

(Proposed)
Amendment to the General Plan of Wayne County, Utah

Amending the Resource Management Plan
Part of The General Plan

Chapter 13 of Wayne County's Resource Management Plan regarding Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Areas is amended in title and body to read as follows:

**Wayne County's Resource Management Plan Specific to U.S. National Forest
Inventoried Roadless Areas Located in Wayne County**

I. Background

The U.S. Forest Service in 2001 promulgated a revised version of what is known as the Roadless Rule. Under the 2001 Roadless Rule the Forest Service established so-called Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) on 4,013,000 acres of Utah's 8,179,000 acres of National Forest lands.

Eleven IRAs have been established on National Forest lands in Wayne County, identified as follows:

<u>IRA Name</u>	Forest System <u>ID #</u>	<u>Forest</u>
Dark Valley	7658	Dixie (Boulder Mtn.)

Boulder Mtn./Boulder Top/ Deer Lake	8062	Dixie (Boulder Mtn.)
Happy Valley	8066	Dixie (Boulder Mtn.)
Boulder Mtn./Boulder Top/ Deer Lake	8297	Dixie (Boulder Mtn.)
Boulder Mtn./Boulder Top/ Deer Lake	8300	Dixie (Boulder Mtn.)
Wayne Wonderland	7687	Fishlake (Thousand Lake Mtn.)
Solomon Basin	7754	Fishlake (Thousand Lake Mtn.)
McDonald Basin	7776	Fishlake (Thousand Lake Mtn.)
Thousand Lake Mountain	7780	Fishlake (Thousand Lake Mtn.)
Hilgard Mountain	7916	Fishlake (Thousand Lake Mtn.)
Lookout Peak	8242	Fishlake (Thousand Lake Mtn.)

See Map # ____ depicting the eleven National Forest IRAs in Wayne County.

II. Current Conditions: Issues involving Forest Management Found in all Eleven National Forest IRAs in Wayne County

- a. Much-needed regular and systematic forest management efforts are needed in Wayne County's eleven IRAs.

- b. Tree stands throughout these IRAs are dense and overcrowded, lacking in diversity of age class and type and thus prone to, and in some cases have already succumbed to, catastrophic fire, bark-beetle and other insect infestation and disease.
- c. Policies and permits have been withdrawn that used to allow much-needed regular silvicultural thinning projects, projects to remove understory, and aspen regeneration projects in order to restore and improve forest health and fire resiliency as well as improve wildlife habitat and grazing forage for permitted livestock.
- d. The watersheds and springs of several Wayne County towns and communities are at serious risk of damage from erosion and silt runoff caused by the threat of catastrophic fire.
- e. Forest health, biodiversity and the surrounding wildland urban interface are all threatened. Road access by regular sized motor vehicles and general maintenance permission have been restricted to the point that it is impossible to regularly clean and clear logs, brush, and other forest products out from rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways in Wayne County's National Forest IRAs.
- f. Such motorized and mechanized access has also been severely reduced making it impossible to regularly maintain, repair and upgrade town and city springs, streams, lakes and other municipal and agricultural water sources in the eleven IRAs.
- g. Motorized access to key roads that existed after implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule has been cut off pursuant to arbitrary Forest Service Travel Management Plans.
- h. Disbursed outdoor recreation has been cut back and concentrated into smaller and smaller areas, thus creating more stress and damage to those

concentrated areas. The public's motorized access to these eleven IRAs, once enjoyed for decades prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule, has been greatly curtailed.

- i. It is impossible to walk or ride a horse through many areas in the eleven IRAs in Wayne County because of the buildup of fallen logs, other forest understory, and overcrowded trees.
- j. As forest health has declined throughout the eleven IRAs, many areas have become more prone to invasive non-native plants.
- k. Clean air and clean water are threatened by the high risk of catastrophic fire.
- l. Water yield has decreased due to overgrowth of pinyon and juniper, decadent sagebrush and other woody vegetation.

III. Desired Future Conditions: Wayne County's Planned Remedies for the Problems Found in the Eleven National Forest IRAs in Wayne County

- a. Protect and preserve clean water, clean air, forest health, forest resiliency against catastrophic wildfires, and biological strongholds against disease and invasives:
 1. Allow and maintain reasonable motorized access by regular sized motor vehicles for the upkeep and maintenance of all town culinary water sources and agricultural water rights situated within any of the eleven National Forest IRAs, and allow mechanized activities to perform such upkeep and maintenance.
 2. Allow and maintain reasonable motorized access by regular sized motor vehicles and use of needed mechanized equipment to regularly clean out, remove and and clear logs, brush, and other forest products

from rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways in Wayne County's National Forest IRAs.

3. In all eleven IRAs, except the Flat Top area of Thousand Lake Mountain, permit regular thin-cut logging, removal of the build-up of understory, and aspen regeneration where appropriate to achieve reasonable size and age class diversity of alpine stands, to increase resiliency and resistance to catastrophic wildfires, to permit the commercial removal of commercially viable timber after a fire, and to permit lop and scatter, bull-hogging and similar processes to remove the dense build up of pinyon and juniper and enhance wildlife habitat.
- b. Protect and enhance motorized public access and dispersed outdoor recreation:
1. Restore balance disbursed outdoor recreation with reasonable motorized access to all eleven of the IRAs, in order to lessen the stress and damage caused by non-dispersed camping in concentrated areas.
 2. Provide reasonable opportunities for regular sized vehicles to access the IRAs for outdoor recreation so as to not discriminate against the disabled and others who are in need of motorized vehicular assistance to gain access.
 3. Re-open, re-grade and do other needed maintenance for key roads that were once open to public access prior to the latest Travel Management Plan closures. Examples include restoring and re-opening the full historic length of the road for public motorized access at the head of Pole Canyon in the Thousand Lake Mountain IRAs, restoring public motorized access to travel on the road up over Saddle Pass continuing down to the valley where the spring is located, in the Thousand Lake Mountain IRAs, restoring public motorized access to the road that accesses and runs along Polk Creek in the Thousand Lake Mountain

IRAs, as well as restoring public motorized access and travel along the road to Cool Creek Spring in the Boulder Mountain IRAs.

IV. Wayne County's Plan to Reclassify the Management Regime for All National Forest IRAs in Wayne County, Except for the Flat Top Region of Thousand Lake Mountain, as ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREAS to Achieve the Remedies and Desired Future Conditions Planned in Section 3.0

a.

1. Reclassify and manage all eleven National Forest IRAs in Wayne County, with the exception of Flat Top area of the Thousand Lake Mountain IRA (Unit # 7780) as National Forest *Active Management Areas* on Boulder Mountain (Dixie N.F. IRAs) and on Thousand Lake Mountain (Fishlake N.F. IRAs).
2. Reclassify and manage the Flat Top area of the Thousand Lake Mountain IRA (Unit #7780) as a National Forest *Primitive Area*.

b. Planned Suitable Uses and Activities in the *Active Management Areas* are as follows:

1. Manage to avoid catastrophic wildfires and improve catastrophic fire resiliency;
2. Manage for forest health (from bark-beetle and other diseases) and improved water yield and water quality, with the full range of silviculture techniques;
3. Manage for intensive thin-cut timber and other wood products harvest with the full range of silviculture techniques;

4. Manage for regular removal of pinyon and juniper buildup, with the full range of mechanized techniques;
5. Manage for grazing, with the goal to return to the highest reasonable level of active AUMs consistent with improved rangeland conditions;
6. Manage for clean culinary water sources for towns and communities, as well as maintenance and upkeep of agriculture water rights (dams, other impoundments, etc.) including access, permission and equipment use needed for the regular cleaning out and removal of logs, brush and other woody material from streams, creeks, rivers and other water bodies;
7. Manage for reasonable public motorized access (regular vehicles) and travel (temporary and permanent according to the need) per revisions to Forest Travel Plans. Re-open, re-grade and do other needed maintenance for key roads that were once open to public access prior to the latest Travel Management Plan closures. Examples include restoring and re-opening the full historic length of the road for public motorized access at the head of Pole Canyon in the Thousand Lake Mountain IRAs, restoring public motorized access to travel on the road up over Saddle Pass continuing down to the valley where the spring is located, in the Thousand Lake Mountain IRAs, restoring public motorized access to the road that accesses and runs along Polk Creek in the Thousand Lake Mountain IRAs, as well as restoring public motorized access and travel along the road to Cool Creek Spring in the Boulder Mountain IRAs.
8. Manage for mineral development (surface occupancy and where feasible directional drilling) as and where found to be commercially feasible, with sufficient reclamation stipulations and conditions;

9. Manage for dispersed public recreation and developed as deemed commercially viable and appropriate;
 10. Manage for trail construction and/or reconstruction to enhance public outdoor recreation;
 11. Manage for weed and pest control; and
 12. Manage for mechanized equipment use as needed to realize the foregoing values.
- c. Planned Suitable Uses and Activities in the Flat Top *Primitive Area* of Thousand Lake Mountain are as follows:
1. Fire management (prescribed fire);
 2. Manage for forest health;
 3. Manage for personal use of timber;
 4. Manage for grazing, with goal to return to originally permitted AUM levels as allowed by improving rangeland conditions;
 5. No managing for minerals;
 6. Manage for dispersed outdoor recreation;
 7. No road construction or reconstruction;
 8. Manage for weed and pest control;
 9. Allow limited mechanized equipment use (chainsaws, helicopters, etc.)