

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

For the

WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST FOREST PLAN REVISION

Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Duchesne, Morgan, Rich, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Wasatch, Weber
Counties, Utah

And

Uinta County, Wyoming

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service

Wasatch Cache National Forest
8226 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
(801) 524-3900

Cooperating Agencies:

Summit County, Utah
Uinta County, Wyoming

Responsible Official:

Jack Troyer
Intermountain Region
USDA Forest Service
324 25th Street
Ogden Utah 84401
(801) 625-5605

For Further Information Contact:

Thomas L. Tidwell, Forest Supervisor
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
8226 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

ABSTRACT: This Final Environmental Impact Statement documents the analysis of seven alternatives which were developed for possible management of the 1,200,000 acres administered by Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Alternative 1 addresses concerns about a need for strong emphasis on allowing nature to take its course, minimizing human interference with natural processes, and maintenance of roadless landscapes. Alternative 2 addresses concerns about a need for emphasis on biodiversity, mimicking or restoring natural processes with active human management, and conservation of large roadless areas. Alternative 3 provides a mix of uses and protection/restoration activities, incorporating results of monitoring, project analyses and area assessments with some aspects of the National Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Alternative 4 is formally the “No Action” alternative required, and can also be described as the “continuation of management under direction of the 1985 forest plan” alternative. Alternative 5 addresses the concern that the Forest can and should be used to directly benefit economies, livelihoods, and traditions of families and local communities through predictable sustained outputs while allowing a variety of other non-exclusive uses and minimizing restrictions or requirements that drive up operating costs. Alternative 6 addresses concerns about emphasis on biodiversity with conservation of large roadless areas, highlighting of substantial areas for important terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and concentrating activities in areas where they can be managed sustainably. Alternative 7, the preferred alternative, addresses concerns about needs for emphasis on biodiversity by attempting to balance human impacts and uses with maintenance of overall ecological integrity. This Alternative proposes actively managing (primarily vegetation treatments) some areas of the forest to restore ecological functioning and reduce hazardous fuels, allowing continued production of commodity resources for human use in many areas, and in other areas, allowing natural processes to proceed with less human intrusion. Recreation opportunities are managed intensively in selected areas to meet increasing demands, while recognizing the importance of watersheds especially in the vicinity of current and future urbanization. Areas further from major population bases are managed for a wider variety of recreation opportunities including substantial areas of primitive and semiprimitive classes.

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