

# State Forestry Assessment and Strategy Summary

## Utah

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### Overview:

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands collaborated with numerous partner agencies and organizations, including the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development and numerous stakeholders to develop the Utah Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy Guide. This assessment provides a comprehensive analysis of the forest-related conditions, trends, threats, and opportunities within Utah and will be used to guide the Division's planning efforts and project work.

### Assessment:

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands used input from federal, state, and NGO stakeholders to identify eight themes important to the management of forest resources within the state. GIS layers representing these themes were combined with equal weight, and areas with the highest values were assigned to be priority areas.

The **themes** include: Wildland Fire, Stewardship Forestry, Wildlife, Water Quality, Riparian Areas, Forest Health, Distance to Managed Lands, and Urban and Community Forestry.

**Priority areas** for Utah include:

- Wasatch
- Uinta
- Sevier-Skyline
- La Sal
- Cedar

### Strategy:

Using the themes identified by stakeholders, the Division described the current conditions, program overview, priority areas, and objectives and strategies for each of the themes. The strategy also considers ways to prioritize Forest Legacy Program projects in the Assessment priority areas and to address climate change.

### Themes & Strategies:

#### Wildland Fire

- Adapt and expand the existing education program to meet current and future needs
- Expand planning opportunities
- Improve organizational development and increase program integration
- Augment and enhance wildland fire legislation

- Project identification and implementation

#### **Stewardship Forestry**

- Develop management direction for non-federal land use activities, utilizing standards for stewardship and ecosystem management
- Plan, develop, and implement new information and education programs to inform Utah citizens of the importance of balanced conservation
- Maintain or expand existing information and education programs
- Develop partnerships and cooperative relationships with organizations who share our goals
- Use all management tools, including forest industry, to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems
- Develop and maintain appropriate natural resource databases
- Promote the professional development of Division employees

#### **Wildlife**

- Clarify and communicate WAP implementation goals objectives and priorities
- Align capacity with needs in order to maximize efficiency

#### **Water Quality and Riparian Areas**

- Develop management direction for non-federal land use activities utilizing standards for stewardship and ecosystem management

#### **Forest Health**

- Use Utah's forested resources to meet public needs while being appropriately managed to provide sustainability for future generations
- Information for all forested lands in Utah is available to the state forester, state and federal legislators and other decision makers and land managers which allows for actions in high priority areas to enhance the health of Utah's natural resources

#### **Distance to Managed Lands**

- Increased project benefits through proximity to managed lands

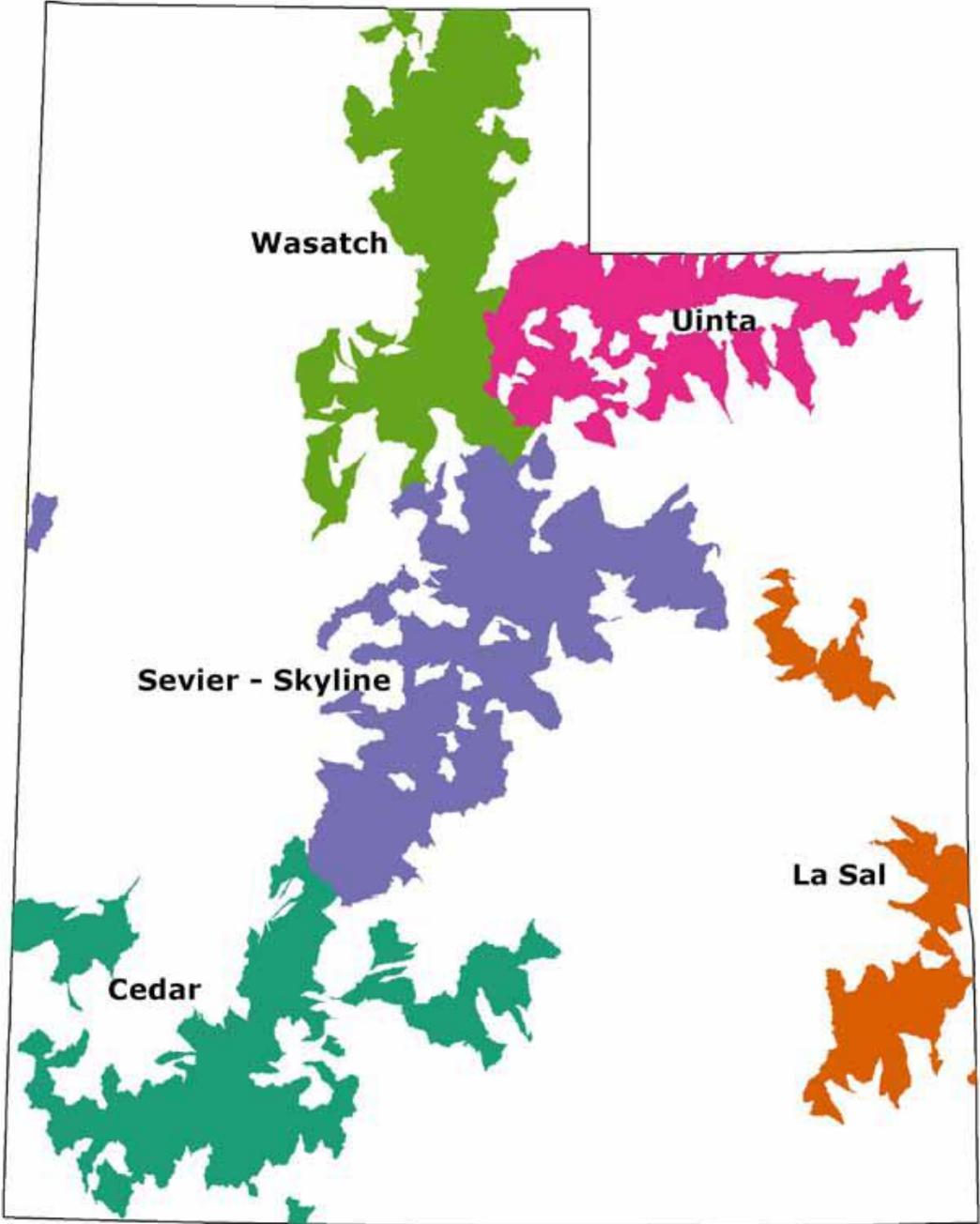
#### **Urban and Community Forestry**

- Develop and maintain community forests and management plans
- Use partnerships to maximize efforts to improve the condition of the urban and community forests.
- Connect urban forestry benefits to diverse environmental issues
- Cultivate an appreciation and understanding for the social, economic, environmental, and aesthetic value of trees, forests, and related resources in cities and communities.
- Develop and encourage the profession of urban forestry among partners through tech transfer, education and training.
- Seek support from all levels of government for the UCF program
- Coordinate with other S&PF programs
- Periodic assessment of program initiatives and activities to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of program directions.

### **Moving Forward:**

The Division plans to go beyond the model created for the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and create a “Dynamic Model.” The concept of a dynamic model allows the Division to be adaptable, responsive and proactive. A dynamic model can easily adapt to additions or changes in data, respond to ecosystem change, respond to changing funding sources or strategies and keep the Division ahead of the curve as change occurs.

# Priority Area Regions



# Priority Areas

The priority areas are the output of creating a model to reflect the current state and national management priorities. The priority areas designated by the Assessment for the State were divided into five priority area regions and named for their geographic location.

