



Western side of the Stansbury Mountains

Stansbury Management Area

Desired Future Conditions

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Setting Description:

The Stansbury Management Area is located at the south end of the Great Salt Lake between Tooele Valley on the east and Skull Valley on the west. It occupies the south end of the Stansbury mountain range. North south trending, the unit rises from the valley floor and varies in elevation from 5400 feet to 11,031 feet at the top of Deseret Peak in the Deseret Peak Wilderness. This is a semi-arid range created by basin and range type faulting and defined by steep V shaped canyons, juniper forests and craggy mountain peaks. Many of the north-facing slopes are accented by dark green fingers of conifer extending down the ridgelines. Vegetation is a mosaic of juniper and Douglas-fir at lower elevations and Spruce/Fir at higher elevations. Hardwood bottoms and openings of sagebrush and grass/forb meadows also occur. Crested wheat grass was planted in the 1960's, and covers large areas at lower elevations on the east side of the Stansbury range. Native species are beginning to reestablish in these communities, but the crested wheat grass is likely to persist for decades into the

future. The replacement of aspen by conifers due to fire suppression has likely resulted in lower water flows in the streams. Few perennial streams and springs are found on the Area. South Willow Canyon is the location of the only developed campground facilities. In addition, South Willow Creek is essentially completely diverted at the Forest boundary so no perennial flow occurs east of the Forest. Mining Fork has been diverted from its natural stream channel into South Willow Creek at a location near the S curves. Historically mining occurred although its remnants are no longer dominant on the landscape. Primitive roads that go up many of the canyons are braided and are creating a high impact on the landscape as people drive vehicles further up the mountain and off designated routes.

Watershed Desired Future Conditions:

Given the scarcity of perennial streams in this semi-arid area and their high value for wildlife, fish and aesthetics, all uses will be managed with specific attention to maintaining or enhancing the integrity of stream, spring, and riparian environments. Watersheds are in properly functioning condition. Adequate ground cover prevents soil erosion and compaction and adequate infiltration and moisture holding capabilities provide for storage and release of water to streams and aquifers similar to historical rates. Stream flows will be protected to at least maintain existing stream flows. Management of conifer-dominated aspen stands will be focused in part on increasing water flow in perennial streams. Spring sources and floodplains will be protected from compaction by livestock, vehicles, and recreation use. They will be restored to proper functioning conditions. Riparian areas will be properly functioning with rejuvenated plant communities, adequate deep-rooted vegetation and hardening along banks to allow for sediment filtering, erosion prevention, and runoff within historic ranges. Adequate water will be available for proper distribution of livestock while maintaining adequate ground cover and forage use within utilization standards. Riparian areas will be protected from overuse and trampling from livestock grazing and recreation uses.

Riparian and upland ground cover conditions on the east slopes of the Stansbury Mountains will be improved through compliance with travel plan, rangeland health standards, watershed restoration activities, and developed site rehabilitation work

Biodiversity/Viability Desired Future Conditions:***Vegetation and Disturbance Processes***

Vegetation cover types form a mosaic of habitat diverse in species composition, plant communities, and size/age/structural classes within communities. Fire use will play an active role in reducing fuels, maintaining the historic dynamic of aspen regeneration and ratio of conifer to aspen vegetation patterns and age classes. Fire use coordinated with livestock grazing management will also be

used to restore the dynamic of juniper age classes and canopy cover as well as healthy understory of forbs and grasses, resulting in improved forage and plant composition for both domestic and wild grazing animals as well as diversity of habitat for a variety of other wildlife species.

Crested wheat grass plantings will be managed to maintain the reintroduction of native grasses and forbs. Forb communities at higher elevations in the Wilderness will be protected from recreation impacts. Areas of macrophytic crusts will be identified and protected.

Integrated pest management will be successfully employed to keep noxious weed populations at a minimum with emphasis along travel ways.

Areas will be identified as native seed-collection sites for their use in recovery, reestablishment, and rehabilitation of disturbed sites.

The unique qualities and character of the Great Basin ecosystem will be recognized in decision-making.

Botanical Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery

Occupied and potential habitat for rare plant species, such as the Sensitive *Potentilla cottamii*, will be maintained and known populations will be protected from impacts from various sources.

Populations of non-native plant species will be reduced or eradicated in rare plant actual and potential habitat. Habitats will be maintained to promote pollinator success and survival. Proper stocking levels and utilization intensities of wildlife in introduction programs will maintain and protect rare plants and their associated habitat. Pro-active efforts will be made to educate and inform Forest users of the fundamental importance of plant species to society, plant conservation, and biodiversity.

Wildlife Habitat

The Big Creek Wild Horse Territory will be managed for a maximum of 25 head as described in the management plan.

Big game winter ranges (generally below 7,000 feet) which include the entire perimeter of the Area, will be maintained and enhanced with the goal of holding big game on the Forest longer to help decrease impacts on private lands below. Sagebrush and other mountain brush species age classes will be maintained in a higher proportion of older age classes than in other locations to provide browse above the snow. Big game use will be monitored in cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to ensure population management prevents habitat deterioration.

Terrestrial Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery

A number of species-at-risk occur within and/or have habitat within this Management Area.

Aquatic Conditions

Fish Habitat: Aquatic habitats will be managed to maintain cool, clear water and well-vegetated stream banks for cover and bank protection. 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 well-vegetated banks. Natural reproduction will be maintained 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. Springs will be protected and their value recognized

Amphibians and Invertebrates 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 over wintering of amphibians. Additional water developments will be permitted to reduce or eliminate impacts of grazing. These developments will not be allowed to reduce existing amphibian habitat.

Aquatic Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Protection/Recovery:

No “threatened”, “endangered”, and “sensitive” aquatic or semiaquatic species are known to exist in the Stansbury Mountains.

Research Natural Areas Desired Future Conditions:

A **potential** Research Natural Area on the west slope of Deseret Peak Wilderness will be studied for its inclusion into the system. The RNA that focuses on maintaining Great Basin elements would be managed for its wide range of botanical and ecological elements, and for its scientific value as a baseline for monitoring these elements.

Roadless Areas Desired Future Conditions:

Inventoried roadless areas and Wilderness occupy the majority of acreage in the Stansbury Management Area. Major portions of the inventoried roadless area located north and south of the existing Deseret Peak Wilderness will be managed as undeveloped areas (MPC 2.6), protecting roadless values. The eastern front of the roadless area allows development. Actions will be taken to improve conditions related to dispersed recreation between Davenport Canyon and South Willow Canyon. See Vegetation and Recreation Desired Future Condition descriptions for the portions of this roadless area that were mapped with prescriptions other than 2.6.

Wilderness Desired Future Conditions:

Use in the Deseret Peak Wilderness occurs primarily from June to October with limited use occurring during the winter. It is expected that use will continue to increase in the area including more visitors during the winter season. The area will continue to be managed to provide a variety of day and overnight use opportunities for both hiking and horseback riders. As population levels continue to grow in Tooele County, use is expected to increase in the Deseret Peak Wilderness area. To effectively manage this use, Forest Service presence in the Stansbury Mountains including Deseret Peak Wilderness will increase in frequency to protect and maintain wilderness values. There will be an increased emphasis on user education including leave no-trace and minimal impact techniques to protect those wilderness values. Overall, the Deseret Peak Wilderness will be managed to have lower use levels and encounters than the tri-canyon wilderness areas on the Salt Lake Ranger District. Opportunities for solitude and the ability to maintain pristine areas generally will be higher in the Deseret Peak Wilderness area. High use will mainly occur in areas out of the South Willow Canyon corridor. Access that is currently threatened in some areas of the Stansbury Mountains is maintained and sufficient to allow adequate visitor access to the Deseret Peak Wilderness and adjacent roadless backcountry areas.

Areas within existing Wilderness, directly adjacent to the Stansbury Front motorized trail running north south along the length of the range, will be managed as opportunity class III for compatibility. Corridors along non-motorized trails will be managed as opportunity class II with the remainder managed as opportunity class I, where conditions are predominantly pristine.

As use increases in the Deseret Peak Wilderness, it is expected that trail maintenance of the higher use trails will increase, although many trails in the Stansbury Mountains will continue to be maintained and managed as primitive trails. Motorized use trespass in wilderness will be curtailed in both summer and winter. Additional outfitter and guides will not be allowed in the Deseret Peak Wilderness. Total use levels in the Deseret Peak Wilderness area will be closely monitored to protect other wilderness values. Tools to help manage this use in the future may be initiated to limit resource impacts from user visitation. Such tools may include, but are not limited to use capacity analysis, allowed use limits and quotas, permit systems, designated camp sites, a wilderness unit management plan or needed amendments to wilderness management in this Forest plan. The Deseret Peak Wilderness is managed as a unique ecosystem on the Wasatch- Cache National Forest, because the Stansbury Mountains are part of the Great Basin. Wilderness management for Deseret Peak will be designed to minimize impacts and declines of the Great Basin flora and fauna and their habitat. This will include effective management and monitoring of the range allotments that occur in the Stansbury Mountains and overlap into the wilderness. A close working relationship is kept with the adjacent Skull Valley Goshute Tribe and Bureau of Land Management on issues that affect the Stansbury Mountains ecosystem.

Roads/Trails/Access Desired Future Conditions:

Management presence in the area will increase significantly over that noted in the 2000 Plan Revision process. Signing will be current and well maintained and users will assist with monitoring of Travel Plan implementation. The increased management presence, as well as expansion of partnerships with Tooele County and City, is expected to help. Unclassified roads will be restored to natural conditions and barriers used to reduce problems.

Davenport - ATV routes are closed and traffic is confined to main routes.

The Stansbury Front motorized trail will be designated for both two-wheeled and ATV opportunities and necessary drainage design will be incorporated. The designated route will be clearly marked and compliance with the open on designated routes policy will be excellent. Wilderness trespass cases will be few. The network of user created routes in the Davenport and North and South Willow areas will be evaluated and designated appropriately as either continued motorized access or closed and rehabilitated where not needed for access or where causing unacceptable resource impacts. Improved signing and establishment of approved routes will eliminate encroachment into the wilderness. Roads will be maintained to provide adequate drainage and stream and riparian impacts will be minimized.

Access will be clearly identified from all main approaches to the area: in East Hickman and Mining Fork.

Recreation Desired Future Conditions:

Substantial changes to recreation patterns of use will be implemented to define and improve the range of recreation experiences present in the area, providing for a growing population in adjacent areas while sustaining natural resources. Considerably more agency emphasis and presence in the area will be noticeable. Recreation management will be specifically emphasized in the area from Davenport Canyon to South Willow Canyon providing a gradient of opportunities along the east slope.

Davenport - Opportunities in Davenport will be primarily designated dispersed where camping is allowed just off the road. The riparian area will be managed to allow recreation access to hardened points while protecting overall functioning with adequate vegetation cover. Users will be able to clearly see the areas intended for parking and camping and will assist with preventing additional compaction or denuding of vegetation. Future growth will be least accommodated in Davenport canyon.

North Willow - Dispersed sites along North Willow Creek will be closed and rehabilitated. The riparian area will be protected and dispersed camping will

occur away from the stream channel. Opportunities in North Willow provide designated dispersed sites where camping is allowed. Future dispersed growth is best accommodated in this canyon. Designated dispersed sites will be clearly marked and some facilities such as fire rings will be available. Increased management presence and hardening of sites will be accomplished. The riparian area will be managed to allow recreation access to hardened points while protecting overall watershed functioning with adequate vegetation cover. Users will be informed of areas designated for parking and camping and will understand how their actions can prevent additional compaction or denuding of vegetation.

South Willow - Camping will be allowed in designated sites only. Dispersed camping will be discontinued. Medina flat will be a horse and ATV parking area. South Willow Canyon will be a *fee area*. Developed recreation opportunities will be provided in South Willow Canyon. Campgrounds will provide full service facilities. Users will camp only in developed campgrounds. South Willow also will provide improved trailheads from which non-motorized, motorized and horse travel can originate. The Medina Flat Trailhead will be modified and better delineated to provide for both horse and motorized users in a safe compatible setting. The Loop Campground Trailhead will be a primary access point to the Deseret Peak Wilderness. Denuded sites will be rehabilitated or moved to allow for streambank recovery. Vegetation in the stream corridor will be healthy and age classes more diverse than the decadent cottonwoods of 2000. The riparian area will be managed to allow recreation access to hardened points while protecting overall functioning with adequate vegetation cover.

An improved trailhead and reliable access into East Hickman Canyon will be provided to recreationists. Dispersed camping will be allowed in the general area. Impacts to soils, vegetation, and the riparian area will be reduced through modification and delineation of travel routes and trailhead improvement. Access to Big Hollow will be from a trailhead outside the forest boundary.

Motorized trail will provide a unique opportunity for access adjacent to Deseret Wilderness and users will assist with preventing any motorized encroachment into Wilderness.

Recreation opportunities on the west side of the Stansbury Mountains will be maintained as dispersed.

Recreation Special Uses

The number of authorized outfitter-guide recreation operations will remain essentially the same over the next 10-15 years. The existing determination of desirable and appropriate guided services remains valid, and the demand is in balance with supply. Opportunities to conduct conservation education and interpretive activities will continue to be provided and may expand. There continues to be little or no demand for organized recreation events. Any proposals will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

Scenery Management

The scenery of the area will continue to be diverse and unique within the Wasatch-Cache. A variety of settings from pristine to moderately developed are present. Views from the top of the Stansbury Range of off forest areas are recognized as spectacular and the viewpoints will be recognized and managed for their value. Views from the Scenic Byways in South Willow Canyon will be carefully managed so that foreground use does not detract from broader landscape views. Guidelines for scenery management will be applied to project undertakings. The following landscape character themes will be found in the management area as mapped:
Natural Evolving, Natural Appearing, and Developed Natural Appearing.

Heritage Resources

Inventory efforts continue to identify and record all American Indian and early European sites, particularly mining locations, in the area. Prehistoric archaeological sites are numerous in the Stansbury Range and their value will be recognized. Active partnerships are established with the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians to enhance and appreciate their unique culture and history in the Stansbury Range. The importance of springs and the presence of early American Indian use at these areas 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:

Public access rights-of-way will be maintained or obtained. Public access will be acquired through Hickman Canyon on the East side and Box Canyon on the West side.

Timber Management Desired Future Conditions:

Commercial timber harvest is not planned in the Stansburys.

Rangeland/Livestock Grazing Desired Future Conditions:

Livestock grazing will continue to be a compatible use within each of the prescription areas. It will be managed to maintain or improve watershed, terrestrial habitat, riparian and aquatic conditions and minimize conflicts with other uses consistent with management direction for the area. Plant communities will be at or moving toward desired composition, structure and function as described in Forestwide Desired Future Conditions and above under vegetation.

Structural improvements such as fences and water developments will be well maintained and will serve to improve distribution and control of livestock use. Structural improvements that are not needed will be removed from the forest.

Grazing permit holders will take full responsibility for monitoring use, movement, and control of livestock to meet standards designed to ensure multiple resource sustainability. Grazing systems will provide for rest or deferment of all areas for some portion of the rotation to achieve improved plant vigor and composition.

Deadman Allotment, currently vacated will be removed from allotment status for watershed protection and to provide an un-grazed reference area.

Non Recreation Special Uses Desired Future Conditions:

Newly authorized utility uses will be located in existing designated utility corridors.

Social (non-recreation) Desired Future Conditions:

This management area provides a backdrop to the expanded urban development of Tooele County and serves to enhance quality of life for residents of the area as well as visitors from outside the County. Community and county partnerships in management provide for enjoyment of the area while assisting with local land stewardship.

