

Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment #1

Winter Motorized Use Forest Plan Amendment and Travel Management Environmental Assessment August 10, 2007

Digest of Changes in this Amendment:

Page Replaced	Change	Explanation
Glossary – 20	Replaces definition of <i>“off-highway vehicle”</i>	Changes definition to the definition of this term in the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.1, 11/9/05). Change does not affect on-the-ground management.
Glossary - 21	Replaces and redefines the term <i>“Over-the-snow”</i> with term <i>“over-snow vehicle”</i>	Changes definition to the definition of this term in the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.1, 11/9/05). Change eliminates wording in this term that previously included vehicles operating on low-pressure tires.
Glossary - 30	Replaces definition of <i>“snowmobile”</i>	Changes definition to the definition of this term by referencing back to definition of <i>“over-snow vehicle”</i> from the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.1, 11/9/05). Change eliminates wording that previously included vehicles operating on low pressure tires.
2-15	Terminology corrected in Objective-2-19.	Replaces term <i>“Over-the-snow vehicle”</i> with <i>“over-snow vehicle”</i> to eliminate potential confusion with term previously used and to make terminology consistent with that in 36 CFR 212.
3-35	Terminology corrected in Standard ROS-4 and Guideline ROS-5.	Same as for page 2-15.
3-43	Terminology corrected in Standard MP-3.2-4.	Same as for page 2-15.
3-45	Terminology corrected in Standard MP-3.3-10.	Same as for page 2-15.
4-1	Terminology corrected in the Introduction. Also, include designated areas as areas where motorized use may be allowed.	Same as for page 2-15. Per the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.51 and 36 CFR 212.81), motorized vehicle use may be allowed in designated areas.
4-4	Terminology corrected in the “Theme” section.	Same as for page 2-15.
A-7	Deletes reference to 36 CFR 295.	Per Travel Management Rule (FR, 11/9/2005, Vol. 70, No. 216), this regulation was replaced with updated 36 CFR Parts 212, 251, and 261.
Appendix E, Table of Contents	Same as for page 2-19.	Same as for page 2-15.
E-6	Replaces map showing amended opportunities for “over-snow” vehicle use and “designated areas” for winter ATV use.	Changes per Decision Notice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chicken Springs area of Strawberry Reservoir now closed to winter cross-country motorized vehicle use. ◆ Currant Creek Reservoir, Vernon Reservoir, and Strawberry Reservoir except Chicken Springs area are designated areas open to “over-snow vehicle” use and use of ATVs December 1st thru March 31st. ◆ Only cross-country motorized vehicle use authorized anywhere else on the Forest are “over-snow vehicles.”

nest area

The nest tree and stand(s) surrounding a nest that contain prey handling areas, perches, and roosts (USDA 1999k).

no action alternative

The most likely condition expected to exist if current management practices continue unchanged. The analysis of this *alternative* is required for federal actions under the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)*.

no control zone – non-wilderness

See *control zones*.

no control zone – wilderness

See *control zones*.

No Lease (NL)

See *leasing stipulations*.

No Surface Occupancy (NSO)

See *leasing stipulations*.

non-point source

A source of pollutants that flow into surface waters from agricultural run-off from fields, urban run-off from paved streets and parking areas, mining and forestry operations, and atmospheric deposition. See also *point source*.

non-stream or -lake related wetlands

Wetlands that are either permanently inundated with water or have seasonally high water tables that support *wetland* vegetation, but do not derive their water directly from streams or lakes. Examples include seeps, bogs, weeping walls, ponds, and marshes. Also called “depressional wetlands.”

nonattainment area

An area identified by an *air quality* regulatory agency through ambient air monitoring (and designated by the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]) that presently exceeds the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for one or more *criteria air pollutants*. See also *attainment area*.

objective

A concise time-specific statement of measurable planned results that move toward pre-established *goals*. An objective helps define the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving identified *goals*.

off-highway vehicle (OHV)

~~Any snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or motorcycle (UDNR 2001c).~~

Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. (36 CFR Part 212.1, 11/9/05) (Amendment #1)

old growth

“Old growth forests are ecosystems distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes; old growth encompasses the later stages of stand development that typically differ from earlier stages in a variety of characteristics which may include tree size, accumulations of large dead woody material, number of canopy layers, species composition, and ecosystem function” (USDA 1993).

outstandingly remarkable value

As defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, an “outstandingly remarkable value” is the characteristic of a river segment that is judged to be a rare, unique, or exemplary feature that is significant at a regional or natural *scale*. Values can be recreational, scenic, geological, historical, cultural, biological, botanical, ecological, heritage, hydrological, paleontological, scientific, or research-related.

overstory

In a forest with multiple layers of vegetation, the portion of the trees forming the uppermost (canopy) layer.

~~over-the-snow vehicle~~

~~See snowmobile.~~

Over-snow vehicle

A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow. (36 CFR 212.1, FR, 11/9/2005, Vol. 70, No. 216, page 68287) (Amendment #1)

paleontological

Of or relating to past geological periods. Paleontological resources include fossils of shellfish, swamp forests, dinosaurs, and other prehistoric plants and animals.

Passport in Time

A Forest Service volunteer program officially established in 1991. Volunteers work with Forest Service archaeologists and historians on various projects including archaeological excavation, rock art restoration, surveys, archival research, historic structure restoration, the gathering oral histories, or the writing of interpretive brochures.

Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)

Fine particulate matter in the atmosphere smaller than 2.5 microns. Particles in this size range are most responsible for degradation of visibility. Fine particulates can also cause eye, nose, and throat irritation in humans.

Particulate Matter 10 (PM10)

Fine particulate matter in the atmosphere smaller than 10 microns, including dust and soot from the burning of fossil fuels, wood stoves, burning of agricultural fields, and other sources. Fine particulates can also cause eye, nose, and throat irritation in humans.

pattern

The spatial arrangement of landscape elements (patches, *corridors*, matrix) that determines the function of a landscape as an ecological system.

snag

A standing dead tree.

snowmobile

~~Any motor vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice and steered and supported in whole or in part by skis, belts, cleats, runners, or low pressure tires (UDNR 2001c).~~

See **Over-Snow Vehicle** (Amendment #1)

SNOWpack TELelemetry (SNOTEL)

An automated system installed, operated, and maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service that collects snowpack and related climatic data in the western U.S. Data are relayed daily using meteor burst communications technology; no satellites are used. Data collected from the system can help produce water supply forecasts and warn of natural disasters such as floods. There are over 600 SNOTEL sites in 11 western states. The sites are generally located in remote high-mountain watersheds. The sites are designed to operate unattended; they are battery powered with solar cell recharge.

soil compaction

A physical change in soil properties that results in a decrease in porosity and an increase in soil bulk density and soil strength (FSH 2509.18).

soil displacement

The movement of the forest floor (litter, duff, and humus layers) and surface soil from one place to another by mechanical forces such as a blade used in piling or windrowing. Mixing of surface soil layers by disking, chopping, or bedding operation, are not considered displacement (FSH 2509.18). See also *detrimental soil displacement*.

soil erosion

See FSH 2509.18 and applicable Intermountain Region supplements.

soil productivity

The inherent capacity of a soil to support the growth of specified plants, plant communities, or a sequence of plant communities. Soil productivity may be expressed in terms of volume or weight/unit area/year, percent plant cover, or other measure of biomass accumulation (FSH 2509.18).

soil puddling

See *puddling*.

source-identified

A certification standard used to describe native or naturalized species seed if the original collection site is known.

staging area

A location set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. Most often associated with fire incidents.

Objective-2-10 (O-2-10)	By 2013, conduct 5,000 acres of non-project related threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) species terrestrial biota inventories.
Objective-2-11 (O-2-11)	By 2013, maintain or restore 10 structures for threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) species.
Objective-2-12 (O-2-12)	By 2013, implement treatments to restore or maintain at least 1,000 acres where northern goshawk habitat is rated as high or optimum (per Graham et al. 1999), and where those acres are functioning at risk. Implement treatments that will provide reasonable assurance that areas will not drop to low to moderate value.
Objective-2-13 (O-2-13)	By 2013, maintain habitat for old growth-dependent species by maintaining at least 10 percent of forested stands as old growth (as defined in <i>Characteristics of Old Growth Forests in the Intermountain Region</i> [USDA 1993]) within each management area.
Objective-2-14 (O-2-14)	By 2018, provide habitat suitable to maintain stable greater sage grouse populations in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas at or above established objectives, and increase depressed populations by 10 percent.
Objective-2-15 (O-2-15)	By 2018, maintain identified greater sage grouse nesting habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas at prescribed conditions in 80 percent of habitats.
Objective-2-16 (O-2-16)	By 2018, improve or restore 1,000 acres of greater sage grouse habitat on breeding, brood-rearing, and winter range habitats in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas not currently meeting prescribed conditions.
Objective-2-17 (O-2-17)	By 2018, complete 1,000 acres of big game winter range habitat improvements to reach desired future conditions.
Objective-2-18 (O-2-18)	By 2013, survey the two Lynx Analysis Units (Upper Provo and West Fork Duchesne Management Areas) to determine the presence or absence of Canada lynx.
Objective-2-19 (O-2-19)	By 2005, map the location and intensity of snow compacting activities (e.g., over the snow over-snow vehicle use, showshoeing, cross-country skiing, dog sledding, or timber harvest activities) on designated routes, trails, and play areas within Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs). (Amendment #1)

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS) CLASSES

- ROS-1** **Guideline:** Forest resource uses and activities should meet the objectives for the assigned Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes as displayed on the map for each management area located in Chapter 5.
- ROS-2** **Standard:** ~~The Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class is closed to motorized use including over the snow vehicles.~~
Decisions on future management actions or activities must be consistent with the assigned ROS classification. (Correction #1)
- ROS-3** **Guideline:** Motorized use in the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class is limited to heli-skiing activities, emergency situations to protect human life, and limited administrative purposes, which include, but are not limited to, the use of:
- Chainsaws, rock drills, and other motorized tools,
 - Motorized equipment and vehicles for initial attack fire suppression,
 - Motorized equipment and vehicles for hazard fuels reductions,
 - Motorized equipment and vehicles for fire suppression only when a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis shows such action is necessary,
 - Motorized equipment and vehicles where required to maintain or reconstruct permitted facilities such as dams, and
 - Motorized equipment and vehicles to conduct permitted activities such as snow measurement and seismic exploration.
- ROS-4** **Standard:** Motorized recreation use, with the exception of ~~over-the-snow vehicles~~ ~~over-snow vehicles~~, is limited to the classified road system ~~and~~, those parts of the inventoried trail system designated for motorized use, ~~and~~ ~~designated areas~~ in all Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified, and Rural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Any other use of motorized equipment off of classified roads, ~~or~~ ~~inventoried trails~~, ~~or~~ ~~outside designated areas~~ is allowed only for approved administrative activities or as authorized in a permit. (Amendment #1)
- ROS-5** **Guideline:** ~~Over-the-snow vehicle~~ ~~Over-snow vehicle~~ use is allowed off trails and roads in all Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified, and Rural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes, except where otherwise seasonally closed to motorized use. The map "~~Over the Snow Vehicle~~ ~~Over-snow Vehicle~~ Use Opportunities" located in Appendix E illustrates the areas where these uses are allowed. (Amendment #1)

- MP-2.6-3** **Standard:** No recreation developments are allowed.
- MP-2.6-4** **Standard:** No new motorized trails may be constructed.
- MP-2.6-5** **Guideline:** New non-motorized trails may be constructed.
- MP-2.6-6** **Standard:** No temporary or classified roads may be constructed.

3.1 AQUATIC, TERRESTRIAL, AND HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES

- MP-3.1-1** **Guideline:** Non-recreation developments may be considered.
- MP-3.1-2** **Guideline:** Total soil resource commitment should be limited to no more than 4 percent of the riparian area acreage with this prescription within any given watershed.
- MP-3.1-3** **Guideline:** Vegetation management activities may be allowed if they maintain or enhance biophysical resources.
- MP-3.1-4** **Guideline:** Additional motorized and/or non-motorized trails may be constructed.

3.2 WATERSHED EMPHASIS

- MP-3.2-1** **Guideline:** Non-recreation developments may be considered.
- MP-3.2-2** **Guideline:** Total soil resource commitment should be limited to no more than 3 percent of the riparian area acreage with this prescription within any given watershed.
- MP-3.2-3** **Guideline:** Vegetation management activities may be allowed if they maintain or enhance biophysical resources.
- MP-3.2-4** **Standard:** All motorized recreation (including the use of ~~over-the-snow vehicles~~ **over-snow vehicles**) in big game winter range is limited to designated routes. (Amendment #1)
- MP-3.2-5** **Standard:** Motorized trail opportunities are limited to those existing as of the implementation date of this 2003 Forest Plan revision. No increase in miles of motorized trails is allowed except in the event realignment or relocation is needed to address public safety or resource concerns.
- MP-3.2-6** **Standard:** Road density and design will be compatible with watershed and habitat objectives.

- MP-3.3-9** **Guideline:** Give priority to control of inappropriate off-highway vehicle use and unauthorized mineral removal on winter range along the Wasatch Front.
- MP-3.3-10** **Standard:** All motorized recreation (including the use of ~~over-the-snow vehicles~~ **over-snow vehicles**) in big game winter range is limited to designated routes. (Amendment #1)

APPLY THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES IN CANADA LYNX ANALYSIS UNITS (SEE LYNX ANALYSIS UNITS [LAUs] MAP IN APPENDIX E).

- MP-3.3-11** **Guideline:** Spruce/fir old growth acreage should be maintained with at least 50 percent of the acreage in stands greater than 30 acres in size, at least 25 percent of the acreage in stands greater than 80 acres, and 25 percent in stands greater than 5 acres. Old growth aspen acreage should be in stands greater than 80 acres in size.
- MP-3.3-12** **Standard:** If more than 30 percent of the Canada lynx habitat in a Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU) is currently in unsuitable condition, no further reduction of suitable habitat shall occur as a result of vegetation management activities.
- MP-3.3-13** **Guideline:** Vegetation management shall not change more than 15 percent of Canada lynx habitat within a Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU) to an unsuitable condition within a 10 year period.
- MP-3.3-14** **Guideline:** Within each Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU), maintain denning habitat on at least 10 percent of the area capable of producing stands with characteristics suitable for denning habitat. Denning habitat should be well distributed, in patches generally larger than 5 acres.
- MP-3.3-15** **Guideline:** Vegetation management activities designed to retain or restore Canada lynx denning habitats should be located where there is a low probability of stand-replacing fire.
- MP-3.3-16** **Standard:** Pre-commercial thinning will be allowed only when stands no longer provide high-quality snowshoe hare habitat (e.g., self-pruning processes have eliminated snowshoe hare cover and forage availability during winter conditions with average snowpack), or where necessary to provide defensible space within 200 feet of Forest Service or private infrastructure.
- MP-3.3-17** **Guideline:** Following a disturbance such as a blowdown, fires, insects, and disease, where Canada lynx denning habitat is less than 10 percent of a Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU), do not salvage harvest when the affected area is smaller than five acres if it could continue to provide lynx denning

CHAPTER 4: MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

A management prescription is direction applied to a geographical area that identifies a resource emphasis and associated limits on use and development. The following prescriptions have been adapted from regional prescriptions to fit specific conditions on the Uinta National Forest.

With the exception of ~~over-the-snow vehicles~~ over-snow vehicles, motorized recreation is allowed only on **designated** roads and ~~motorized~~ trails, **and in designated areas regardless** of management prescription. (Amendment #1)

All management direction in these prescriptions, including direction for existing and recommended wilderness, is limited to the extent allowed by law and consistent with valid existing rights (e.g., mineral and water rights).

1.0 WILDERNESS

THEME

This prescription includes areas designated by Congress as wilderness and areas recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness designation. Management emphasis is on maintaining wilderness attributes, including natural appearance, natural integrity, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, naturally functioning ecosystems, ecological preserves, and any identified special features. Recreation developments are limited to the construction of primitive trails and signs. The only non-recreation developments allowed are those consistent with valid existing rights.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

1.4 Wilderness

These areas are managed consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984 with no delineation for condition class or recognition of varying levels of opportunities for solitude. These areas are managed to allow natural processes to prevail. Vegetation management is limited to wildland fire use and noxious weed treatments that do not employ mechanized or motorized means. Prescribed fire use is allowed only when necessary to promote or maintain wilderness characteristics or integrity. No timber harvest is allowed. Grazing will continue to be allowed per the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Recreation developments such as pit toilets may exist where necessary to accommodate high visitor use.

valid existing uses (e.g., private mineral rights), or where road construction or reconstruction is not needed and the activity is consistent with the primary emphasis of this prescription.

3.0 AQUATIC, TERRESTRIAL, AND HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES

THEME

This prescription includes lands where management emphasis is on preserving, maintaining, or restoring quality aquatic, terrestrial, and/or hydrologic conditions. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is on providing high quality fish habitat, wildlife habitat, and/or watershed conditions that meet desired conditions. Vegetation management activities, including timber harvest, may be allowed if they maintain or enhance biophysical resources. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed. Road density and design will be compatible with watershed and habitat objectives. All motorized recreation (including the use of ~~over-the-snow vehicles~~ ~~over-snow vehicles~~) in big game winter range is limited to designated routes and, ~~in the case of over-the-vehicles snowplay~~ ~~designated~~ areas. Construction of motorized trails may be considered where consistent with the prescription emphasis and desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class. Designated, hardened, dispersed recreational facilities may be developed to concentrate use and reduce resource impacts to the biophysical resources. Other developments may be considered. (Amendment #1)

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

3.1 Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources

Emphasis is on maintaining or improving existing quality aquatic, terrestrial, and hydrologic conditions through limited to moderate management activity. This prescription includes areas where multiple habitat and resource values are present. These values are recognized as important and may require restoration to reach desired conditions. Other uses and activities may be allowed provided they do not inhibit attainment of objectives for the areas. Vegetation management activities, including timber harvest, may be used to address vegetation needs for wildlife habitat, watershed improvement, and/or forest health needs. Additional motorized trails may be constructed. Livestock grazing is allowed where compatible with desired aquatic, terrestrial, and hydrologic conditions.

3.2 Watershed Emphasis

These areas are managed to achieve high quality soil productivity and watershed conditions. Where improvement is needed, it is achieved by implementing watershed improvement projects and applying soil and water conservation practices to land-disturbing activities. Motorized trail opportunities are limited to those existing in 2003. No increase in miles of motorized trails is allowed. Grazing and timber harvest are not allowed.

~~36 CFR 291~~ ~~Occupancy and Use of Developed Sites and Areas of Concentrated Public Use~~ (Amendment #1)

36 CFR 292 National Recreation Areas
36 CFR 293 Wilderness - Primitive Areas
36 CFR 294 Special Areas
36 CFR 295 Use of Motor Vehicles off Forest Development Roads
36 CFR 296 Protection of Archaeological Resources
36 CFR 297 Wild and Scenic Rivers
36 CFR 800 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
40 CFR 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality

National Electrical Code
National Fire Code
Uniform Building Code
Uniform Mechanical Code
Uniform Plumbing Code

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

E.O. 11593 Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment
E.O. 11990 Protection of Wetlands
E.O. 11644/11989 Use of Off-Road Vehicles
E.O. 11988 Floodplain Management
E.O. 12113 Independent Water Project Review

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR THE STATE OF UTAH

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the state are found in the *Utah Nonpoint Source Management Plan* (Bureau of Water Pollution Control 1989).

Additional direction for hydrologic modifications is found in the *Utah Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Hydrologic Modification* addendum, 1995 (Robinson 1995).

Additional direction for silvicultural activities is found in the *Utah Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Silvicultural Activities* addendum, 1998 (Silvicultural Addendum Subcommittee 1998).



