads and trails increase fragmentation of habitat across the landscape. Isolated island areas may become unsuitable habitat and effect lynx by increasing forest edge and changing the amount of structural complexity of the forest. Ruediger et al. (2000) recommended keeping road densities below two-miles/square mile. The existing open road densities for Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) in the analysis area are less than one mile/square mile. Refer to Table 4. Both of the LAUs meet the recommendations for open road density.

Table 4: Road Density LAU 35 & 36

LAU	Total acres	Square miles	Open roads (miles)	Open road density (miles/square mile)
35	62,390	97.5	91.3	0.94
36	67,289	105	123	1.17

Winter Recreation

There are three major travel routes (HWY 150, FS Rd 80058, and 80032) groomed through portions of LAU 35 and 36. Each groomed roadway provides snowmobile access into areas within the LAU that were designated under the 2003 Forest Plan for motorized use. Some areas within LAU 35 are limited to snowmobile access because of a non-motorized and wilderness designation. All National Forest lands within LAU 36 are open to motorized winter use. Within the Lily Lake cross-country ski area there are approximately 15 miles of groomed trails for cross-country skiing. Use of groomed roads and trails during the winter result in compacted snow that may allow coyotes or other predators to travel into lynx habitats and compete for prey. The impact to lynx prey availability may be greater if hares are at a low point in their population cycle.

Groomed snowmobile trails, plowed roads, and existing areas open to snowmobile use on both the Evanston and Mountain View Ranger Districts under the 1988 Travel Plan were all part of the ongoing activities consultation when the lynx was listed as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with our determination that the 1988 travel management plan may affect-is not likely to adversely affect Canada lynx (concurrence ltr, USFWS, 8/15/00).

The Winter Recreation Classes and Maps replaced the winter portion of District Travel Management Plans (p 4-90, Forest Plan, 2003). The 2003 Revised Forest Plan used Winter Recreation Classes as a management tool to describe and map outdoor winter recreation areas. There is no net increase in groomed trails under the Revised Forest Plan. The 2003 Evanston/Mountain View Travel Management Plan (concurrence ltr, USFWS, 5/21/01) and the 2003 Revised Forest Plan (concurrence ltr, USFWS, 3/3/03) have gone through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Vegetation Management

The East Fork Fire Salvage is a proposed project to remove timber from within the burn boundary of the 2002 East Fork Fire. See "Description of Proposed Alternatives, 2.3.2 Alternative 2 Proposed Action" (p. 2-14,15 East Fork Fire Salvage FEIS).

Table 5: Lynx Habitat within LAU 35

Acres Suitable Habitat	Pre-Fire Acres Unsuitable Habitat	Acres of LAU Unsuitable Post Fire/Salvage	Acres converted to unsuitable from the proposed Table Top Oil Well	Estimated Future Vegetation Treatment (Mill Creek)	Total Unsuitable habitat
47,289	249 (0.5%)	6120 (12.9%)	8 (.017%)	80 (.17%)	13.587%*

*Unsuitable habitat is within the 15% threshold standard in the LCAS.

Lynx may avoid these areas of the LAU as activities to remove timber from the high to moderately burned areas begin. Lynx may be dispersed to adjacent drainages within the LAU or to higher elevations including the High Uintas Wilderness area where fewer disturbances would occur. Lynx may not utilize areas adjacent to the salvage units until the activities associated with the project are completed. The activities within this LAU meet standards in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.

Salvage of merchantable timber on private lands affected by the East Fork Fire is occurring. These actions may increase the fragmentation across the landscape but not a significant increase from what the fire created. Salvaged areas may not provide suitable denning, foraging, or travel habitat until regeneration reaches densities and height.

A stand in the lower portion of the Mill Creek drainage was deemed potentially susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle infestation. A proposed vegetation treatment to reduce the basal area would occur within an estimated 80 acres. Not all acres would be affected by the treatment. The proposed cut and removal method may still allow the stand to function as a travel corridor for dispersing or traveling lynx. The area would not return to suitable foraging habitat until a future time when adequate security cover is provided for snowshoe hares.

Within LAU 36 there are future vegetation treatments necessary to prolong some community types within the West Bear area. There is a vegetation treatment schedule for 245 acres within the Coyote/Road Hollow drainages to reduce the spread of beetles. The treatment objective is to reduce the basal area and create small openings by removing individual hit trees and small patches.

Table 6: Lynx Pre and Post Vegetation Treatment LAU 36

Primary/ Secondary Acres	Suitable habitat prior to treatment	Converted to unsuitable habitat (10yr period)	% of habitat unsuitable prior to treatment	Estimated/ Proposed acres	% of suitable habitat changed to unsuitable	Total % changed to unsuitable (10 yr period)
20,653	19,860*	165	.8	1345**	6.8%	7.6%

*793 subtracted from Primary and Secondary habitat. Acres from Table 3 Marginal and Unsuitable columns.
**245 acres will be treated in 2005 under the Coyote/Road Hollow Decision and 1,100 acres are estimated to be treated under the West Bear Timber Sale.

The activities associated with the vegetation treatments would not provide security cover for traveling or dispersing lynx. Future potential habitat would exist within the areas as regeneration of lodgepole pine provides adequate forage and security for lynx and snowshoe hares. Denning habitat could potentially exist in the future when leave trees are blown down or become old and fall to the ground.

A vegetation management project to implement the recommendations in the West Bear Analysis is being planned. The current proposed action (Nov. 2004) is to treat 1,100 acres within the aspen/conifer, mixed-conifer, and spruce-fir community types. Objectives include to mechanically remove conifer species from aspen communities and to burn the remaining clones to regenerate aspen. A basal area reduction using thinning and small patch cuts is the objective for mixed-conifer and spruce-fir habitat types. Areas treated with mechanical and prescribed burning would not provide denning or foraging until a time in the future when regeneration provide forage and cover for prey species. Denning habitat could potentially exist when snags created by the fire are blown down or had fallen to the ground. In the areas where thinning and small patch cutting would occur, only a portion of the habitat would be considered unsuitable. The remaining canopy cover would allow the stands to remain functional as travel corridors. The leave trees could also provide future denning sites as wind or natural causes force the trees to the ground. Foraging areas for lynx would be provided as regeneration establishes the necessary requirements for forage and security cover for prey species.

The change (7.6%) in habitat for LAU 36 is below the 15% threshold for standards in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.

Salvage logging has occurred in four campgrounds (Stillwater, Hayden Fork, Beaver View, and Sulphur) found in LAU 36. There would be no effect to lynx or their habitat from the removal of salvageable timber from the campgrounds. Because of the recreation disturbance and limited habitat, the campgrounds would be unsuitable for lynx. The four campgrounds were listed during the Lynx Analysis Unit as on-going projects on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with our no effect determination for the campgrounds (concurrence ltr, USFWS, 8/15/2000).

Sensitive Species

Spotted bat

The proposed project may impact individuals, but is not likely to cause a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability. There would be a total of 1 acre of potential foraging habitat disturbed during the proposed action. However, the 2.33 acres that would be rehabilitated could provide foraging opportunities in the future.

Wolverine

The proposed project may impact individuals, but is not likely to cause a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability. Like the lynx, wolverines have large home ranges sometimes as large as 98,000 acres. Lynx Analysis Unit 35 will be the area of analysis for the wolverine that could potentially exist within the project area. The effects to habitat would resemble those discussed for lynx earlier in this section.

The activities associated with the proposed project could displace wolverines from this portion of their home range. The affects from the loss of habitat would be minimal compared to the overall available habitat found at higher elevations in the High Uinta Wilderness. Wolverines are known to avoid areas of with high human activity and the area may or may not be used after the completion of the project. Although wolverine will prey on some small mammal and avian species, they are mainly scavengers. The proposed project would have no effect on the available carrion throughout the area.

See cumulative effects discussion on lynx.

Northern goshawk

The proposed project may impact individuals, but is not likely to cause a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability or affect the forest-wide population trend. The new nest located in 2004 is adjacent to the road and mitigation measures (4-19) established in the initial EIS would be sufficient to minimize effects if the nest is active.

The lower portion of the road was constructed under the initial EIS and no additional road alignment is foreseen. Some tree removal may be necessary and the application of gravel will complete work to the lower road. This road will continue to remain closed to the general public. When surveying the area, no other alternate nests were located within the 30-acre nesting area. However, potential habitat exists between the Main and Stillwater Forks. As the habitat progresses up the canyon, it lends itself to foraging habitat characteristics. This is due to species composition, density, and stand structure.

The Wildlife Conservation Project Design section, Appendix X of the Revised Forest Plan was considered. It is unlikely that implementing the proposed action with mitigation measures would cause the nest to become abandoned. An analysis using aerial photos was completed, 2 alternate nest areas and 3

replacement nest areas were identified. The areas identified represent the habitat (species composition and structure) for current nesting conditions and those necessary for future nesting sites. A circular 420-acre buffer was drawn on an aerial photo and it is felt that the circular buffer does not capture all suitable habitat within the area. It is evident from the aerial photos that suitable habitat is dispersed throughout the project area.

The change in habitat would not be significant enough to eliminate prey species such as songbirds or snowshoe hares from the area. Some prey species may be displaced throughout the area but would still be within the 6000-acre foraging area for the goshawk.

Three-toed woodpecker

The proposed project may impact individuals, but is not likely to cause a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability. The change of 16.91 acres of habitat would be minimal compared to the overall available lodgepole dominated habitat (61,300 acres) across the forest. Population increases for this species have been associated with large-scale disturbances such as fires and beetle outbreaks. This type of increase can be found to the northeast of the project area in the East Fork fire perimeter. The fire provided approximately 14,200 acres of available forage for the three-toed woodpecker.

Great-gray owl

The proposed project may impact individuals, but is not likely to cause a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability. The activities associated with the proposed action could displace individuals to other areas. The loss of roosting or nesting trees could occur, however the change in the habitat would be insignificant compared to the overall available habitat. There would be an insignificant change (1 acre) in some of the potential foraging areas. There would be 2.33 acres that would be rehabilitated that could potentially increase the foraging opportunity for this species.

Terrestrial Management Indicator Species

Northern goshawk

Effects for the Northern goshawks is discussed in the Sensitive Species section.

Snowshoe hare

During the interdisciplinary team field visit an ocular inventory of pellets was taken within the proposed road alignment and proposed pad site. A minimal amount of pellets were noticed mostly consisting of elk and moose. The stand above the Main Fork is a mature lodgepole pine dominated stand with little to no understory vegetation. Mature lodgepole pine vegetation ranked 5th on the list of mature vegetation types when surveyed for snowshoe hares. Pellet count data collected for snowshoe hare in mature lodgepole habitat types across the North Slope estimated 1.17 hares/hectare. The total remaining project area (8 acres) would affect an estimated 4 hares. The proposed project would be minimal in affect and would not cause the population trend for snowshoe hare in the Uinta Mountain sub-population to change.

Beaver

The project is occurring adjacent to the Main Fork in an area dominated by mature lodgepole pine. During a field visit to the proposed site a check of “potholes” was completed. Some potholes above the pad site indicated beaver activity. The activity seemed old and indicates the area may have once provided habitat for dispersing individuals. A majority of the aspen trees utilized were small in diameter and density. It is unclear why beaver abandoned the area; vegetation succession or fur trapping may have been the causes.

One of the randomly selected legal Sections (Peninsula Beaver Survey Section, T1N, R10E, Section 17) for Forest Plan monitoring of Management Indicator Species occurs adjacent to the project area. The area was surveyed 10/2/03. Data collected from this section indicates that "potholes" and some portions of the Main Fork were utilized in the past. Signs of old dams and chewed logs are evident in the stream. It is difficult to determine the timeframe in which these areas were utilized. These areas may have been used when the aspen component of the stand was significantly greater or the area may have been a point where dispersing individuals temporarily established residents or utilized the area until available aspens were depleted and then continued down the stream where favorable habitat existed.

Based on the initial data collected, which indicated old beaver activity, it is felt that beaver in this area of the Main Fork may be absent due to changed habitat conditions. Aerial photos show suitable habitat and beaver activity in Sections 5 and 9, which are located north of the proposed project area. The project would not affect the habitat or beavers within these sections and would not affect the population trend for beavers in the Uinta Mountain sub-population.

Migratory Birds

Effects for the two species listed by Partners in Flight as utilizing lodgepole pine within the project area are addressed in the Sensitive Species section.

The drill tower will be installed in July and removed late December or early January. The tower would be in place for only one migration period (fall). The Federal Aviation Administration requires towers exceeding 199 feet in height to have pilot warning lights. Towers lower in height are not required under certain conditions to have warning lights. A standard pilot warning light will be attached to the tower during the drilling operation. The drill tower will have lights attached to the structure to allow for nighttime operations. These lights will be positioned down on the site.

The effects to migratory birds would be minimal once the drill tower is installed due to the operation schedule. The noise and visual disturbance around the site would probably discourage migrating birds from concentrating or being drawn to the area. The time period between when the drilling has been completed and removal of the tower would be after the fall migration period.

Species at Risk

The broad-tailed hummingbird's primary habitat is the tall forbs community. The Revised Forest Plan FEIS (p. 3-67, Table VEG-1) indicates that there are no tall forbs communities in the Uinta Mountains. The broad-tailed hummingbird also uses aspen. Roads to the drill site are mainly through lodgepole pine and small sections of aspen that might be affected but will not affect the species.

Williamson's sapsucker and the American pine marten both use conifer as their primary habitat. The drill site and roads are in lodgepole pine. In the Bear River-Stillwater Watershed there are 2,001 acres of lodgepole pine which is 14% of the acreage in the watershed. With construction of roads and the well site, lodgepole pine will be reduced to the 13.8% of the watershed.

Drilling activities and use on roads accessing the project may displace American pine martens or Williamson's sapsuckers, but a reduction of .2% of habitat will not result in a loss of present populations or trend them toward sensitive listing by the Regional Forester or federal listing.

Chapter 4

Impacts Common to all Alternatives
[Addition: Page 4-20, insert at the end of the first paragraph under the section Impacts Common to all Alternatives]

Construction of the bridges may result in some sediment. Best management practices would be used to minimize sediment input into the channel as outlined by Forestwide Standard 2.

Impacts Common to all Alternatives
[Replace: Page 4-20, replace the second to last sentence in the second paragraph under the section Impacts Common to all Alternatives]

The withdrawal of this water would be evaluated based on average minimum monthy flows over the period of record to provide for the long term persistance of the aquatic and semiaquatic species. This mitigation would contribute to the finding of no effect.

Impacts Common to all Alternatives
[Addition: Page 4-20, insert after the last paragraph under the section Impacts Common to all Alternatives]

The project should not impact amphibians because of the dry nature of the area. There is a small pond downslope of the drill site. This site did have tiger salamanders in it. Runoff control measures, including overflow diversion structures and holding areas, are planned to prevent material moving from the drill site into the pond. This pond is outside of the project area.

Effects of Each Alternative
[Addition: Page 4-21, insert after the last paragraph under the section Effects of Each Alternative]

Alternative Well Sites A or B. There would be the potential to impact individuals and their habitat, but this will not likely contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or the species.

The road has been designed to mitigate impacts on fisheries. If the road remains open during the winter there is an additional threat to the cutthroat trout populations of the risk of having a truck go off the road and spill oil into the stream.

Management Indicator Species
[Addition: Page 4-21, insert new section Management Indicator Species]

For the Bonneville Basin the subspecies of cutthroat trout that is identified as management indicators is the Bonneville cutthroat trout. This project will not effect the trends identified earlier in Chapter 3. This is because of best management practices, forestwide standards and guidelines and mitigation measures in Appendix D of the 1994 FEIS that will achieve water quality goals and soil retention. Application of Guideline 3.1A-3 (Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings) will ensure the yet-to-be-constructed road on the east side of

Main Fork and will maintain an appropriate distance of 300 feet from the stream. About a third of a mile of the access road constructed in 1995 is within the 3.1A management prescription. The road was built prior to the development of the current management prescriptions in the Revised Forest Plan. Review of the road on the ground revealed Best Management Practices have been effective in controlling erosion (Condrat and Flood, 2004).

Cumulative effects
[Replace: Page 4-21, replace the section under Cumulative effects]

The cumulative effects area being considered for Bonneville Cutthroat is the mainstem of the Bear. This would include East Fork below the falls, Hayden Fork, Gold Hill Creek, Main Fork, Stillwater Fork and tributaries. This area was chosen because these fish are biologically isolated from the other metapopulations because of high summer temperatures. The 2002 East Fork Fire affected 5,970 acres of high, moderate and low intensity burn in this area. However much of the increased sedimentation did not make it into fish bearing streams because of the large amounts of unburned vegetation which exists in the riparian zones. The exception to this include the lower end of Boundary Creek where the fire originated . Runoff did not reach the East Fork of the Bear River (page 4-49 EFFS). In July 2004 a rainstorm caused significant sediment to be washed from the burn area into the East Fork Bear River. A fish kill resulted from the event.

Past activity that has occurred in this CEA include previous timber harvest, past wildfire, grazing and recreation use. Past timber harvest and wildfire have had very little effect because the ground cover and vegetation has recovered to adequately protect the soil. Roads and trails and grazing in the East Fork of the Bear can cause impacts to fish and amphibians. The 2003 Travel Plan closed 2.2 miles of road in the Bear River Area to address these recreation impacts.

The recently approved East Fork Fire Salvage would harvest 186 acres in the East Fork of the Bear (USDA Forest Service 2004b). The timber harvest would employ site-specific mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate the impacts of the harvest.

Management activities are mitigated to prevent significant effects to fish and amphibians in this area.

Chapter 4

Road Management Alternatives

[Addition: Page 4-23, replace the paragraph under Road Management Alternatives with the following.]

The Evanston/Mountain View Travel Plan decision in 2003 made the Peninsula Road past the gate and the Main Fork Road to the Table Top well site open to administrative use only. In the short-term these road will be used to finish constructing the access road and bridge, constructing the drill pad, and drilling the exploration well. In the long term, if the well is successful, this road would be used daily for servicing the well. The direct effects to air quality will be an increase in fugitive dust from the vehicles in the immediate area along the road. Most of the dust will be dispersed within the forest adjacent to the road and some of it will be blown into the air within the Stillwater drainage. Because of the limited use of the road to the Table Top Well Site, it is expected that effects to air quality from fugitive dust will be very low. In the long-term, the use of the road will be less than in the short-term and effects to air quality will be very low.

Cumulative Effects

[Addition: Page 4-24, replace the paragraph under Cumulative Effects with the following.]

The cumulative effects area for air quality is the area in the Stillwater Fork drainage basin. This area is chosen because it reflects the area in which fugitive dust from the Table Top project may be observed. Currently, the area in the Evanston Ranger District is in attainment of air quality standards. No adverse effects to air quality is anticipated from the cumulative effect of the Table Top Well project and other activities in the area because the amount of fugitive dust will be very small since the road will be watered during times when dust may occur and the air quality in this area of the WCNF, which reflects the other activities in the area, is good.

Chapter 4

Application of Forest Plan Direction
[Addition: Page 4-24, insert above section Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives]

Because the High Uintas Roadless Area boundary changed as the result of the updated inventory, (Revised Forest Plan FEIS, Appendix C-1) the access road corridor and proposed well site A is now excluded from the roadless area. However well site A and the road corridor are directly adjacent to the High Uintas Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) delineated during the Forest Plan revision process. Because of this proximity the proposal would continue to directly affect wilderness characteristics as disclosed in the 1994 Table Top EIS. Partial completion of the access road and its effects has been described in the affected environment on page 3-24a.

Well site A and its access road would not remove additional acres from the updated inventory. Development of well site B and additional access road would eliminate an additional 8 acres from the High Uintas Roadless Area. Please see map S-6.

Chapter 4

Cumulative Effects
[Addition: Page 4-29, replace section Cumulative Effects]

The cumulative effects analysis area is the High Uintas Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) which consists of seven general areas lying along the western and northern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness. There are no currently proposed projects in the roadless area. In those management prescriptions that allow development, (48,600 acres of 103,100 acres) some activities may be proposed in the future. ATV use is allowed on 16.4 miles of trail. Snowmobiling is allowed in 56% of the IRA. There are ongoing grazing activities throughout most of the area. More details about other activities in the High Uintas IRA can be found in Appendix C1, pages C1-69 through C1-75.

There are at least a dozen cherry stems or peninsulas of roaded corridors that extend up canyons into the High Uintas IRA. More than five are very long and intrude deeply. These road corridors in the valley bottoms are directly surrounded by the roadless area. The result of these roads is a highly irregular boundary of the High Uintas Inventoried Roadless Area. The linear nature of the roads, such as the access road, result in more roadless acres being affected than from those actions on the edge of the roadless area. As a roaded corridor extending into the High Uintas IRA, the well and access road in the Main Fork drainage have contributed to the loss of integrity of the High Uintas IRA. Appendix C of the FEIS for the Revised Forest Plan notes from a roadless perspective the High Uintas IRA has great value by it size alone (USFS, 2003).

Effects to Roadless Area Values
[Addition: Page 4-29, insert section Effects to Roadless Area Values]

Because the project area is outside and downstream of the High Uintas IRA, not all values listed in Chapter 3, page 3-23a would be affected. Because of the proximity of the project to the High Uintas IRA there is the potential to affect the value of the area as a natural appearing landscape with high scenic quality and as habitat for those species dependant on a large undisturbed area of land. Other roadless values identified on page 3-23a of the Supplement will not be affected.

From high vantage points within the roadless area, the area will no longer seem as a natural appearing landscape with the construction of the road and when the drilling rig is present, this will affect this value.

The road corridor has altered the potential of the IRA for providing habitat for those species dependant on a large undisturbed area of land. Once the project is completed and the road is no longer needed and managed as administratively closed to motorized vehicles, the indirect effects to this value will be lessened. While the habitat will remain altered from its natural condition, human disturbance will decrease from level of activity during the drilling and production (if successful) stages. Use of the road as a non-

motorized trail will continue to indirectly affect this value. Effects on wildlife are further discussed on page 4-19a of the supplement.

Chapter 4

Recreation
[Addition; Page 4-30, add to the last paragraph on the page]

Skiers visiting the Lily Lake Cross Country Ski Area would also be affected by winter drilling operation.

[Replace; Page 4-31 the 4 paragraphs above the heading Range, under Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives]

Noise from the drilling operations or production would not have any direct impact on the recreation users in the Stillwater drainage or the Hayden Fork drainage. Within the Main Fork drainage a few recreation users (most likely hikers) would be impacted by the noise of the construction, drilling operation, and production equipment. There would be no effect to motorized users because this area has been closed to motorized use. The loss to motorized users of closing the old 4WD trail had its effect 10 years ago. Motorized vehicle users moved to other designated as open routes.

During construction and production the entire length of the road from the Stillwater Road to the well pad would temporarily reduce the semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) experience level. Once the drilling operation ceases the social and managerial settings of the semi-primitive experience would immediately return to the area. Few other parties would be encountered, there would be minimal encounters with rangers and there would be opportunities for closeness to nature. Until the well site was fully revegetated and recontoured, the physical setting would be altered from its present condition. The Main Fork Road west of the Main Fork would remain in place. However, physical setting characteristics in the ROS guidelines acknowledge the presence of closed roads and some treated areas. The area will temporarily deviate from the characteristics of SPNM (Revised Forest Plan, page 4-84). After the drilling ceases the area will return to a more natural setting and would be consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum as mapped for the Western Uinta Management Area in the Revised Forest Plan.

Mitigation
[Replace: Page 4-32 the last sentence under Mitigation]

During winter drilling operations a temporary closure order would be in effect for snowmobile use in the Main Fork drainage for safety concerns. After operations ceased, the area would be managed open to winter motorized use consistent with the Evanston/ Mountain View Travel Map.

Cumulative Effects
[Replace; Page 4-33, the first paragraph under Cumulative Effects]

The area being considered for cumulative effects is generally the Stillwater - East Fork Bear River area that is accessed from the Mirror Lake Highway. The effects of past, ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the Bear River area would continue to affect the recreation resource to varying degrees. The primary foreseeable effect that continues to affect the recreation

opportunities in the analysis area is the relative extensive network of trails and roadways and the adjacent population area of the Wasatch Front. As the Wasatch Front population continues to grow from 1.7 million in 2002 to the projected 2.5 million in 2020 (Utah, State of. 2002b RFP) the pressure on the existing network of travel ways will change. Increasing numbers of visitors to the Forest will desire experiences from primitive (high degree of self reliance) to urban (high degree of interaction with people). Recreation cabins on the northern boundary of Bear River area will continue to expand contributing to increasing demands for recreation opportunities of various kinds.

In the more imminent future some visitors to the general forest area may notice more heavy truck traffic (about 5-10 trucks daily) on the Mirror Lake Highway as logging trucks from salvage operations haul timber to sawmills off of the Forest during the periods when the timber sales are active. This in addition to the estimated two trucks a day from the well site.

Chapter 4

Effects of Each Alternative
[Replace; Page 4- 41, Effects of Each Alternative]

Information summarized below is derived from the Seen Area Analysis prepared by the Forest landscape architect (Hatch, 2004).

No Action

There would be no impacts to the natural appearing landscape character. The scenic values would remain essentially as they exist today. Scenic integrity objective of moderate would be exceeded and would be high.

Alternative Well Site A

Visual contrasts associated with site clearing and presence of drilling and production equipment at the well site would be screened by tree cover except for the approximately 20 feet of the oil rig that could potentially be seen by southbound users on Highway 150 (Mirror Lake Highway) between the Bear River Ranger Station and the intersection of the Stillwater Road. Viewing of the top of the oil rig would be a short term effect and be inconsistent with Guideline 61 because it would be seen from Mirror Lake Highway. Because this is a short-term effect of less than six months, this deviation from management direction is acceptable. Once the rig is removed, the view would comply with a high SIO as seen from this Concern Level 1 road. Potential visual impacts to sensitive viewers would be low to not identifiable. Because site disturbance would not be visible from sensitive viewpoints, contrasts at the well site also would be expected to meet the Revised Forest Plan SIO.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects areas being considered are the Hayden, Main, and Stillwater drainages because of the distance from sensitive viewpoints. The effects of past, ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the Stillwater and Hayden Fork drainages would continue to affect the scenic resource to varying degrees. The major past effect on scenery has been wild fire, road construction, timber sales, and campground construction within the foreground through background views from key view points. There are no planned roads, timber sales, or new campground construction projects proposed in the future outside of this proposal within the Stillwater and Hayden Fork drainages.

Chapter 4

Cultural resources – Mitigation
[Addition: Page 4-47, insert after Mitigation]

The current proposed road and well pad are part of the original adverse effects to the overall historic integrity of the Howe Flume Historic District that were identified in the original EIS. As a result, any effects to cultural resources continue to be covered by the existing MOA with State History (James L. Dykman, Compliance Coordinator, Utah SHPO; personal communication). However, new documentation on the features identified in 2004 was submitted to State History.

On October 18, 2004, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the continued use of the MOA in the Table Top FEIS (Dykman, 2004).

The road and well pad do not directly affect any of the features associated with the Howe Flume Historic District. Nonetheless, the project will continue to alter the setting of the Historic District.

Cumulative Effects
[Replace: Page 4-47, replace under Cumulative Effects]

Remains of tie-hack camps such as cabins, roads, flumes and dams remain scattered across the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains today. Within the East Fork fire burn perimeter, 25 heritage sites have been recorded, the majority of which are related to the tie hack logging industry. Eleven known heritage sites are located within or directly adjacent to harvest unit boundaries of the East Fork Fire Salvage project. Mitigation measures have been adopted to protect and avoid these sites (East Fork Fire Salvage EIS, 2004). The Table Top project will not contribute to any cumulative effects to heritage resources.

Chapter 4

Conformance with the Forest Plan Management Direction
[Addition: Page 4-48, insert after heading Conformance with the Forest Plan]

Conformance with the Forest Plan Management Direction

The management prescriptions present within the project area are 3.2 D, Terrestrial Habitats (Developed), 3.1A Aquatic Habitats, 4.4 Recreation Motorized Setting, and 2.5 Scenic Byways. The access road and proposed well site A are consistent with the management emphasis and standards and guidelines associated with each of the four management prescriptions. Wellsite B is within management prescription 4.1 and is not consistent with management direction for the 4.1 prescription.

As noted in Chapter 4 of the supplement, about a third of a mile of the access road constructed in 1995 is within the 3.1A management prescription. Management Prescription 3.1A does not allow road construction except for stream crossings. The road was built prior to the development of the current management prescriptions in the Revised Forest Plan and application of this guideline is not retroactive. The portion of the Main Fork Road not yet constructed will maintain the 300-foot buffer of the 3.1A applied to the Main Fork.

The access road and both well sites are consistent with the forest wide standards and guidelines applicable to this project except for Guideline 61. Guideline 61 applies a high scenic integrity objective for management activities viewable from a Concern Level 1. The Mirror Lake Highway being a Scenic Byway is defined as a Concern Level 1. During the drilling operation the top of the oil rig will be visible from the Highway. This effect will be a short-term deviation from G61. After the drilling is completed, the area will meet a Scenic Integrity Objective of high.

During construction and production the entire length of the road from the Stillwater Road to either well pad would temporarily reduce the semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) experience level. Once the drilling operation ceases the social and managerial settings of the semi-primitive non-motorized experience would immediately return to the area.

The Wasatch-Cache Revised Forest Plan adopted the Lynx Conservation Agreement and Strategy and adopted some of its standards and guidelines as itemized standards and guidelines for the Forest Plan. One of these is WCNF Standard 10 that states: In Lynx Analysis Units allow no net increase in groomed or designated open over-the-snow routes and play areas. Within the Strategy and Agreement it further states that winter logging activity is not subject to this restriction (Programmatic Planning Standard 1). In conversations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Williams, 2004) they view oil and gas activities not subject to this restriction similar to the winter logging. We have relied on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their interpretation of this direction and as such find the Table Top Oil and Gas Well consistent with Forest Plan direction.

Forest Plan Consistency

All uses of the National Forest must be consistent with the Forest Plan. If the proposed action and alternatives to it are not consistent with the forest plan, there are three options to consider: Modify the proposal to make it consistent, reject the proposal, or amend the plan to permit the proposal. Deviations from a guideline do not require an amendment (Revised Forest Plan, page 4-36)

Significance of Forest Plan Amendments

If the option chosen is to amend the plan, the "significance" of the amendment must be determined. It is important to note that there is a difference between "significance" of the change to a forest plan and "significance" of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Determination of "significance" for a forest plan amendment is based on the following National Forest Management Act planning requirements and criteria (FS Handbook 1909.12, Section 5.32).

1. Timing – Identify when the change is to take place. Determine whether the change is necessary during or after the plan period (the first decade) or whether the change is to take place after the next scheduled revision of the forest plan. In most cases, the later the change, the less likely it is to be significant for the current forest plan. If the change is to take place outside the plan period, the forest plan amendment is not required.

2. Location and Size – Determine the location and size of the area involved in the change. Define the relationship of the affected area to the overall planning area. In most cases, the smaller the area affected, the less likely the change is to be a significant change in the forest plan.

3. Goals, Objectives, and Outputs – Determine whether the change alters long-term relationships between the levels of goods and services projected by the forest plan. Consider whether an increase in one type of output would trigger an increase or decrease in another. Determine whether there is a demand for goods and services not discussed in the forest plan. In most cases, changes in outputs are not likely to be a significant change in the forest plan unless the change would forego the opportunity to achieve an output in later years.

4. Management Prescription – Determine whether the change in a management prescription is only for a specific situation or whether it would apply to future decisions throughout the planning area. Determine whether or not the change alters the desired future condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced.

Forest Plan Amendment Significance Evaluation

Alternative wellsite B, if selected, would require a Forest plan amendment to change a 4.1 management prescription to 3.2D prescription on 3.43 acres.

Timing

This change will take place immediately. In general, the later in the planning period a change occurs, the less likely it is to be significant. The amendment is early in the planning period.

Location and Size

This amendment will apply only to wellsite B. This represents less than .0001 percent of the planning area.

Goals, Objectives, and Outputs

This change is for an individual well. Any additional oil and gas activity would require additional analysis and consistency review. This amendment will not alter long-term relationships between the levels of goods and services projected by the forest plan.

Management Prescription

The proposed change would apply only to wellsite B, about 3.43 acres, and would apply for the life of this well.

CHAPTER 6 a

LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONTIBUTERS TO THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Interdisciplinary Core Team		
Name	**Project Responsibility**	**Education and Experience**
Condrat, Charlie	Water Resources	B.S. Forestry, M.S. Watershed Science, 13 years with Forest Service
Cowley, Paul	Aquatic Resources	B.S. Fish and Wildlife Management, M.S. Fisheries Management, 14 years with Forest Service
Flood, Paul	Soils	B.S. Soil Science, 24 years with Forest Service
Kesterson, Roger	Minerals	B.S. Wildlife and Range Management, 15 years with Forest Service, Certified Oil and Gas Resource Specialist.
Johnson, Larry	NEPA, Fire and Fuels	B.S. Forestry, CEFES (Continuing Education in Forest Ecology and Silviculture), 31 years with Forest Service
Duncan, Mike	Botanical Resources	B.S. Botany, 6 years with Forest Service
Hatch, Dave	Scenery Management, Recreation	B.L.A. Landscape Architecture Environmental Planning, 14 years with Forest Service
Padgett, Wayne	Ecologist	B.S. Biology, M.S. Rangeland Ecology, 18 years with Forest Service
Thompson, Charmaine	Cultural Resources	B.S. and M.S. Anthropology; 14 years with the Forest Service
Burkhardt, Barry	Regional Office Assistant Director for Minerals & Geology	B.S. Geology, 27 years experience with Forest Service. Certified Oil and Gas Resource Specialist
McKee, Al	Oil and Gas Operations; BLM Liaison	B.S. Petroleum Engineering; 21 years with the BLM
Hubbard, Julie	NEPA coordination and Public Involvement	B.S. Forest Recreation, 22 years with the forest Service
Jauregui, Daniel	Wildlife	B.S. Range and Wildlife Management, 5 years with Forest Service
Ryberg, Stephen	Leadership, Mountain View and Evanston District Ranger	B.S. Forest Management, M.S. Forestry, 24 years with Forest Service

CHAPTER 7 a

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