



SUMMIT COUNTY

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2017

This page is left intentionally blank

SUMMIT COUNTY

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2017

Prepared By:
Summit County, Utah
Original Document 2017
Modified 2022 to conform with HB160



with assistance from Logan
Simpson



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COUNTY COUNCIL

Chris Robinson, Chair
Malena Stevens
Roger Armstrong, Vice
Chair
Doug Clyde
Glenn Wright

SYNDERVILLE BASIN PLANNING COMMISSION

John Kucera - Chair
Bruce Carmichael - Co-Chair
Thomas Cooke
Christopher Conabee
Joel Fine
DJ Hubler
Tyann Mooney

EASTERN SUMMIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Bill Wilde – Chair
Clinton Benson - Co-Chair
Tom Clyde
Don Sargent
Rich Sonntag
Alex Peterson
Marion Wheaton

SUMMIT COUNTY STAFF

Patrick Putt, Community Development Director
Peter Barnes, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Sean Lewis, Former Planner
Jessica Kirby, Public Lands Manager

CONSULTANT

Bruce Meighen, Logan Simpson
Jim Carter, Logan Simpson
Krissy Gilmore, Logan Simpson
Whitney May, Logan Simpson

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: OUR PROCESS 1

 Introduction 2

 Purpose..... 2

 Regional Setting & Context..... 6

 County History Overview..... 8

 Development of the Plan..... 10

CHAPTER 2: OUR PLAN 13

 Introduction 14

 Water Resources..... 15

 Natural and Cultural Resources..... 21

 Agricultural Resources 29

 Land Resources..... 36

CHAPTER 3: OUR FOUNDATION 51

 Introduction 52

 Water Resources..... 53

 Natural and Cultural Resources..... 62

 Agricultural Resources 80

 Land Resources..... 87

WORKS CITED 98

This page is left intentionally blank



CHAPTER 1

OUR PROCESS

CHAPTER 1: OUR PROCESS

Introduction

Today, Summit County is known as a community with beautiful natural areas, a unique small-town character, some of the nation's best schools, and expansive views. Summit County's success today is not a fluke. It stems from decades of community work, foresight, and planning. This 2017 Resource Management Plan seeks to continue to enhance those qualities that make Summit County a special place by setting forth long-range recommendations for resource management that impact the lives of residents and visitors to the County.



Purpose

A Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a planning document used to define goals, objectives, and strategies for managing natural resources on public lands within each county in the State of Utah. The Utah State Code was amended in 2015, 2016, and again in 2022 to require every county in Utah to complete a RMP addressing all public lands within its jurisdiction. The Code identifies thirty resources which must be considered in the RMP.

This RMP addresses the thirty resource categories specified by statute, along with one additional resource (scenic resources), and identifies goals and policies for each one to inform federal, State, and County-directed decision making. The resources analyzed in this RMP are currently being managed by federal, state and local governmental agencies. For State- and federally-managed resources, implementation of RMP goals and objectives will primarily

involve active participation in federal planning and resource management activities. For State-managed resources, Summit County will participate in State agency planning and project review processes to implement its goals and policies.

*Image Credit:
Jim Shuler, The Utah
Division of Wildlife
Resources*

Plan Goals

As a vision and guidance tool, the RMP provides the County's long-term vision for natural resources and the principles that are guiding planning for these resources. The plan also crafts the long-term goals and objectives that Summit County and its planning partners will champion and follow as they seek to implement the plan's objectives. To this end, the plan will be used as a guideline to make informed decisions on the management of the many natural resources on federal lands in the County as it relates to the protection, conservation, and continued management of natural resources. Plan strategies can be used as evaluation criteria in the review of future land management proposals and serve as a guide to make informed decisions regarding fiscal resources related to future management approaches.

The implementation component of this plan identifies the tools that can be used, the actions that should be taken, the partnerships that should be formed, and the changes that could be made to the county's land use regulations to carry out the Plan's objectives, achieve

its goals, and realize its vision for the future. Implementation is intended to be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities that may arise as circumstances in the County change.

The implementation plan should be reviewed regularly and updated. It should also be consulted to determine the short-term and long-term actions being proposed and programmed.

Plan Organization

The Plan is organized into 3 chapters:

Chapter 1 – Our Process states the purpose of the plan, goals of the plan, and organization as well as summarizes the plan development process and community meetings over the course of the 10-month process.

Chapter 2 – Our Plan illustrates and describes detailed goals and objectives for the 31 resources;

Chapter 3 – Our Foundation details a variety of background information, including relevant existing conditions for each of the 31 resources.

Existing Plan Review

There are many other recently completed plans, guidelines, and studies that have provided input for the Summit County RMP. These additional plans provided supplemental information and data, outlined additional strategies, and detailed adopted standards and guidelines. Relevant plans are listed below:

- Snyderville Basin General Plan
- East Summit County General Plan
- Revised Forest Plan Uinta-Cache National Forest
- NRCS Summit County Resource Assessment

Resource Management in Summit County

House Bill (HB) 219, Resource Management Planning by Local Governments, was passed by the Utah Legislature on March 25, 2016, and amended Section 17-27a-401 of the Utah Code to add a county resource management plan as a required element of county general plans. The bill requires each county in Utah to develop a Resource Management Plan to be inserted as a chapter of the county's general plan.

The focus of HB 219 is on the management of public lands and resources as defined in State statute, including lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (Forest Service) and other federal agencies. The definition of "public lands" excludes "...lands owned or held in trust by this state, a political subdivision of this state, or an independent entity." The RMP planning area encompasses approximately 1,180,248 acres of unincorporated Summit County.

Both the BLM and the Forest Service are required to coordinate their land and natural resource planning efforts with those of state, local and tribal jurisdictions. For example, the BLM is required to:

1. Become apprised of State, local, and tribal land use plans;
2. Assure that consideration is

What resources does the plan address?

1. Wild and Scenic Rivers
2. Riparian Areas
3. Hydrology and Water Quality
4. Floodplains and River Terraces
5. Wetlands
6. Water Rights
7. Fisheries
8. Wildlife
9. Wilderness
10. Air Quality
11. Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species
12. Wildfire Management
13. Forest Management
14. Cultural, Historical, Geological, and Paleontological Resources
15. Noxious Weeds
16. Agriculture
17. Livestock and Grazing
18. Irrigation
19. Ditches and Canals
20. Predator Control
21. Recreation and Tourism
22. Economic Considerations
23. Energy Resources
24. Mineral Resources
25. Mining
26. Land Use
27. Law Enforcement
28. Land Access
29. Scenic Resources
30. Pipelines and Infrastructure
31. Utility Corridors

given to those State, local and tribal plans that are germane to plans for public lands;
 3. Assist in resolving ... inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal Government plans. (43 U.S.C. 1712(b)(9))

State and local officials are “authorized to furnish advice to the [BLM] with respect to the development and revision of land use plans, ...guidelines, ... rules and ... regulations for the public lands.” (43 U.S.C. §1712 (b)(9)) This is significant because land use plans adopted by the BLM are required to “be consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent consistent with Federal law and the purposes of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act.” BLM rules define the consistency requirement by requiring that the BLM’s resource management plans shall be “consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related plans, and the policies and programs contained therein, of ... State and local governments and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies and programs of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands.” (43 C.F.R. §1610.3- 2(a)) The Forest Service is required to coordinate “...with the land and resource management planning processes of State and local governments” in their land planning efforts. (16 U.S.C. §1604(a)) The Forest Service’s planning regulations state that

“the Responsible [Forest Service] Official must provide opportunities for the coordination of Forest Service planning efforts...with those of other resource management agencies.” Furthermore, the agency’s planning regulations provide that “the Responsible Official should seek assistance, where appropriate, from other state and local governments...to help address management issues or opportunities.” (36 C.F.R. 219.9) Although there is no explicit parallel requirement for consistency of Forest Service plans with plans of state, local and tribal governments as that contained within FLPMA for the BLM Resource Management Plans, the Forest Service is required to “discuss any inconsistency” between the proposed plan’s provision and “any approved State or local plan and laws.” Further, if any inconsistencies exist, the plan must “describe the extent to which the [Forest Service] would reconcile its proposed action with the plan or law.” (40 C.F.R. §1506.2(d))

There are also approximately 27,582

acres of State of Utah owned lands in the planning area. Although not the focus of the House Bill 219 planning effort, the RMP planning team saw value in looking at the resources identified more holistically to develop statements of desired future conditions, where appropriate, that would be applicable regardless of land ownership or management.

While HB 219 provides the legislative basis for county resource management planning, Summit County desires to develop a plan that meets the unique needs and future progress of the County. This RMP will address the conformance requirements of HB 323, and the 2022 HB 160 amendments, while focusing on the unique resources and resident interests in resource management.

Table 1: Summit County Land Ownership

	Acres	% of Total
Total Acres	1,197,985	100%
Federal Government*	517,466	43.2%
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	673	0.1%
US Forest Service	516,793	43.1%
State Government	27,582	2.2%
Private	655,782	54.7%

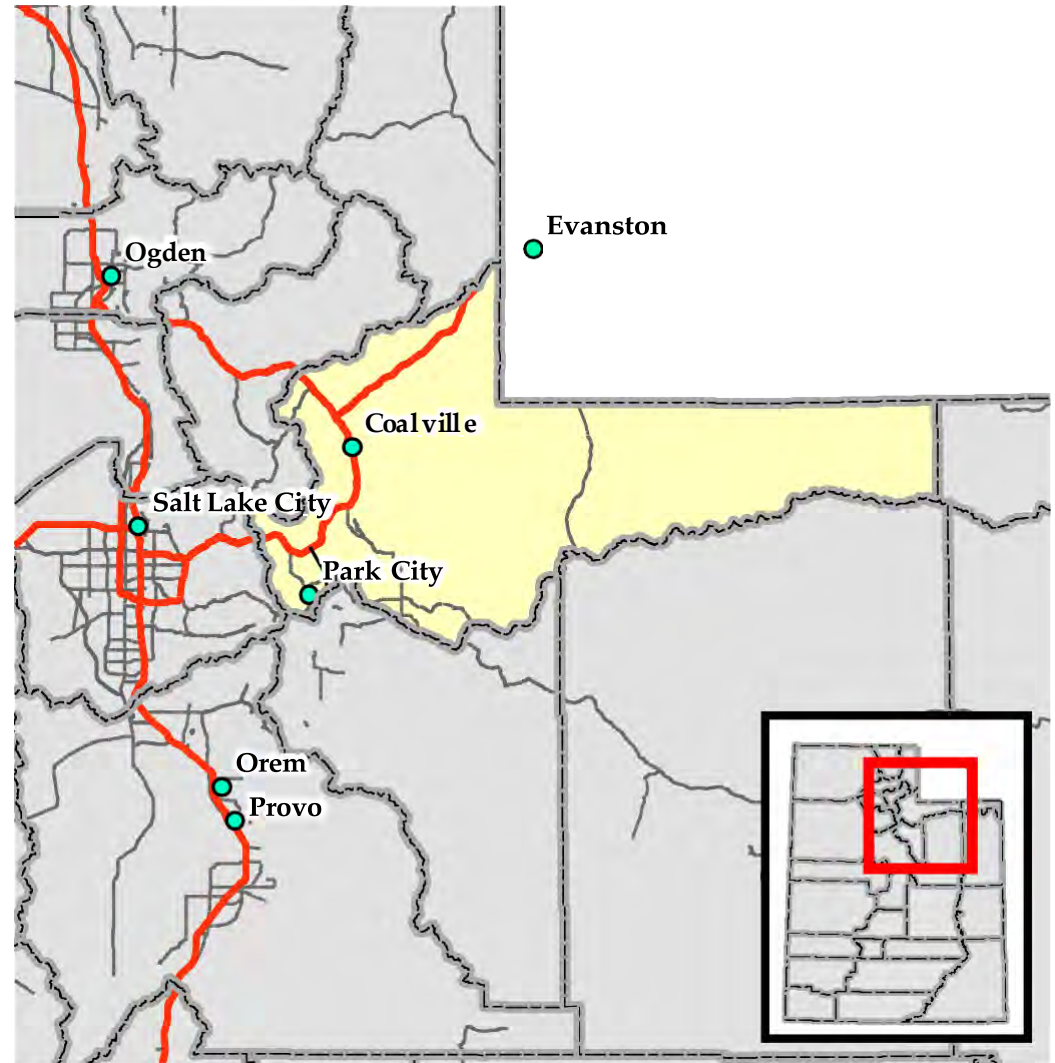
*NOTE

The public lands addressed in this plan are managed by the USFS and BLM.

Regional Setting & Context

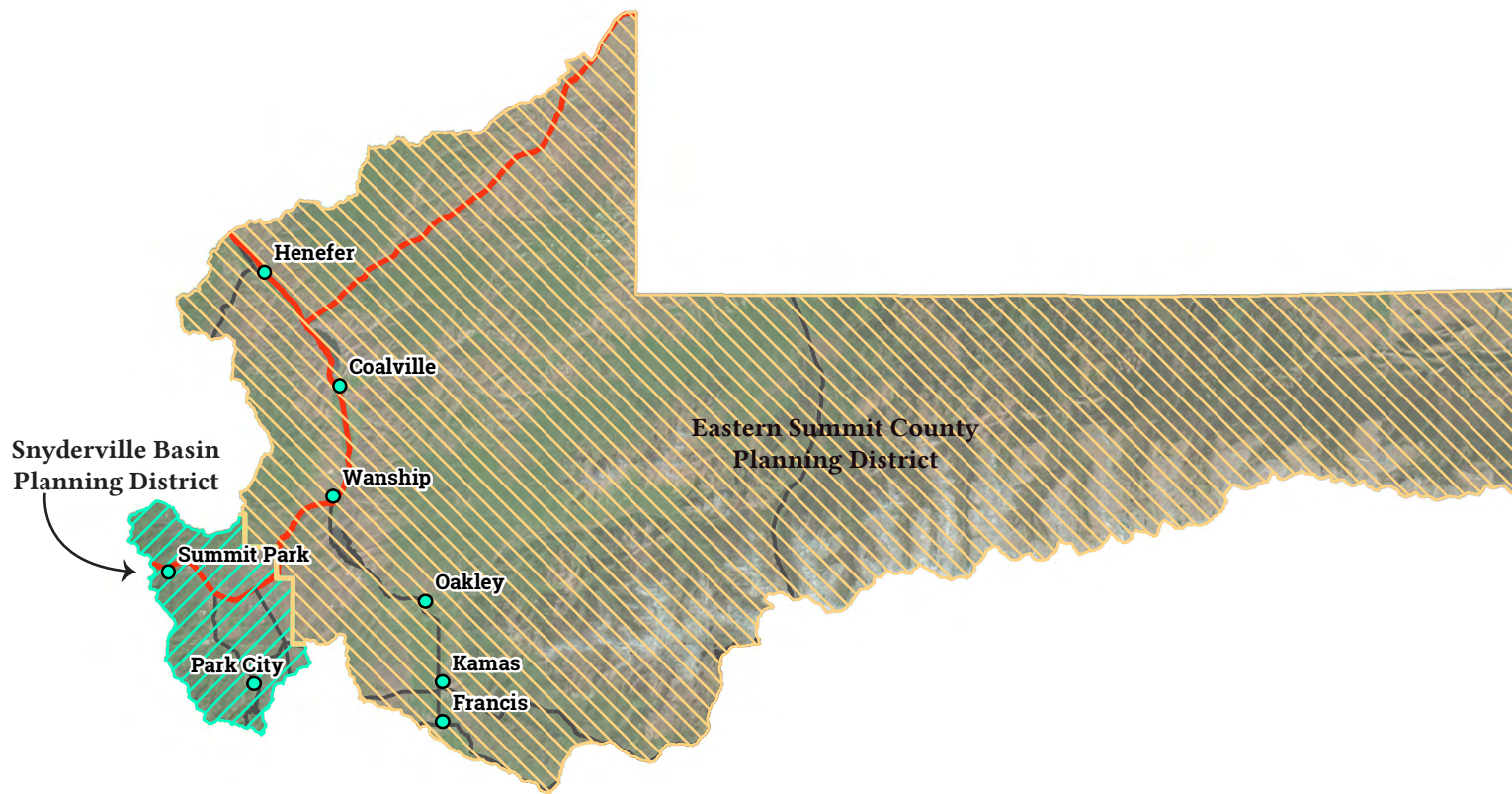
Summit County is located in northeast Utah and wraps around the southwest corner of Wyoming. Nearly one-half of the County is mountainous and much of the High Uintas Wilderness Area is located within its boundaries. Summit County is bordered by Rich County to the north, Morgan County to the northwest, Salt Lake County on the west, Wasatch and Duchesne Counties on the south, and Daggett County on the east. Uinta County, Wyoming, borders Summit County on the north. The Uinta Mountains serve as the watershed for Uinta County and, like the bordering Utah counties, Uinta County relies on the public lands of Summit County for timber, recreation, grazing, and other uses important to the residents and businesses of Uinta County.

Nestled in the heart of Utah's scenic alpine country, Summit County is home to several distinctive communities. Park City emerges as the undeniable hub of culture, tourism, and recreation. The City serves the entire County as a center for world-class ski resorts, cultural activity, and luxurious properties. Kamas, Oakley, the County seat Coalville, and most of the remaining population centers in this region are small and rural in nature, focused on serving the area's agricultural enterprises.



In addition to the Wasatch Mountains, the close proximity of the High Uintas Wilderness region gives Summit County a “backyard” of pristine lakes, towering pines, and magnificent vistas. This region of breathtaking natural beauty is only a 30-minute drive from Salt Lake City, offering the pinnacle of rural tranquility

as well as easy access to world-class urban amenities. Much of the vast expanse of Summit County is devoted to the rustic, solitary activities of farming and ranching where the cattle and sheep industries playing a dominant role in both lifestyle and economy.



Planning Districts

This RMP includes all of the area of unincorporated Summit County, totaling 1,180,248 acres. While a single County Council governs Summit County, the County has two planning areas with separate planning commissions in order to acknowledge the differing geographies, economies, and community histories of these areas; these are the Eastern Summit County Planning District and the Snyderville Basin Planning District. The

public lands and resources within each planning district are equally important, but for somewhat different reasons. Residents in each planning district have distinct and unique relationships to their public lands. These lands hold different meaning for the communities in these areas based on their function in residents' lives, community values, and resident lifestyles.

County History Overview

Summit County has played a pivotal role in the settlement of Utah and the Western United States being on the route of the first Mormon pioneers as they made their way to Utah. Summit County, the 13th county in the territory, was first recognized by the Utah Legislature on Friday, January 13, 1854.

The high alpine valleys tucked between the Uinta and Wasatch Mountains served as traditional hunting grounds for the Shoshone and Ute tribes for thousands of years, before the arrival of Europeans. The natural riches of the mountains continue to supply much needed water for the area and the Wasatch front from the numerous mountain springs, four rivers, and two major storage reservoirs at Echo and Rockport. Minerals from the mines have produced silver, gold, lead and zinc worth millions of dollars that helped build the state and Intermountain

Image Credits:

Top: Carter's Lake in 1870, Uinta Mountains, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._National_Archives_and_Records_Administration

Bottom: Shoshone people near Hoytsville, http://ilovehistory.utah.gov/people/first_peoples/tribes/



west. Timber and coal have been an economic resource; however there are no coal mines currently in operation.

Agriculture has been a prominent industry with irrigated hay fields and pastures in the valleys. Sheep and cattle are raised in the valleys and utilize the rangeland in the mountains in the summer. In recent years a new trend in

land ownership has changed the nature of agriculture in some areas from large scale full-time livestock operations to small 10 to 20 acre properties owned by retirees and those who value a pastoral lifestyle.

Source: *The Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Community Profile

This section provides an overview of key demographic factors within Summit County, such as population, age, and income.

Population

Summit County's population has increased from 38,521 in 2015 to 43,488 in 2022 and this trend is expected to continue. The State of Utah Governor's Office of Management and Budget projects Summit County's population to reach 71,433 by 2040 and potentially 107,671 by 2060. The majority of this growth is expected in the Jeremy Ranch/ Kimball Junction area, Silver Creek, and in the Eastern Summit County communities.

By The Numbers

43,488
population

25,950
Housing Units

\$106,973
Median Income

56%
received a bachelor's
degree or higher

30,578
Primary Jobs

19,861
Companies

Summit County has 25,950 housing units with a vacancy rate of 38.2% in 2022, meaning only 16,045 housing units were occupied by full-time residents. This has decreased slightly from 2015 with 48.6% vacancy rate. This downward trend could continue as more permanent residents migrate to the area, but it could also increase as fractional ownership and nightly rentals remain as a popular means of housing in the County. Considering only the full-time occupied housing units, Summit County has an average household size of 2.7. A high vacancy rate is typical of resort communities but should be considered when planning for the future.

Households with children under 18 made up 27.7% of all households in 2022, a decrease from 39% in 2010. Owner-occupied housing units accounted for 47.5% percent of all households in 2022, a decrease from 2010 when 76.2 % of all housing units were owner-occupied.

Income

Incomes are rising and are considerably higher than the State of Utah average. The County's 2022 median household income is estimated at \$106,973, approximately 12% greater than the State of Utah at \$94,452

Age

Summit County is the sixth oldest county in the state with a median age of .39.4 As is similar for the rest of Utah, Summit County is aging. Between 2015 and 2022, the median age is projected to have risen from 38.2 to 39.4. Additionally, the share of those under the age of 18 decreased during the same time frame by 11.5%, while those over 65 significantly increased by 59.06%.

Race & Ethnicity

The largest minority group in 2022 in Summit County was Hispanic/Latino, which accounted for 10.9 percent of the total population. The majority of the minority population lives in or in close proximity to Park City proper, with very few living on the east side of the County.

Development of the Plan

Process

Phase 1: Foundation: In order to support Utah counties in implementing the new resource management plan requirements, the Community Impact Board financially supported the development of databases for each county in the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) area to rely on in preparing each RMP. MAG retained a contractor to identify, gather, and organize information relevant to the RMP process. Those data were gathered and are reported on a County-wide basis, in map, table, and narrative formats, and the information is available at <http://gis.bio-west.com/magresources/>. The information addresses all the subject matter categories specified in House Bill 219 and the Utah Code. Additionally, during this phase of the process, a public survey was released to identify the public's priority resources.

Phase 2: Stakeholder Outreach: Provided overall direction for the entire plan and process. Stakeholder interviews with property owners, elected officials, and residents assisted in identifying issues or opportunities with public lands and resource management to be addressed in the RMP.

Phase 3: Strategies: Multiple public events were held throughout the community to establish community values and ideas to address concerns reported during stakeholder outreach which helped shape the RMP's goals and objectives.

Phase 4: Plan Development: Refined choices determined by input received from the stakeholders, public, and Planning Commission to draft the RMP.

Phase 5: Final Plan & Adoption: Following the draft RMP review by the public, updates will be made based on feedback and the RMP will go to each Planning Commission for recommendation to the County Council for final adoption.



Review of Initial Survey Results

The preliminary public involvement effort for the RMP process was conducted through the use of a web survey for which County residents could access and provide information regarding their values and concerns related to resource management in Summit County. The survey results revealed an engaged community passionate about the resources in their County. Respondents were asked to select from the list of twenty-eight resources the five resources most important to them. The five most critical resources identified included hydrology and water quality, fisheries and wildlife, wilderness, air quality, and recreation and tourism.

When respondents were asked to rank the twenty-eight resources in order of descending priority the previously identified top five are ranked somewhat lower and we see noxious weeds, forest management, fire management, and riparian areas rank among the previous priority resources.

* Pipelines and Infrastructure, and Utility corridors are not included in this ranking

1	Water Quality & Hydrology	16	Threatened, Endangered, & Sensitive Species
2	Wildlife	17	Recreation & Tourism
3	Air Quality	18	Land Use
4	Forest Management	19	Livestock & Grazing
5	Riparian Areas	20	Water Rights
6	Wilderness	21	Economic Considerations
7	Wild & Scenic Rivers	22	Irrigation
8	Fire Management	23	Predator Control
9	Wetlands	24	Energy Resources
10	Fisheries	25	Cultural, Historical, Geological, & Paleontological
11	Noxious Weeds	26	Law Enforcement
12	Flood Plains & River Terraces	27	Ditches & Canals
13	Agricultural Resources	28	Mineral Resources
14	Land Access	29	Mining
15	Scenic Resources		

Public Involvement Process

Stakeholder interviews

The Summit County Resource Management Plan process kicked off with a series of stakeholder interviews either in person or over the phone with individuals or groups offering a range of backgrounds, interests, and expertise. Over 16 interviewees, included elected officials, State of Utah resource managers, landowners, groups concerned about wildlife, and grazing specialist participated. Stakeholders were asked a series of questions to inform issues and opportunities with public land management.

Listening Sessions

Based on input received from the initial RMP Survey and the stakeholder interviews, preliminary management ideas were developed and vetted with the public during 5 mobile workshops around Summit County, with 2 locations in the western planning area and 3 in the eastern area. In addition, an online survey was used in conjunction with these events to ensure that anyone who wanted to participate was able to provide their input.

Draft Plan Review Events

The Draft RMP was presented at one open house in eastern planning area and one open house in the western planning area. In addition, an online survey was available for participants to provide detailed comments on the draft plan.





CHAPTER 2

OUR PLAN

CHAPTER 2: OUR PLAN

Introduction

For most efficient use of reading this document, Chapter 2 includes goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation steps for each of the 31 resources analyzed in this plan. These resources are categorized into four sections:

- water resources;
- natural and cultural resources;
- agricultural resources, and;
- land resources.

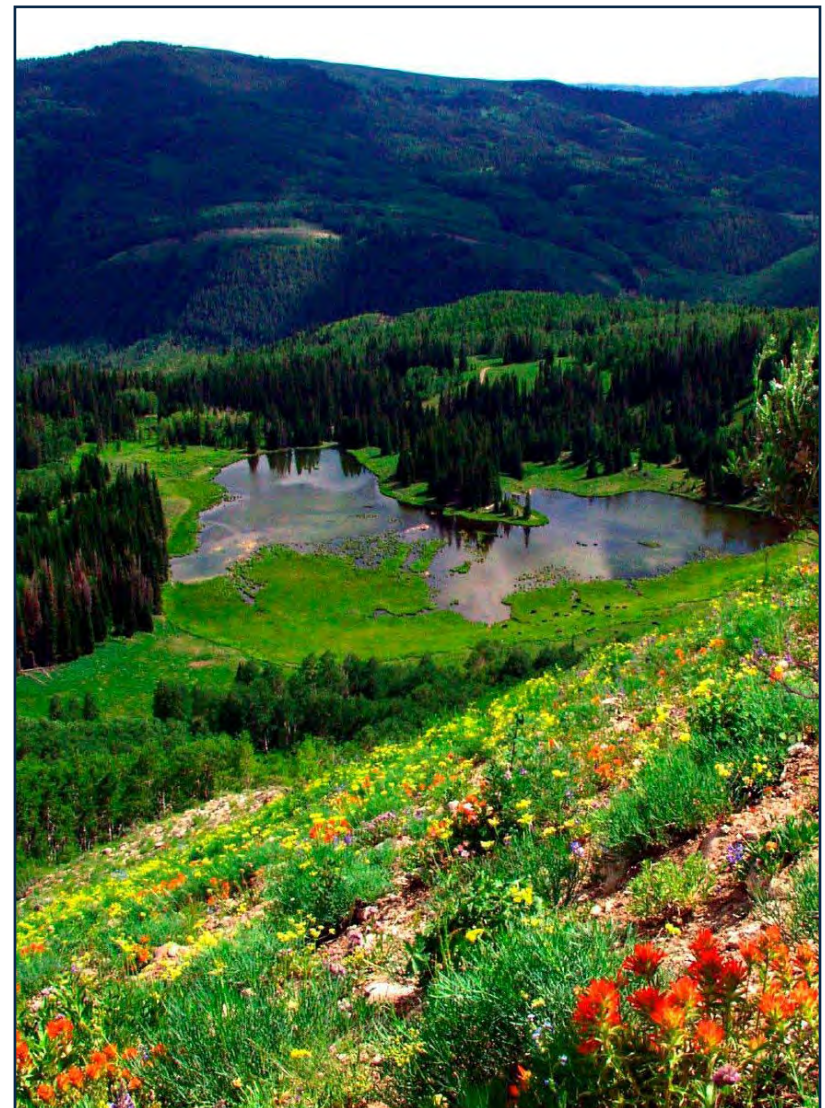
Goals, objectives, and strategies are included for each resource, along with relevant objectives from existing plans. Because Summit County does not have direct jurisdictional control over public lands and resources, implementation of many strategies depends on collaboration with stakeholders and the jurisdictional agencies. A summary of implementation strategies for each of the four resource groups is included in this chapter.

For each implementation strategy, a relative priority ranking is assigned; Priority 1, Priority 2 or Priority 3. Priority 1 strategies are those which can generally be accomplished by current County staff and identified partners within existing authorities and budgets. Priority 2 strategies are those which could require formation of new coordination entities, additions to staff, or additional budget to accomplish. Priority 3 strategies are those which contemplate the creation of new organizational entities, adoption of revisions to County codes; and/or identification of outside funding sources.

REMINDER

The goals, objectives, and strategies of this RMP apply to the management of public lands and resources, which includes lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (Forest Service) and other federal agencies.

Image Credit:
Steve Gale, Uinta-
Wasatch-Cache
National Forest



Water Resources

Six of the RMP's resources are categorized as water resources: wild and scenic rivers, riparian areas, hydrology and water quality, floodplains and river terraces, wetlands, and water rights. For background information on any of these resources, please review the information provided in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SR)

W & SR Goal 1: Explore impacts of designating a Wild and Scenic River in Summit County.

W & SR Objective 1.1: Coordinate with relevant State agencies, the Forest Service, and other stakeholders regarding pending and future Wild and Scenic River designations.

W & SR Strategy 1.1.1: Ensure the County and adjacent stakeholders/landowners are involved in the Wild and Scenic River designation and are consulted regarding implementation restrictions. Involve stakeholders to discuss implementation impacts.

W & SR Objective 1.2: Coordinate with

relevant State agencies, the Forest Service, and other stakeholders to harness the potential economic benefit of a Wild and Scenic River designation in Summit County.

W & SR Strategy 1.2.1: Develop an informational brochure to increase public awareness of the designation as a County asset while explaining the uniqueness of a Wild and Scenic River designation and providing best management practices for visiting the area.

Riparian Areas (RA)

RA Goal 1: Protect and enhance riparian corridors.

RA Objective 1.1: Support creation of riparian stewardship standards directed toward protection and conservation.

RA Strategy 1.1.1: Coordinate with the Forest Service to ensure effective application of Riparian Habitat Conservation Area standards to projects on National Forest Lands.

RA Strategy 1.1.2: Support the development of riparian area Best

Management Practices (BMPs) to be employed for development of private properties in the County. Employ a working group, composed of biologists, aquatic specialists, fisheries specialists, ranchers, and other stakeholders to ensure a balanced, effective set on BMPs.

RA Strategy 1.1.3: Develop a public education campaign to increase awareness for riparian area BMPs. Promote these BMPs throughout the County, especially with respect to construction activities.

RA Objective 1.2: Encourage riparian area stewardship within the ranching and agricultural communities.

RA Strategy 1.2.1: Establish a representative within the ranching and agriculture community to continue coordination with Summit County regarding BMPs. The County will coordinate with the Utah Cattlemen's Association to find solutions to riparian area management in collaboration with ranchers and agricultural producers.

RA Objective 1.3: Coordinate with the Watershed Restoration Initiative

DEFINITION: TOOLKIT

A toolkit is a set of tools planners, residents, or others can use as a guide to achieve desired results.

Image Credit: Mary Perry, East Canyon Watershed Committee



(WRI) to find and support riparian restoration projects.

RA Strategy 1.3.1: Identify potential agency and stakeholder partners to help sponsor riparian area restoration projects.

RA Strategy 1.3.2: Establish a County representative to coordinate potential WRI projects.

Hydrology and Water Quality (H&WQ)

H & WQ Goal 1: Protect source water.

H & WQ Objective 1.1: Ensure that jurisdictional agencies responsible for maintaining water quality continue to protect surface and groundwater sources.

H & WQ Strategy 1.1.1: Improve collaboration and coordination between County, federal agencies, and water providers to review source water protection plans. Develop a review plan with deadlines and meeting requirements to ensure plan success.

H & WQ Strategy 1.1.2: Improve collaboration with federal agencies to find solutions to increase logging in beetle kill areas and prevent catastrophic fire to decrease the likelihood of water quality degradation.

H & WQ Strategy 1.1.3: Pursue coordination with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest to restore watershed health in beetle kill areas.

H & WQ Strategy 1.1.4: Work with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest to identify watershed restoration projects to improve water quality. These may be related to forest health and structure, stream restoration, slope stabilization, and other initiatives.

H & WQ Strategy 1.1.5: Investigate the potential for creation of new watershed management areas to manage land uses on public and private lands consistent with surface water quality protection. Build on work done to identify new watershed management areas in the Summit County portion of the Public Lands Initiative.

H & WQ Objective 1.2: Support water quality improvement on private lands.

H & WQ Strategy 1.2.1: Identify and support private watershed restoration projects, and support improved grazing practices and fencing of riparian areas.

H & WQ Strategy 1.2.2: Promote and publicize the availability of the Summit County Stream Stewardship Toolkit on the County's website, social media, and by other means.

Floodplains and River Terraces (F&RT)

F & RT Goal 1: Improve and protect floodplains and river terraces.

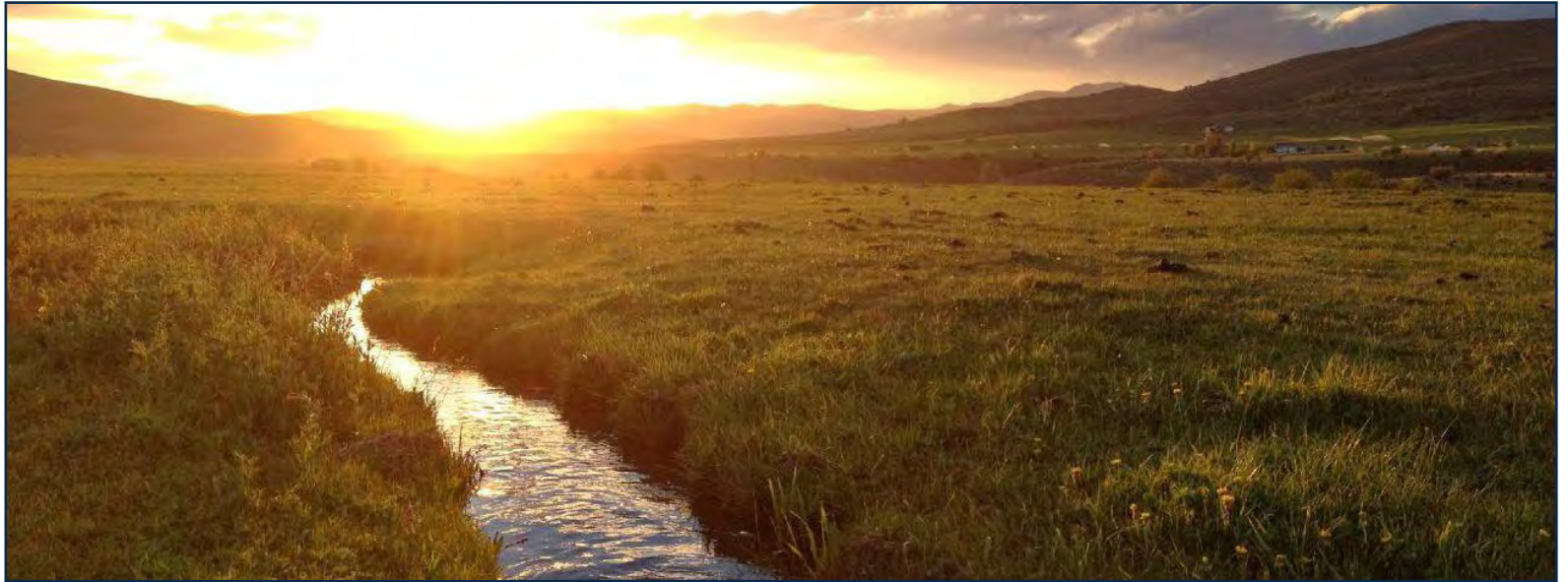
F & RT Floodplains and River Terraces Objective 1.1: Support and enhance natural river processes through active and passive management of river function.

F & RT Strategy 1.1.1: Support ranchers, conservation groups, and others involved in working cooperatively with the USFS and UDWR to support the reintroduction of beavers in appropriate locations, with primary emphasis on locations on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains, and secondary emphasis on impaired streams in the County.

F & RT Strategy 1.1.2: Support identification of impaired streams where floodplain and terrace connectivity is lost, and work with jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders to develop appropriate restoration plans.

Table 2.1. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Hydrology and Water Quality

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003)		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
2a.	Identify areas not in properly functioning condition . Improve plant species composition, ground cover, and age class diversity in these areas.	Chapter 4; pages 4-17 through 4-18
2b.	Maintain and/or improve water quality to provide stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems.	
2c.	Design and implement watershed management programs and plans that will restore water quality and watershed function to support beneficial uses.	
2d.	Protect waters meeting or surpassing State water quality standards by planning and designing land management activities to protect water quality.	
2e.	Maintain and/or restore stream channel integrity , channel processes, and sediment regimes (timing, volume, character of sediment input/transport) under which riparian & aquatic ecosystems developed.	
2f.	Maintain water in streams, lakes, and wetlands of adequate quantity and quality to provide for instream flows and existing downstream uses including support of healthy riparian & aquatic habitats, stability & effective function of stream channels, ability to route flood discharges, and to maintain recreation opportunities.	
2g.	Maintain and/or restore natural timing and variability of water table elevation in spring sources, meadows & wetlands.	
2h.	Maintain and/or restore diversity, productivity, vigor, and regenerative capacity of native and desired non-native riparian and wetland plant communities to provide an amount and distribution of large woody debris characteristic of natural aquatic & riparian ecosystems; provide adequate summer & winter thermal regulation ; and to help achieve rates of surface erosion and channel migration characteristic of those under which desired communities develop.	
2i.	Maintain and/or restore soil productivity to improve watershed functioning through managing groundcover, soil compaction, and vegetation.	
2j.	Maintain and/or restore habitat to sustain populations of well distributed native and desired non-native plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate populations that contribute to viability of riparian dependent communities.	
2k.	Improve Forest users' understanding of how their actions can impact or protect watershed functions, and increase participation of Forest users in stewardship of watersheds.	



Wetlands (W)

W Goal 1: Encourage protection of County wetland resources.

W Objective 1.1: Ensure compliance with federal regulatory standards under the Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404.

W Strategy 1.1.1: Provide informational brochures with agency contacts and a brief regulatory overview through County building department to new single family home builders and developers.

Water Rights (WR)

WR Goal 1: Protect existing water rights.

WR Objective 1.1: Protect access to points of diversion, ditches and canals, and other water conveyance infrastructure.

WR Strategy 1.1.1: Monitor National Forest planning and projects to ensure that access to points of diversion and conveyance works on the National Forest are protected.

WR Strategy 1.1.2: Protect points of diversion and conveyance works on private lands through the County development application and review processes.

WR Strategy 1.1.3: Support water rights holders in obtaining federal permits for grazing and other uses.

Image Credit: Real Estate Park City

Water Resources Implementation

Agency Coordination

A number of RMP goals and implementation strategies rely on improved coordination with the BLM and Forest Service in order to advance Summit County's goals with regard to public lands. An umbrella public lands committee, created and supported by Summit County, could act as both a clearing house for exchanging information, and a working committee to take on some of the tasks identified in the RMP strategies. If organized as a committee, it could organize subject-matter workgroups for specific tasks, bringing in other jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders as appropriate to the task. An umbrella Public Lands Committee could coordinate with jurisdictional resource managers and convene stakeholder workgroups on a number of RMP implementation strategies.

Hydrology and Water Quality Goal 1: Protect source water.

Objective 1.1, Ensure that jurisdictional agencies responsible for maintaining water quality continue to protect surface and groundwater sources, and Strategies 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, and 1.1.6 all would be tasks the Committee could undertake or establish appropriate workgroups. These strategies would be Priority 2. Strategy 1.1.1 would also be a collaborative undertaking, but would be Priority 3.

Floodplains and River Terraces

Goal 1: Improve and protect floodplains and river terraces.

F & RT Objective 1.1, Support and enhance natural river processes through active and passive management of river function, and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 would fall under the Public Lands Committee's purview, possibly through creation of a focused workgroup. These strategies would be Priority 3.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Goal 1: Explore impacts of designating a Wild and Scenic River in Summit County.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Objective 1.1, Coordinate with the Forest Service regarding pending and future wild and scenic river designations, and Objective 1.2, Coordinate with the Forest Service to harness the potential economic benefit of a wild and scenic river designation in Summit County, and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.2.1 would be Committee efforts and Priority 3.

Riparian Areas Goal 1: Protect and enhance riparian corridors.

RA Strategy 1.1.1: Coordinate with the Forest Service to ensure effective application of Riparian Habitat Conservation Area standards to projects on National Forest Lands.

WR Goal 1: Protect existing water rights.

WR Objective 1.1: Protect access to points of diversion, ditches and canals, and other water conveyance infrastructure through coordination with the Forest Service and other jurisdictional agencies.

Public Education and Outreach

A number of implementation strategies would focus on public education and Summit County advocacy for projects undertaken by private citizens, citizen organizations, and other County stakeholders.

Hydrology and Water Quality Goal 1: Protect source water.

Hydrology and Water Quality Objective 1.2, Support Water Quality Improvement on Private Lands, and Strategies 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 would be accomplished by County outreach efforts, and would be Priority 2.

Riparian Areas Goal 1: Protect and enhance riparian corridors.

Riparian Areas Strategy 1.1.3, Riparian Areas Objective 1.2 and Strategies 1.2.1, 1.3.1, and 1.3.2 all depend on information sharing and engagement of citizen stakeholders for implementation. These

are Priority 2.

Wetlands Goal 1: Encourage protection of County wetland resources.

Wetlands Objective 1.1, Ensure compliance with federal regulatory standards under the Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404, and Strategy 1.1.1 are public education and outreach projects, Priority 2.

Development Code

Implementation strategies applicable to private lands in Summit County would be achieved through amendments to the County's two development codes.

Riparian Areas Goal 1: Protect and enhance riparian corridors.

RA Objective 1.1, Support creation of riparian stewardship standards directed toward protection and conservation, and Strategy 1.1.2 would be supplements to the Development Codes, and are Priority 3.

Water Rights Goal 1: Protect existing water rights.

Water Rights Objective 1.1, Protect access to points of diversion, ditches and canals, and other water conveyance infrastructure, and Strategy 1.1.2 would require supplements to the Development Codes and would be Priority 2.

Natural and Cultural Resources

Eight of the RMP's resources are categorized as natural and cultural resources: fisheries; wildlife; wilderness; air quality; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; wildfire management; forest management; and cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources. For background information on any of these resources, please review the information provided in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Fisheries (F)

F Goal 1: Maintain healthy fisheries in Summit County streams and rivers.

F Objective 1.1: Ensure that responsible jurisdictional agencies continue to protect fisheries and aquatic habitat health in Summit County.

F Strategy 1.1.1: Coordinate with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to install an Aquatic Invasives decontamination station at Echo Reservoir to protect the headwaters of County's only Blue Ribbon fishery along the Weber River.

F Strategy 1.1.2: Support efforts to remove potential obstructions (diversion dams and associated canals) that may prevent fish from reaching spawning grounds.

F Strategy 1.1.3: Support protection and enhancement of high value overwintering and spawning areas for fish.

Wildlife (WLF)

WLF Goal 1: Provide for healthy wildlife habitats.

WLF Objective 1: Work with jurisdictional agencies to provide for and enhance the health of wildlife habitats in Summit County.

WLF Strategy 1.1.1: Review development plans on private property to take wildlife movement corridors and wintering habitats into account in project design.

WLF Strategy 1.1.2: Improve coordination among the County, local municipalities, Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District, and the Forest Service to identify opportunities to establish and maintain contiguous open space parcels and corridors.

WLF Strategy 1.3: Improve coordination with stakeholders, UDWR, and the Forest Service regarding expansion of bighorn sheep range, and resolve potential disease transmission where domestic livestock interactions may occur.



Image Credit:

Top: Tom Becker, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Bottom: McCall Parks and Recreation, Fuzzy Beginnings by L. Lundgren

WLF Goal 2: Foster cooperative bighorn sheep management between State and federal agencies.

WLF Objective 2.1: Work cooperatively with ranchers, conservation groups, UDWR, the Forest Service and other involved stakeholders to achieve consistent bighorn sheep management.

WLF Strategy 2.1.1: Support the maintenance of bighorn sheep populations east of the ridge running northeast from Gilbert Peak.

WLF Strategy 2.1.2: Work to ensure that bighorn sheep will not be reintroduced west of the Gilbert Peak ridge in order to appropriately support domestic sheep grazing areas.

WLF Strategy 2.1.3 Support UDWR evaluation of sheep that have migrated west of the Gilbert Peak ridge to determine disease risk to livestock. Support relocation of bighorn sheep as necessary to prevent disease transmission.

WLF Goal 3: Minimize adverse wildlife/human interactions.

WLF Objective 3.1: Work with the UDWR and the Utah Department of Transportation to minimize adverse wildlife/public interactions.

WLF Strategy 3.1.1: Coordinate with UDWR to reduce wildlife/human conflicts, crop and landscaping damage and similar conflicts.

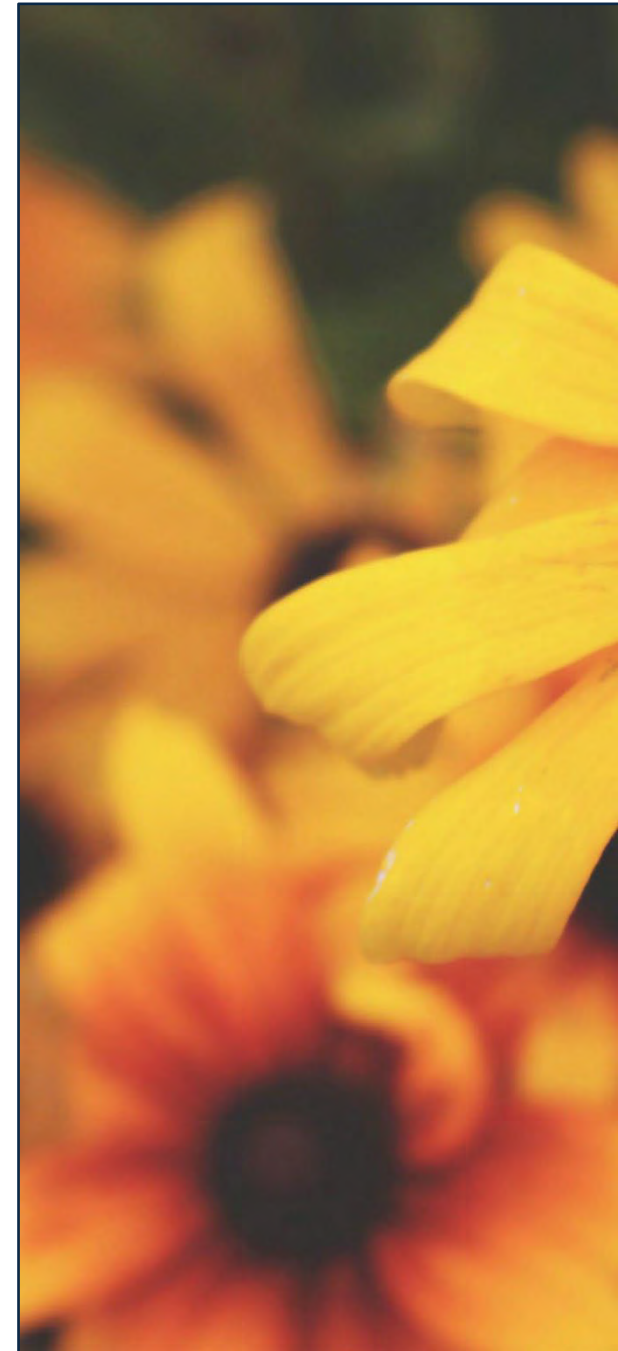
WLF Strategy 3.1.2: On federal lands, consider locating fee areas at some trailheads to reduce use during critical wildlife seasons (i.e. raptor nesting, big game calving, etc.).

WLF Objective 3.2: Address wildlife hazard locations where road safety is an issue.

WLF Strategy 3.2.1 Identify the most common wildlife hazard locations where road safety is an issue. Support deployment of wildlife barriers and deterrents in these locations.

WLF Strategy 3.2.2: Consider wildlife barriers and deterrents in hazardous locations in the transportation master plan. Barriers and deterrents may be designed in conjunction with open space corridors to redirect wildlife.

WLF Strategy 3.2.3: Facilitate coordination between the County, cities, Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District, and the Forest Service to identify opportunities to obtain contiguous open space parcels to improve wildlife corridor movement throughout the County and to reduce adverse human/wildlife interactions.





Wilderness (WI)

WI Goal 1: Support wilderness in Summit County.

WI Objective 1.1: Support the maintenance of Summit County's designated wilderness area and strive to keep it as pristine as possible.

WI Strategy 1.1.1: Work cooperatively with stakeholders and the Forest Service to ensure that trails are adequately maintained, and to authorize maintenance of fence lines and other facilities in the existing wilderness as well as future proposed wilderness areas.

WI Objective 1.2: Increase designated wilderness within Summit County.

WI Strategy 1.2.1: Support the addition of approximately 23,903 acres to the High Uintas Wilderness, excluding approximately 476 acres surrounding the Spirit Lake Lodge, as described in the Public Lands Initiative.

WI Strategy 1.2.2: Support no net loss of wilderness resulting from land transfers.

WI Strategy 1.2.3: Support the establishment of buffers between proposed wilderness and reservoirs and canals as well as existing roads.

Air Quality (AQ)

AQ Goal 1: Ensure high air quality levels and standards.

AQ Objective 1.1: Summit County should continue to explore additional opportunities to reduce pollutants.

AQ Strategy 1.1.1: Develop incentives for businesses and residents to transition to the use of electric or cleaner burning fuel-powered machinery and equipment (i.e. compressed natural gas or clean diesel).

AQ Strategy 1.1.2: Forest Service prescribed fires scheduled for completion should be coordinated with the State Smoke Coordinator prior to ignition and follow the requirements of the State's Enhanced Smoke Management Plan.

AQ Objective 1.2: Increase resident awareness and stewardship of clean air in Summit County.

AQ Strategy 1.2.1: Develop a public education campaign to increase awareness of existing and potential air quality issues in Summit County. Provide BMPs and easy changes the public can make to improve air quality.

AQ Strategy 1.2.1: Consider increasing insulation standards for new residential and commercial construction to reduce heating and cooling fuel use and costs.



FUNDING IDEA:

Explore grants available through the Clean Diesel National Grants offered by the EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants>

Image Credit: Brett Steele, Wasatch Mountain State Park

AQ Goal 2: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the County from 2015 levels by 15% by 2030.

AQ GHG Strategies are described in the [2015 Summit County Climate Action Plan](#).

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (TESS)

TESS Goal 1: Support coordination with threatened and endangered species management agencies.

TESS Objective 1.1: Continue coordination with State of Utah regarding greater sage grouse habitat management.

TESS Strategy 1.1.1: Support Watershed Restoration Initiative restoration projects as a sponsor, particularly for sage grouse habitat restoration and water-related projects.

TESS Objective 1.2: Coordinate with the Forest Service regarding threatened, endangered, and sensitive species management as needed.

TESS Strategy 1.2.1: Build a collaborative relationship to address threatened, endangered, and sensitive species conservation and management where distribution and habitat overlap between County and federal lands.



Wildfire Management (WM)

WM Goal 1: Continued prevention of catastrophic wildfires in Summit County.

WM Objective 1.1: Reduce fuel loads resulting from timber disease and bark beetle kill.

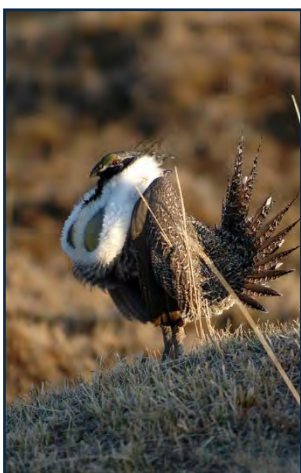
WM Strategy 1.1.1: Coordinate with the Forest Service to allow temporary road access in roadless areas to retrieve/harvest beetle kill timber.

WM Strategy 1.1.2: Work with the Forest Service to determine potential opportunities to streamline the timber

harvest permit process for special circumstances related to catastrophic wildfire protection and fuel load reduction.

WM Strategy 1.1.3: Identify restoration opportunities following timber harvests.

WM Strategy 1.1.4: Consider including targeted grazing strategies as a policy to reduce fuel loads and reduce the risk of wildfires where appropriate throughout the County.



Male Sage Grouse

Image Credit:

Left: Ron Stewart, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Right: Ivan D. Djambov, Utah State Legislature

WM Objective 1.2: Summit County will continue to work cooperatively with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands and the Forest Service to implement the Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression policy known as SB-56.

Forest Management (FM)

FM Goal 1: Provide for healthy and sustainable ecosystems while including benefits for people.

FM Objective 1.1: Support and enhance the diversity and quality of recreation experiences within acceptable limits of change to ecosystem stability and condition.

FM Strategy 1.1.1: Coordinate with the Forest Service to implement trail and facilities maintenance strategies for the Recreation and Tourism resource.

FM Objective 1.2: Support the Forest Service in a cooperating capacity to reduce fuels and manage tree stands to increase overall forest health.

Strategy 1.2.1: Defer to the Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for continued coordination and direction.

Table 2.2. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Forest Management

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003)		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Forestwide Goal 3 – Biodiversity and Viability - Provide for sustained diversity of species at the genetic, populations, community and ecosystem levels. Maintain communities within their historic range of variation that sustains habitats for viable populations of species. Restore or maintain hydrologic functions. Reduce potential for uncharacteristic high-intensity wildfires, and insect epidemics. To achieve sustainable ecosystems, meet properly functioning condition (PFC) criteria for all vegetation types that occur in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Focus on approximating natural disturbances and processes by restoring composition, age class diversity, patch sizes, and patterns for all vegetation types.		Chapter 4; pages 4-18 through 4-20
3d.	Restore or maintain fire-adapted ecosystems (consistent with land uses, historic fire regimes, and other Forest Plan direction) through wildland fire use, prescribed fire, timber harvest or mechanical treatments.	
3e.	Maintain or restore as mature and old age classes 40% of total conifer and 30% of total aspen cover types, well distributed across the landscape.	
3f.	Maintain or restore species composition, such that the species that occupy any given site are predominantly native species in the kind and amount that were historically distributed across the landscapes.	
3g.	Maintain and/or restore tall forb communities to mid seral or potential natural community (PNC) status.	
3m.	Provide for connectivity of continuous large patches of forested habitat for interior forest-dependent and wide-ranging species (such as lynx, wolverine and migratory birds).	
Forestwide Subgoal – Fuel Reduction		Chapter 4; page 4-21
4d.	Reduce hazardous fuels (prescribed fire, silvicultural and mechanical treatments) with emphasis on interface communities (wildland/urban) and increase proactive participation of communities at risk.	
Forestwide Subgoal – Timber for commercial harvest		Chapter 4; page 4-23
10b.	Use timber harvest where allowed, to contribute to the economy while achieving properly functioning conditions of vegetation and watersheds.	

Cultural, Historical, Geological, Paleontological Resources (CHGP)

CHGP Goal 1: Preserve cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources that provide a sense of identity and a background for the County.

CHGP Objective 1.1: Identify relevant resources and records in a database. Explore a range of preservation opportunities and interpretive

educational opportunities for identified resources.

CHGP Strategy 1.1.1: Explore opportunities for grants and partnering with non-profit organizations to effectively inventory, record, and manage these resources.

CHGP Strategy 1.1.2: Study examples of

successful county-driven preservation and educational programs for cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources to develop a program for Summit County.

CHGP Strategy 1.1.3: Pursue implementation of Eastern Summit County General Plan preservation goals.

Table 2.3. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Cultural, Historical, Geological, and Paleontological Management

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Eastern Summit County General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Goal 2.3 – Coordinate with the Summit County Landmarks & Heritage Commission on the preservation of cultural resources and heritage.		Chapter 2; page 3
a.	Provide for the revision of existing and development of new inventories of culturally significant structures, sites, and landmarks within Eastern Summit County.	
b.	Consider development of a heritage preservation plan.	
c.	Evaluate the need to adopt a local ordinance that would require, at a minimum, documentation prior to demolition or alteration of any structures, sites or landmarks identified in the heritage preservation inventory. If measures beyond documentation are implemented, consider development of funding sources and/or incentives for preservation.	

Natural and Cultural Resources Implementation

Agency Coordination

Fisheries Goal 1: Support healthy fisheries in Summit County streams and rivers.

Fisheries Objective 1.1, Ensure that responsible jurisdictional agencies continue to protect fisheries and aquatic habitat health in Summit County, and Strategies 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 would all be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service, UDWR and other jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders, and are priority 2.

Wildlife Goal 1: Provide for healthy wildlife habitats.

Wildlife Objective 1: Work with jurisdictional agencies to provide for and enhance the health of wildlife habitats in Summit County, and Strategies 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 would be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service, UDWR and other jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders and are Priority 2. Wildlife Goal 2: Foster cooperative bighorn sheep management between State and federal agencies.

Wildlife Objective 2, Work cooperatively with ranchers, conservation groups, UDWR, the Forest Service and other

involved stakeholders to achieve consistent bighorn sheep management, and Strategies 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and 2.1.3 are Forest Service and agency coordination implementation strategies, and are Priority 2.

Wildlife Goal 3: Minimize adverse wildlife/human interactions.

Wildlife Objective 3.1, Work with the UDWR and the Utah Department of Transportation to minimize adverse wildlife/public interactions, and Wildlife Objective 3.2, Address wildlife hazard locations where road safety is an issue, and Strategies 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 are all agency coordination strategies, and are Priority 3.

Wilderness Goal 1: Support wilderness in Summit County.

Wilderness Objective 1.1, Support the maintenance of Summit County's designated wilderness area and strive to keep it as pristine as possible; Wilderness Objective 1.2: Increase designated wilderness within Summit County, and Strategies 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 are all agency coordination implementation strategies, and are Priority 3.

Wildfire Management Goal 1: Continued prevention of catastrophic wildfires in Summit County.

WM Objective 1.1, Reduce fuel loads resulting from timber disease and bark beetle kill; Wildfire Management Objective 1.2, Summit County will

continue to work cooperatively with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands and the Forest Service to implement the Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression policy known as SB-56; and Strategies 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 1.1.4 would all be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service and other stakeholders, and are Priority 2.

Forest Management Goal 1: Provide for healthy and sustainable ecosystems while including benefits for people.

Forest Management Objective 1.1, Support and enhance the diversity and quality of recreation experiences within acceptable limits of change to ecosystem stability and condition; Forest Management Objective 1.2, Support the Forest Service in a cooperating capacity to reduce fuels and manage tree stands to increase overall forest health; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.2.1 would be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service and affected stakeholders, and are Priority 2. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (TESS) Goal 1: Support coordination with threatened and endangered species management agencies.

TESS Objective 1.1, Continue coordination with State of Utah regarding greater sage grouse habitat management; TESS Objective 1.2, Coordinate with the Forest Service regarding threatened, endangered,

and sensitive species management as needed; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.2.1 would be implemented through coordination with UDWR, the Forest Service, USFWS, and other stakeholders, and are Priority 2.

Public Education and Outreach

Air Quality Goal 1: Ensure high air quality levels and standards.

Air Quality Objective 1.1, Summit County should continue to explore additional opportunities to reduce pollutants, Strategy 1.1.1; Air Quality Objective 1.2, Increase resident awareness and stewardship of clean air in Summit County; and Strategy 1.2.1 would be accomplished through public education and development of voluntary BMPs for County residents, and would be Priority 3.

Cultural, Historical Geological and Paleontological Resources

Goal 1: Preserve cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources that provide a sense of identity and a background for the County.

CHGP Objective 1.1, Identify relevant resources and records in a database. Explore a range of preservation opportunities and interpretive educational opportunities for identified resources; and Strategies 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3 would be implemented through a public education and outreach program, and would be Priority 3.

Development Code

Wildlife Goal 1: Provide for healthy wildlife habitats.

Wildlife Strategy 1.1.1, Review development plans on private property to take wildlife movement corridors and wintering habitats into account in project design, would be implemented through amendments to the County's Development Codes.

Air Quality Goal 1: Ensure high air quality levels and standards.

Strategy 1.2.1, Consider increasing insulation standards for new residential and commercial construction to reduce heating and cooling fuel use and costs, would be implemented through amendments to applicable building codes.

Agricultural Resources

Five of the RMP's resources are categorized as agricultural resources: noxious weeds; agriculture; livestock and grazing; irrigation, ditches, and canals; and predator control. For background information on any of these resources, please review the information provided in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Noxious Weeds (NW)

NW Goal 1: Reduce noxious weed infestations throughout the County.

NW Objective 1.1: Focus noxious weed reduction efforts on public and private land interfaces.

NW Strategy 1.1.1 Explore increased funding for noxious weeds management on public lands.

NW Strategy 1.1.2: Increase community involvement such as volunteer clean up days, etc. to help control noxious weeds along federal/County/private land interfaces.

NW Strategy 1.1.3: Implement tracking days and implement smart phone/device noxious weed applications that individuals can use to notify officials when they see noxious weeds.

NW Strategy 1.1.4: Coordinate with

the Forest Service to determine if collaborative volunteer opportunities can be established.

NW Strategy 1.1.5: Identify potential funding sources/grant programs to assist in weed control and restoration efforts.

NW Strategy 1.1.6: Work with federal agencies to identify those areas where noxious weeds can be managed and eradicated through targeted grazing.

NW Objective 1.2: Increase public outreach and education to provide information on noxious weeds in the area, infestation sources, and BMPs.

NW Strategy 1.2.1: Focus coordinated noxious weed education efforts on non-resident visitors.



Agriculture (AG)

AG Goal 1: Preserve and protect agricultural lands for farm use.

AG Objective 1.1: Recognize agricultural operations as a significant and important part of Summit County's character, economy, and lifestyle. Support continuing agricultural lands and land uses consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest, and open space.

FUNDING IDEA:

Review agricultural funds available to agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and private individuals on the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, www.cfda.gov

Creeping Thistle,
Cirsium arvense

Image Credit: *Wikimedia Commons*

AG Strategy 1.1.1: Work with property owners, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Summit County Land Conservancy, Utah Open Lands, the Nature Conservancy, or other conservation organizations toward obtaining agricultural conservation easements or other agreements that permanently preserve agricultural lands for active production.

AG Strategy 1.1.2: Explore methods of funding and expediting conservation easements.

AG Goal 2: Implement strategies and policies to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, from all sources countywide by 80% below their 2014 level by 2050.

AG Objective 2.1: Strategies are described in the 2015 Summit County Climate Action Plan and Summit County Council Resolution 2019-29 Establishing Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Goals for Summit County.

Livestock and Grazing (L&G)

L&G Goal 1: Strive to support livestock and grazing as a viable industry within the County.

L&G Objective 1.1: Support appropriate grazing allotments, AUM levels, and seasons of use.

L&G Strategy 1.1.1: Develop a grazing working group to coordinate on allotment changes, including notices of non-compliance, prior to reductions in numbers of permits. The working group should include biologists, rangeland specialists, ranchers, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, DWR, etc. to facilitate discussions and negotiate on issues, (i.e.: for bighorn sheep/domestic sheep conflict). Require coordination between the Forest Service, Summit County, and the working group prior to any changes in allotments.

L&G Strategy 1.1.2: Work with UDWR, the Forest Service, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the grazing working group to reduce grazing conflicts in a manner that preserves the existing number of grazing permits.



Image Credit: Alex Olausson, Hewie Cabin

Table 2.4. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Agriculture

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Eastern Summit County General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Goal 2.2 – Acknowledge the historic rural and agricultural character of Eastern Summit County.		Chapter 2; pages 2-3
a.	Recognize agricultural operations as a significant and important use of the land.	
b.	Consider those land use patterns and strategies that support and protect existing and future agricultural operations; support the development of tools and programs to allow the preservation of productive agricultural lands. Among others these may include agricultural preservation areas, plat notes and other methods to educate new residents of the agricultural nature of the area, cooperative agreements with landowners, and a program to transfer density from agriculturally productive lands.	
c.	Implement “Agricultural Protection and Right to Farm” strategies, and require all non-agricultural activities to develop in a manner that is harmonious with nearby agricultural operations.	
d.	Reevaluate and possibly amend the Development Code to streamline the process for designating and modifying Agricultural Protection / Preservation areas.	
e.	Coordinate with the Eastern Summit County Agriculture and Open Space Committee (ESAP) and the affected municipalities in the acquisition of conservation easements and/or restrictions to preserve agricultural lands and open space.	
Snyderville Basin General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Objective H – Preserve the Snyderville Basin’s working farms and ranches, remaining unfragmented landscapes.		Chapter 2; page 8
Policy 2.39	Work with property owners to maintain working farms and ranches as a viable industry.	
Objective A - Identify and recognize amenities important to the community heritage of the Basin and work to preserve such amenities to the greatest extent possible. The County played an important role in the settlement of Utah and the West as a whole, with prominent westward trails, early settlements, and agricultural operations forming the foundation of the Basin. Therefore, heritage amenities are defined as:		Chapter 5; page 19
a. Sites where culturally significant historic events occurred		
b. Sites important to culturally significant people in history		
c. Historic trails, paths, and other transportation connections and corridors		
d. Structures more than 50 years old		
e. Past and present agricultural operations		
Policy 5.1	Recognize agricultural operations as a significant and important use of the land and protect the rights of those uses.	

Irrigation, Ditches and Canals (IDC)

IDC Goal 1: Maintain irrigation ditches and canals in accordance with water rights and irrigation needs.

IDC Objective 1.1: Continue coordination with irrigation companies and water users to facilitate water delivery.

IDC Strategy 1.1.1: Provide County oversight where needed. Implement strategies outlined in the Hydrology section in support of source water protection.

IDC Strategy 1.1.2: Protect points of diversion, water storage and conveyance works and other water infrastructure as part of the development application and review process on private lands.

IDC Objective 1.2: Promote good environmental stewardship regarding the hydrologic benefit provided to surrounding landscapes associated with ditches and canals.

IDC Strategy 1.2.1: Prioritize water rights and irrigation while balancing effects to water resources.

IDC Strategy 1.2.2: Investigate vegetation loss and potential effects to scenic resources that may occur when ditches and canals are altered.

IDC Strategy 1.2.3: Incorporate water companies in working groups for riparian areas.



Image Credit:
Paul Burnett,
Changethecourse.us



Predator Control (PC)

PC Goal 1: Balance ranching needs, public safety, and healthy wildlife populations.

PC Objective 1.1: Support appropriate levels of predator management in Summit County.

PC Strategy 1.1.1: Consider a public education campaign to clarify the predator-prey relationship and predator management programs.

PC Strategy 1.1.2: Regularly evaluate predator populations and livestock losses related to wild predators. Work with the Forest Service, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, and UDWR to adjust efforts as needed.

Coyote

Image Credit: Utah
Division of Wildlife
Resources

Agricultural Resources Implementation

Agency Coordination

Irrigation, Ditches and Canals Goal 1: Maintain irrigation, ditches and canals in accordance with water rights and irrigation needs.

Objective 1.1, Continue coordination with irrigation companies and water users to facilitate water delivery; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.3 would be coordination implementation actions and are Priority 1.

Livestock and Grazing Goal 1: Strive to support livestock and grazing as a viable industry within the County.

Livestock and Grazing Objective 1.1, Support appropriate grazing allotments, levels, and seasons of use; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 would be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service and other stakeholders, and are Priority 1.

Noxious Weeds Goal 1: Reduce noxious weed infestations throughout the County.

Noxious Weeds Objective 1.1, Focus noxious weed reduction efforts on public and private land interfaces; and Strategies 1.1.1, and 1.1.4 and 1.1.6 would be implemented through coordination with public lands managers and are Priority 1.

Predator Control Goal 1: Balance ranching needs, public safety, and healthy wildlife populations.

Predator Control Objective 1.1, Support appropriate levels of predator control in Summit County; and Strategy 1.1.1 would be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service and UDWR to adjust efforts as needed.

Public Education and Outreach

Agriculture Goal 1: Preserve and maintain agricultural lands for farm use.

Agriculture Objective 1.1, Recognize agricultural operations as a significant and important part of Summit County's character, economy, and lifestyle. Support the continued, viable operations of agricultural lands consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest, and open space; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 would be implemented through outreach, and are Priority 2.

Noxious Weeds Goal 1: Reduce noxious weed infestations throughout the county.

Noxious Weeds Objective 1.2, Increase public outreach and education to provide

information on noxious weeds in the area, infestation sources, and BMPs; and Strategies 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.5, and 1.2.1 would be implemented through a program of public outreach and education, and are Priority 3.

Development Code

Irrigation, Ditches and Canals Goal 1: Maintain irrigation ditches and canals in accordance with water rights and irrigation needs.

Strategy 1.1.2, Protect points of diversion, water storage and conveyance works and other water infrastructure as part of the development application and review process on private lands, would be implemented by reviewing the provisions of the Development Codes to ensure appropriate protection of ditches, canals and other water infrastructure.

This page is left intentionally blank

Land Resources

Ten of the RMP's resources are categorized as land resources: recreation and tourism, economic considerations, energy resources, mineral and mining resources, utility corridors, land use, law enforcement, pipeline & infrastructure land access, and scenic resources. For background information on any of these resources, please review the information provided in Chapter 3 of this plan.

Recreation and Tourism (R&T)

R & T Goal 1: Support balanced recreation and a comprehensive recreation system that also supports environmental stewardship and the local economy.

R & T Objective 1.1: Work to coordinate recreational uses among various users.

R & T Strategy 1.1.1: *Develop a trails master plan to evaluate County-wide trail designations and interface with Forest Service trail systems.*

R & T Strategy 1.1.2: *Explore opportunities for increased biking trails throughout Eastern Summit County.*

R & T Objective 1.2: Increase collaboration between the Forest Service and Summit County to prioritize recreation areas for maintenance needs and adequately reflect residents' desires.



R & T Strategy 1.2.1: *Review snow plowing programs to determine if new areas could be developed for non- motorized uses (equestrian, fat biking, cross country skiing). This strategy can also benefit and enhance the strategies identified in the Wilderness section.*

R & T Strategy 1.2.2: *Increase collaboration between the Forest Service, Summit County, and recreationists prior to closing trails on Forest Service lands. Develop a trails working group to identify problem areas and potential solutions that would keep trails available, using permanent trail closures as a last resort.*

Image Credit: Shereen Ward, Light painting in the Uintas

Table 2.5. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Recreation and Tourism

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003)		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Forestwide Goal 6 and relevant sub-goals:		Chapter 4; page 4-22
Forest-wide Goal 6 - Recreation – Manage for an array of recreation opportunities and settings to improve the quality of life for a variety of Forest recreation users. Balance growth and expansion of recreation by managing within the capability of sustainable ecosystems found on the Forest for today and the future.		
Forestwide Subgoals - Recreation		
6a.	Increase Forest recreation user stewardship of resources and strengthen awareness of user ethics for reducing resource and social conflicts.	
6b.	Involve Forest users in developing strategies for managing recreation to meet desired future conditions and address recreation pressures and demands.	
6c.	Manage uses of new recreational technologies to provide for opportunities while preventing or minimizing negative social and/or resource impacts on the Forest.	Chapter 4; page 4-23
6d.	Encourage private enterprise to develop recreational facilities on and off the Forest that provide for a range of recreation opportunities (e.g. camping and picnicking areas, trailheads, and interpretive sites).	
10a.	Use ski area associated private and public developed recreation facilities to provide world-class skiing and mountain resort opportunities while contributing to the economy.	
Forestwide Subgoal – Recreation in Undeveloped Areas		
6e.	Manage recreation use of undeveloped areas on the forest to provide for desirable opportunities while preventing or reducing resource impacts and social conflicts.	Chapter 4; page 4-22
Forestwide Subgoal – Road/Trail and Access Management		Chapter 4; page 4-21
5a.	Work closely with city, county, state and tribal governments to provide for integrated, coordinated development and management (including enforcement) of OHV activities.	
Forestwide Subgoal – Travel Management		Chapter 4; page 4-22
5c.	Provide a variety of opportunities for motorized access while avoiding or reducing undesirable social and resource impacts.	

Economic Considerations (EC)

EC Goal 1: Support the economic vitality of Summit County.

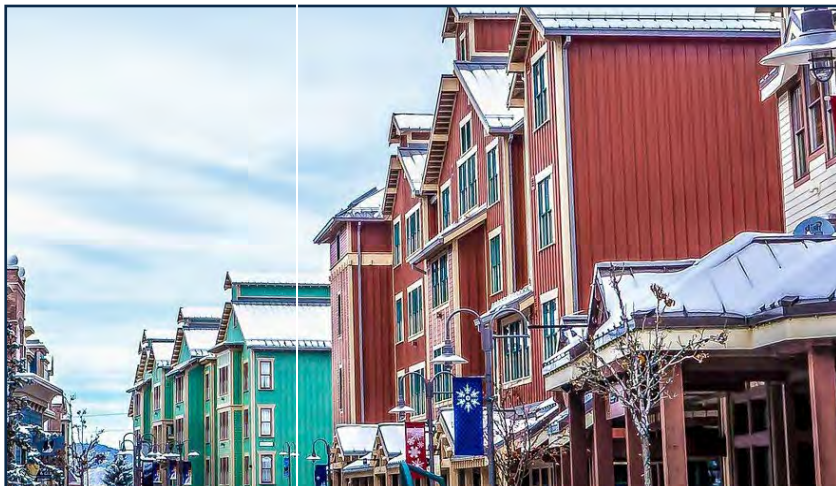
EC Objective 1.1: Recognize the role public lands and natural resources have in the economy of Summit County, and in attracting and maintaining tourism, new businesses, and residents to the area.

EC Strategy 1.1.1: Coordinate with local municipalities, the State of Utah, and the Forest Service to identify economic development opportunities.

EC Strategy 1.1.2: Protect critical infrastructure such as roads, administrative, and recreation sites.

EC Strategy 1.1.3: Engage the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau in promoting public lands and environmental stewardship, focusing on unique eco-tourism opportunities.

Image
Credit: Park City, Utah; Maria Michelle, Pixabay



Energy Resources (ER)

ER Goal 1: Manage energy resources in accordance with both the Eastern

Summit County and Snyderville Basin General Plans.

ER Objective 1.1: Support the development of renewable energy projects at appropriate scales and in appropriate locations. Mitigate visual impacts of alternative energy development.

ER Strategy 1.1.1: Following the general plans, look into opportunities for public and private partnerships to facilitate affordable small scale and residential renewable energy projects.

ER Strategy 1.1.2: Support the development of large-scale renewable energy projects in appropriate locations with appropriate conditions of construction and operations.

ER Strategy 1.1.3: Work with ranchers and agriculture producers to identify opportunities for energy conservation as well as potential alternative energy sources for business operations.

Utility Corridors (UC)

UC Goal 1: Support appropriate locations for utility corridors to minimize both visual and environmental impacts, and safeguard against wildfire.

UC Objective 1: Coordinate review of utility corridor proposals and permitting for new and proposed transmission lines. Ensure utility wildfire mitigation efforts sufficiently address increasing utility wildfire risk.

UC Strategy 1.1.1: Collaborate with state agencies and USFS regarding existing and future proposed utility corridors for any transmission lines to ensure appropriate locations

Mineral Resources and Mining (MR & M)

MR & M Goal 1: Support appropriate levels of mineral extraction and mine types.

MR & M Objective 1: Coordinate review of mine permitting for new and proposed mines.

MR & M Strategy 1.1.1: Collaborate with state agencies and USFS regarding existing and future proposed mines.

MR & M Strategy 1.1.2: Ensure that mining operations post adequate reclamation sureties, as required by State and federal law and regulations, to ensure reclamation and long-term protection of the County's natural resources.

MR & M Strategy 1.1.3: Ensure appropriate evaluation of any new critical mineral resources discovery and regarding any future proposed critical mineral extraction or mines

MR & M Objective 2: Work to prevent new mining and mineral claims and leases on lands within the proposed additional wilderness discussed under Wilderness Resources.

Table 2.6. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Energy Resources

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Eastern Summit County General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Goal 5.2 – Implement measures designed to promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy in Eastern Summit County.		Chapter 5; page 6
a.	Encourage development of renewable resources as a substitute for oil, natural gas, and other limited energy supplies used for electricity generation, and to reduce consumption of these supplies.	
b.	Work with appropriate public agencies to permit and approve development of alternative energy.	
c.	Consider incentives to encourage green building practices such as LEED or EnergySTAR certification and use of recycled materials.	
Snyderville Basin General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Policy 5.21 – Site Design: Encourage community site design techniques that promote sustainable land use practices by:		Chapter 2; page 8
a.	Implementing requirements for lot and building orientation to maximize sustainable design opportunities.	
b.	Coordinating with the Summit County Building Department to implement incentives for energy efficiency and sustainable site design.	
c.	Updating the lighting regulations to allow for the newest technologies that allow for the most efficient lighting.	

Land Use (LU)

LU Goal 1: Ensure that development occurs in a manner and locations that protects natural resources.

LU Objective 1.1: Continue to consider environment impacts of future development on County lands.

LU Objective 1.2: Create transitional areas between new development and federal lands.

LU Strategy 1.2.1: In areas encroaching federal lands, encourage a limit to the size and scale of development to reduce environmental and visual impacts. Utilize the Scenic Toolkit; conservation easements; designated recreation/open space; and water, wildlife, habitat, and other related BMPs to further reduce impacts. (see Page 45, SR Strategy 1.1.3, for more information on the Scenic Toolkit)

Pipelines and Infrastructure (P&I)

P&I Goal 1: Manage existing and future pipelines and associated infrastructure resources in accordance with both the Eastern Summit County and Snyderville Basin General Plans.

P&I Objective 1.1: Ensure collaboration between Summit County, municipalities, the public, and the Forest Service for all pipeline permitting processes.

P&I Goal 2: Support appropriate locations for pipelines and infrastructure that minimize both visual and environmental impacts.

P&I Objective 2.1: Protect critical watersheds, sensitive lands, and minimize public exposure to pipeline hazards.

Table 2.7. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Land Use

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Eastern Summit County General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Goal 5.1 – Develop codes and policies that promote proper stewardship of natural resources and address environmental issues of Eastern Summit County.		Chapter 5; page 6
a.	Ensure that development occurs in a manner and location that protects natural resources, including but not limited to pollution prevention, erosion prevention, national forests, crucial wildlife habitat and corridors, agricultural lands, fisheries, water quality, wetlands, scenic view sheds, riparian areas, wildlife and clean air.	
b.	Ensure that land is appropriately reclaimed and restored following the conclusion of disruptive activities.	

Table 2.7. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Land Use, Continued

Snyderville Basin General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Objective A: Open space should be maintained and preserved according to its classification: Pristine, Managed-Recreational, Active, Internal Public Space.		Chapter 3; page 13
Policy 3.2	Appropriate ownership and management entity, either public or private, should be determined at time of preservation.	
3.2.b.	When open space lands are preserved that benefit the greater community and allow for greater public access and civic needs, those should be owned and managed by a public entity.	
Policy 3.3	Management plans and regular maintenance needs should be implemented to ensure that the land’s conservation values are maintained.	
3.3.a.	Open spaces should have a management plan that identifies operations and maintenance needs, including noxious weed control, on the property to ensure that its purposes are fulfilled.	
3.3.b.	Management of Pristine Open Spaces should minimize the use of chemical treatments, machinery, and vehicles in an effort to avoid impacts on the open space, water quality, and air quality, and minimizes noise.	
Objective B: Mechanisms, programs, and strategies should be in place to preserve lands as open space.		
Rockport State Park Resource Management Plan (2003)		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Comply with relevant laws for the protection of sensitive areas and the natural environment.		Chapter 3; pages 3-8 through 3-10
Restore and maintain healthy, diverse plant communities through revegetation and minimizing disturbance.		
Identify areas and resources deemed unsuitable for development or inconsistent with Reclamation management objectives.		
Control erosion where practicable.		
Consistent with the reservoir’s operating criteria identify appropriate and compatible land uses that benefit the public.		
Maintain appropriate land management strategies and guidelines for planning area purposes including: access, roads, trails, utilities, and other land uses and activities.		
Recognize the unique resources and characteristics of specific areas. Develop and maintain appropriate guidelines for the management of these resources and uses.		
Clarify and resolve land ownership, property boundary, and resource management issues and responsibilities.		
Manage to effectively control pollution sources.		



Law Enforcement (LE)

LE Goal 1: “Provide a safe environment for users, adequate law enforcement, and encourage appropriate uses.” – From the 2003 Revised Forest Plan

LE Objective 1.1: Increase coordination with the Summit County Sheriff’s office to provide more effective monitoring of recreationist use.

Land Access (LA)

LA Goal 1: Protect public access to public lands and access through public lands to private lands.

LA Objective 1.1: Ensure the Forest Service and other stakeholders are considered in city and County land use planning.

LA Strategy 1.1.1: Maintain collaboration between Summit County, municipalities, the public, and the Forest Service for all plan review processes.

LA Strategy 1.1.2: Increase coordination between the Forest Service, Summit County, and land users prior to closing roads and access areas. Develop a working group to identify problem areas and solutions, utilizing permanent road closures as a last resort.

LA Objective 1.2: Ensure a safe, effective, and economical transportation system to provide appropriate access associated with movement of people and materials to and through Forest Service lands.

LA Objective 1.3: Ensure that access to the Little West Fork Blacks area is maintained in future Forest Plan revisions.

Table 2.8. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Law Enforcement

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans	
Rockport State Park Resource Management Plan (2003)	
Relevant Statement	Source Location
Forestwide Goal 6 and relevant sub-goals:	Chapter 3; pages 8
Coordinate and enforce appropriate laws and policy, waste and fire management regulations, and facilities in recreational areas.	

Table 2.9. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Land Access

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans	
Eastern Summit County General Plan	
Relevant Statement	Source Location
5.1.c. Preserve and create appropriate motorized and non-motorized trails and access to public land in conjunction with the municipalities and US Forest Service. The intention is not to require property owners who live adjacent to the National Forest to provide public access.	Chapter 5; page 6
Snyderville Basin General Plan	
Relevant Statement	Source Location
Objective D: The County recognizes the importance of the natural resources within the Basin and the surrounding areas and desires to preserve and maintain access to these scenic areas.	Chapter 4; pages 17-18
Policy 4.22 Preserve public access to riparian corridors and fishable streams, including East Canyon Creek and Silver Creek Drainage (post remediation), for fishing, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and other passive recreational interests. a. These stream corridors are an important linear community parkway and all development should be sensitively sighted to protect this natural resource. b. New development should maintain public access to these corridors. Enhancement to these critical areas and habitats is encouraged.	
Policy 4.23 Encourage and obtain access to the forest lands to promote hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, wildlife viewing and other similar non-motorized activities. a. All new development adjacent to these areas should ensure appropriate access to the back country through trail connections and open space view corridors. b. Provide adequate trailheads and parking to facilitate resident and visitor access to these backcountry areas.	
Policy 4.23 Promote and encourage horseback riding and other equestrian uses. Equestrian trails should be designed to avoid “land locking” horse owners and provide them with trail access to appropriate areas.	

Scenic Resources (SR)

SR Goal 1: Protect the scenic qualities of the naturally appearing landscape while allowing for effective use of the land.

SR Objective 1.1: Maintain a standard of scenic quality that is representative of the region which supports quality of life and economic contributions to the County.

SR Strategy 1.1.1: Undertake a viewshed analysis from key locations where the landscape is viewed (viewing platforms).

SR Strategy 1.1.1.1: Create design guidelines for future development that is located between viewing platforms and the subject of the viewshed.

SR Strategy 1.1.2: Create a Summit County Landscape Character Inventory and Master Plan defining pastoral and historic landscapes to preserve County's sense of place.

SR Strategy 1.1.3: Develop a County-wide Scenic Toolkit with design guidelines and a color palette to be used for future development. Application of this color palette and associated design guidelines should be incentive-based and enticing for developers or property owners, especially within viewsheds that are deemed important and valued for preservation or areas with defining landscape character.

SR Objective 1.2: Collaborate with the Forest Service regarding current landscape character themes and scenic integrity objectives.

SR Strategy 1.2.1: Identify lands adjacent to National Forest lands with Very High and High Scenic Integrity Levels. Create development guidelines that encourage voluntary scenic transition zones adjacent to the Forest.

SR Objective 1.3: Increase public awareness of the economic contribution and overall quality of life scenery provides for the County.

SR Strategy 1.3.1: Educate the public and relevant industries on the Scenic Toolkit through informative pamphlets distributed during the permitting process and site plan applications.

SR Objective 1.4: Explore the impacts of light pollution to wildlife, recreation/tourism, the economy, and quality of life.

SR Strategy 1.4.1: Consider development of a night sky ordinance or outdoor lighting code to reduce light pollution.

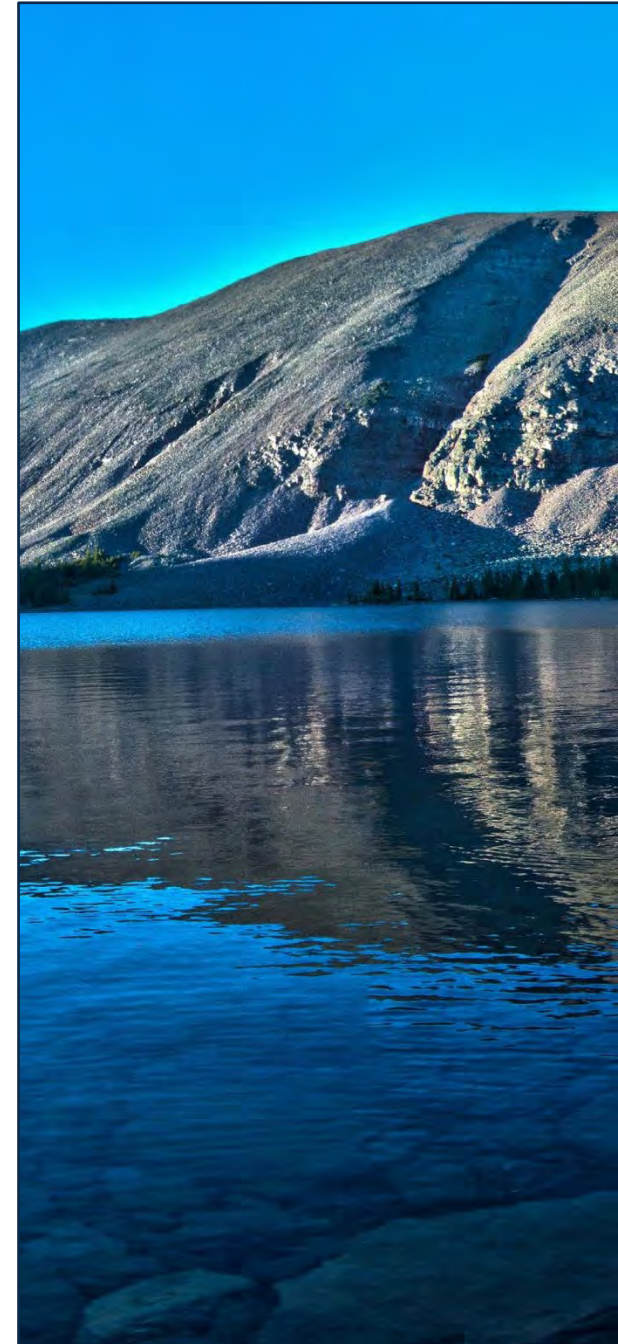




Image Credit: Zach
Scribner, Farmers Lake

Table 2.10. Existing Area Plan Goals and Subgoals: Scenic Resources

Goals and Policies from Existing Area Plans		
Eastern Summit County General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
5.1.a.	Ensure that development occurs in a manner and location that protects natural resources, including but not limited to pollution prevention, erosion prevention, national forests, crucial wildlife habitat and corridors, agricultural lands, fisheries, water quality, wetlands, scenic view sheds, riparian areas, wildlife and clean air.	Chapter 5; page 6
5.1.f.	Consider the creation of a night-sky ordinance.	
Snyderville Basin General Plan		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Policy 2.23	Identify appropriate areas for light industrial/service commercial activities to meet the needs of local businesses and development activities. Light industrial/service commercial activities should be discouraged along scenic corridors or at community gateways.	Chapter 2; page 7
Policy 2.34	Policy 2.34: Work with landowners and non-profit agencies to protect open lands for the purposes of preserving scenic viewsheds, preventing the fragmentation of open lands, preserving important wildlife habitat, protecting watersheds, providing significant buffers between developed areas, and protecting Critical Lands.	Chapter 2; page 8
GOAL 3: Open Space is the backbone of the Snyderville Basin economy. To the extent possible, preserve open space in the Basin that contains Critical Lands and recreational, cultural, and scenic spaces. Preservation of these lands and connections between them is necessary in order to support a healthy environment and to retain the sense of place, quality of life, and the economic success of the resort economy.		Chapter 3; page 11
In order to best achieve this goal, open space has been categorized into the following types based on specific attributes. Parcels may contain attributes of one or more categories of open space and each category may contain one or more of the attributes listed.		
Pristine Open Space		
a. Critical for environmental quality and ecological function, such as drinking water sources, watershed, and wildlife habitat and/or corridors.		
b. Strictly limited development, use, access, or disturbance		
c. Undisturbed, natural environment and scenic values are the priorities.		
d. Any access allowed for passive recreation should be very limited and should be non-motorized single-track trails solely for the purpose of connecting trail spines and corridors, subject to an approved trails plan.		
e. May be contiguous to other open spaces.		
f. Is of sufficient size to achieve the purposes for which it is being protected.		
g. An example is the USU Swaner Nature Preserve.		
Objective D: The County recognizes the importance of the natural resources within the Basin and the surrounding areas and desires to preserve and maintain access to these scenic areas.		Chapter 4; page 17

GOAL 5: Identify cultural and natural resources and ensure that all development undertaken is compatible with and in harmony with the surrounding mountain and resort environment while maintaining ecological balance and protecting the scenic and historic qualities of the Basin as well as the economic base.		Chapter 5; page 19
Policy 5.13	Ridgelines: Because of the importance of aesthetics to the economic viability of the Basin, views from the designated roadways (Interstate 80, State Roads 224 and 248, and US-40) are critical and ridgeline encroachment should be avoided.	Chapter 5; page 21
Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (2003)		
Relevant Statement		Source Location
Standards for Scenery Management		Chapter 4; page 4-48 through 4-49
(S22)	Management actions that would result in a scenic integrity level of Unacceptably Low (defined in Glossary) are prohibited in all Landscape Character Themes.	
Guidelines for Scenery Management:		
(G59)	Manage Forest landscapes according to Landscape Character Themes, and Scenic Integrity Objectives as mapped. (See Chapter 4, A.7. Scenery Management for definitions).	
(G60)	Resource management activities should not be permitted to reduce Scenic Integrity below Objectives stated for Management Prescription Categories.	
(G61)	For management activities viewable from Concern Level 1: (defined site specifically) Scenic Byways (viewshed corridors 0-4 miles) and use areas, travelways, and Scenic Backways (viewshed corridors <1/2 mile) apply the Landscape Character Theme in which the management activity occurs and apply a Scenic Integrity Objective of high.	
(G62)	For management activities viewable from Concern Level 2: (defined site specifically) use areas and travelways (viewshed corridors <1/2 mile) apply the Landscape Character Theme in which the management activity occurs and apply a Scenic Integrity Objective of at least moderate.	
(G63)	Duration of visual impacts to allow for herbaceous and woody plants are established will be determined during project planning by the following criteria: • Capability of the landscape to recover • The relationship of management activity to the seen area of sensitive, use areas and travel ways.	
(G64)	Establishment of herbaceous vegetation may extend to 3 years after project completion for foreground and middleground in Concern levels 1 and 2 use areas and travel ways. Consider immediate initiation of reseeding in these areas where natural recovery is questionable.	
Forestwide Subgoal – Scenery Management System		Chapter 4; page 4-22
6f.	Recognize and manage for the importance of scenic forest landscapes to overall recreation settings as well as to the quality of life for communities adjacent to the Forest.	
6g.	Restore, maintain or enhance landscape scenic integrity across the variety of landscape character themes found on the Forest.	

Land Resources Implementation

Agency Coordination

Recreation and Tourism Goal 1:

Support balanced recreation and a comprehensive recreation system that also supports environmental stewardship and the local economy.

Recreation and Tourism Objective 1.2, Increase collaboration between the Forest Service and Summit County to prioritize recreation areas for maintenance needs and adequately reflect residents' desires; and Strategies 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 would be accomplished through coordination with the Forest Service, and are Priority 2.

Economic Considerations Goal 1:

Support the economic vitality of Summit County.

Economic Considerations Objective 1.1, Recognize the role public lands and natural resources have in attracting and maintaining tourism, new businesses, and residents to the area; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 are coordination efforts with the Forest Service, other jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders, and are Priority 2.

Mineral Resources and Mining

Goal 1: Support appropriate levels of mineral extraction and mine types.

Mineral Resources and Mining Objective 1, Coordinate review of mine permitting for new and proposed mines; Objective 2, Work to prevent new mining and mineral claims and leases on lands within the proposed additional wilderness discussed under Wilderness Resources; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 would be implemented through collaboration with the Forest Service and Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. This is on-going and Priority 1.

Land Access Goal 1: Protect public access to public lands and access from public lands to private lands as appropriate.

Land Access Objective 1.1, Ensure the Forest Service is considered in city and County land use planning; Objective 1.2, Ensure a safe, effective, and economical transportation system to provide appropriate access associated with movement of people and materials to and through Forest Service lands; and Strategies 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 would be implemented through coordination with the Forest Service, and are Priority 1.

Law Enforcement Goal 1: From the 2008 Forest Plan: "Provide a safe environment for users, adequate law enforcement, and encourage appropriate uses."

Law Enforcement Objective 1.1 is to increase coordination between the Summit County Sheriff's Office and the

Forest Service to provide more effective monitoring of recreationist use.

Scenic Resources Goal 1: Respect the balance between effective use of the landscape and scenic resources.

Scenic Resources Objective 1.2, Collaborate with the Forest Service regarding current landscape character themes and scenic integrity objectives; and Strategy 1.2.1 would be implemented through collaboration on a joint project with the Forest Service and is Priority 3.

Public Education and Outreach

Economic Considerations Goal 1:

Support the economic vitality of Summit County.

Objective 1.1, Recognize the role public lands and natural resources have in attracting and maintaining tourism, new businesses, and residents to the area; and Strategy 1.1.3 would be implemented through outreach and education efforts, and are Priority 2.

Energy Resources Goal 1: Manage energy resources in accordance with both the Eastern Summit County and Snyderville Basin General Plans.

Energy Resources Objective 1.1, Support the development of alternative energy installations at appropriate scales and in

appropriate locations; and strategies 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3 are outreach and partnering efforts, and are Priority 3.

Scenic Resources Goal 1: Respect the balance between effective use of the landscape and scenic resources.

Scenic Resources Objective 1.3, Increase public awareness of the economic contribution and overall quality of life scenery provides for the County; and Strategy 1.3.1 would be County public outreach efforts, and are Priority 3.

Development Code

Recreation and Tourism T Goal 1: Support balanced recreation and a comprehensive recreation system that also supports environmental stewardship and the local economy.

Recreation and Tourism Objective 1.1, Work to resolve user conflicts on trails and trail networks; and Strategies 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 1.1.4 would be Summit County initiatives through a combination of regulatory and project-based activity, and are Priority 3.

Land Use Goal 1: Ensure that development occurs in a manner and locations that protects natural resources.

Land Use Objective 1.1, Continue to consider environment impacts of future development on County lands; Objective

1.2, Create transitional areas between new development and federal lands; and Strategy 1.2.1 would be implemented through amendments to the County's Development Codes.

Mineral Resources and Mining Goal: Support appropriate levels of mineral extraction and mine types.

Mineral Resources and Mining Objective 1, Coordinate review of mine permitting for new and proposed mines; Strategy 1.1.3 would require amendment of the County's Development Codes.

Scenic Resources Goal 1: Respect the balance between effective use of the landscape and scenic resources.

Scenic Resources Objective 1.1, Maintain a standard of scenic quality that is representative of the region which supports quality of life and economic contributions to the County; and Strategies 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 1.1.4 would be implemented through amendments to the County's Development Codes, and would be Priority 3.

Scenic Resources Objective 1.4, Explore the impacts of light pollution to wildlife, recreation/tourism, the economy, and quality of life; and Strategy 1.4.1, Consider development of a night sky ordinance or outdoor lighting code to reduce light pollution; would be implemented through amendments to the County's Development Codes.

This page is left intentionally blank



CHAPTER 3

OUR FOUNDATION

CHAPTER 3: OUR FOUNDATION

Introduction

Chapter 3 provides the baseline information from which guided the creation of the goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation steps.

In this section, the reader will find an overview of each of the resources, detailed tables, and maps to illustrate the distribution of resources throughout the RMP study area.



Water Resources

Hydrology and Water Quality

Hydrology

The hydrologic cycle describes movement of water on earth. Some of the processes by which water moves include: precipitation, infiltration (soil moisture and groundwater), and streamflow. In order to account for the distribution of water within a specific area, it is necessary to consider these processes. One of the units used to quantify and analyze water and its effects at a specific location is the watershed. A watershed, or drainage basin, is an area of land in which all water within drains to the same outlet. Summit County lies within two watershed regions, the Great Basin and Upper Colorado Region (Table 3.1).

Seven headwater streams for seven large watersheds are located within Summit County. The high elevation and steep mountain terrain of the County positions it as a critical source of water supply in those seven watersheds and provides bedrock aquifer recharge on the Wasatch Front. The primary source of precipitation comes from the high snowfall totals,

Table 3.1. Hydrologic Units within Summit County

Watersheds			
Region	Sub-Region	Basin	Sub-Basin
(2 Digit HUC)	(4 Digit HUC)	(6 Digit HUC)	(8 Digit HUC)
Great Basin Region	Great Salt Lake	Jordan	Provo
		Weber	Lower Weber
			Upper Weber
	Bear	Upper Bear	Upper Bear
Upper Colorado Region	Great Divide-Upper Green	Upper Green	Muddy
			Blacks Fork
			Upper Green-Flaming Gorge Reservoir

Table 3.2. Reservoirs within Summit County

Summit County Reservoir Statistics			
Name	Acre Feet/Capacity	Watershed Area (acres)	Use
Rockport	75,730	205,000	Domestic Drinking, Swimming, Boating, Coldwater Fishery, Irrigation and Stock
Echo	73,000	468,000	Domestic Drinking, Swimming, Boating, Coldwater Fishery, Irrigation and Stock
Smith and Morehouse	1,360	20,545	Boating, Coldwater Fishery, Irrigation and Stock

which supply runoff to the streams and reservoirs in the region. The Weber Basin watershed is one of two supplies for water on the Wasatch Front and provides approximately 20% of Utah residents with water for drinking and irrigation use.

The primary water storage reservoirs in the County are Echo, Rockport, and Smith and Morehouse (Table 3.2).

The three reservoirs are part of a complex storage system that is connected through headwater streams that supply seasonal runoff, the runoff flows through rivers connected to these waterbodies. The

Weber River is the primary drainage for eastern Summit County and transports and supplies most of the water to the lower valleys. The Weber River is also known for its trout fisheries and recreational opportunities, both of which provide an economic benefit to the County. Echo and Chalk creeks flow into the County from Wyoming and provide a much relied on source of irrigation water to agriculture operations in the lower valleys. The Bear River flows from the Uinta Mountains north into Uinta County, Wyoming, and returns to Utah to flow into Bear River Bay of Great Salt Lake.

Located in western Summit County within the Snyderville Basin planning district, Silver and East Canyon creeks provide water to both the Echo Reservoir and East Canyon Reservoir.

Summit County's water supply is one of its most sought after and heavily managed resources. Maintenance of water supply for the local population as well as populations in Wyoming and along the Wasatch Front, and the ability to keep up with future demand is a primary concern of Summit County residents.

Water Quality

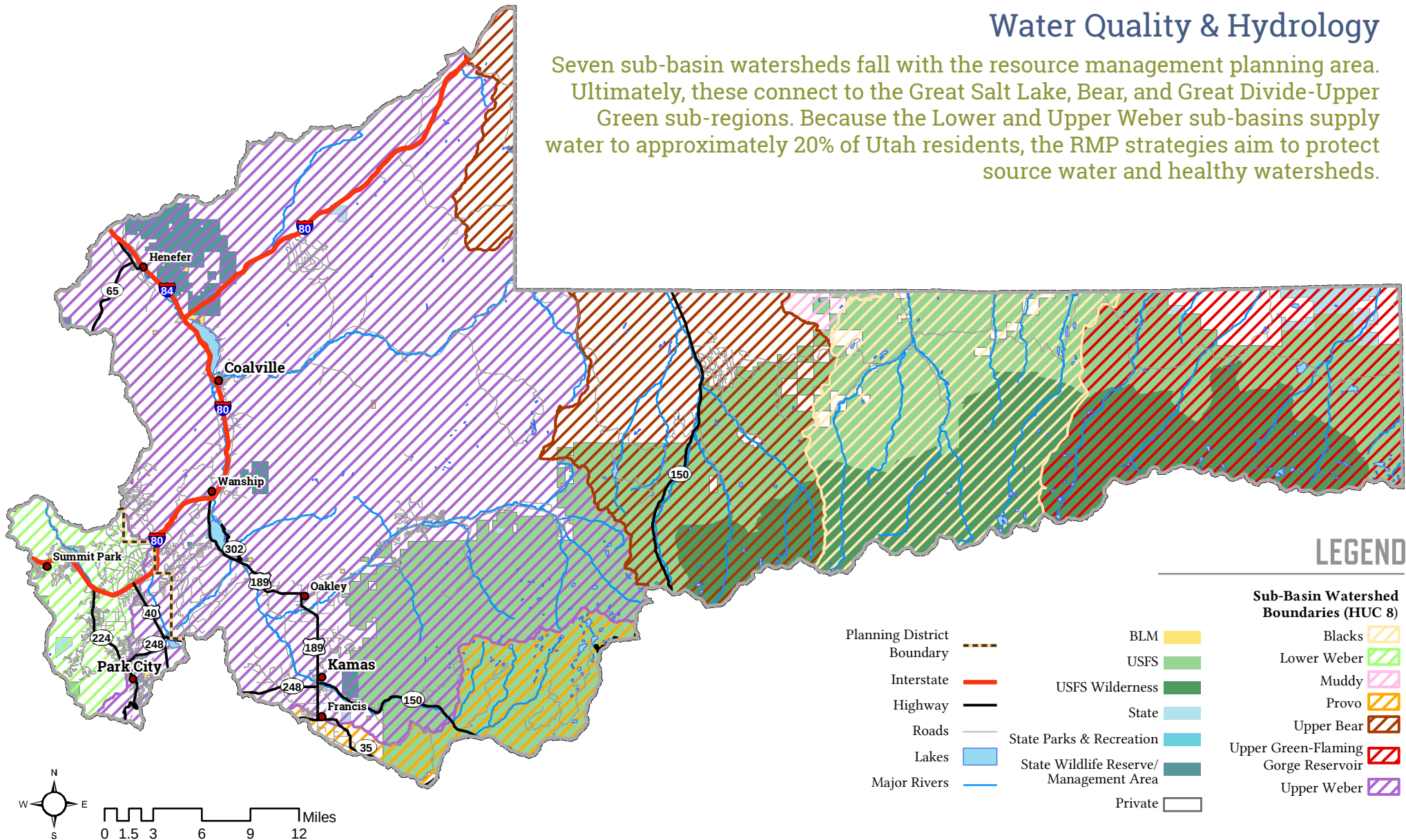
Water quality and conservation of waterways is a priority issue for residents in Summit County. Because this resource is also of critical importance to the hydrology and water availability of communities outside Summit County the resource has become a critical interest to residents throughout the region. The diverse composition of the County including the year round residential communities, seasonal home developments, resort communities, and tourism destinations of the western portion of the County and the agricultural use, rural communities, and high mountain wilderness of the eastern portion of the County creates a varied and complex set of water quality concerns.

In 2006 five waterbodies in Summit County were determined not to be meeting their beneficial use designations. Echo Creek and Echo Reservoir were



Water Quality & Hydrology

Seven sub-basin watersheds fall with the resource management planning area. Ultimately, these connect to the Great Salt Lake, Bear, and Great Divide-Upper Green sub-regions. Because the Lower and Upper Weber sub-basins supply water to approximately 20% of Utah residents, the RMP strategies aim to protect source water and healthy watersheds.



identified for pollutant concerns including sedimentation in the creek and total phosphorous and dissolved oxygen levels in the reservoir. Silver Creek was identified for zinc and cadmium concerns; Chalk Creek was identified for total phosphorous, sediment, and habitat loss; and East Canyon Creek for total phosphorous and dissolved oxygen.

Common pollutants affecting water resources and water quality conditions in Summit County include nutrient loading, sediment, metals, bacterial, and toxic chemical inputs. Algal blooms are common occurrences

DESIGNATED FLOOD ZONES

The designated flood zones are described as follows:

- **Zone A** - The “A” floodzone includes areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding;
- **Zone AE** - An area inundated by 1% annual chance flooding, for which base floodplain elevations (BFE) have been determined;
- **Zone AH** - An area inundated by 1% annual chance flooding (usually an area of ponding), for which BFEs have been determined and flood depths range from 1 to 3 feet.
- **Zone AO** - The AO flood zone is defined as an area inundated by 1% annual chance flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain), for which average depths have been determined to range between 1 to 3 feet.
- **Zone X** – Areas that are outside the 500 year floodplain determined to be outside the 1% and 0.2% annual chance for flooding.

in water bodies in this region and can result from elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in the system. These nutrient levels result in oxygen depletion creating optimal conditions for algal growth. Algal blooms can be toxic, rendering a body of water hazardous for people and wildlife. Common sources of phosphorous and nitrogen loading are stormwater runoff, treatment plant effluent, animal waste, fertilizer, and other runoff. Sediments in water columns can transport nutrients, dramatically increase water turbidity, and eliminate storage capacity. This is generally caused by overland soil erosion, stormwater runoff from construction, and streambank vegetation loss. Metal pollutants, which occur in Silver Creek, generally come from historic mining operations. Bacterial and chemical source pollutants can come from a variety of areas. Bacterial pollutants typically come from animal waste and improperly treated wastewater. Echo, Silver, and East Canyon creeks are all in such close proximity to Interstates 80 and 84 that a significant chemical spill on either of those roadways could easily make its way into those waterbodies and any others connected to them.

Floodplains and River Terraces

Floods occur when a river channel reaches its maximum capacity, often during times of heavy rain or snow melt, water overflows the river’s streambanks and floods into nearby areas that would otherwise be dry. This is especially true

when water is delivered at a rate faster than the associated soils can absorb it. Floods also occur when a dam or water impoundment gives way and large amounts of water are released suddenly. For the most part, flooding is a natural process that supports channel maintenance, ecological processes, and riparian vegetation. Nevertheless, floods can cause severe human impacts and therefore must be among resource planning considerations.

Within Summit County, flooding most often occurs from two distinct event types: (1) spring runoff from melting snowpack at high elevations, and to a lesser extent (2) summer rainstorms. While either event can trigger flooding, the dynamics of each are different. Snowmelt is a relatively predictable occurrence dependent on the amounts of winter snowpack and rising spring temperatures. Large accumulations of snowpack melting in spring contribute to some localized flooding of floodplains of stream and river channels. In contrast, summer cloudburst events, especially those driven by monsoonal moisture, cause sporadic and localized flooding events on otherwise dry washes and canyons. Thunderstorm-triggered floods are exacerbated in locations recently affected by wildlife fires where vegetation cover is absent and soils are more exposed to erosion and channeling water down slope.

Riparian Areas

According to the Utah Wildlife Action Plan, “riparian areas are the richest habitat type in terms of species diversity and wildlife abundance.” These areas provide habitat to a wide range of wildlife including mammals, birds, amphibians, insects, and fish. Riparian habitats provide wildlife with canopy cover, nesting areas, shade, and food sources. The health of riparian areas is influenced by many factors including hydrology, topography, climate, invasive species, and land use. Because riparian areas are highly sensitive to human disturbances, it is important to manage them appropriately. Riparian areas can be impacted by development, road construction, recreation, fire, farming, and grazing. Farming and grazing activities as well as road construction can also lead to the introduction of noxious weeds. Construction of dams within rivers and streams changes the nature of stream flows by disrupting the seasonal high and low flows, creating artificial flows, and manipulating timing of flows. Riparian forest species such as cottonwood and willow depend on seasonal scouring floods to reproduce and establish seedlings within riparian corridors. Without flooding new cottonwoods and willows will not establish, leaving riparian forests with unsustainable single aged tree stands.

The Utah Water Restoration Initiative



(WRI) earmarks funding for projects with the specific purpose of restoring riparian systems in the state. These projects must be sponsored by a County entity to receive grant funding through the WRI and range from prescribed fires, vegetation management treatments, to stream and channel restoration. Summit County has a number of completed and current WRI projects that include reseeding for fire restoration, sagebrush management on private ranches, and timber cruising in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Riparian health is directly tied to the health of the surrounding ecosystems. Riparian vegetation communities often

function as buffers between adjacent waterbodies and upland vegetation communities. Upland communities could consist of anything from pristine native forest to heavily developed urban and suburban landscapes or grazed ranchlands. The stream and river systems that support riparian communities can be manipulated in a number of ways. Degraded water quality and altered hydrology have significant effects on riparian corridors. Conversely degraded riparian corridors are unable to support wildlife and habitat associated with streams, rivers, or the uplands beyond. Degraded streams discussed in the water quality section are likely associated with impacted riparian corridors.

Image Credit:
*Streaming by
makelessnoise,
[https://www.
flickr.com/photos/
makelessnoise
/240072417](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makelessnoise/240072417)*

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Currently there are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within Summit County. Wild and Scenic Rivers are designated through an evaluation and nomination process through the Forest Service. Factors considered in the determination are: tradeoffs in management scenarios other than designation; land ownership status; historical, currently existing, and reasonably foreseeable uses of the segment that could be affected; interest expressed by the public, and Tribal, Federal, State, and local agencies; estimated costs for management and protection of identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs); and the ability of the agency to manage and/or protect the river. This special designation is indicative of a river or river segment that has remained largely untouched by human influence, where one can visit

the river and enjoy the experience of a river and surrounding environment that has all of the characteristics of unspoiled nature. Wild and Scenic Rivers and their associated ecosystems provide critical habitat for aquatic species as well as the variety of animals that utilize river corridors throughout their life cycle. In 2008, the Forest Service evaluated river segments in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest within Summit County with the purpose of obtaining a Wild and Scenic designation. The Lower Provo Deer Creek, Ostler Fork (from source to mouth), and Stillwater Fork (source

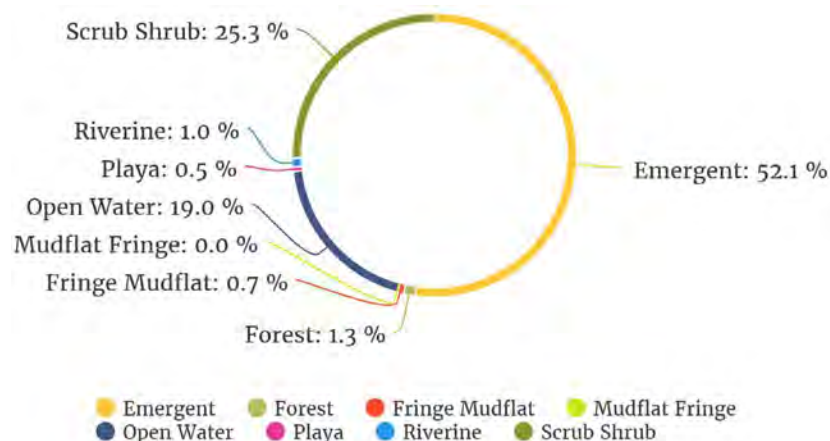
to mouth) were each assessed in detail as part of the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study. It was determined that the Lower Provo Deer Creek does not possess features or values that are better represented than other river segments, that it is more heavily impacted in its current state, and designation would have impact to nearby water uses.

Wetlands

According to the Utah Wetland Information Center, 1% of Utah's landscape is wetlands. Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rainforests and coral reefs. They provide habitat for a wide variety species of mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles. Wetlands have the ability to improve water quality by acting as filters. In addition, wetlands can

lessen the effects of flooding by storing stormwater and releasing it slowly with the potential to help replenish aquifers. Under the Cowardin classification system wetlands are defined by their position and function on the landscape. Riverine and lacustrine systems include wetlands adjacent to rivers and lakes, respectively. Lastly, palustrine systems include vegetated wetlands like marshes, swamps, bogs, and small ponds. Forested wetlands can occur in the estuarine and palustrine systems only. The Cowardin system is used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for their National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). The NWI Wetland data can be used to identify wetlands by type within the County. The acreage of wetland types found in Summit County is provided below (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3. Acres of Wetlands in Summit County by Type



Water Rights

Under Utah water law, surface and ground water is subject to “appropriation” by the Utah State Engineer, if available, for “beneficial use” either near the “point of diversion”, where the water is pulled from a surface source or well, or it may be transported by ditches, canals or other conveyances to a distant “point of use” for irrigation of crops, culinary or commercial/industrial uses. The appropriation of water from Utah rivers, lakes, springs and wells is regulated by the Utah Division of Water Rights (UDWR) and is subject to both state and federal laws.

From the website of the UDWR:

“All waters in Utah are public property. A “water right” is a right to divert (remove from its natural source) and beneficially use water. The defining elements of a typical water right will include:

- *A defined nature and extent of beneficial use;*
- *A priority date;*
- *A defined quantity of water allowed for diversion by flow rate (cfs) and/or by volume (acre-feet);*
- *A specified point of diversion and source of water;*
- *A specified place of beneficial use.”*

The State is divided into Water Rights Areas. Summit County is located within Area 35 which includes the Weber and Ogden Rivers, and Area 55 which includes the upper Provo River. Because the Provo River flows through the southernmost edge of Summit County and is not a major source of irrigation or other water rights in the County, this discussion focuses on water rights in Area 35.

In Area 35, water rights are managed in accordance with the 1937 [Weber River Decree](#) and the 1948 [Ogden River Decree](#), which adjudicated the area’s surface water rights prior to those dates. No adjudications have been ordered to update these decrees or to include ground-water rights. There are two state-administered water distribution systems in this area: the [Weber River Distribution System](#) and the [Ogden River Distribution System](#). Western Summit County is also subject to the conditions of the [State Engineer’s Interim Policy](#) for Snyderville and the Park City Basin. [Click here](#) to see statistics for this area. The Interim Policy plan was developed in response to rapid population growth in the area to maintain the viability and sustainability of the resource. Primary water uses have rapidly transformed from mining and agriculture to residential, commercial, and industrial needs.

Image Credit:
Crop Irrigation by
Aqua Mechanical
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/aquamech->





Regarding new applications for water appropriation in Summit County, from the website of the UDWR:

“Surface Water - Surface waters are considered to be fully appropriated [in Summit County]. Diligence Claims may be filed on water uses not in the decrees and which were established prior to 1903 for surface water and 1935 for underground water. New diversions and consumptive uses in these sources must be accomplished by change applications filed on owned or acquired rights. Non-consumptive use applications, such as hydroelectric power generation, will be considered on their individual merits. Fixed period or transient projects in canyon or foothill areas must be handled by temporary change applications. Per the State Engineer’s [Public Meeting Response Letter](#) dated October 26, 2004, new water diversions, based on exchange applications, will be permitted for those projects where there is water available in the proposed source that can be diverted without impairing the rights of others or where water can be released from upstream storage to directly compensate intervening rights that might be impaired.

Ground Water - There is a limited ground-water resource available. No new appropriations are approved above the mouths of the canyons. Development of new or different consumptive use projects in these

areas must be accomplished by change applications on owned or acquired rights. New appropriations below the canyons are reviewed on an individual basis. Individual domestic filings for 1.0 acre-foot per year are generally approved where a public water supply is not accessible. Larger projects are generally held pending development of approved rights and data from water users. Changes from surface to underground sources, and vice versa, are also considered on their individual merits, with emphasis on their potential to interfere with existing rights and to ensure that there is no enlargement of the underlying rights. Applicants are placed on notice that development should be pursued as soon as possible. Extension of time requests will be critically reviewed beyond the initial five year period.”

Natural and Cultural Resources

Air Quality

Air pollutants are those substances present in ambient air that negatively affect human health and welfare, animal and plant life, property, and the enjoyment of life or use of property. Ambient pollutant concentrations result from interaction between pollutant emissions and meteorology. Because meteorology can't be controlled, emissions must be managed to control pollutant concentrations.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 and its amendments set the laws and regulations regarding air quality, give authority to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set standards and rules, and delegate regulatory authority to individual states with EPA oversight, provided certain criteria are met. The purpose of air quality conformity regulations, enforced by the EPA and the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) in Utah, is to protect public health and welfare by maintaining low pollutant concentrations where present and lowering concentrations in areas where levels exceed set standards through a reduction in emissions.

Pollutant levels of PM 2.5 and ozone in Summit County are in compliance with allowable levels. As a result, the DAQ is not involved with air quality management

in the County; this responsibility falls under the Environmental Health branch of the Summit County Health Department (SCHD). To respond to resident interest in air quality, SCHD and the Board of Health funded and installed two air quality monitoring stations at Quinns Junction and Coalville. These monitor ozone levels June 1st through October 31st and PM 2.5 levels October 31st through May 31st.

Air pollutant levels within Summit County are generally well below ranges requiring restrictions or that pose health risks. Anomalous events of poor air quality have occurred, but do not occur with the frequency seen in adjacent counties. There are thirteen permitted emissions sources within the County. These sources range from natural gas plants to shale processing plants. One plant is located far in the eastern corner of the County and the remainder are found along the I-80 corridor.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In July, 2015, Summit County adopted its Climate Action Plan (CAP). The overarching goal of the CAP is to achieve a 15% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) within 15 years. The CAP identifies three main categories of strategies to achieve the goal: Energy Efficiency and Supply Strategies;

Transportation and Land Use Strategies; and Other Cross-cutting Strategies. The Transportation and Land Use Strategies, in particular, have direct application to several of the resource management goals and objectives. They include:

TL1: Regional Transit Expansion - Explore and expand regional transit options especially from Summit County to/from Salt Lake City and Heber City

TL2: Sustainable Development Patterns - Plan for compact growth, reduced sprawling development, and increased opportunities for people to access services and places of work

TL3: Agriculture, Livestock, and Land Use Management - Apply best practices to reduce energy use, improve efficiency of equipment, and limit GHG emissions associated with equipment and fertilizer use

TL4: Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements - Develop infrastructure for alternatives to on-road travel

TL5: Alternately Powered Vehicles - Continue to promote alternately powered vehicles, as well as develop infrastructure to support using these vehicles

Fisheries

A fishery refers to the species composition of fish within rivers, streams and lakes. The term typically implies management actions, such as stocking, to meet specific objectives for a given water body. Fisheries in Summit County are predominantly managed for sportfish such as trout and bass. Fisheries are managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). Four Utah State Sensitive species occur in Summit County. They are bluehead sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*), Bonneville cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia utah*), Colorado river cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia pleuriticus*), Northern leatherside chub (*Lepidomeda aliciae*).

Summit County has one blue ribbon fishery (BRF) designated as the section of the Weber River beginning with Echo Reservoir and extending downstream to the I80 crossing downstream from Wanship. BRF status is a designation that local communities can work toward by improving accessibility to local waterbodies, as well as taking steps to improve habitat for fish. Both of these steps can be accomplished through land use ordinances and by working with state and federal partners to improve habitat and water quality. The Weber River BRF is one of the most popular trout fisheries in Utah producing large brown trout, typically between 16-18 inches in length and mountain whitefish

during the winter months. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), also referred to as Aquatic Nuisance Species, are defined by the UDWR as nonnative species of aquatic plants and animals that cause harm to natural systems and/or human infrastructure. Not all nonnative fish species are considered AIS, such as those that are desirable for sport fishing. These may include nonnative Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), and catfish.

The primary AIS threats in Utah are related to invasive mussels, (*Dreissenid*

spp.), such as Quagga (*D. bugensis*) and Zebra mussels (*D. polymorpha*), and Dark False Mussel (*Mytilopsis leucophaeata*). The UDWR actively monitors many waterbodies in Utah for the presence of Quagga mussels. In addition to direct economic costs to clear mussels from water infrastructure, the presence of mussels in local waters may direct recreational anglers to other destinations outside the region. This will affect communities and businesses that depend on recreational fishing.

Finally, AIS can cause significant harm to native fisheries through degradation

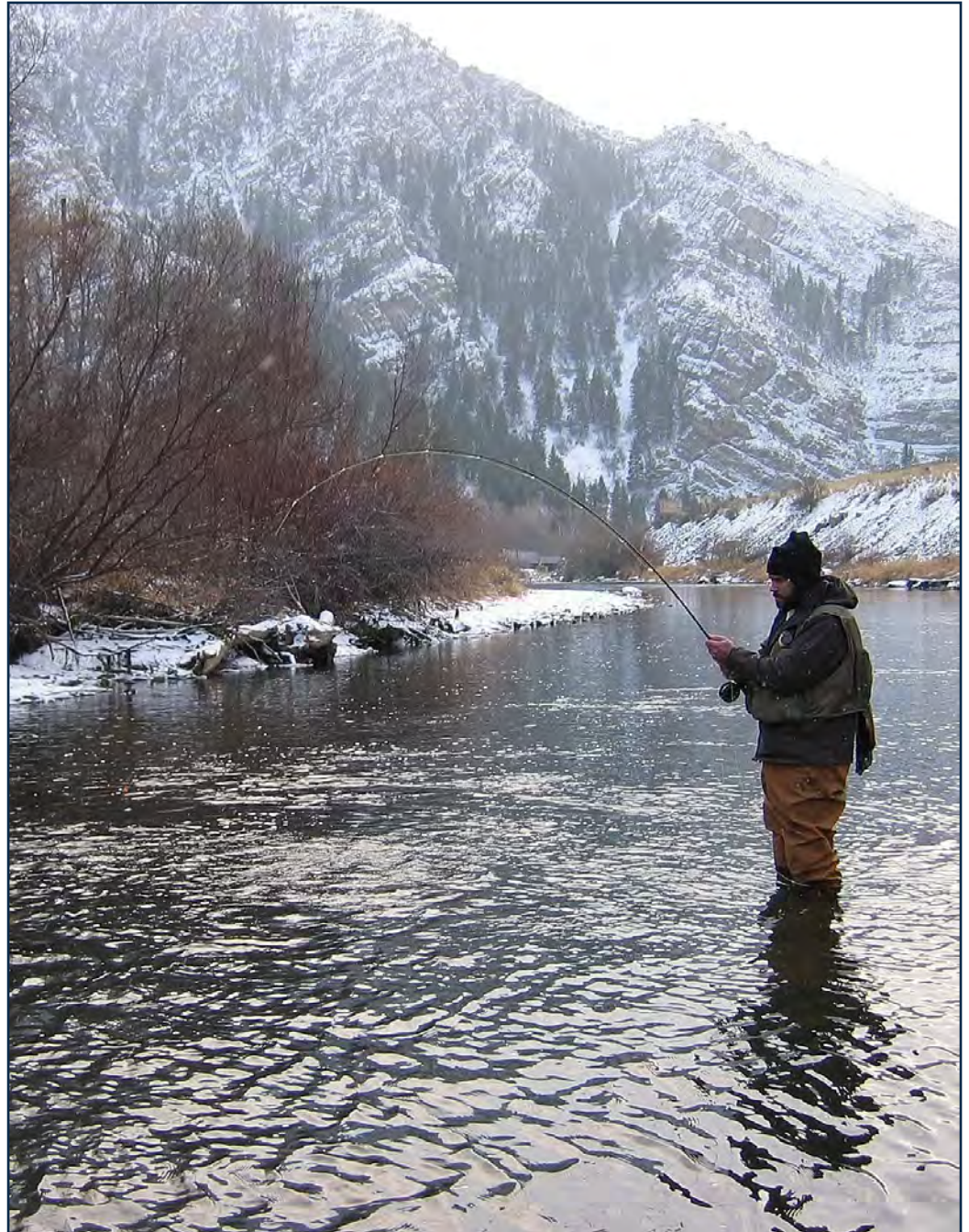


Image Credit:
Arctic Grayling
Catch, The Utah
Division of Wild-
life Resources

of habitat and competition for resources, especially to imperiled species that could face additional threats from AIS resulting in future listing under the Endangered Species Act.

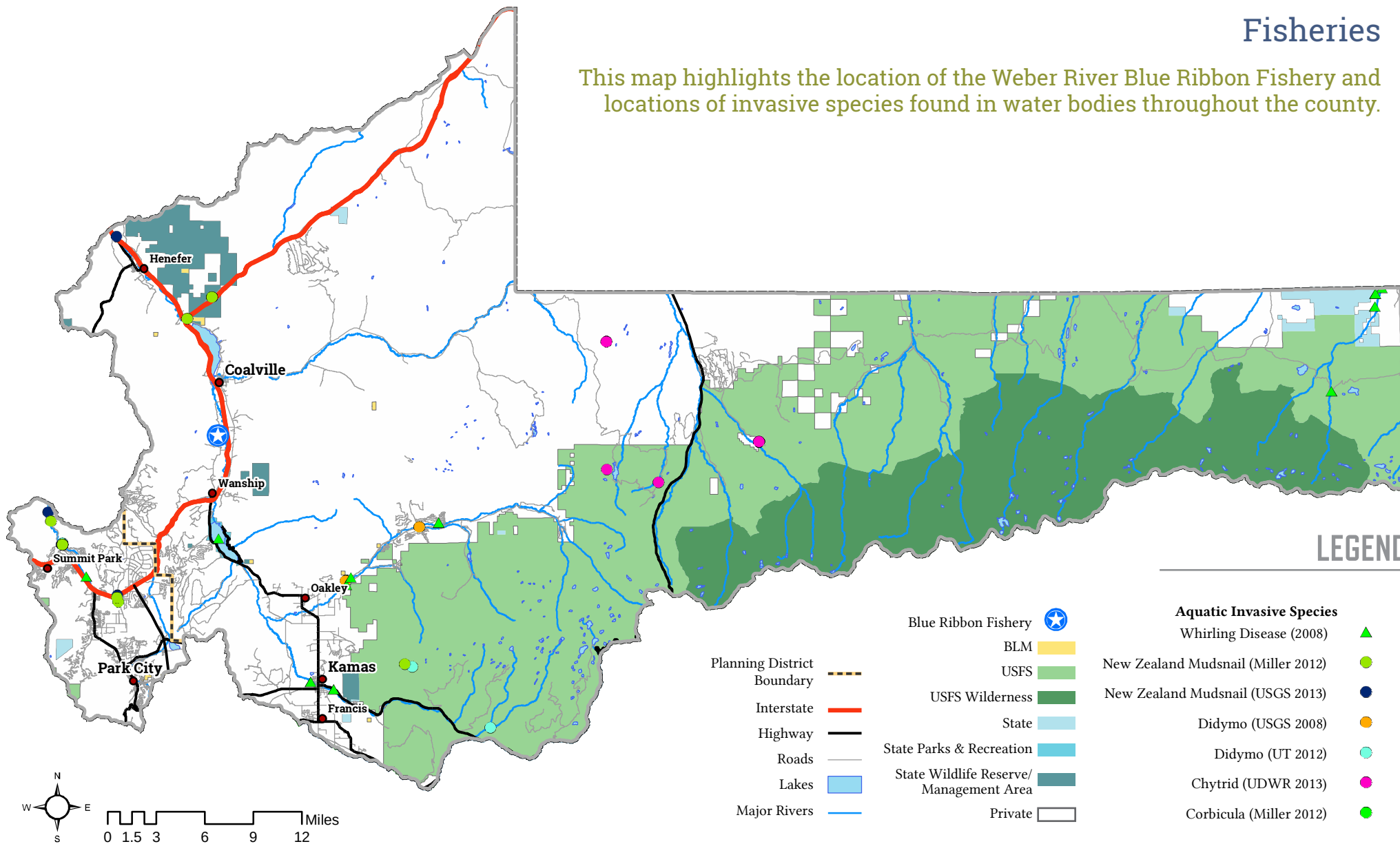
Preservation of sensitive fish species and protection of Summit County fisheries are directly related to adequate hydrology and suitable water quality. These resources are also directly related to riparian resources. Protecting Summit County fisheries requires a thorough look at all of the resources that contribute to high quality fish and aquatic habitat.

*Image Credit:
Paul Thompson,
The Utah Division of Wildlife
Resources*



Fisheries

This map highlights the location of the Weber River Blue Ribbon Fishery and locations of invasive species found in water bodies throughout the county.



DEFINITION: CRUCIAL HABITAT

Crucial habitat is habitat that is determined to be essential to the life history requirements of the species.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



Wildlife

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) is the wildlife authority for the state. It is the UDWR's responsibility to protect, propagate, manage, conserve, and distribute protected wildlife throughout the state (Utah Code, Title 23). "Wildlife" means vertebrate animals living in nature, with the exception of the following: feral animals, coyote, field mouse, gopher, ground squirrel, jack rabbit, muskrat, and raccoon.

National Forest lands provide critical habitat components for most wildlife found within Summit County.

Approximately 95% of Summit County is designated as crucial mule deer habitat and the majority of the County is

designated crucial habitat for both Rocky Mountain elk and moose. Mountain goats are found in some of the highest elevation mountains along with Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

UDWR has actively managed Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations in the state by translocating sheep into areas where disease has had damaging effects on populations or into habitat that is no longer occupied. Relocations of bighorn sheep into areas of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF that are permitted sheep grazing leases has the potential to create grazing and wildlife interaction conflicts as the potential for disease transmission from wild sheep to domestic animals could be catastrophic to ranchers. Similarly wild sheep interacting with

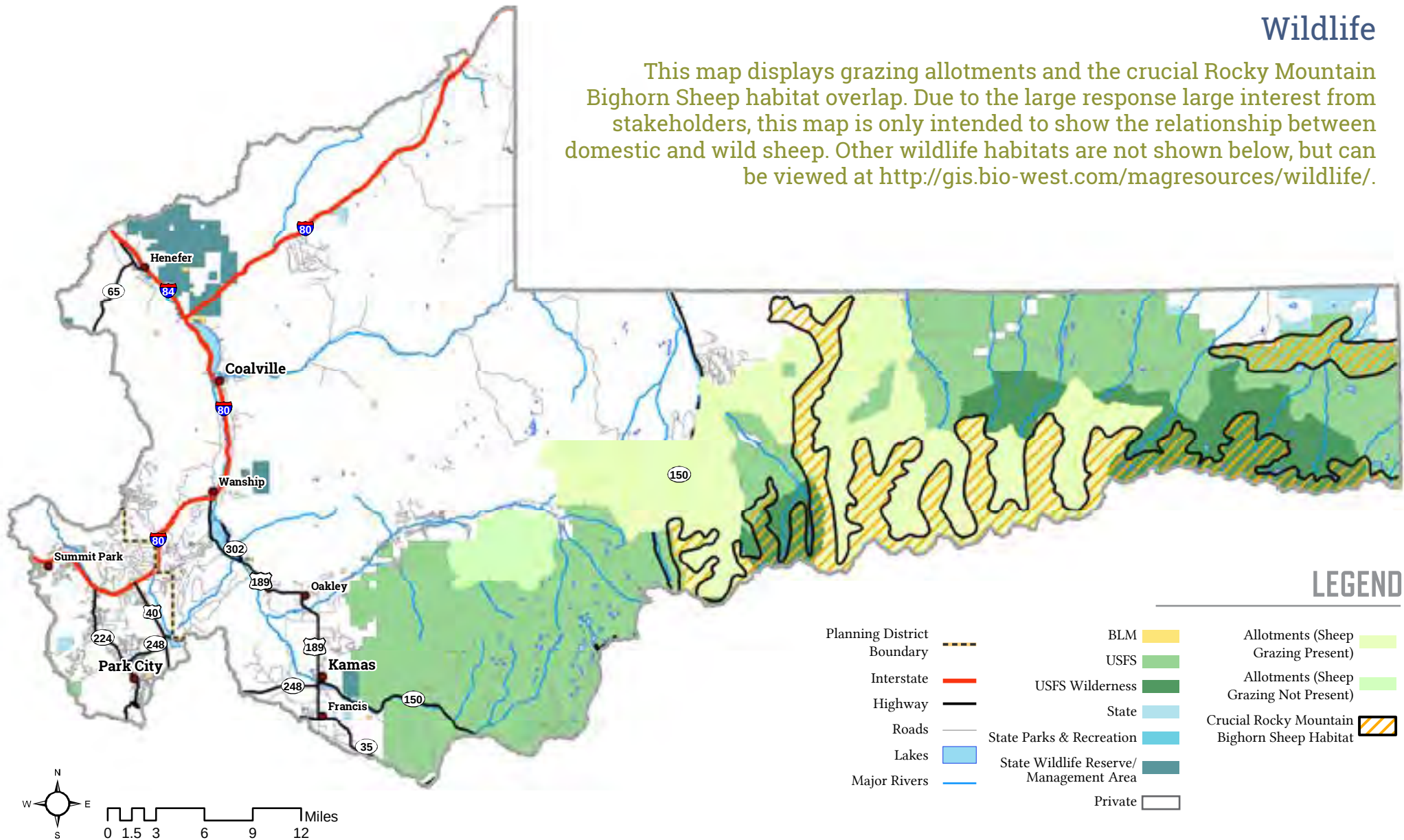
domestic animals has the potential to pass disease to previously unexposed wild animals. Management of bighorn sheep in Summit County is also applicable to both forest management and livestock and grazing resources in this document.

With the exception of the highest elevation mountains, the majority of Summit County is designated as substantial habitat for black bear. There is very little designated crucial pronghorn habitat.

Image Credit:
Tom Becker, The
Utah Division
of Wildlife
Resources

Wildlife

This map displays grazing allotments and the crucial Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep habitat overlap. Due to the large response large interest from stakeholders, this map is only intended to show the relationship between domestic and wild sheep. Other wildlife habitats are not shown below, but can be viewed at <http://gis.bio-west.com/magresources/wildlife/>.



Wildfire Management

Wildfire management refers to the process of planning, prevention, and suppression of wildfires to protect human life, property and natural resources. Management of wildfire involves a multi-level approach which includes community preparedness and outreach, enhanced fire protection, wildland fuels mitigation to reduce risk, mitigation of risk from utility lines, and the use of wildfire as a natural process on the landscape when appropriate.

Effective wildfire management also requires the cooperation and collaboration of multiple jurisdictional agencies, including Summit County, Forest Service, and neighboring Utah, Wyoming counties, and electric utilities.

When a fire is reported in Summit County, the report is forwarded to the [Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center \(NUIFC\)](#). This multi-agency organization is tasked with tracking wildland firefighting resources throughout northern Utah and coordinating the

response of resources to wildland fire incidents. A number of personnel are trained to respond to wildfires throughout Utah, and the services they provide are dependent upon the role their organization is assigned during a fire incident. At a basic level, firefighting resources can be grouped into two broad categories: ground resources and air resources. Often times both types of resources are dispatched to a fire.

The 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch Cache National Forest updated the approach to fire management on the National Forest. The Forest Plan reports:

“The National Fire Plan (NFP) was devel

oped in the fall of 2000 in response to the 2000 fire season, one of the most active on record. The NFP provides guidance and direction for firefighting, restoration and rehabilitation of burned lands, hazardous fuels reduction, and community assistance. The Forest Service also issued a strategy for fuels treatment priorities for federal lands, “Restoring Fire-Adapted Ecosystems on Federal Lands: A Cohesive Strategy for Protecting People and Sustaining Natural Resources” (2001). To guide cooperative approaches for fuel treatment and hazard mitigation on federal and private land, the western governors and public land managers endorsed “A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy” (2001) and Implementation Plan (2002).”

FIRE HAZARD RISK AND REDUCTION

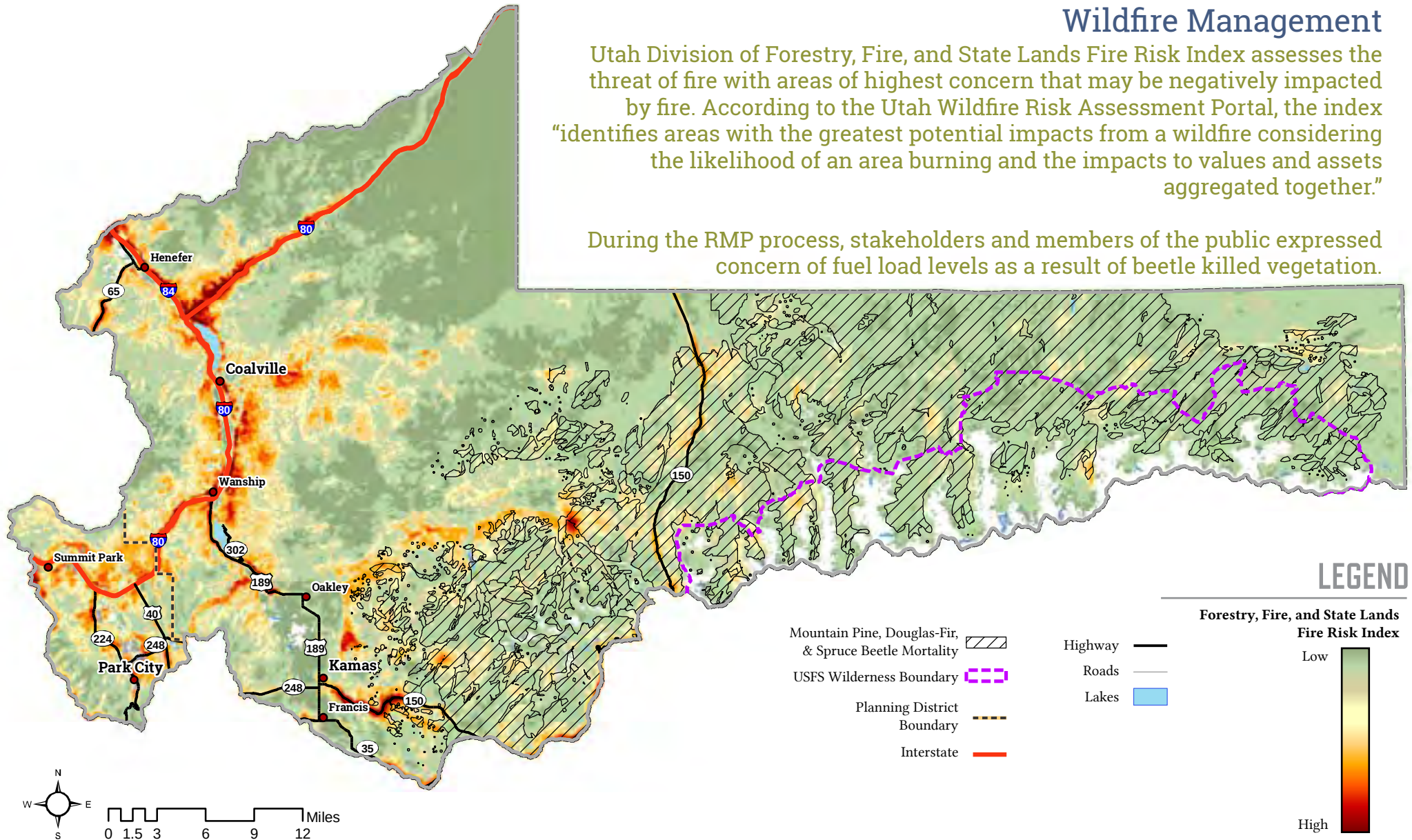
An important component of fire management is fire hazard and risk reduction. Among the elements of an effective hazard and risk reduction program are the following:

- Public education, outreach, informing the public of how to be firewise.
- Connecting professionals (e.g., country fire wardens and state foresters) with landowners who need assistance in obtaining grants and other resources for implementing defensible space around their properties.
- The creation of defensible space around homes, outbuildings, campgrounds.
- Fuel load reduction projects through thinning, harvesting, and other mechanical means.
- Utilizing prescribed fire under the appropriate conditions to remove hazardous fuels.
- Implement efforts to maintain or create healthy landscapes and ecosystems focused on native vegetation.
- Have comprehensive wildland fire emergency response plans and share with the community.
- Identify high-wildland fire hazard zones per county.
- Adoption of wildland-urban interface (WUI) building ordinances to reduce fire risk.
- Proactive outreach to citizens occupying WUI on preparing for wildfire event
- Include municipal and volunteer fire departments in wildland fire training for quicker and additional fire response.
- Utilize smoking and fire bans when fire danger conditions become hazardous.
- Educate and inform public when fire danger rises throughout a fire season.

Wildfire Management

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands Fire Risk Index assesses the threat of fire with areas of highest concern that may be negatively impacted by fire. According to the Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, the index “identifies areas with the greatest potential impacts from a wildfire considering the likelihood of an area burning and the impacts to values and assets aggregated together.”

During the RMP process, stakeholders and members of the public expressed concern of fuel load levels as a result of beetle killed vegetation.



The Forest Plan reports the Desired Future Condition for fire management forest-wide to be:

“Fire—both prescribed and wildland—is used as a tool to enhance ecosystem resiliency and to maintain desired fuel levels. Fire plays its natural role where appropriate and desirable, but is actively suppressed where necessary to protect life, investments, and valuable natural resources. Effects of wildland fire are acceptable, and fire operates within historical (within the last 500 years) fire regimes appropriate to the vegetation type.”

Forest-wide Goal 4 and relevant sub-goals are:

“Forest-wide Goal 4 - Fire and Fuels Management - Wildland fire use and prescribed fire provide for ecosystem maintenance and restoration consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. Fire suppression provides for public and firefighter safety and protection of other federal, state and private property and

natural resources. Fuels are managed to reduce risk of property damage and uncharacteristic fires.

Forest-wide Subgoal - Fire Use

4a. Increase the active use of fire to return fire dependent ecosystems to proper functioning and to reduce hazardous fuels.

4b. Increase public understanding and support of the active use of fire to improve watershed and habitat conditions and reduce fuels.

4c. Take timely actions to restore proper functioning of ecosystems after wildfire.

Forest-wide Subgoal – Fuel Reduction

4d. Reduce hazardous fuels (prescribed fire, silvicultural and mechanical treatments) with emphasis on interface communities (wildland/urban) and increase proactive participation of communities at risk.”

The Forest Plan also provides standards and guidelines for fire and fuels management at page 4-44 of the Forest Plan.

Forest Management

In 2010 (updated for 2016) the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands developed the [Utah Statewide Forest Resource Assessment](#). The assessment:

- provides an analysis of the forest conditions and trends in the state,
- addresses current state of forest resources and national resource management priorities,
- spatially delineates priority rural and urban forest landscape areas,
- ensures that state and federal resources are being focused on important landscape areas with the greatest opportunity for shared management priorities and achieve meaningful outcomes (see the Utah’s Forest Action Plan data for priority areas), and
- enables the efficient, strategic and focused use of limited program resources.

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Summit County is managed pursuant to the planning, goals and management prescriptions of the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch Cache National Forest. From the Introduction to the Forest Plan:

“This Forest Plan guides all natural resource management activities and sets

Image Credit:
<https://www.usu.edu/degrees/index.cfm?id=152>



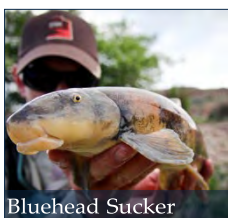


management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. It was developed to implement Alternative 7, the Preferred Alternative in the accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision. This Plan describes what desired future conditions and goals for the Forest are, what priorities for action have been identified (Objectives), what resource management practices may be employed and where, based on the availability and suitability of lands, and the projected levels of goods and services expected to result from resource management.

The National Forest Management Act



Bald Eagle



Bluehead Sucker



Bonneville Cutthroat



CO River Cutthroat



Colum. Spotted Frog



Ferruginous Hawk



Grizzly Bear



Short-Eared Owl



Smooth Greensnake

Image Credit: Brent Stettler, Ben Nadolski, Natalie Boren, Michael Christensen, Scott Root, Lynn Chamberlain, Rich Hansen, Jim Shuler, The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

(NFMA), implementing regulations, and many other documents guided the preparation of this Forest Plan. The NFMA requires us to develop management direction for each National Forest. This “direction” is to be expressed through goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, management prescriptions, desired future conditions, and monitoring and evaluation requirements for the forest.

Projected activities, services, and rate of implementation are dependent on the annual appropriations and budgeting process.

This Forest Plan provides broad program-

level direction for management of the land and its resources. Future projects carry out the direction in this Forest Plan. This Forest Plan does not contain commitments to implement specific projects. An environmental analysis is conducted for these projects as they are proposed. In addition to direction found in this Forest Plan, projects are also implemented through direction found in the Forest Service directive system (manuals and handbooks) and other guides.”

The resources for which the Forest Plan establishes desired future conditions, goals, and management prescriptions are addressed in each individual resource section. Summit County has worked, and continues to work, collaboratively with the Forest Service and neighboring Utah and Wyoming counties to update the Forest Plan to address emerging issues.

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

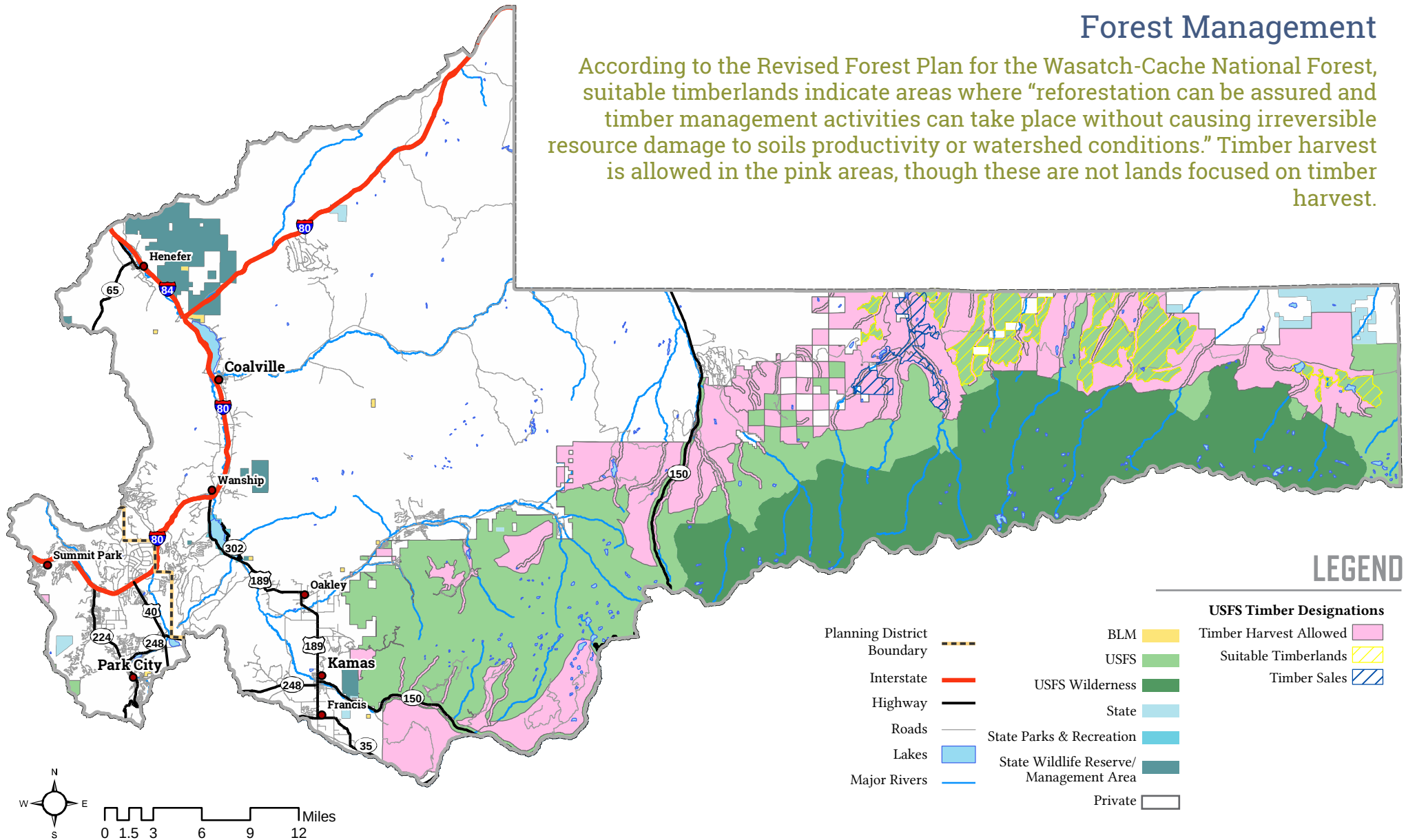
The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs all federal agencies to work to conserve endangered and threatened species and to use their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA. Section 7 of the ESA is the mechanism by which federal agencies ensure the actions they take, including those they fund or authorize, do not jeopardize the existence of any listed species.

Summit County Conservation Species

1. Bald Eagle
2. Bluehead Sucker
3. Bobolink
4. Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
5. Brown (Grizzly) Bear
6. Canada Lynx
7. Colorado River Cutthroat Trout
8. Columbia Spotted Frog
9. Deseret Mountainsnail
10. Ferruginous Hawk
11. Grasshopper Sparrow
12. Greater Sage-Grouse
13. Lewis's Woodpecker
14. Northern Goshawk
15. Northern Leatherside Chub
16. Short-Eared Owl
17. Smooth Greensnake
18. Three-Toed Woodpecker
19. Western Pearlshell
20. Western Toad
21. White-Tailed Prairie-Dog

Forest Management

According to the Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, suitable timberlands indicate areas where “reforestation can be assured and timber management activities can take place without causing irreversible resource damage to soils productivity or watershed conditions.” Timber harvest is allowed in the pink areas, though these are not lands focused on timber harvest.



LEGEND

Planning District Boundary	-----	BLM	Yellow	Timber Harvest Allowed	Pink
Interstate	Thick Red Line	USFS	Green	Suitable Timberlands	Yellow with Diagonal Lines
Highway	Solid Black Line	USFS Wilderness	Dark Green	Timber Sales	Blue with Diagonal Lines
Roads	Thin Grey Lines	State	Light Blue		
Lakes	Light Blue	State Parks & Recreation	Medium Blue		
Major Rivers	Blue Lines	State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area	Dark Blue		
		Private	White		

The Forest Service defines sensitive species as “those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density, or significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species’ existing distribution” (Forest Service Manual [FSM] 2670). The sensitive species list for Forest Service units in Utah is attached here.

There are two federally listed threatened species associated with Summit County; Canada lynx, listed as threatened, bonytail chub listed as threatened, and brown (grizzly) bear, listed as threatened/extirpated. The Greater sage-grouse was listed as a candidate species but removed following review.

Summit County has twenty one state listed conservation species in agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as listed below.

Greater Sage-Grouse

Perhaps one of the most crucial species found in Summit County is the Greater sage-grouse. This bird is an iconic image of western sage brush shrublands and has been in sharp decline due to habitat loss and degradation. The Greater sage-grouse was a candidate for federal conservation listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. After extensive coordination with western states the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declined to list the bird, instead reverting to the states to recover the populations prior to subsequent listing review 5-years after the initial decision.

Summit County contains crucial and substantial occupied, brooding, and winter habitat as designated by UDWR. Large blocks of habitat occur along the western boundary of Wyoming near Evanston. Additional occupied habitat extends north, west, and south of Rockport Reservoir. This area is also considered crucial brooding and wintering habitat.

Wilderness

The High Uintas Wilderness encompasses 456,705 acres and stretches nearly 60 miles east to west with 214,819 acres of roadless area. It is a spectacular area

with hundreds of glacier-formed lakes reflecting blue skies and the area is home to the highest mountain peaks of the Uinta Mountain range, which is also the highest in all of Utah with peaks ranging from 6,000 to the highest of all, Kings Peak at 13,528 feet. This area was legally designated as wilderness in 1984, by the Utah Wilderness Act. Wilderness designation enables preservation and protection of “Federal lands retaining primeval character and influence” and as such limits consumptive, motorized, and mechanized uses.

With 573 miles of trails guiding visitors into the depths of the wilderness, there are many things to do at High Uintas. Some of the popular trails are Hades/Rocky Sea Pass, which passes through a large number of incredible lakes; Swift Creek Trail as the preferred route to Kings Peak; and Center Park for its stunning panoramic view of the Yellowstone Basin in its entirety. Visitors can go boating, river and lake fishing, camping, hiking, and cross country skiing. The most popular activity is backcountry fishing. Because of this special designation, it is important for wilderness visitors to travel lightly with minimum impact on the land.

The [Forest Service Manual, FSM 2320 – Wilderness Management](#) contains a series of best management practices for federally designated wilderness areas. A summary of the management objectives:

ROADLESS CRITERIA

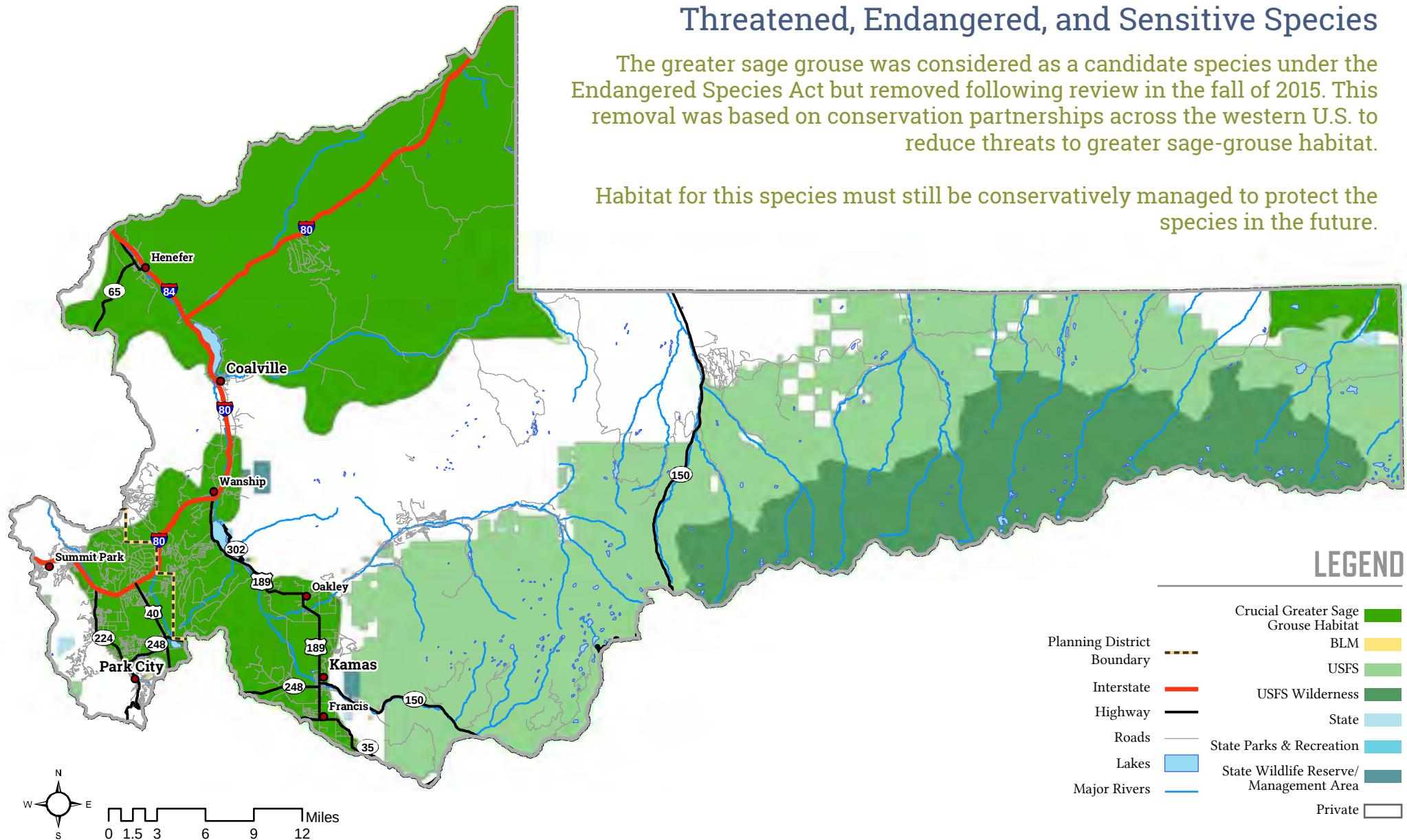
To be considered for wilderness designation, lands must meet specific criteria. Wilderness qualifications include:

- **Size.** At least 5,000 acres of contiguous roadless lands.
- **Naturalness.** Minimal human impacts exist within the area (natural processes dominate).
- **Opportunities for solitude.** Primitive recreation and opportunities to avoid other people.
- **Supplemental values.** After the first three criteria are met, areas with ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic or historical values can be considered.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

The greater sage grouse was considered as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act but removed following review in the fall of 2015. This removal was based on conservation partnerships across the western U.S. to reduce threats to greater sage-grouse habitat.

Habitat for this species must still be conservatively managed to protect the species in the future.



“Manage the wilderness resource to ensure its character and values are dominant and enduring. Its management must be consistent over time and between areas to ensure its present and future availability and enjoyment as wilderness. Manage wilderness to ensure that human influence does not impede the free play of natural forces or interfere with natural successions in the ecosystems and to ensure that each wilderness offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Manage wilderness as one resource rather than a series of separate resources (sec. 2320.6)”

As discussed in the Economic Considerations section, wilderness

designation on public lands has a positive effect on local economies, as well as benefits to other natural resources including wildlife habitat, air quality, drinking water source protection, and watershed protection.

Additionally, Summit County contains 214,819 acres of inventoried roadless area. While not officially designated as Wilderness, inventoried roadless areas are managed for the protection of wilderness-like characteristics. Federal rules at 36 CFR 294.12 and 294.13 prohibit road building and timber cutting in inventoried roadless areas, with specified exceptions to the rules.

Cultural, Historical, Geological, Paleontological

Cultural and historic resources provide a sense of place and heritage to formulate the character of Summit County. Each County and city plan within the RMP study area identifies the agricultural and rural heritage of the County built off the historic uses of the land.

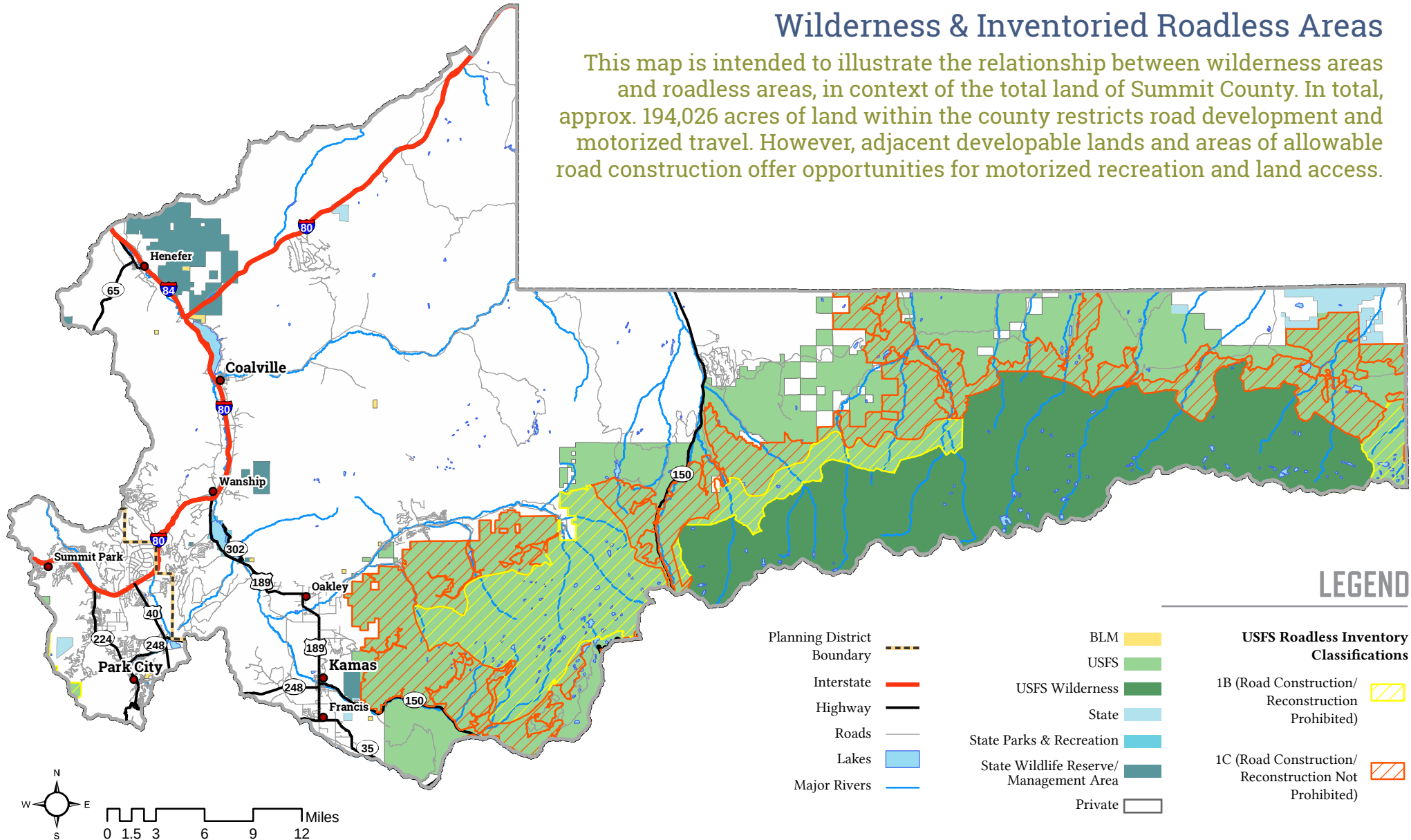
The Forest Service addresses cultural and historic resources through the Heritage Program. The Forest Plan outlines goals, sub-goals, and desired future conditions to effectively manage and maintain these resources. The desired condition of Heritage Resources on the Forest is to “enrich [visitor’s] experiences by creating opportunities to discover the Forest’s unique past,” including a better understanding of past human interactions with Forest ecosystems. Forest wide Goal 9-Heritage Resources aims to “inventory, evaluate, protect and enhance heritage sites and landscapes.” Sub goals include implementing “the National Heritage Strategy emphasizing the need for non-project inventories (Section110) and public education and awareness programs” and fully integrating “the Heritage Program into land and resource management.”



Image Credit:
http://kidproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/IMG_0480.jpg

Wilderness & Inventoried Roadless Areas

This map is intended to illustrate the relationship between wilderness areas and roadless areas, in context of the total land of Summit County. In total, approx. 194,026 acres of land within the county restricts road development and motorized travel. However, adjacent developable lands and areas of allowable road construction offer opportunities for motorized recreation and land access.



Standards and Guidelines for Heritage Resources Management include: reviewing and identifying impacts to cultural resources and complying with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and “design[ing] mitigation measures to resolve adverse effects to sites...[to] provide the maximum public benefit that the sites...can offer.”

The Western Uintas Management Area, which falls within the RMP boundaries, identifies the Heritage Resources Desired Future Condition as: “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.”

Image Credit:
Black’s Fork ,Tanner
Nielson, <http://www.wasatchoverland.com/blog/2016/12/2/what-to-expect-from-blacks-fork>

Tribal Rights and Interests:

Tribal rights and interests are clearly discussed in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan:

“Tribes continue to have interest and reliance on ecosystems even as their cultures change, employing both traditional and contemporary ways of relating to their homelands and interest areas (lands where tribes have traditionally ranged to sustain their life way). Lands within the Forest serve to help sustain American Indians’ way of life, cultural integrity, social cohesion, and economic wellbeing.”

“Federal agencies take a more proactive role on the tribes’ behalf, especially in areas of treaty interest, rights, traditional and cultural resources, and ecosystem integrity. Federal agencies provide opportunities for traditional American Indian land uses and resources. The presence of healthy habitats is fundamental to the achievement of both usable and harvestable levels of resources significant to American Indians, as well as to ecosystem integrity.”





Geological

Landslide areas are generally found along both the northern and southern slopes of the Uinta Mountain Range and are particularly notable on the north slope adjacent to the Utah/Wyoming border. Landslides also occur on slopes surrounding drainages in the western portion of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (east and north of Oakley, Kamas, and Coalville).

In general, quaternary faults lie around Park City (Parleys Park and Frog Valley faults) east of Kamas and Oakley (East Kamas fault), along Porcupine Ridge (approximately 15 miles east of Coalville), along the East Fork of the Bear River (Bear River Fault Zone), Hogsback Fault (just east of the Bear River Fault Zone), and the East Canyon (East side) fault along the Morgan/Summit County boundary.

Paleontological

The Utah Geological Survey has compiled a Paleo Sensitive Area dataset for the State. This dataset provides locations of sensitive areas in which any surface disturbance within sensitive areas will require a report filed through the State Paleontologist. These paleo sensitivity areas exist primarily throughout the western portions of Summit County, in large swaths east of I-80 and Rockport State Park, and in smaller areas west and northwest of Park City. Very few paleo sensitive areas exist on the east side of the County within the National Forest. No other paleontological data are available within Summit County.

If the project is located trust lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), an archaeological report is required to be filed with both the State Historic Preservation Office and SITLA.

Agricultural Resources

Agriculture

In Summit County, there are approximately 618 farms with an average farm size of 437 acres. The 2015 Annual Report by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food states that, “nearly 95 percent of Utahns believe farming and ranching are important to the future of the state [2].” The preservation of agricultural lands and resources is seen by many to provide tangible value to the state and/or intrinsic character to the

lifestyle of its communities.

Farms in Summit County have changed considerably since 2002. The number of farms has increased by almost 20% since 2002 while the average size of the farms has decreased at the same rate. Another interesting change is a 14% reduction in irrigated farmland since 2002. This is likely do to conversion of irrigated farmlands to urban uses. Approximately 415,000 acres of Summit County are

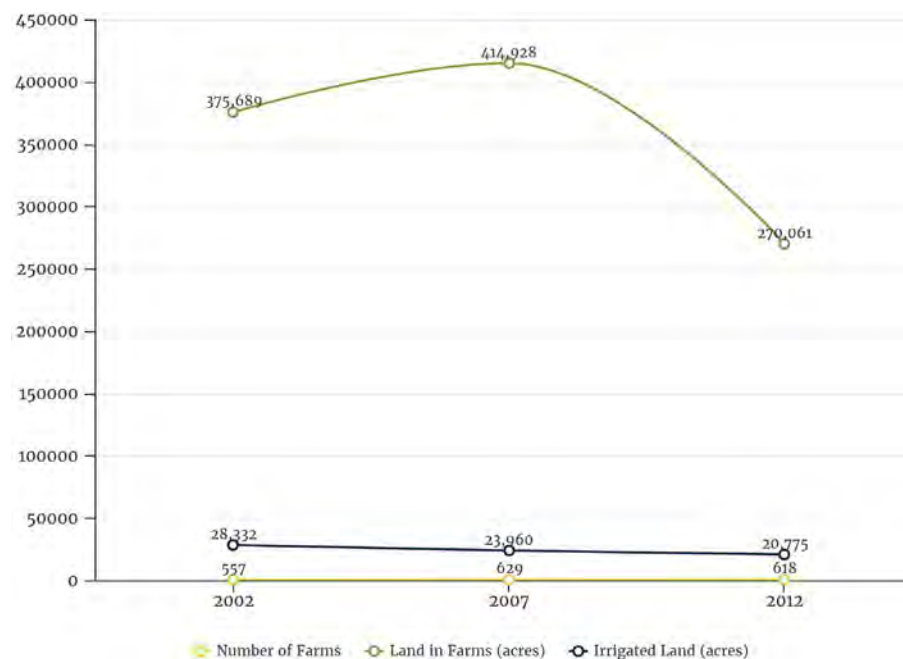
considered to be farmland, of which approximately 24,000 acres are irrigated land and roughly 16,000 acres are harvested for hay and forage production. Over 1,500 acres are used for nurseries and greenhouses. A very small number of acres are used for corn and oats.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMING

“Farms of all sizes provide a number of benefits that are critical to our quality of life. They produce food, fiber, nursery stock, and flowers. They clothe us, beautify our surroundings, and supply us with the energy we need every day. All of these products can be imported from outside Utah, but the cost of transporting them and the concerns with the safety, nutrition and availability of imported products make having the local capacity to produce food very important and beneficial. We do not want to become dependent on foreign sources for such a basic critical need as food.”

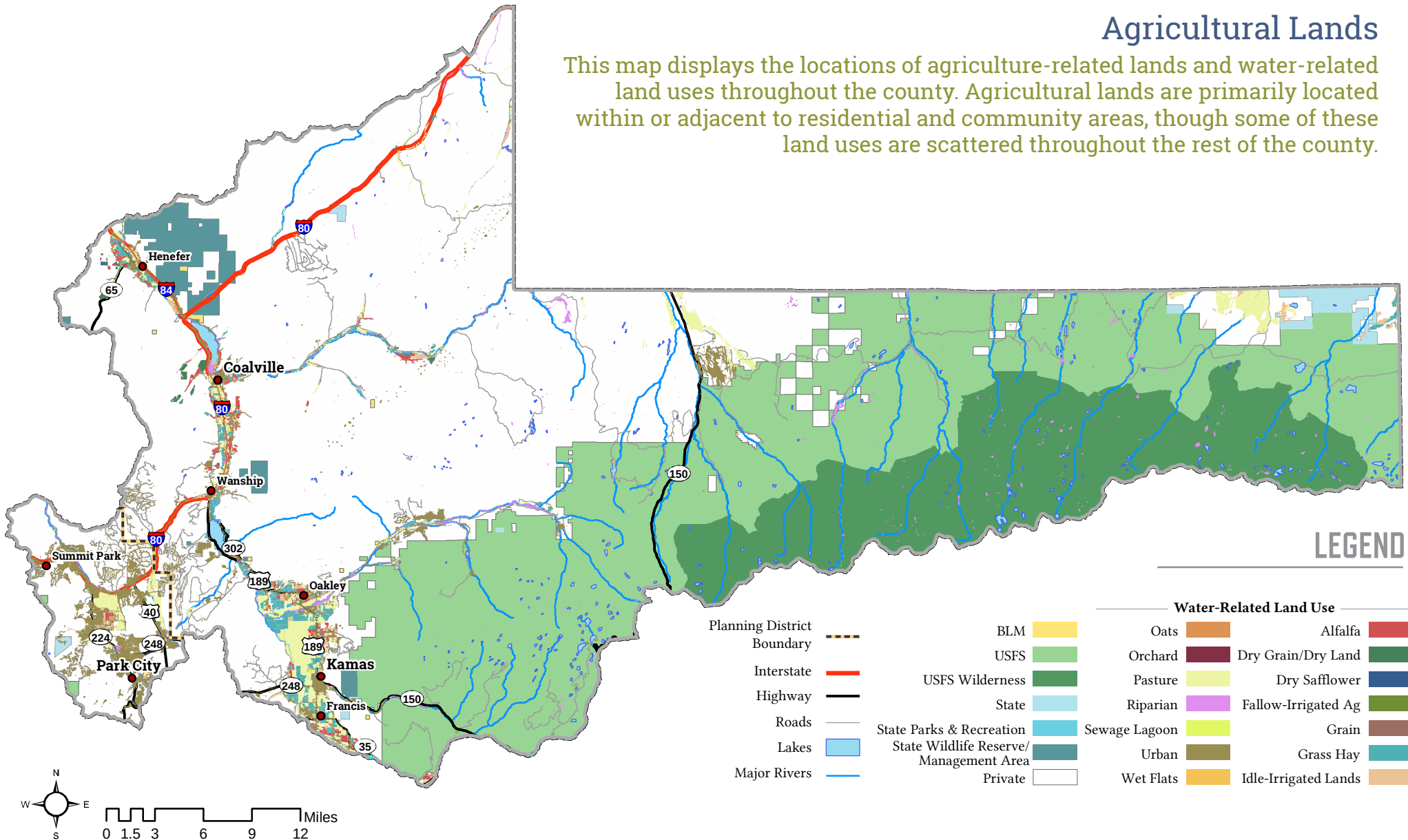
-- 2012 Summit County Resource Management Plan

Figure 3.4. Summit County Farm Land Characteristics



Agricultural Lands

This map displays the locations of agriculture-related lands and water-related land uses throughout the county. Agricultural lands are primarily located within or adjacent to residential and community areas, though some of these land uses are scattered throughout the rest of the county.



Livestock and Grazing

According to the NRCS Summit County Resource Assessment (May 2013), most cattle operations in the County are cow-calf operations, where calves are marketed and sold in the fall. The total cows and calves inventory for Summit County decreased from 26,168 in 2002 to 24,894 in 2007. Over the same time frame, the total number of sheep increased from 24,834 to 32,215. With approximately 500 birds, poultry production in the County is minimal. Mink production in Summit County accounts for more than 16% of the state total. Approximately 87,500 pelts produced in 2007.

Rangelands in Summit County are a critical part of the livestock management system within the states of Utah and Wyoming. Rangelands provide critical summer range for sheep and cattle, as well as habitat for species such as Rocky mountain elk, mule deer, and moose. Summit County's rangelands are under the greatest threat from non-native grass infestations from species including bulbous bluegrass, annual ryegrass, medusahead, and especially cheat grass. Non-native species are increasing in canopy cover, outcompeting native forage vegetation and reducing both forage

quality and forage availability. High elevation rangelands tend to be relatively free of the non-native rangeland plants and continue to provide forage for late summer livestock feeding.

Rangelands in Summit County are a critical part of the livestock management system within the state of Utah. Rangelands provide critical summer range for sheep and cattle across northern Utah as well as habitat for species such as Rocky mountain elk, mule deer, and moose. Summit County's rangelands are under the greatest threat from non-native grass infestations from species including bulbous bluegrass, annual ryegrass, medusahead, and especially cheat grass. Non-native species are increasing in canopy cover, outcompeting native forage vegetation and reducing both forage quality and forage availability. High elevation rangelands tend to be relatively free of the non-native rangeland plants and continue to provide forage for late summer livestock feeding.

Rangeland and range shrublands compose approximately 505,000 acres of the landscape in Summit County and include grassy meadow valleys, mountain meadows, scrub oak and sagebrush foothills, and high elevation alpine forest. Documented historical overgrazing and invasive grass infestations also contribute to erosion and water quality issues related to livestock access to



Image Credit:
Finetooth,
Wikimedia
Commons

streams and riparian areas. Improving rangeland conditions is largely tied to the ability to effectively and innovatively manage grazing through methods such as rotational grazing, and cost share programs for fencing, weed control, and reseeding.

Irrigation, Ditches and Canals

In Summit County, dams, canals, and pipelines are constructed to take advantage of the topography of each watershed and redistribute water from rivers and streams outward to lower elevation lands, which are more suitable for crop production. Within each watershed, various entities or individuals have legal claims (i.e., water rights) to use the water for “beneficial use” and are permitted to divert waters from streams into the storage dams, canals, and pipelines. The distribution of water is governed by state law and is based largely on geographic proximity, available supply, and ownership of the water rights. Canal data and Flowline data available on the [Mountainland Association of Government website](#) show the location of canals and ditches in Summit County.

The Utah State Engineer maintains a database of Water Right Point(s) of Diversion (WRPOD) that shows where water is being diverted from surface sources such as streams and canals, and from underground water well. The County can use this data to see where



water is being diverted from its natural flow.

The primary irrigation water source for eastern Summit County is the Weber River. A number of irrigation canals move water from the Weber River to various irrigated lands in the Kamas Valley. In

Western Summit County, irrigation water is diverted from both surface sources such as McLeod Creek and Silver Creek, and groundwater is diverted from water wells. In 2002, approximately 28,322 acres were under irrigation in Summit County. By 2007, 23,960 acres were being irrigated, and by 2012, 20,775 acres were

Image Credit:
https://www.jans.com/assets/users/65239/files/images/_rcd8681.jpg

under irrigation.

The dropping number of acres being irrigated in Summit County reflects the gradual conversion of irrigated agricultural land for residential and other uses.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious and invasive weeds are a management challenge throughout the North American landscape. In the west, many noxious weed species are associated with the migration of ungulates and distribution of livestock on both public and private lands. Many weed species are also associated with overland travel routes, both maintained and primitive roads and trails. Noxious weeds are of particular concern to Summit County given the extent of known infestations totaling in the thousands of acres.

When weed infestations are left unchecked they can take over large acreages of land used for farming, grazing, or recreation and render those lands unproductive or useless for their intended purpose. The introduction of noxious weeds and invasive plant species within previously uninfested native habitat can have disastrous consequences to the ecological viability of the community. Noxious and invasive species out compete native vegetation, altering habitat structure and replacing forage which in turn drives native wildlife

from the habitat. Infestations have also been known to reduce property values, increase soil erosion, and reduce field production.

Many noxious and invasive species are also poisonous to animals such as cattle and sheep. They can cause severe sickness, birth defects, and death. Species such as thistles can establish along streams, rivers, and lake shores making access for recreation extremely difficult. In these particular environments infestations cause degradation to both the riparian habitat and the associated stream habitat due to over shading

and decreased soil stability resulting in erosion and stream sedimentation. These issues are equally related in this manner to wetlands, fisheries, and water quality.

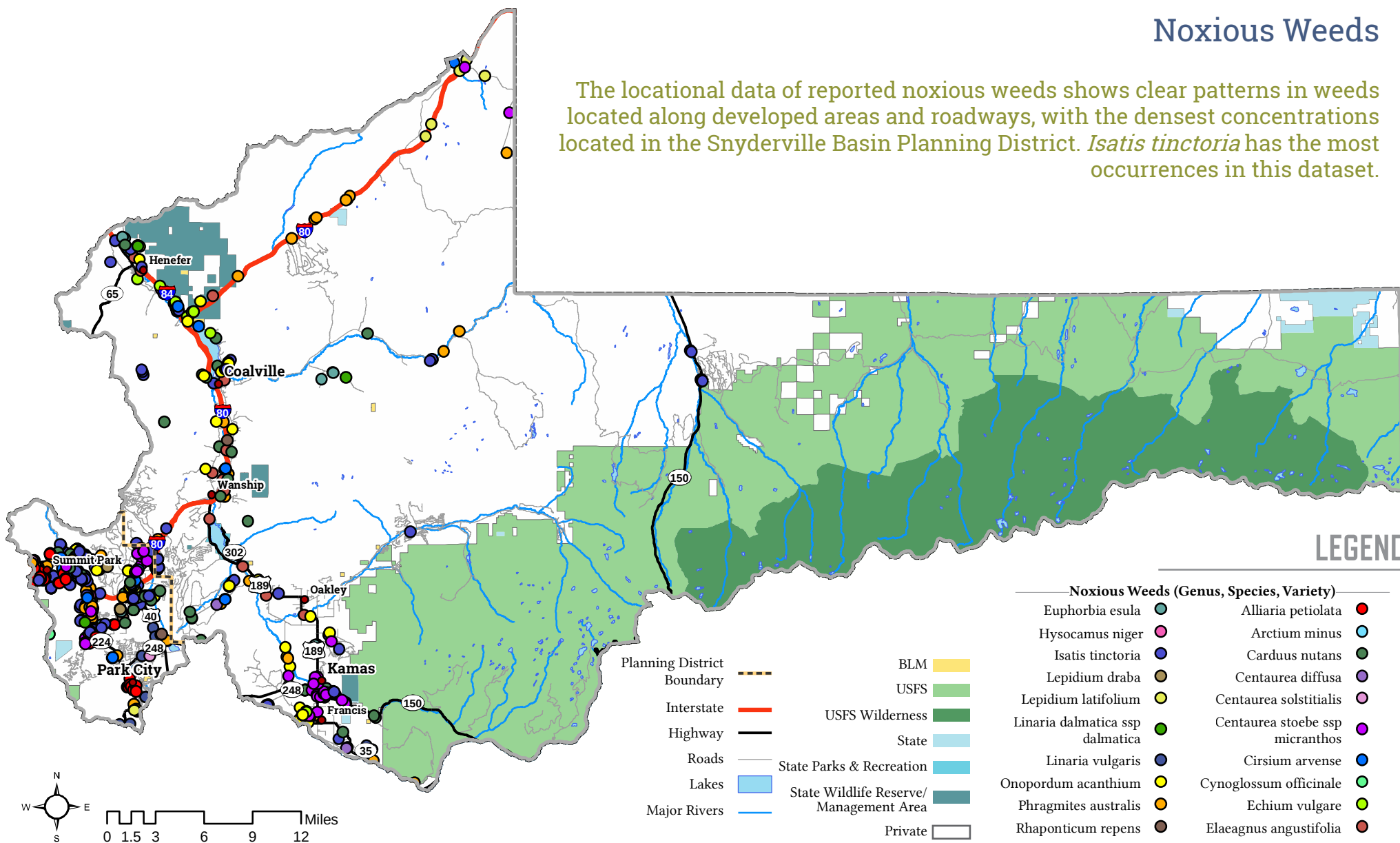
Noxious weeds and invasive species in the state of Utah are classified as Class A, B, and C weeds. Class A weeds are minor in extent of infestation but are known to pose threats to native plant communities. These species are top priority for eradication. Class B weeds are designated for control and containment in order to halt the spread of the species to previously uninfested areas. Class C weeds are considered watch list species



Image Credit:
Worker sprays
for invasive
species; [https://
www.nps.gov/in-
du/learn/nature/
environmental-
factors.htm](https://www.nps.gov/in-du/learn/nature/environmental-factors.htm)

Noxious Weeds

The locational data of reported noxious weeds shows clear patterns in weeds located along developed areas and roadways, with the densest concentrations located in the Snyderville Basin Planning District. *Isatis tinctoria* has the most occurrences in this dataset.



and should be contained when possible. The goal for Class C species is community education and assistance for those who want management of the weed. There are twenty five Class A species, four Class B, and four Class C known to occur within Summit County.

Predator Control

Reducing predator numbers in Utah is done for two primary reasons, to protect domestic livestock and to promote deer and elk populations. From a statewide perspective, the primary focus of predator control in Utah is coyotes. Coyotes often prey on livestock, especially calves. Coyotes also have a major effect on the state's deer herds, and other sensitive species. In an attempt to increase deer populations, two predator-related bills were passed by the Utah State Legislature in 2012, which created the Mule Deer Protection Act ([23-30-101](#)) and the [Predator Control Restricted Account](#). This legislation added a \$5 fee to big game hunting permits to fund the predator control programs. Money from this fund is used by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to reimburse hunters \$50 for each coyote lawfully removed. Participants must take an online training course and fill out a compensation form to receive reimbursements.

[Utah's Predator Control Program](#)

provides:

- The [online training course](#) about predator control,

- Coyote [check-in](#) locations and times,
- Coyote [compensation form](#),
- A map showing [recommended locations for coyote removal](#).

Livestock and domestic animal protection is another objective of predator control. In Utah the primary agents for predator control are the UDWR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), which manages predator populations by through active control measures and predator hunting permits. The UDWR also offers reimbursement for livestock damaged by bear, mountain lion, wolf, and eagle through the Wildlife Damage Compensation Act ([23-21-1](#)).

Federal management of predators for livestock protection is run through the [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS). The WS assists livestock producers when depredation problems arise, including investigating and documenting predation events. APHIS personnel conduct predator management using firearms, traps, and toxicants if the need arises.

Predator control is also employed when necessary to protect threatened and endangered species. In these cases, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) works in conjunction with APHIS.



Land Resources

Recreation and Tourism

Recreation

From hiking, mountain biking, scenic drives, fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and much more, Summit County provides something for everyone in terms of recreational opportunities. As recreation is the largest contributor to Summit County's economy and quality of life, it is essential that recreational opportunities are managed appropriately. Resources should be managed to protect recreational experiences, but also to keep recreationists from harming natural resources.

Stakeholders expressed an interest in avoiding conflicts between recreation users groups and avoiding degradation

of the environment. Providing recreation users with education about proper use areas and times of use (i.e., when land is dry and not muddy) is seen as a possible solution. The heart of the Uintas is a protected wilderness area where motorized travel is not permitted, so it is essential that all users have adequate information about allowed uses, areas, and trails. Although motor vehicle travel is limited in most of the National Forest, three roads (Murdock Basin, Broadhead Meadows and East Portal) link more than 20 miles of ATV trails.

By The Numbers

1,224 miles
of trails

within Summit County

573 miles
of USFS trails

354 miles designated
for pack and saddle

40 miles designated for OHV/ATV

143 miles designated for
winter recreation use

6
picnic areas

40
designated
camping areas

45
trailheads

7
scenic overlooks/
observation site

Image Credit:
China Meadows,
[http://1.bp.blog-
spot.com/-
L8oc-vNaKZg/
UmvaxsBi1-I/
AAAAAAAAAL-
dw/wZ4mVT-
NRSv4/s1600/
horses+uin-
tahs+023.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-L8oc-vNaKZg/UmvaxsBi1-I/AAAAAAAAAL-dw/wZ4mVT-NRSv4/s1600/horses+uintas+023.jpg)

Tourism

In Summit County tourism is the largest single component of the economic base. Tourism provides nearly 9,000 jobs and accounts for over 40% of Summit County's total employment. Tourism also indirectly supports other industries, such as construction, real estate, insurance, building supplies, automotive, etc. That said, according to research done by the Department of Employment Security, tourism's share of total employment is declining. This is primarily due to a healthy diversification in employment, as well as due to tourism in summer months gaining in popularity.

Visitor spending is estimated at well over \$500 million annually. Total tourism-related tax revenues increased 8.5% in

2015, with Park City's resort community sales tax providing sales tax revenues of over \$12 million (up from \$11 million in 2014), the restaurant sales tax bringing in \$2.4 million in 2015 (an increase of 7% over 2014) and transient room tax revenues increasing 9.4% to over \$7.3 million. Leisure and hospitality jobs spike in Summit County during peak skiing and snowboarding season in the first quarter (January through March). Spring and summer leisure and hospitality employment in Summit County has been increasing at a faster rate than winter employment as Park City continues to develop its off-season travel markets. Summit County's winter employment has grown five percent over the past five years while its off-season summer employment has grown 16 percent.

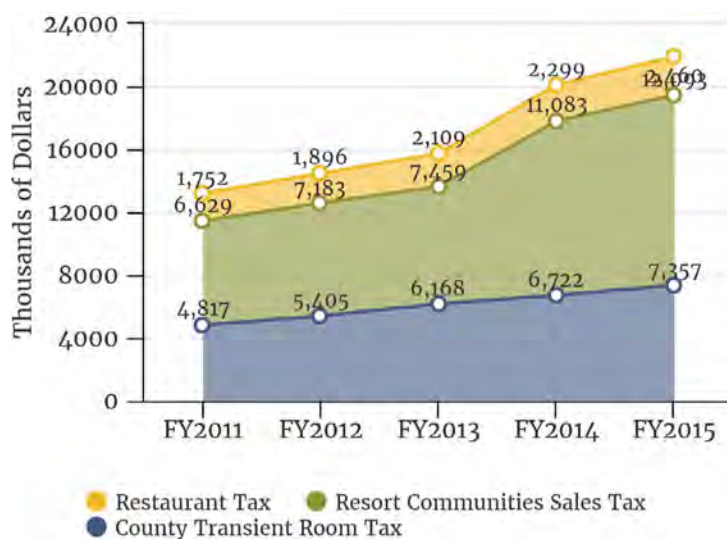
Summit County has two ski resorts (including Park City, now the largest ski resort in the United States), several winter recreation activity venues, and hosts the annual Sundance Film Festival, which has been held every January since 1985, and currently attracts upwards of 30,000 Utah nonresident attendees. In 2015, the film festival's estimated 30,892 nonresident attendees spent a total of \$57.2 million in Utah (an average of \$310 per person per day), the majority of which (84 percent) was spent on lodging, meals, and retail shopping.

Economic Considerations

The economic future of Summit County is optimistic and well positioned for growth. With its highly educated and affluent population, exceptional schools, a myriad of recreational opportunities, and an urban lifestyle within a rural setting, continued economic growth is expected. Summit County has a unique competitive strength from the combination of wide-open spaces, scenic vistas, and recreational opportunities alongside vibrant, growing communities that are connected to larger metropolitan areas and services. Increasingly, entrepreneurs are basing their business location decisions on the quality of life in an area. Summit County will continue to attract new businesses and retain quality businesses.

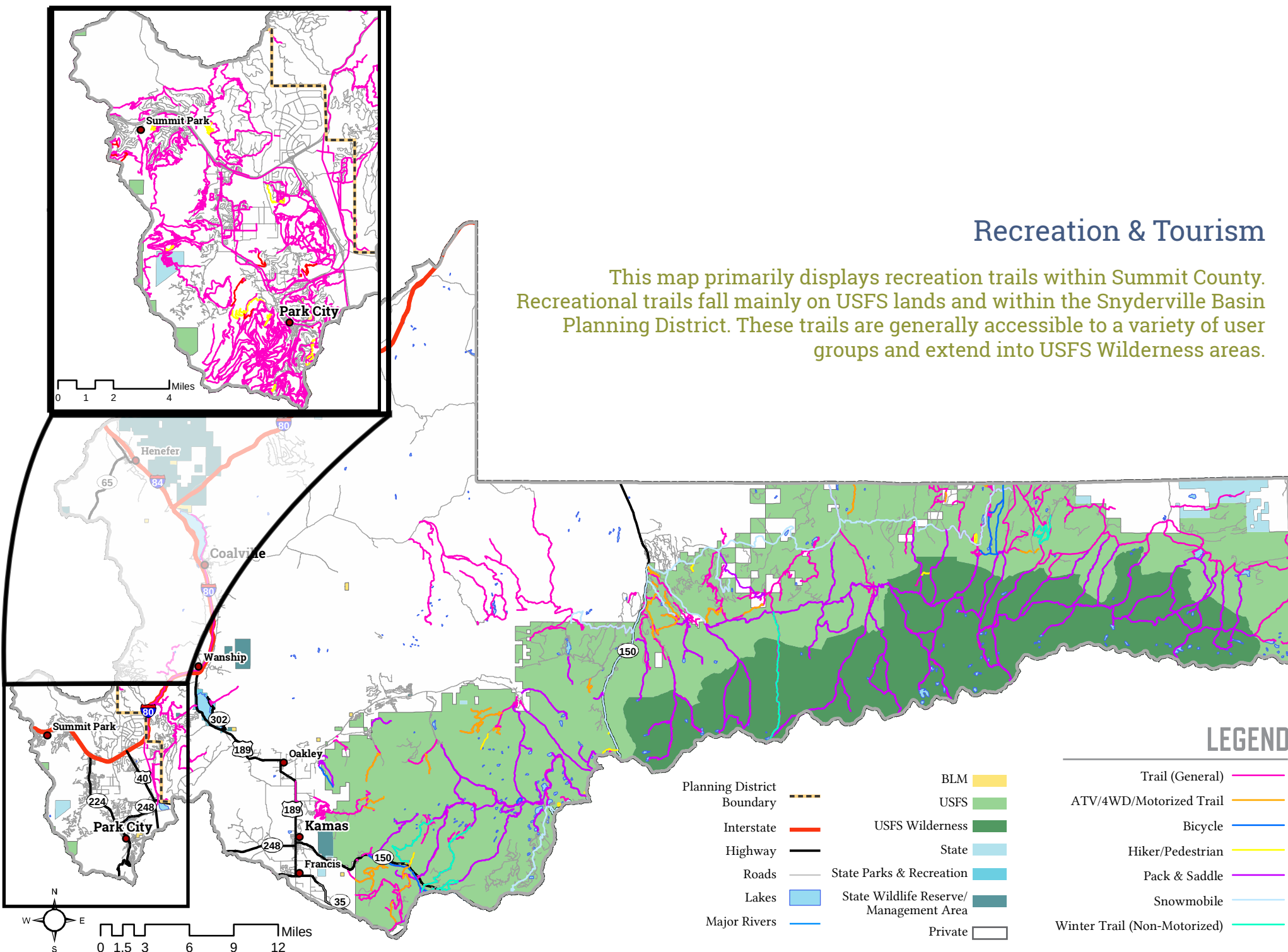
The top five non-farm employers in the County are Deer Valley Resort, The

Figure 3.5. Summit County Tourism-Related Tax Revenue



Recreation & Tourism

This map primarily displays recreation trails within Summit County. Recreational trails fall mainly on USFS lands and within the Snyderville Basin Planning District. These trails are generally accessible to a variety of user groups and extend into USFS Wilderness areas.



Canyons/Park City Mountain Resort, Park City School District, and Park City Municipal Corporation. Leisure and hospitality jobs are the most prevalent in the County, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities, construction, and federal, state, and local government. Agriculture is significant in Summit County, accounting for a large portion of the labor force. According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture, the mainstays of the agricultural community are sheep, beef cow, and mink production and hay for forage.

Like all natural ecosystems, public lands provide a variety of functions that satisfy human needs. However, attempting to assign a monetary value is difficult. At a minimum, public lands and the open space, recreational opportunities, and environmental preservation opportunities they preserve possess intangible values that contribute to Summit County's economy.

ROCKPORT STATE PARK ECONOMIC IMPACT

Rockport State Park in Peoa estimate the 137,697 visitors to Rockport in 2009 could be responsible for creating approximately \$1,051,504 in local wages, earnings, rents, and tax revenues within Summit County in 2009, primarily to communities such as Wanship, Oakley, and Kamas.

Summit County Tourism Profile

	2014	2015	% Change
Summit County Population	39,105	39,633	1.4%
Utah Population	2,942,902	2,995,919	1.8%
Leisure & Hospitality Taxable Sales ¹ (Calendar Year; In Millions)	\$542.4	\$643.2	18.6%
Leisure & Hospitality Jobs ¹	8,889	N/A	
Leisure & Hospitality Wages ¹ (Millions)	\$246.1	N/A	
Average Annual Hotel Occupancy Rate (Summit County)	35.25%	36.75%	4.3%

^{*}Based on share of private leisure and hospitality jobs to total private jobs.

¹The "Leisure and Hospitality" sector includes NAICS 71 and 72.

Sources: Park City Chamber/Bureau; Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute,
University of Utah 2015 Summit County Travel & Tourism Profile
<http://gardner.utah.edu/utah-travel-tourism>

Additionally, according to Headwaters Economics, rural counties in the western US with the highest share of Federal Lands on average had faster population, employment, and personal income growth than their peers with the lowest share of federal lands between 1970 and 2014, a trend that is expected to continue.

The economy of Summit County is closely tied to accessing public lands for both resource development and recreation. Physical access via roadways is required for the development and utilization of energy, mineral, or other resources.

Energy Resources

Summit County is not a major producer of non-renewable fuels, and has no U.S. critical minerals as published by USGS 2022, compared to other counties in Utah. While coal was historically mined in Summit County and is still present in the region, there are no currently active coal mines.

Summit County does have several wells producing oil and gas. Coal and oil and gas operators are required by State law administered by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to conduct their operations in a manner that protects other natural resources, and to post security to ensure full reclamation of disturbed areas at the cessation of operations. The Division provides maps and data on their website, including information about the [Utah Coal Program](#) which provides a public records coal map and an interactive story map. The Utah [Oil and Gas Program](#) website has interactive maps and data on Utah oil and natural gas production.

Utah produces 4.3 percent of its power from renewable sources, which ranks 35th among all states in the US. Of the power produced in the MAG region, about 4 percent is produced from renewable sources, primarily from hydroelectric and wind facilities. Approximately 6.3 megawatts of energy is produced from hydro-power sources in Summit County.

Mineral Resources and Mining

Although the Park City Mining District was once one of the richest silver mining areas in the United States, the recoverable ores in the area have long since been exhausted. The extraction of mineral resources on public, private and State lands in Utah are regulated and managed based on type. Minerals located on private property are typically owned by the property owner, unless they have been separately conveyed. Minerals located on federally –managed lands are categorized as locatable (typically metalliferous minerals like silver, gold and copper); leasable (like coal, oil and gas, and phosphate); or saleable (like sand, gravel, and rock aggregate).

Current mining in Summit County region is focused primarily on saleable minerals, especially sand, aggregate, clay, and stone production [2]. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) has data on Utah mines and mineral resources including locations of existing and closed mineral mines and known mineral resources on all lands in the County. The location of mineral mines within the County can be determined from the Mineral Mines data (titled “MineralsDBMarch 2015 SM Only”). According to records at DOGM, Summit County has 2 coal mines (inactive) and 31 mineral mines (predominantly sand, gravel and rock products) [11].



Image Credit:
Silver King Mining Company, Ore Mill, Park City West, Park City, Summit County, UT | Library of Congress

Land Use

Land ownership and management in Summit County is shown below in Table 3.6. The majority of the land in the County is privately owned (55%). Forty-three percent of the land area is within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, with the great bulk of that acreage located in Eastern Summit County. Other smaller areas are owned and managed by other State and federal agencies as shown below.

Land use on private lands in Summit County is planned and regulated by the

County and by the municipalities in the County pursuant to State planning and zoning enabling legislation. Summit County has established two separate planning districts, one in eastern Summit County which includes the unincorporated areas around Kamas, Henefer, Oakley, Coalville and Francis, and one in western Summit County which includes the unincorporated areas near Park City. The County has adopted separate General Plans for each planning district, and each district has its own Development Code and Planning Commission. Land uses in Summit County within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest are managed pursuant to the terms of the 2003 Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache National Forest.

Rangeland and shrubland cover approximately 505,114 acres in Summit County (approximately 42% of the land area), ranging from grassy meadow valleys to sagebrush and oak covered

mountain slopes all the way to the sub alpine peaks of the Wasatch Mountains. There are three residential zoning districts in western Summit County; Rural Residential (mostly on the valley floor in the Snyderville Basin), Hillside Stewardship (primarily in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains), and Mountain Remote (primarily the mountain sides to the ridge of the Wasatch Mountains). In addition are four commercial zones, a protective Ridgeline Overlay zone and an Annexation Declaration Area Overlay zone.

In eastern Summit County, there are three agricultural zones (Agriculture protection, Agriculture-grazing 100, and Agriculture-grazing 160), a Highway corridor zone, a Cabin Area zone, a Commercial zone, Light industrial, Industrial, and Specially Planned Area zones. The County has also established an Annexation Declaration Area Overlay. The current zoning at the base of the

Table 3.6: Summit County Land Ownership

	Acres	% of Total
Total Acres	1,197,985	100%
Federal Government	517,466	43.2%
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	673	0.1%
US Forest Service	516,793	43.1%
State Government	27,582	2.2%
Private	655,782	54.7%

Image Credit: http://www.parkrecord.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/20140509_0-publiclandsp1.jpg



Uinta Mountains and the bulk of private land in eastern Summit County is AG-160, which is intended primarily for grazing or agriculture uses and allows for one dwelling unit per 160 acres. Bordering Kamas is AG-100 zoning, which is a very similar use but allows for one dwelling unit per 100 acres. There is currently a proposed zone change to combine both areas to create AG-80, which would allow for one dwelling per 80 acres.

Land Access

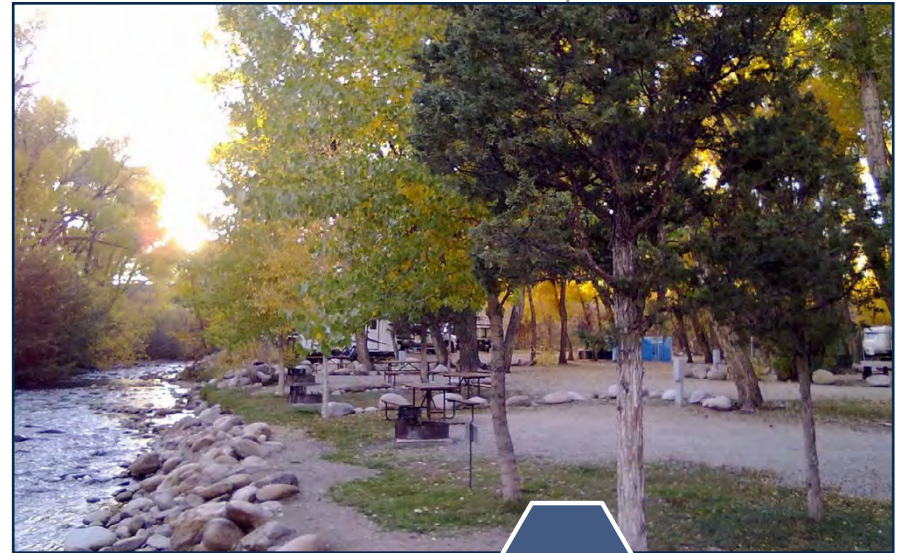
Access is a pivotal resource management issue that balances resource use and resource preservation goals as well as public and private interests. The Division of Wildlife Resources manages several access points to rivers for angling access as well as Wildlife Management Areas, where wildlife winter habitat is protected, but public use is open during the summer months.

Access to land for recreational travel using a variety of vehicles (mountain bikes, motorcycles, 4-wheel drive, etc.) and without vehicles (hiking, climbing, etc.) can be an issue in some areas. Recreationists leaving designated pathways or participating in prohibited uses in restricted areas were of concerns to some stakeholders. Access to National Forest System lands is provided pursuant to the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and

road access management system. The desired future conditions for Forest access according to the Forest Plan are as follows:

“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



CHALK CREEK CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Located in the High Uinta Range in scenic Summit County, Utah, the forests, alpine lakes, beaver ponds, and streams of the 8,890-acre Chalk Creek ranch offers an abundance of wildlife habitat. Snow-covered peaks along its southern boundary and sheer rock cliffs to the north provide a scenic backdrop for the working ranch. But the county is developing rapidly and with rising land values (and taxes) the ranch's owners were looking for a way to keep the ranch in agriculture and assure that it would never be subdivided.

Working with TPL, the landowners donated a conservation easement worth \$8,540,000 to the state of Utah. The easement reduces the value of the land for tax purposes, allowing the owners to keep the land in traditional use. The project was part of the Utah Forest Legacy Program, a joint federal and state program that receives the bulk of its funding from the USFS.

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.”

Stakeholders expressed concern with regard to timber management in roadless and wilderness areas. This is discussed in the Fire Management portion of this chapter.

Summit County’s land access policy is to maintain access to National Forest lands to support recreational, grazing and other authorized uses, as well as adequate access to private land.

Gaining or maintaining access to private lands is typically accomplished through right-of-way. The process for obtaining right-of-way is different for each type of landowner as each has specific administrative procedures, management objectives, and historical context.

Law Enforcement

General law-enforcement in the RMP planning area is provided by the Summit County Sheriff’s Office. Additionally, a Forest Service officer patrols the National Forest and partners with the Summit County sheriff’s office for assistance. Primary responsibilities include maintaining law and order on public lands to protect health and safety of those using the areas; to control vandalism and litter, provide emergency coordination with local law enforcement, and ensure that appropriate fire management regulations are in place. Although the County operates search and rescue, coordination is needed to ensure notification is efficient.

Stakeholders report that communication and coordination among the law enforcement agencies in the RMP planning area is good. As use has increased on public lands, the need for law enforcement has also increased.

Scenic Resources

Scenic resources (also known as visual resources) are a notable and famous feature within Summit County. From the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway to the abundance of mountain views from nearly all corners of the County, scenery plays a pivotal role in Summit County’s sense of place and is a prime draw for visitors to the County. Real estate postings boast this wealth of “spectacular views” of nearby mountains or of panoramic valleys below. From federal land management agencies plans, to Summit County general plans and area municipal plans, the value of scenery is highlighted and managed for in the plan goals, objectives, and policies.

Local and County Plans

The Eastern Summit County General Plan states, in the first line of the document, “Eastern Summit County is shaped by a unique mix of rural agriculture, scenic landscapes, natural resources, people, and economic trends...the development code and zoning maps will be used to implement this General Plan in a manner that...helps preserve or protect natural resources as well as scenic and environmentally sensitive areas.” Siting development in a way that preserves scenic viewsheds is one of the plan’s goals, while it also introduces a night-sky ordinance as an item of consideration.

The Snyderville Basin General Plan implements a variety of tools to manage for scenic viewsheds and view corridors. One of the primary goals of the 2014 update to the General Plan is the “preservation of open space, view corridors and scenic mountainsides.”

Sustainable land use planning principals use specific land uses to (ie: mixed use areas) to “preserve natural open spaces and vistas” while other land uses (such as light industrial/service commercial activities) are discouraged along scenic corridors and community gateways. Land owners and non-profit agencies are partners in protecting open space to preserve scenic viewsheds and provide buffers between developed areas while providing corridors for wildlife, recreation opportunities, and

environmental protection. The protection of scenic values goes hand in hand with other values the planning district strives to protect as they work to “support a healthy environment and to retain the sense of place, quality of life, and economic success of the resort economy.”

Within all the municipal and County plans, there is an understanding of development being done properly to maintain harmony between the built and natural landscapes, as well as maintaining the historic/heritage character of the area. Each municipal plan within the County (Kamas, Coalville, Oakley, and Park City) outlines policies or goals that prevent development from damaging the scenic character of the community. Among these policies are ridgeline

development prohibition, designing land-conserving developments, establishing and implementing design standards to complement the rural character, and preventing sprawl.

Federal Plans

As mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and various other federal laws, scenery and aesthetics are resources that must be assessed in all federal land management planning. Starting in 1974, the Forest Service has been managing scenic resources through the Visual Management System (VMS); the system was updated in 1995 to the Scenery Management System (SMS), which



“WHY ARE WE MANAGING SCENERY?”

“So that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the beauty and spirit of the national forests, just as we have enjoyed them.”

- *Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management*

“There is no question...that the national forests are major contributors to an American sense of place, to an identity with landscape that transcends economics for its own sake. The founders of the national forest idea...were consistent in their advocacy for landscape aesthetics. The forests not only should be functional, they should be beautiful as well.”

- *The National Forest Idea, 1991*

expanded upon the VMS with extensive research findings and an “improved integration of aesthetics with other biological, physical, and social/cultural resources in the planning process.”

The Guidelines for Scenery Management for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest were determined in the 2003 *Revised Forest Plan* for the *Wasatch-Cache National Forest*. This plan outlines that all forest landscapes must be managed according to the Landscape Character Themes and Scenic Integrity Objectives as they are mapped (G59) (Table 3.7). No management activities should be permitted to reduce Scenic Integrity Objectives stated for Management Prescription Categories (G60), and management actions that would result in a Scenic Integrity Level of Unacceptably Low are prohibited in all Landscape Character Themes (S22).

Three Landscape Character Themes are identified within the Wasatch National Forest in Summit County boundaries. Below are descriptions of each theme as found in the Forest Service Landscape Aesthetics handbook and the acreage existing within the RMP area.

Four Scenic Integrity Levels are identified within the RMP area. Below are the descriptions of each level as found in the Forest Service Landscape Aesthetics handbook and the acreage existing within the RMP area.

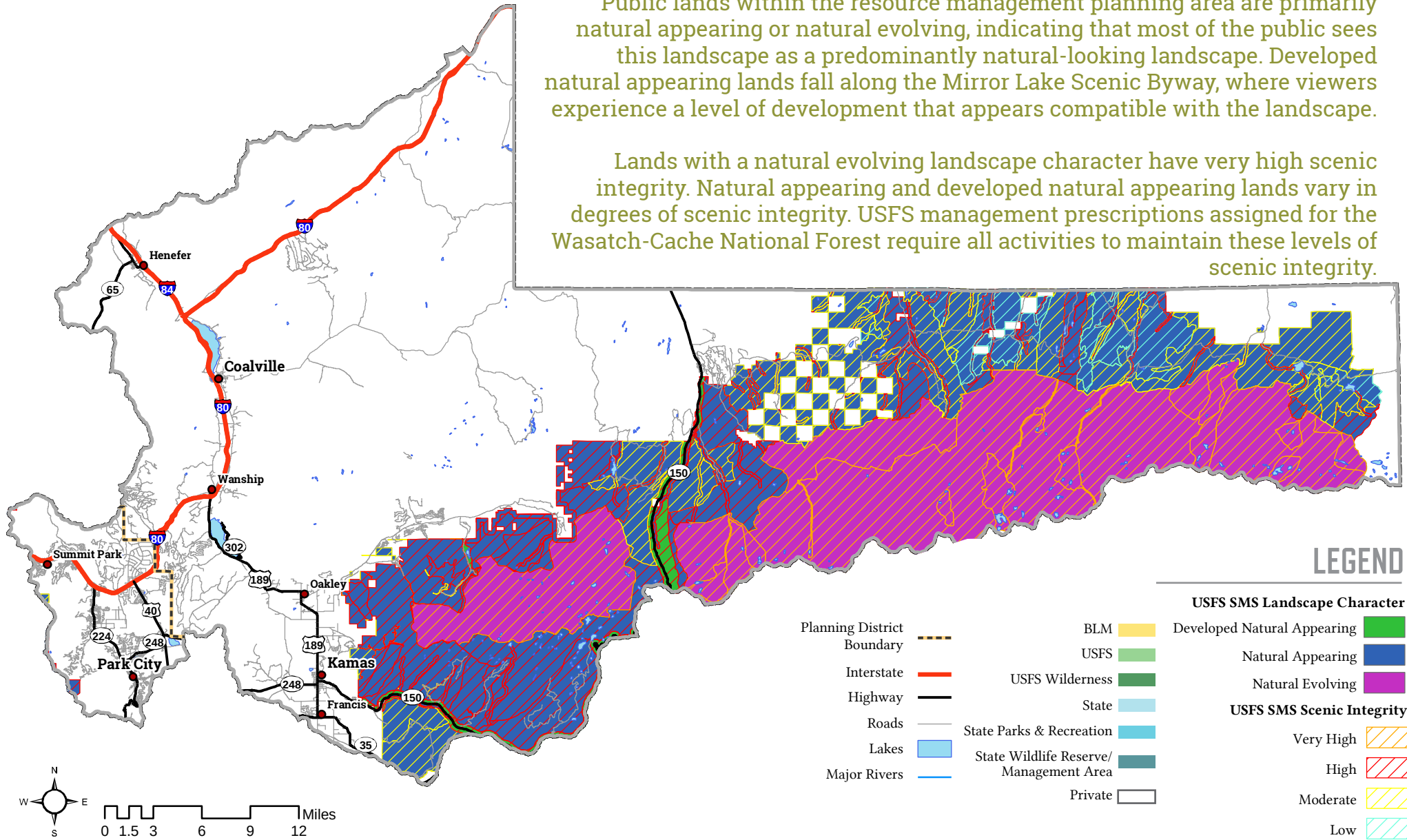
Table 3.7. USFS SMS Landscape Character and Scenic Integrity Level

Landscape Character Theme Totals		
Theme	Description	Acreage in RMP Area
Developed Natural Appearing	This landscape character theme is characteristic of National Forest and State scenic byways with development, and developed and dispersed recreation facilities visible up to about 1/2 mile. In these areas, the roadway, recreation amenities, and development are anticipated features in the landscape. For users these amenities are part of the valued natural appearing landscape. Users of these amenities are attracted to the natural appearing landscape but desire a moderate to easy interaction with the landscape through the use of these amenities.	10,894
Natural Appearing	The existing landscape character has been influenced by both direct and indirect human activities, but appears natural to the majority of viewers. Natural elements such as native trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, rock outcrops and streams or lakes dominate the views. While there is evidence of human influence from historic use, campgrounds, small organization camps, rustic structures and management activity, it would appear to be part of the landscape to the majority of viewers.	270,684
Natural Evolving	The natural evolving landscape character originates primarily from natural disturbances and succession of plants, with subtle changes due to indirect human activities. The existing landscape character generally continues to change gradually over time through natural processes.	219,529
Scenic Integrity Level Totals		
Level	Description	Acreage in RMP Area
Very High	Very High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “is” intact with only minute if any deviations. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.	219,529
High	High scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “appears” intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.	150,935
Moderate	Moderate scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “appears slightly altered.” Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed. See section below on meeting integrity levels.	103,167
Low	Low scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “appears moderately altered.” Deviations begin to dominate the valued landscape character being viewed but they borrow valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles outside the landscape being viewed. They should not only appear as valued character outside the landscape being viewed but compatible or complimentary to the character within.	27,476

Scenic Resources

Public lands within the resource management planning area are primarily natural appearing or natural evolving, indicating that most of the public sees this landscape as a predominantly natural-looking landscape. Developed natural appearing lands fall along the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway, where viewers experience a level of development that appears compatible with the landscape.

Lands with a natural evolving landscape character have very high scenic integrity. Natural appearing and developed natural appearing lands vary in degrees of scenic integrity. USFS management prescriptions assigned for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest require all activities to maintain these levels of scenic integrity.



WORKS CITED

Images:

Images that are not credited within the document are credit of Logan Simpson or Summit County.

Primary Data References:

Primary data for this document was gathered from extensive research prepared for Mountainland Association of Governments. The data are available at this link: <http://gis.bio-west.com/magresources/summit-county/>

The Summit County Public Lands Initiative was a primary contributor to many goals, objectives, and strategies in this document. The Initiative can be downloaded at this link: <http://www.co.summit.ut.us/718/Public-Lands-Initiative>

Two National Forest plans were frequently cited throughout this document. These include the Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003 Revised Forest Plan and the Uinta National Forest Revised Forest Plan. Citations for these plans are as follows:

USDA Forest Service. *Revised Forest Plan Wasatch-Cache National Forest*. USDA, February 2003. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5347083.pdf

USDA Forest Service. *2003 Land and Resource Management Plan, Uinta National Forest*. USDA, May 2003. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5444983.pdf

Information that was not accessed from the plans and websites above are referenced below.

Other References:

Water Quality and Hydrology:

Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and USDA NRCS. *Summit County Resource Assessment*. May 2013.

Wild and Scenic Rivers:

USDA Forest Service. *Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendments Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah*. USDA, November 2008. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5122056.pdf

Wilderness

State of Utah, Summit County, Summit County Council. *Resolution No. 2015-11, Resolution of the Summit County Council to Submit a Map and Legislative Language for Consideration as part of Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative*. April, 2015. <http://summitcounty.org/documentcenter/view/2408>

USDA Forest Service. *FSM 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management*. Chapter 2320 - Wilderness Management.

Forest Service Manual National Headquarters (WO) Washington, DC. January 2007. https://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/documents/FS/FS_wilderness_policy.pdf

USDA Forest Service. *36 CFR Part 294 Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; Final Rule*. USDA. January 2011. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5050459.pdf

Cultural, Historical, Geological, and Paleontological

Utah SITLA. *Open Data Catalog: Paleo Sensitivity Areas Utah*. Utah.gov, 2014. <https://opendata.utah.gov/Energy-Environment/Paleo-Sensitivity-Areas-Utah/a6ki-ass5/data>

Garrison, LaVonne J. “Important changes for oil and gas operators working on trust lands.” <https://trustlands.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Important-Changes-for-OG-Operators-Working-on-Trust-Lands.pdf>

Noxious Weeds

Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and USDA NRCS. *Summit County Resource Assessment*. May 2013.

Agriculture:

Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and USDA NRCS. *Summit County Resource Assessment*. May 2013.

Livestock and Grazing:

Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and USDA NRCS. *Summit County Resource Assessment*. May 2013.

Tourism Profile:

Stambro, J. (2015). The Economic Impacts of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival Held in Utah From January 22, 2015 to February 1, 2015. Bureau of Economic and Business Research, David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah.

Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah, 2015 Summit County Travel & Tourism Profile; Utah State Tax Commission (Gross Leisure & Hospitality Taxable Sales, 2014)

WORKS CITED, CONT'D.

Economic Considerations:

Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and USDA NRCS. *Summit County Resource Assessment*. May 2013.

Headwaters Economics, Fall 2016 A Summary of Research and Careful Analysis on the Economic Impact of Protected Federal Lands. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/public-lands/federal-lands-performance/>

Rockport State Park. *Rockport State Park Economic Toolkit Info*. Utah State Parks, September 2011. <http://stateparks.utah.gov/stateparks/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2015/03/rockport-web.pdf>

Land Use:

Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and USDA NRCS. *Summit County Resource Assessment*. May 2013.

Scenic Resources:

Eastern Summit County General Plan. August 2013. <http://www.summitcounty.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/429>

Putt, Pat, et al. *Snyderville Basin General Plan*. Snyderville Basin Planning Commission and Summit County Council. June 2015. <http://www.summitcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/481>

United States, Congress, Senate, House of Representatives. *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. <https://www.fws.gov/r9esnepa/RelatedLegislativeAuthorities/nepa1969.PDF>

This page is left intentionally blank