

## CHAPTER I

### FOREST PLAN INTRODUCTION

#### A. Purpose of the Forest Plan

The Forest Plan guides all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Fishlake National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management.

The Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the Regulations, and other guiding documents. The prescriptions and standards and guidelines are a statement of the Plan's management direction; however, the project outputs, services, and rates of implementation are dependent on the annual budgeting process.

#### B. Relationship of the Forest Plan to Other Documents

Development of the Forest Plan takes place within the framework of Forest Service Regional and National planning. The relationship among the different planning levels is shown as follows:

Congressional Acts

National level

Forest Service planning through the  
Renewable Resource Assessment and Program (RPA)

Regional planning level through the  
Regional Guide for the Intermountain Region

Forest planning level through the  
Fishlake National Forest  
Land & Resource Management Plan

The RPA Program sets the National direction and output levels for the National Forest system lands. It is based on suitability and comparability information from each Forest Service Region.

Each Forest Service Region distributes its share of national production targets to each of its Forests. The share each National Forest receives is based on detailed information gathered at the Forest level.

The Forest Service Region also prepares a Regional Guide which contains standards and guidelines to direct Forest Management. The Standards and Guidelines contained in the Regional Guide for the Intermountain Region guide the development of Forest standards and guidelines unless there is a determination of a situation requiring a variation. The standards and guidelines in this plan amplify those in the Regional Guide.

The Land and Resource Management Plan validates or provides a basis for changing production levels assigned by the Region. Activities and projects are planned and implemented by the Forest to carry out the direction developed in the Forest Plan. Information from all the National Forests in the Region was used in developing the Intermountain Regional Guide.

The Forest Plan is the selected alternative of the EIS and is based on the various considerations which have been addressed in the EIS. The planning process and the analysis procedure which were used in developing this Plan, as well as the other alternatives that were considered, are described or referenced in the EIS. Assessment of the environmental consequences of implementing land management actions will be through the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) procedures as spelled out in the implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 - 1508). Environmental analysis for activities and projects will be tiered to the accompanying EIS as provided for in 40 CFR 1502.20. The local project environmental analysis will use the data and evaluations in the Plan and EIS as its basis.

### C. Plan Structure

This plan provides the long term direction for managing the Fishlake National Forest. It contains the overall directions and activities which will be required to achieve the desired state of the Forest. Management area maps indicate where the activities will occur.

The Forest Plan contains management direction for the Fishlake National Forest. The EIS described the alternatives considered in arriving at that direction and assessed the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and other alternatives.

The Forest Plan is organized into five chapters:

- Chapter I. Forest Plan Introduction
- Chapter II. Analysis of the Management Situation Summary
- Chapter III. Plan Responses to Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities
- Chapter IV. Forest Management Direction
- Chapter V. Implementation of the Forest Plan

The Chapter titled "Forest Management Direction" deals with the multiple use goals and objectives. It also lists the management practices and standards and guidelines for management of specific areas. The "Implementation of the Forest Plan" chapter deals with the means to implement the plan and evaluate and monitor the effects of management practices.

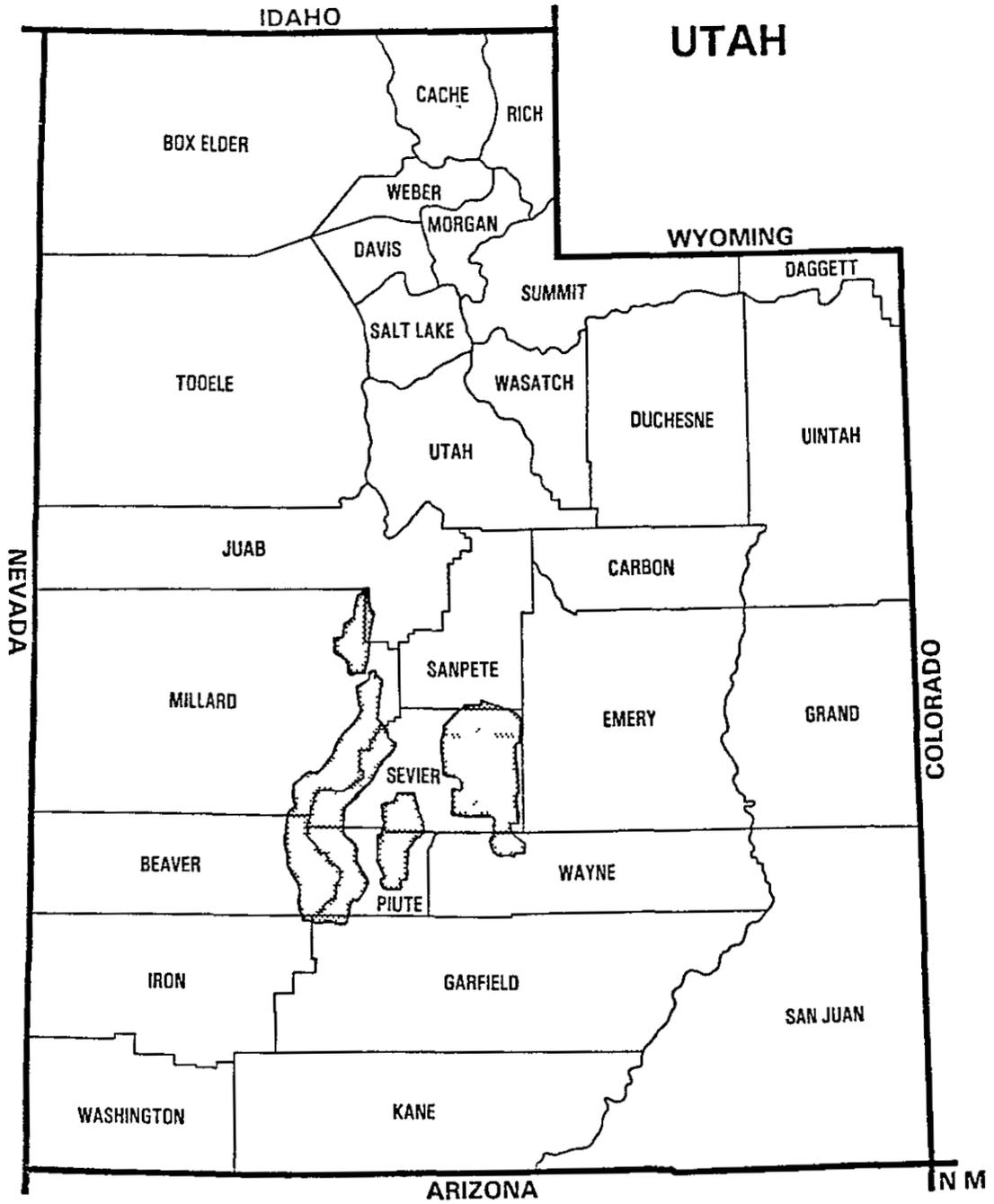
Maps displaying the various resources and associated management activities can be found in the accompanying map packet. By studying the maps concurrently with the Forest Plan, the reader can better understand the proposed action.

#### D. Forest Description

The Fishlake National Forest is located in central Utah surrounding the town of Richfield, which is about 140 airline miles south of Salt Lake City (See Figure I-1). The Forest contains 1.5 million acres, crossing parts of the Wasatch, Awapa, Sevier, and Fishlake Plateaus as well as all of the Tushar Mountains and the Canyon and Pahvant Ranges. Portions of the Utah counties covered by the Forest are: Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne.

Major access to the vicinity of the Forest is provided by two interstate highways and one U.S. highway. I-70 crosses the Forest in an east-west direction in Clear Creek and Salina Canyons. I-15, linking Salt Lake City with Las Vegas, passes east of the Canyon Range, through Scipio Pass, then west of the Pahvant Range and Tushar Mountains. U.S. Highway 89, also coming south from Salt Lake City, runs through the Sevier River Valley, which separates the eastern and western halves of the Forest.

The Forest Supervisor is headquartered in Richfield, Utah, while Ranger District offices are located in Fillmore, Loa, Beaver, and Richfield, Utah.



VICINITY MAP  
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST