



Hayden Peak on the western edge of the High Uintas Wilderness

Western Uintas Management Area

Desired Future Conditions

Western Uintas Management Area

Setting Description:

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. This Management Area contains four ecological subsections: West Flank Uintas, High Uintas, North Slope Outwash and Monte Cristo-Weber Valley Hinterlands (Nelson, 1993) and is managed by two Ranger Districts, Kamas and Evanston. The Western Uintas Management 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 an abundance of lakes, streams and wetlands. The high amount of wetlands in the area is a unique feature compared with other areas in the intermountain west. It offers a wealth of recreation opportunities such as backcountry hiking and horseback riding, ATV trails, fly-fishing, scenic driving, rock climbing, backpacking, mountain biking, hunting, peak bagging, large group/family camping, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Cattle or sheep can be seen grazing in portions of the area, as well as elk, deer, and moose.

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. At the heads of these U-shaped valleys are majestic domed peaks and stacked blocked ridgelines whose concave bases are blanketed with conifer and patches of aspen. Large and small lakes that reflect the surrounding peaks are scattered across the landscape. Rolling uplands provide large open snowfields mingled with conifer and aspen stands in winter that in summer provide a vivid display of colorful wildflowers. Campgrounds, trailheads and visitor pullouts follow the gentle weaving alignment of Mirror Lake Scenic Highway as it climbs from broad valleys through the Upper Provo River Canyon to the summit. There, Bald Mountain is at the headwaters of four of the most important river systems in Utah (Duchesne, Provo, Bear, and Weber) and swirled quartzite originally arising from ancient ocean bottoms has been polished smooth by Pleistocene Glaciers. Bald, Murdock, Hayden and many other peaks stand on the horizon as sentinels with coats of talus and craggy cliff bands.

Watershed Desired Future Conditions:

Upper Weber River Area - A watershed assessment will evaluate current conditions and identify actions to maintain or restore proper functioning condition for high quality and quantity of water to serve a wide variety of instream and downstream uses. Development on adjacent private lands in this drainage has resulted in some threats to water quality and quantity, however the Counties work on multiple agency sewer planning provides a means for correcting and/or preventing decreases in water quality. Water quantity is important for meeting growing potable water needs accompanying development on private lands. The City of Oakley has recently established a sole source aquifer designation (2000 feet underground) with most water coming from beneath Seymore and Pinon Canyons. The importance of protecting this watershed is recognized and management actions will be carefully planned and executed with this value as a priority.

In portions of the Upper Weber River drainage, historic grazing use effects and remnants of 1950's to 1960's watershed improvement structures still remain, although ground cover sufficient to prevent accelerated soil loss in these areas is gradually returning. Bluegrass bottoms common in riparian areas as a result of historic overgrazing will gradually be restored to deeper rooted sedges and woody plants that protect stream banks, filter sediment and provide shade for improved aquatic habitat.

Road maintenance and decommissioning will be employed to improve watershed conditions. Roads to be decommissioned were identified in the travel management planning process with full public involvement. Designated access points to streams in riparian areas will be identified and clearly marked for dispersed recreation enjoyment while protecting streamside integrity. Vehicles

will stay on designated travel routes. Sedimentation of streams will be reduced through revegetation and barriers to motor vehicles.

Beaver Creek Area– The Shingle Creek diversion into the Upper Provo is recognized as inherent to the culturally altered character of the watershed. The main stem of Beaver Creek will continue to function properly with abundant willows in a variety of age classes, channel integrity, channel processes, sediment regimes, and woody debris characteristic of conditions under which this riparian aquatic ecosystem developed. Shingle Creek and Slate Creek will be the focus of activity to restore riparian conditions to proper functioning. Downcutting in Yellow Pine and Coop Creeks will no longer be active and the stream level will stabilize. The Lefthand Fork of Beaver Creek is a municipal watershed and will be protected for this use.

Provo River Area – The diversion into the Upper Provo from the Duchesne River is recognized as inherent to the culturally altered character of the watershed. Streambank and wetland restoration and protection projects for mitigation along the Provo River will be emphasized, improving ground cover conditions along riparian areas.

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Duchesne River Area –The tunnel diversion is recognized as inherent to the culturally altered character of the watershed. Coordination with water users for releases to Jordanelle will improve the compatibility of releases with the channel's ability to handle flows. Mirror Lake would be removed from the State of Utah 303(d) list by determining reasons for exceeding Utah dissolved oxygen water quality standards, and implementing solutions to the problem if it is management related.

Whitney Area – Watershed impacts (lack of ground cover, soil erosion and compaction, and loss of soil productivity) from destruction of vegetation (caused by ATV use and past sheep grazing) will be reduced. Roads and user created

travel ways not needed as part of the road system will be closed and restored to production of vegetation and protection of watersheds. Tall forb communities will be improved in their composition.

Around Whitney Reservoir and Beaver Lake adverse resource effects from concentrated use areas will be reduced by actively managing where vehicles are allowed to drive and park.

Hayden Fork - Streambanks damaged by historical (tie hacking) activities will be stabilized.

Biodiversity/Viability Desired Future Conditions:

Vegetation and Disturbance Processes

Areawide - Aspen with encroaching conifers on uplands and in riparian areas will be restored to seral aspen with a variety of age classes. Also see Forestwide desired future conditions for rangelands.

Native seed collection areas will be identified and used on a rotational basis so seeds are available for revegetation/rehabilitation projects in this management area.

Upper Weber River Area - In the Upper Weber, the aspen cover type along the forest boundary will be maintained. Natural processes will dominate within the recommended wilderness area. Conifer vegetation outside the recommended wilderness area is difficult to treat because of steep slopes coupled with continuous canopies adjacent to private land. A combination of hand felling and underburning might be used to reduce fuels and provide a buffer adjacent to private lands. Wildland fire use will play a role in recommended wilderness.

Tarweed areas having altered site potential as a result of soil loss, such as Hoyt Peak and Paulsin Basin, will remain, although as research develops approaches to restoring these, opportunities are sought to apply economically feasible restoration techniques. Remnant healthy and recovering tall forb communities will be protected from uses that could cause undesirable changes in plant composition. Specific efforts will be launched to test economically feasible approaches to restoration of tall forb communities where site potential still exists or can be recreated.

Integrated pest management will be successfully employed to greatly reduce noxious weeds with a priority on preventing infestations in recommended wilderness and in habitats where rare plants exist.

Beaver Creek Area – Aspen management will be emphasized to increase age class diversity and decrease conifer encroachment with priority placed on areas

adjacent to winter range and other vegetation types. Prescribed or wildland fire use will be the preferred treatment in Hoyts, Wide Hollow, and Paulsin Basin. Mechanical thinning of invading species (such as Juniper and Gambel Oak) followed by prescribed fire will be employed to maintain the unique Ponderosa pine component of the landscape. Mountain Mahogany stands (curl leaf only) will be sustained by avoiding burning and coordinating with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to reduce browsing impacts by big game. Gambel oak and mountain brush will be managed to increase age class diversity and reduce fuel loading adjacent to private property. Sagebrush will be managed to increase the diversity of age classes and decrease canopy cover and, as a consequence increase grass-forb cover. Some understory burns will be provided for in timbered areas to maintain older fire resistant trees and reduce fuels.

Highway 150 corridor – Endemic outbreaks of insect and disease in forested stands is a naturally occurring process that will continue. Management along the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway will be designed to assure a sustained forested environment retaining scenic qualities and desirable recreation settings for the long-term. High scenic integrity will be considered in designing any vegetation treatments. Vegetation in developed and dispersed recreation sites will be monitored to determine tree health, vigor and condition. Public safety will be a priority when managing forest stands while striving for maintenance of desirable snag and woody debris conditions in developed and established dispersed recreation sites.

Whitney Area (West Fork of the Bear River) – Forests of the Whitney area are characterized by a variety of forest types. There are stands of mixed aspen and conifers in the lower to mid elevations and stands of spruce and lodgepole pine with a subalpine fir component throughout the area. These forested areas are interspersed with large and small meadows throughout the mid and lower elevations with a few open parks on ridges. The age and density of the spruce and lodgepole pine stands makes them susceptible to bark beetle epidemics. A combination of tree mortality from forest insects and fire has undoubtedly been the historically most important disturbance processes in this area. The disturbances from these agents in the Whitney area have probably been on a smaller scale than those farther to the east due to wetter climate and the naturally fragmented nature of the landscape. Therefore, the patch sizes tend to be smaller. The presence of aspen in some areas indicates a relatively more frequent fire history than would have occurred in the upper elevations where spruce predominates. The aspen and lodgepole pine stands in the area are dependent on periodic disturbance to remove encroaching subalpine fir and spruce and to regenerate new age classes of these species. Aspen regenerate through sprouting from roots following fire. Lodgepole pine cones opened by the heat of fires spread seed to regenerate a new forest of lodgepole pine, while stands of mixed species regenerate and proceed through successional stages at a slower rate following the less frequent fires at higher elevations. Although the spruce are a long-lived species, they become susceptible to spruce bark beetles as they age and have a

much longer regeneration cycle. Spruce bark beetles reached an epidemic level in the Humpy and Meadow Creek drainage in the early 1990's. Stands in these areas were treated by removing individual infested trees, felling trap trees, and installing pheromone baited traps. Spruce beetles have stayed at an endemic level throughout the area since then.

The Spruce cover type which can be important habitat for the boreal owl, lynx, and marten will be maintained by managing stand densities and structures to keep spruce beetles at less than epidemic levels. Aspen and lodgepole pine stands will be managed to rejuvenate and increase age class diversity in patch sizes similar to those that occurred historically and in a manner that maintains connectivity for wildlife movement through the landscape.

Bear River Drainage including the Hayden Fork, Stillwater, East Fork, and Mill Creek - The forests of the Bear River drainage excluding Whitney are characterized by mixed aspen and lodgepole pine stands in the lower elevations, some pure lodgepole pine stands in mid-elevations and mixed lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce in the higher elevations. These forests are dependent on disturbance to maintain a properly functioning condition. Aspen regenerate through sprouting from roots following fire while lodgepole pine cones opened by the heat of fires spread seed to regenerate a new forest of lodgepole pine. Stands of mixed species regenerate and proceed through successional stages at a slower rate following the less frequent fires at higher elevations. The fires historically responsible for these processes varied in frequency and intensity. Mixed lodgepole pine and aspen regenerated concurrently following fires with mixed regimes (some stand replacing and some ground fires). Most of the pure lodgepole pine type appears to have regenerated following large, stand replacing fires. Upper elevation stands appear to have a relatively infrequent fire history that is probably due in part to the wetter conditions during the fire season. These upper elevation stands are frequently in smaller patch sizes with changes in species composition dependent on how large and intense the fire was and how long the succession from seral lodgepole pine to subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce has been progressing. The role of fire in the ecosystem has been replaced to some extent by timber harvest over the last 100+ years. Extensive tie-hacking around the turn of the century produced uneven-aged stands in some areas and even aged stands where it was followed by fire. Extensive overstory harvesting on railroad lands intermingled with National Forest land as well as some of the same type of harvesting on National Forest land in the Mill Creek area has resulted in considerable acreage of 30 to 40 year old stands with mixed species and scattered relic overstory trees. More recent timber harvest on National Forest land has resulted in primarily even aged lodgepole pine stands intermingled with mature forest.

The area will be managed for aspen, mixed lodgepole pine and aspen, and lodgepole pine in patch sizes, species composition and stand structure and ages similar to what fire historically created. These treatments will be accomplished

through timber harvest, mechanical treatment, and prescribed and wildland fire use consistent with management prescriptions.

Restoration of aspen in riparian areas where conifers have encroached will be emphasized to improve habitat for a variety of species including beaver. Beaver are an essential ecosystem component due to their important effects on watershed and wetland functions.

The highest priority for treatment will be the mixed aspen and conifer stands where conifers are gradually replacing the aspen. There is not as much risk of losing the aspen component in stands composed predominantly of aspen at lower elevations.

Botanical Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery

Management activities within rare plant habitats will maintain or restore and provide for recovery of populations of current and proposed Sensitive plant species and plant species at risk. Livestock grazing intensities will be managed at a level that maintain rare plant habitat dynamics and provides for the maintenance of pollinator habitat and diversity. Riparian and aquatic plant habitats and species will be protected from trampling and overuse by recreational users and grazing wildlife and livestock. Activities associated with timber harvest will maintain or restore habitat for current or proposed Sensitive species and will support a diversity of pollinators. Cliff, crevice, and ledge habitats will be protected and provide for a variety of cliff species balanced with recreational climbing opportunities. Forest users will become aware of the fundamental importance of plant species to society, plant conservation, and biodiversity.

Wildlife Habitat

The western-most boundary of the Western Uintas is an important linkage for biodiversity maintenance. It connects wildlands to the north and west with the rest of the Uinta Mountains running east-west and also linking to wildlands in Colorado. All management activities will take the priority for a functioning corridor into full consideration.

Big game winter ranges (generally below 7,000 feet) in the Kamas Valley will be protected and enhanced, recognizing these become more valuable and important as urban encroachment continues into previously undeveloped areas. Browse species here will be maintained with a higher proportion of older age classes than elsewhere to provide browse above snow for big game.

Big game use will be monitored in cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to ensure population management prevents habitat deterioration.

Upper Weber River Area – The area is recognized as a critical linkage between the broad scale north-south wildland corridor created by the Cache Box Elder and

Bear Management Areas to the north and west, and the east-west wildlands of the Uinta Mountains. Coordination with the State will be employed to maintain big game numbers at levels appropriate for sustainable winter range habitat management. Low elevation oakbrush will be treated to maintain and improve big game winter range while providing fuel breaks along the private property interface. Fire will be used to the extent possible to maintain age class and species diversity. Working relationships with adjacent landowners will protect private property from unwanted fire and provide for desirable vegetation mosaics/age class diversity.

Beaver Creek Area – The area is recognized as a critical linkage between the broad scale north-south wildland corridor created by the Cache Box Elder and Bear Management Areas to the north and west, and the east-west wildlands of the Uinta Mountains. These areas provide the only wildland connection between southern Idaho/Wyoming and Colorado wildlands making maintenance of integrity a priority in all management decisions. High winter range values will be maintained or enhanced. Aspen will be managed to increase age class diversity and reduce conifer encroachment. Spruce fir will be managed to provide habitat, maintaining healthy mature stands with a spruce component for boreal owl, snowshoe hare, lynx and marten.

Provo River Area – In Cedar Hollow, winter ranges will be maintained or enhanced. In the Duchesne River drainage as well as lakes in the upper Provo, high elevation osprey nest sites will be recognized as important and protected.

Whitney Area – Wildlife travel and migration corridors will be protected. Spruce fir will be managed to provide habitat, maintaining healthy mature stands with a spruce component for boreal owl, snowshoe hare, lynx and marten.

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

In Lynx Analysis Units, recreation and vegetation management will conform to objectives, standards and guidelines identified in the Lynx Conservation Strategy.

The Goshawk Conservation Strategy will be incorporated into all management activities.

Aquatic Conditions

(Fish habitat, amphibians and invertebrates habitat, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species protection/recovery)

Areawide - Trout Habitat - Aquatic habitats will be managed to maintain cool, clear water and well-vegetated stream banks for cover and bank functioning. Instream cover, in the form of deep pools and structures such as boulders and logs, will be maintained and their value recognized. Water temperature will be preserved through stable well-vegetated banks. Natural reproduction will be

maintained through minimizing sediment input from roads, trails and campgrounds and providing for instream flows.

Recreation facilities will be constructed and maintained to protect water quality and stream/riparian habitat. Hardened access points to water will be identified and placed to provide for an enjoyable recreational experience and at the same time ensure proper watershed functioning.

Amphibian Habitat - Marshy edges of ponds or lakes and springs will be protected to allow for the development of in-water and riparian vegetation. Soils around water bodies will not be compacted and will allow for burrowing and overwintering of amphibians. River rehabilitation designs will incorporate toad and amphibian habitat needs. Spotted frogs have been found in this area.

Access trails will be designed to minimize development in riparian habitat conservation areas (300 feet on each side of the channel). The values of springs will be recognized and protected. The values of instream flows for aquatic and semi-aquatic species will be recognized and protected. Non-native fish will be maintained through natural means in streams. Stocking will provide the majority of angler demands in lakes and reservoirs along the Mirror Lake Highway. Management will emphasize conservation of the Bonneville cutthroat trout population in the headwaters of the Bear River, Beaver Creek in the Weber River Drainage, and Boulder Creek in the Provo River Drainage. Bonneville cutthroat populations in the upper Bear River Drainage will be expanded and strengthened in coordination with the State of Utah.

Beaver Creek, Mill Creek, and West Fork Bear – The fish community is very diverse in this area. This diversity will be maintained.

Roadless Areas Desired Future Conditions:

The Nobletts roadless area will be managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities and low use consistent with the terrestrial habitat management prescription. This will mostly maintain roadless values.

The Lakes Roadless Area will be managed consistent with the Backcountry Management Plan (USFS 1999): Direction from that decision applies to both the recommended wilderness portion and the rest of this inventoried roadless area. Quality semi-primitive non-motorized recreational settings and experiences are provided which are sensitive to soil, wetlands and riparian areas, water quality, scenery, wildlife, and vegetation resources as well as the needs of people. The majority of the area will be managed to maintain or mostly maintain roadless values. Development will be allowed on about 18,000 acres of the roadless area.

Management in about half of this portion of the High Uintas Roadless Area will maintain or mostly maintain roadless values. The remaining portion will be managed to allow development.

Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness Areas Desired Future Conditions:

Lakes Roadless Area - The recommended wilderness in the Lakes Roadless Area will have boundaries clearly marked and will be managed consistent with the 1999 Backcountry Management Plan (See Lakes Backcountry below under Recreation Desired Future Conditions) with one exception. Mountain bike trail use and other mechanized use will not be present within the recommended wilderness. Snowmobiles will be allowed. Quality semi-primitive non-motorized (summer) recreational settings and experiences will be provided which are sensitive to soil, wetlands and riparian areas, water quality, scenery, wildlife, and vegetation resources as well as the needs of people. Motorized access for reservoir maintenance will be allowed in recommended Wilderness. Once-in once-out access will be employed as it was in High Lakes Stabilization.

High Uintas Wilderness – This area will be managed in accordance with the 1997 High Uintas Wilderness Management Plan, including its DFCs and monitoring. Motorized uses are not allowed in designated Wilderness and the boundary of this wilderness will be adequately marked and enforced.

High Uintas Additions Roadless Area - The recommended wilderness will be managed to maintain and protect wilderness characteristics. Existing access points at East Fork Bear River Trailhead and the Bear River-Smiths Fork Trail will provide adequate public access.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Desired Future Conditions:

The Ostler Fork (source to mouth for ecological values), Left Hand, Right Hand, and East Forks Bear River (Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near trailhead for scenic and hydrologic values), Boundary Creek (source to confluence with East Fork Bear for ecological values), and Middle Fork Weber River (source to confluence with Weber River for scenic values) will be managed to protect values which made them eligible in the inventory. Activities within the corridors will maintain a "Wild" classification.

The Hayden Fork (source to mouth for scenic and ecological values), Beaver Creek (source to forest boundary for recreation values), and Provo River (Trial Lake to U35 Bridge for scenic and recreational values) will be managed to protect values which made them eligible in the inventory. Activities within the corridors will maintain a "Recreational" classification.

The Stillwater Fork (source to mouth for scenic and ecological values) will be managed to protect values that made it eligible in the inventory. Activities within

the corridor will maintain a “Wild” classification within Wilderness and “Scenic” classification below Wilderness.

Roads/Trails/Access Desired Future Conditions:

Areawide - 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 for alignment to minimize impacts to watersheds will be identified and incrementally repaired to achieve access with proper watershed functioning. Roads and trails will be clearly marked with allowed types of uses, and users will stay on designated routes. Compliance with the current travel plan will be excellent and users will assist with monitoring. Adequate 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 scenery, and access to attractions. Loops will be provided where possible. There will be increased opportunity for a recreation east-west transit along the North Slope road system in all seasons.

Provo River Area - Cedar Hollow and Murdock Basin ATV trail systems will continue to provide motorized recreation opportunities in distinct settings (Cedar Hollow for lower elevation, earlier season use and Murdock for higher elevation with access to the vicinity of various lakes later in summer). Signing and barricades for decommissioned roads will no longer be needed as the roads will be recovered and revegetated with users complying with travel plans. The trail system will be protected from expansion by user defined or extended trails. A wide variety of snowmobile experiences will be provided on 9,000 to 10,200 elevations. The existing road system and travel plan will be adequate to meet access needs.

Recreation Desired Future Conditions:

Management specifically for recreation is emphasized in the Mirror Lake Highway, Spring Canyon, Echo Lake, Iron Mine, Gardners Fork, Whitney, and East Fork and Stillwater Fork of the Bear River with Management Prescription Category 4.0.

Areawide - Recreation opportunities will be maintained as primarily general public use. Recreation facilities will be constructed and maintained to protect water quality and stream/riparian habitat. Hardened access points to water will be identified and placed to provide for an enjoyable recreational experience and at the same time ensure watershed functions. Fishing experiences will vary from easily accessible lakes, reservoir and rivers, to remote lakes and streams.

Lower Weber River Area – The Hoyt and South Fork area will be managed mostly for day use dispersed recreation.

Upper Weber River Area – Recreation use areas in Smith Morehouse and Gardner’s Fork will be hardened to provide access while protecting soils and vegetation. Non-motorized backcountry or wilderness experience will predominate in the interior of the watershed in summer. Opportunities for winter motorized use will be provided both inside and outside the recommended wilderness area until such time as Congress acts. Parking for snowmobile use in this area continues to be provided although National Forest lands for this may be limited. Developed recreation facilities will remain at the level available in 2000. This area has a lower development density than the more heavily used portions of the Management Area (i.e. the Provo River). User density levels will remain similar to those of 2000. A variety of outfitter guide supported recreation opportunities will continue to be offered off-forest in the Upper Weber consistent with the 1999 Backcountry Management Plan (USFS, 1999).

Beaver Creek Area – provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Taylors Fork and Shingle Creek will be evaluated to emphasize ATV/camping opportunities while protecting riparian zones, water quality and watershed functions. Recreation sites (Taylors Fork and Shingle Creek) will be evaluated for close-out or rehabilitated in areas where damage is or has potential to occur to riparian and wetlands. Use will be shifted to resistant sites that do not contribute to resource problems. Cedar Hollow will be considered for ATV/camping opportunities to provide for existing and some future demand.

Existing developed facilities will be maintained. Water systems will be modified or replaced to meet State requirements for potable water systems in developed sites. Priority will be for replacement of older underground water systems. Existing designated dispersed recreation sites will be hardened and additional designated sites may be added to protect resources and provide for increasing demand. Anticipate higher occupancy rates of developed campgrounds and facilities as population increases. Demand will not be fully met in higher use periods. Designated dispersed camping sites will be maintained, rehabilitated and hardened to protect riparian areas and water quality.

Lakes Backcountry (interior of upper Weber and Provo Watersheds) - Horseback riders, hikers, backpackers, anglers, hunters, and nature enthusiasts will enjoy a variety of semi-primitive non-motorized recreational opportunities in non-snow seasons that provide opportunities for quiet, privacy, self renewal, experiencing nature, challenge, and self-reliance. In winter, snowmobilers as well as skiers and snowshoers will enjoy a variety of semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. Campsites and trails will be located in or relocated to areas that are more resistant to human impacts. This will result in the reduction of soil compaction and erosion, less human activity in wetlands and riparian areas providing higher quality wildlife habitat, fewer visible campsites, less soil erosion resulting in organic and mineral soil loss, and less vegetation loss. Campsites will generally be visually screened, increasing opportunities for quiet and privacy. Areas disturbed by human use (campsites and trails) that have

been relocated or closed will be revegetated with naturally occurring vegetation species.

From the Mirror Lake Highway to the Provo-Weber crest (Yellow Pine, Coop Creek, Shingle Creek and Norway Flats) - Outfitter guided summer and winter opportunities including youth programs and a winter yurt system will continue at 2000 levels (see below under Recreation Special Uses).

Provo River Area – Large organizational camp opportunities will be maintained and education efforts will be supported with Forest Service programs when possible. Expansion of dispersed recreation opportunities will be provided along Spring Canyon Road with improvements in keeping with the need to protect wetlands and settings. Scenic byway management will be expanded to include ridgeline to ridgeline scenery areas.

Bear River Area - Protection of scenery along the Scenic Byway and heavily developed recreation use areas will be provided. Dispersed areas will be defined or designated to better integrate developed and dispersed opportunities, while reducing resource impacts. A wide variety of easily accessible recreation opportunities (winter and summer motorized and non-motorized) will continue to be present in the Bear River Drainage. Intensively managed summer and winter opportunities in the Lily Lake/Wolverine Trail system area will be continued as will the Bear River snow park. Partnerships with governments and private and volunteer interests to provide a balance of recreation opportunities will be continued. The high quality backcountry values currently present will be maintained. Large organizational camp opportunities will be maintained and education efforts will be supported with Forest Service programs when possible.

Recreation Special Uses Desired Future Conditions:

Outfitter Guide partnerships with the Forest Service will enhance land stewardship goals by providing long term benefits in land stewardship education. Outfitter Guide activities (non-profit environmental education groups, schools, and universities, and for profit commercial operations focus on a preponderance (>51%) of their time on the forest providing: educational opportunities for instructing the membership of other organizations in leave no trace backcountry camping and travel techniques (“Train-the-Trainer” programs); low impact educational access for school and university groups; low impact opportunities for service projects to complete needed work to protect and restore forest resources under Forest Service technical supervision; low impact access for minorities and youth at risk, special populations, and other underrepresented social groups; low impact opportunities for service projects administered by outfitter guides with technical supervision by forest service employees; and managed use, to the extent possible, which decreases the likelihood of restricting overall user numbers.

Soapstone and Christmas Meadows summer home areas will be continued under recreation residence special use permits. Boundaries on permits will be simplified where complicated boundaries existed. When current permits expire for the two cabins at Trial Lake, a new evaluation will be conducted to determine if the permits will be extended.

Heritage Resources Desired Future Condition

Continue inventory efforts to identify and record all American Indian and early European sites, particularly mining locations, in the area. The local and regional history associated with the tie hack sites will be developed and appreciated. Interpretive brochures and/or trails will be developed in coordination with designation of a historic tie hack district. The Mirror Lake Scenic Byway will include interpretation of culture and history of the area. Investigation in high-altitude prehistoric sites will continue on the Wasatch-Cache NF portion of the Uinta Mountains in coordination with the Ashley NF's ongoing investigations along with interested educational institutions and tribal programs. Historic guard stations will continue to be restored, maintained, and valued as working administrative sites.

Scenery Management

The outstanding scenic quality of the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway will be maintained and protected. The following landscape character themes will be found in the management area as mapped: Natural Evolving in Wilderness and Natural Appearing in all other Prescription areas with scenic integrity objectives of Very High for Wilderness and High for all others.

Land Ownership Desired Future Conditions:

Boundary encroachment problems at the forest boundary in Upper Weber and Bear River area will be resolved by marking and survey in cooperation with local governments and landowners. Existing portals will be maintained for adequate public access.

Efforts to acquire private lands and block up National Forest ownership in intermingled private lands will be continued. Acquire small inholdings in Western Uintas. If intermingled lands are not acquired, acquiring easements across private lands will be a priority.

Timber Management Desired Future Conditions:

Treatments will emphasize restoring properly functioning condition, maintaining species composition and stand structure, and where possible within intermingled ownerships, managing for patch sizes that would have occurred historically. Because of past harvesting in roaded areas and the heavy recreational use of the

area, most of these treatments will be on a small geographic scale with a low level of disturbance per acre.

In the Hayden Fork area traditional forest products such as Christmas trees, posts and poles, firewood and teepee poles will continue to be provided.

Rangeland/Livestock Grazing Desired Future Conditions:

Upper Weber River Area - This steep mostly timbered area is marginal for livestock grazing. Vacant allotments or permits waived without preference will be evaluated for whether continuing domestic livestock grazing is appropriate.

Beaver Creek, Provo River, and Whitney Areas – Livestock grazing will be managed to maintain or move toward desired future conditions for rangeland vegetation (see Forestwide Desired Future Conditions).

Bear River Area - From the Hayden Fork drainage to the east, if sheep permits for upper elevation allotments are voluntarily waived without a preference, permits will not be reissued and allotments will be closed to domestic livestock for purposes of future bighorn sheep habitat.

Non Recreation Special Uses Desired Future Conditions:

Special use authorizations for research projects, water developments, and filming will be managed to ensure public benefit as do other authorizations.

Minerals Desired Future Conditions:

The most northern portion of the management area is available for oil and gas leasing. About half of the available acres allow surface occupancy with special stipulations to protect resources. The portion of the Bear River 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.

Operating plans for mining locatable minerals will incorporate appropriate Forest Plan direction for the area.

Social (non-recreation) Desired Future Conditions:

Risks to private property from unwanted fire will be reduced through close coordination with local communities. In the Soapstone and Weber River summer home areas, permit holders, The State of Utah Department of Natural Resources and private homeowners will work cooperatively to provide fuel breaks and defensible space.

