

Area Specific Direction



Tie Hack – Millcreek Drainage in the Uinta Mountains

B. Area Specific Direction

Management Area Desired Future Conditions

The following descriptions apply all of the Forestwide and Area Specific Direction in an integrated way to the specific areas of land involved. They are intended to take the broad conceptual Forestwide goals for various resources and uses, the mapped management prescriptions, recreation opportunities and scenery objectives and fit them together in a clear complementary way, given the particular area's land capabilities, needs, and opportunities. Projects are to be developed consistent with these. While no one project is likely to achieve all of the goals, objectives and desired future conditions, the aggregate of multiple projects over time should move toward them.



Bear River Range West of Bear Lake

Bear Management Area

Desired Future Conditions

Bear Management Area

Setting Description:

The Bear management area is located along the western front of the Bear Lake valley in Northern Utah. It forms the east slope of the Bear River Range and creates the border for three ecological subsections Bear River Highlands, Bear Lake Section, and Monte Cristo-Weber Valley Hinterlands (Bailey, 1994). This transition area has a mosaic of vegetation types, with conifer, aspen and mountain mahogany at higher elevations and sagebrush and grass on the lower slopes. Infrequent broad canyons descend from the upland to the base of the Bear Lake valley. The Ogden River scenic byway (Highway 39), and Logan Canyon scenic byways wind their way down the slope of the Bear management area. Scenic overlooks provide exceptional views of Bear Lake, contrasted with the upland desert beyond. Year-round recreationists can find trails, primitive roads, camping spots, and open snow play fields to explore. Cattle and sheep can be seen grazing on rangelands in the area. Forest openings resulting from vegetation management approximate historic patterns. Monte Cristo and Sunrise campgrounds provide a pleasing setting for recreation amidst quaking aspen, lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir.

Although American Indians apparently did not use the Bear MA resources intensively in the past, archaeological sites illustrate that they sought specific resources such as game, berries, bison, and wetland plants and animals near springs. European settlers of Rich County also relied on the resources of Bear MA, particularly the grasslands for grazing their stock and water resources for irrigation of land.

Watershed Desired Future Conditions:

Watersheds will be properly functioning with adequate ground cover to prevent soil erosion, and provide infiltration and moisture holding for storage and release of water to streams and aquifers. Spring sources and associated bogs and wetlands will be protected from excessive use and have been restored to proper functioning. Riparian areas will be properly functioning with adequate deep-rooted vegetation or armoring along banks to allow for sediment filtering and erosion prevention. Riparian areas will be protected from overuse and trampling from livestock grazing and recreation uses.

In the Woodruff and Sugar Pine drainages, soil erosion is reduced and ground cover and stream flow is increased. This is accomplished by controlling or reducing current activities that accelerate soil erosion, closing ghost roads, and through fire use and management of recreation use. Potential for improvement of riparian condition and health is evident in Sugar Pine Canyon, where fencing is used to exclude livestock from portions of the riparian area.

In the watersheds southwest of Garden City, riparian and upland ground cover conditions will be improved through compliance with the travel plan, implementation of rangeland health standards, watershed restoration activities, and dispersed recreation site rehabilitation work.

Biodiversity/Viability Desired Future Conditions:

Vegetation and Disturbance Processes

Restoration and/or maintenance of a healthy and sustainable, broad scale, north-south wildlife corridor within this management area will be a priority in all management decisions. Vegetation will form a mosaic of habitat types, diverse in species composition and structure approximating historic patterns. Fire use will play a role in reducing fuels, and restoring and/or maintaining the dynamic of aspen and mountain brush regeneration, and the balance of age classes in these types. The loss of aspen to conifer once apparent in the area will be curtailed and the proportion of young aspen will be within the historic range of variability. Vegetation treatments (including fire use and timber harvest) will be used to improve the ratio of aspen to conifer in the mix of vegetation across the landscape. Fire use, coordinated with livestock grazing management, will also be used to restore a balance in sagebrush age classes and cover ratios to forbs and

grasses, resulting in improved forage and plant composition for both domestic and wild grazing animals.

A balanced mix of age classes across the landscape, approximating historic patch size and juxtaposition, will provide habitat for a variety of forest, shrub and grassland wildlife species. A large, even-aged patch of young lodgepole pine in Slideout Canyon, characteristic of historical patterns of fire disturbance in this area, will provide habitat for interior species requiring this forest structure. In the spruce-fir forest, along the eastern portion of the management area, selective timber harvest will be used to approximate historic disturbances common in this type, such as small-scale fires. Vegetation treatments used to improve water flows in New and Old Canyons also will increase the ratio of aspen to conifer in this area.

Remnant tall forb communities will be maintained and protected from levels of use that could cause negative changes in plant composition. Specific efforts will be made to find economically feasible approaches to restoration of tall forb communities where site potential still exists or can be recreated. Some altered sites, dominated by tarweed and where soil loss is apparent, will remain. Opportunities will be sought to apply economically feasible restoration techniques to these sites, as research develops.

Integrated pest management will be successfully employed to control priority noxious weed infestations. Habitats where rare plants exist will be emphasized. The extent of other weedy invasive species will be reduced to endemic levels where efforts can be coordinated with noxious weed control.

***Botanical Threatened, Endangered,
and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery***

Rare plant habitats will be managed to maintain or restore and provide for recovery of populations of Threatened and current and proposed Sensitive plant species.

Riparian plant habitats and rare riparian species will be protected from trampling and overuse by livestock grazing and recreational uses. Populations of non-native plant species will be reduced or eradicated in actual and potential rare plant habitat. Habitats will be maintained to promote pollinator success and survival and to provide for nesting needs. Proper stocking levels and utilization intensities of wildlife will maintain and protect rare plants and their associated habitat. Pro-active efforts will be emphasized to educate and inform forest users of the fundamental importance of plant species to society, plant conservation, and biodiversity.

Wildlife Habitat

Restoration and/or maintenance of a healthy and sustainable, broad scale, north-south wildlife corridor within this management area will be a priority in all management decisions.

Big game winter ranges, generally below 7,000 feet and located along the forest boundaries, will be maintained and enhanced. These will become more valuable and important as urban encroachment continues into previously undeveloped winter range. Sagebrush and other mountain brush age classes will be maintained in a higher proportion of older age classes than elsewhere to provide browse above snow. Big game winter ranges will be monitored in cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to ensure population management and prevent habitat deterioration. These ranges will be maintained and enhanced with the goal of holding big game on the Forest longer to help decrease impacts on private lands below.

Terrestrial Wildlife Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery

Management activities will conform to objectives, standards and guides as identified in Conservation Strategies, Agreements, and/or Guidelines for protection of TES species.

Fish Habitat

Aquatic habitats will be managed to maintain cool, clear water and well-vegetated stream banks for cover and bank stability. Cool water temperatures will be preserved through well-vegetated banks. Instream flows and cover, in the form of deep pools and structures such as boulders and logs, will be maintained and their value recognized. Natural reproduction of fish will be aided through minimizing sediment input from roads, trails and campgrounds. The value of riparian habitat conservation areas (300 feet on each side of the channel) will be recognized and protected. Riparian areas in the Woodruff Creek Drainage will be restored.

Amphibians and Invertebrates Habitat

Marshy edges of ponds, lakes and springs will be protected to allow for the development of in-water and riparian vegetation. Soil around water bodies will not be compacted and will allow for burrowing and over wintering of amphibians. Additional water developments for improved management of livestock grazing will be designed to not reduce existing amphibian habitat.

Aquatic Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery

Management priority will be given to the Bonneville cutthroat trout meta-population in the Woodruff Creek Drainage. Boreal toad habitat will be protected and enhanced where possible.

Special Interest Areas Desired Future Conditions:

The scientific and educational values of the T.W. Daniel Experimental Forest in this management area will be recognized, and its purposes will be highlighted as a Special Interest Area (SIA).

Inventoried Roadless Areas Desired Future Conditions:

The Bear management area has four inventoried roadless areas, including Swan Peak, Sugar Pine, Lamb Canyon, and a portion of Rock Creek-Green Fork. Roadless values in these areas will be mostly maintained, providing semi-primitive recreation opportunities, both non-motorized and motorized on designated routes in non-snow conditions, with much of the area open to snowmobiling. About 800 acres of roadless will be managed to allow development including road construction and timber harvest.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Desired Future Conditions:

High Creek (High Creek Lake to Forest boundary for ecological values) will be managed to protect values which made this segment eligible in the inventory. Activities within the corridor will maintain a "Wild" classification.

The Lefthand Fork Blacksmith's Fork (source to mouth for scenic values), Logan River (Confluence with Beaver Creek to bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground for scenic, recreation, geologic, hydrologic, fishery and ecological values), and Beaver Creek (South Boundary of State land to Mouth for fishery values) will be managed to protect values which made them eligible in the inventory. Activities within the corridors will maintain a "Recreational" classification.

The Logan River (Idaho state line to confluence with Beaver Creek for fishery values), White Pine Creek, Temple Fork, Spawn Creek, and Bunchgrass Creek (all source to mouth for fishery values), and Little Bear Creek (Little Bear Spring to Mouth for fishery values) will be managed to protect values that made them eligible in the inventory. Activities within the corridors will maintain a "Scenic" classification.

Roads/Trails/Access Desired Future Conditions:

Roads and trails will be designed and maintained to protect watersheds while providing a variety of recreation and access opportunities. Routes in need of improved drainage and /or alignment to minimize impacts to watersheds will be identified and incrementally repaired to achieve access with proper watershed functioning. Seasonal road closures will be used to protect the road surfaces when wet, to minimize impacts to wildlife, and/or to provide non-motorized hunting experiences. Gravel sources for improvement and maintenance of forest roads will be evaluated and developed. Roads and trails will be clearly marked to inform visitors of allowed types of uses, and users stay on designated routes. Compliance with the current travel plan will be excellent and users will assist with monitoring. Roads and travel ways not needed as part of the road system will be closed and restored to production of vegetation and protection of watersheds. Opportunities for motorized recreation will be provided through a series of roads and trails (mostly derived from existing routes) with varying

degrees of difficulty, opportunities for viewing scenery, and access to attractions. Loops will be provided where possible.

Efforts will be made to obtain right-of-ways for public access to the National Forest. Existing right-of ways are maintained.

Recreation Desired Future Conditions:

Recreation

A variety of recreation opportunities and settings will be provided. Management for recreation will be emphasized in developed areas and along popular travel routes, as identified in 4. management prescriptions. Recreation will be managed to ensure use is within acceptable limits for longterm watershed health and resource protection.

Newly constructed recreation facilities will emphasize day use but may include additional overnight use. As recreation facilities are reconstructed and maintained, emphasis will be given to protect water quality and stream/riparian habitat. Access points to water will be identified and placed to provide for an enjoyable recreational experience. Some will be hardened to ensure properly functioning watershed conditions.

Developed

Any increase in developed recreation in this management area will be designed outside riparian areas and floodplains.

Dispersed

Dispersed recreation activities and areas will meet a wide variety of user preferences. Separation of some types of recreation uses will be used in reducing conflicts. Opportunities for horse use will be enhanced in suitable areas, such as the Monte Cristo area. The Curtis Creek road will be improved to disseminate recreation from other areas where demand exceeds supply and to provide for increased recreation opportunities. Dispersed opportunities will be emphasized along corridors including Highway 39, Wasatch Ridge, Dairy Ridge, Baldy Ridge loop, and Old and New Canyons, particularly during the fall. Motorized vehicles will stay on clearly marked, designated open, roads and trails. Opportunities for motorized loop systems for ATVs will be evaluated (focusing on existing roads or routes), and trails and trailheads will be considered for development where suitable. Recreationists will keep vehicles and camping impacts within marked areas, and outside of sensitive areas to ensure watershed and other resource protection.

The majority of the area will be open to snowmobiling.

Recreation impacts will be monitored, users will be informed and assist with needed changes in management. Hardening of sites and use of barriers in and near riparian areas will be employed to reduce or prevent unacceptable impacts.

Closure of some riparian areas to camping will be accomplished where that use cannot be made compatible with standards for resource protection.

Recreation use in the Bear Lake area is increasing. Cabins and second homes being built will increase the demand for recreation opportunities on the adjacent national forest. Some upland areas will be identified and hardened to accommodate increased dispersed recreation use. Some sensitive areas will be closed and rehabilitated. Investments in a variety of trail opportunities, hardened sites, or other amenities will make the new areas more attractive to users, while reducing impacts. Enforcement of the travel plan will be a priority to protect resources and inform users.

In the winter, parking for both motorized and non-motorized winter dispersed recreation use will be provided. Conflicts between these uses will be minimized through some separation of uses, clearly marked areas, user cooperation, and additional law enforcement. Portions of the Swan Peak and Franklin Basin areas will provide parking and an area for cross-country skiing separate from snowmobiling, alleviating some of the conflict between these two user groups.

Recreation Special Uses

Recreation special use permits will be administered to ensure permit compliance. Non-commercial recreation special use proposals will be processed in a timely manner. Commercial recreation special use proposals will be evaluated through a competitive process, after a bona fide public need is established.

Heritage Resources

Inventory efforts will continue in this management area to identify and document sites representative of early American Indian habitation and use and early European pioneer settlement in the 1800s in Rich County. Representing the presence of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest within Rich County, the Randolph Guard Station is maintained as an active work site and its historical values are enhanced. We will explore opportunities for local groups to use Randolph Guard Station in an appropriate manner through partnerships that will benefit the community while preserving its historic integrity and value. The importance of springs and the presence of early American Indian use is recognized and valued. Additional water developments and maintenance for improved management of livestock grazing are designed to not adversely affect significant cultural resources in the area.

Land Ownership Desired Future Conditions:

Desirable land ownership changes will be completed to block up ownership and eliminate isolated forest and private parcels. Landlines adjacent to communities will be surveyed and posted, and encroachments will be eliminated or prevented.

Timber Management Desired Future Conditions:

Timber harvest and removal of forest products (e.g. thinning, firewood gathering) will be management tools used to help restore and maintain forested ecosystems to properly functioning conditions. Research on alternative silvicultural systems that approximate natural disturbance regimes will continue in Slideout Canyon.

Rangeland/Livestock Grazing Desired Future Conditions:

Livestock grazing is a permitted use within active allotments. Grazing levels will be adjusted and managed with up-to-date Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). AMPs prescribing rest and deferred rotation grazing systems and riparian pastures are in place. These systems will help to improve and maintain plant vigor and composition, aquatic health and terrestrial habitat. Conflicts with other uses will be minimized consistent with the management direction package for each area. Riparian and upland vegetation will be at or moving toward desired composition that meets multiple resource goals described under watershed and biodiversity/viability desired future conditions. Management tools, including such things as fire use, mechanical treatments, herbicide treatments, and short duration/high intensity grazing, will be employed to improve range health and conditions. Springs and seeps will be protected from compaction. Structural improvements such as fences and water developments will be constructed or reconstructed and maintained, to improve animal distribution and control. Structural improvements that are not needed will be removed from the forest. Active cooperation will be employed to manage grazing where forest lands are adjacent to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Grazing permit holders will move livestock as needed to ensure riparian stubble height requirements, upland utilization standards, and ground cover standards are met. Permit holders will share responsibility with the Forest Service for monitoring use, and will hold full responsibility for movement and control of livestock. Excess and unauthorized livestock use will be minimal. The number of term grazing permits will be reduced by the formation of grazing associations and the issuance of association permits instead of individual ones. The importance of permitted grazing on the national forest to local agricultural communities, maintenance of open space, and the western ranching lifestyle will be recognized.

Non Recreation Special Uses Desired Future Conditions:

Non-recreation special uses will be administered to ensure permit compliance. Special use proposals will be processed after a bona fide public need is established. Overhead lines will be converted to underground wherever possible. A communication site may be designated on Little Monte for public safety concerns.

Social (non-recreation) Desired Future Conditions:

The Forest Service is aware of the dominant role that agricultural enterprise and outdoor recreation have in the adjacent rural area. Agency participation will continue with local communities such as Randolph to plan and implement economic development projects.