

## APPENDIX C

### WILDERNESS EVALUATION

#### Introduction

This appendix describes the process used to inventory and evaluate areas on the Wasatch – Cache National Forest for their potential as wilderness. Each of the 31 roadless areas is then summarized in an individual report describing an area’s wilderness characteristics, current resource uses, and the need for the area to be included in the wilderness preservation system.

#### Inventory of Potential Wilderness

##### Updating the 1983 Inventory

Past roadless inventories, such as the 1983 Forest Plan roadless inventory were used as a starting point to identify roadless resources on the Wasatch – Cache National Forest. These areas were updated and new areas identified based upon criteria in:

- FSH 1909.12 Inventory and Evaluation of Roadless Areas
- Intermountain draft Roadless Inventory and Evaluation Guide (USFS, 1998)
- 1984 Utah Wilderness Act

A significant change since 1983 roadless inventory was completed was portions of Mount Naomi, Wellsville Mountains, Mount Olympus, Twin Peaks, Lone Peak and Deseret Peak (Stansbury Mountains) roadless areas became wilderness in 1984 by the Utah Wilderness Act. Lone Peak had become a wilderness area earlier with the 1978 Endangered Wilderness Act and no further acreage was added in 1984.

##### Additional Areas Identified as Roadless

Because different criteria were used for the 1999 inventory than those used in 1983, eight additional areas were identified as roadless since the 1983 Roadless Inventory:

- Temple Peak (Logan Ranger District)
- Boulder Mountain (Logan Ranger District)
- Mahogany Range (Logan Ranger District)
- Right Hand Fork (Logan Ranger District)
- Sugar Pine (Ogden Ranger District)
- Rock Creek – Green Fork (Ogden Ranger District)
- Hogsback (Salt Lake Ranger District)

- Lone Peak Additions (Salt Lake Ranger District)

Further, the Mount Logan 1983 roadless area was split into three separate roadless areas, because of constructed roads that were identified.

### **Areas Eliminated from Wilderness Evaluation**

A roadless area must have at least 5,000 acres or be contiguous to an existing wilderness area to be included in the roadless area inventory. Some areas were included in an early version of the revised inventory, but have now been eliminated from the inventory due to more recent information that resulted in insufficient roadless acreage for those areas. These areas will not be evaluated as wilderness.

- Francis South (Salt Lake Ranger District) – area was part of the 1983 Francis roadless area, but because of an above ground power line, it has less than 5,000 acres (3,372 acres).
- Francis Middle (Salt Lake Ranger District) – area was part of the 1983 Francis roadless area, but because of the above ground power line and private land; it has less than 5,000 acres (3,294 acres).
- Public Grove Hollow (Ogden Ranger District) – this was a new area identified in an earlier draft of the new roadless inventory, but a constructed road identified later in the process, split the area into two separate areas, both less than 5,000 acres (3,178 and 3,158 acres).
- Lamb Canyon (Ogden Ranger District) – this was a new area identified in an earlier draft of the new roadless inventory, but additional constructed roads were identified, the narrowness of the area and adjacency to substantial private land caused the area to be less than 5,000 acres (4,293 acres).
- Little West Fork Blacks (Evanston/Mountain View Ranger District) – area was identified in the 1983 roadless inventory, but a constructed road identified split the area into two separate areas, both less than 5,000 acres (4,634 and 3,845 acres).

It is important to note there is a difference between the inventory considered in the National Roadless Area Conservation FEIS and Rule (Federal Register 2001) and the Wasatch – Cache Forest Roadless Inventory being considered for wilderness evaluation. The five areas above that were eliminated in the Forest inventory are considered inventoried roadless in the National Roadless Area Conservation FEIS. They are included in the area to which the Roadless Area Conservation Rule applies (See Alternative descriptions in Chapter 2). The final roadless inventory for the Wasatch – Cache Forest used for wilderness evaluation is dated June 27, 2000.

### **Public Participation for Roadless Inventory**

In the fall of 1998, three open houses were held at district offices in the communities of Logan, Evanston and Salt Lake. Maps of each roadless area and the process used to identify them were discussed with the public. Comments helped refine the inventory.

## Evaluation of Potential Wilderness

The inventory of roadless areas was evaluated in terms of three primary criteria:

- **Capability** – the degree to which it contains the basic characteristics that makes it suitable for wilderness designation without regard to its availability or need as wilderness. Characteristics such as naturalness of the environment, the presence of challenging and primitive recreation opportunities and feelings of solitude are determined to be important. Another important aspect is the ability to manage the area as wilderness. Factors such as size, shape, its relationship to external influences and boundary location are considered.
- **Availability** – other resource demands and uses of an area. Consideration of current constraints or encumbrances is important.
- **Need** – the degree to which it contributes to the local and national distribution of wilderness. This analysis considers the demand for additional wilderness recreation opportunities, as well as the need to give certain ecosystems and landforms protection that wilderness designation would afford.

Forest Service Manual 1909.12 was used as a tool to aid the evaluation process. The Forest planning interdisciplinary team and District resource staffs then analyzed the roadless areas based on that evaluation criteria, internal comments and public comments received at public meetings or in written formats.

## Public Participation for Roadless Evaluation

The public was informed about the public participation opportunities through a newsletter and the forest website. Four public meetings were held in June of 1999.

## Recommendation for Wilderness

The Record of Decision signed by the Regional Forester will document the areas recommended as wilderness with the rationale for the decision. The Regional Forester then submits a state-wide wilderness proposal to the Chief when all the Forest Plans within a state are finalized. After Department and interagency review, the Secretary of Agriculture submits the proposal to Congress. Congress then makes the final decision on wilderness designation. Areas recommended for wilderness will be protected until Congress decides whether to officially designate them as wilderness.

Table C – 1. Acres recommended as wilderness by alternative

Roadless Area Name	Roadless Acres	Acres Recommended As Wilderness					
		Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6
<b>CACHE-BOX ELDER</b>							
Gibson	5,347						
Mount Naomi	45,122	39,992	20,290	8,193			8,193
Mount Logan North	19,197						
Mount Logan South	17,001						
Mount Logan West	5,281						
Wellsville Mountains	1,763	1,673	41	41			41
Mollens Hollow	17,676						
Temple Peak	23,724						
Boulder Mountain	8,845						
Mahogany Range	11,400						
Right Hand Fork Logan	15,011						
<b>BEAR</b>							
Swan Creek	9,384						
Sugar Pine	5,591						
Rock Creek Green Fork	5,651						
<b>NORTH WASATCH-OGDEN VALLEY</b>							
Willard	20,011						
Lewis Peak	12,092						
Upper South Fork	17,255	17,255		17,255			14,391
Burch Creek	7,518	7,518					
Farmington	10,946						
North Francis	8,143						
Hogsback	7,931						
<b>CENTRAL WASATCH</b>							
Lone Peak	874	874	498				
Twin Peaks	6,490	5,789	2,456	480			480
Mount Olympus	10,139	9,494	2,170	2,007			
White Pine	2,059	2,059	2,059				
Mount Aire	9,701	9,391					
<b>STANSBURY</b>							
Stansbury Mountains	39,980	37,342	17,084	4,972			
<b>WESTERN UINTAS</b>							
Nobletts	3,113	2,675					
Lakes	122,019	119,401	71,895				26,253
High Uintas	103,071	98,226	29,303	18,165			20,116
<b>EASTERN UINTAS</b>							
Widdop Mountain	7,997	7,997					
Total Acres	580,032	359,686	145,796	51,113	0	0	69,474

Roadless Area Name	Roadless Acres	Acres Recommended As Wilderness					
		Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6
Percent Recommended for Wilderness		62%	25%	9%	0%	0%	12%
Percent of Roadless and Existing Wilderness that is Recommended Wilderness or Existing Wilderness	889,111 (Roadless and Wilderness)	75%	51%	41%	35%	35%	43%
Percent of Forest Land that is Recommended or Existing Wilderness	1,239,343 (WCNF Forest Land)	53%	37%	29%	25%	25%	31%

## Inventoried Roadless Areas evaluated for Wilderness Descriptions and Maps

The following descriptions of each inventoried roadless area were written using data available, such as special use permits, oil and gas potential information and information about the current condition of the resource from forest employees. Also included with each roadless area description are maps. BEFORE you read the maps, please note the following:

- Maps are not at specific scale. The scale used is whatever was needed to fit on the 8.5 x 11 inch page. This means maps of different roadless areas are not at the same scale, because they are of different acreage size.
- Background data shown on the maps is from USGS digital raster graph data; it is for general location background only and has not been updated.
- At this scale, please note that many roads that are excluded from the roadless inventory areas by small “cherrystems” (33 to 66 feet each side of road) cannot be seen.
- To view more detailed maps of roadless areas, please stop by the Wasatch – Cache Supervisor Office or the appropriate Ranger District Office for that roadless area.
- Some roadless areas are adjacent to roadless areas on other Forests (Caribou, Ashley and Uinta) or BLM Wilderness Study Areas (Stansbury unit only). Please contact those agencies to view their roadless area maps.

Another consideration for the reader is the description of an area’s boundary and size and shape as potential wilderness. This is referred to as “Manageability”. It is written to describe the boundaries of each roadless area as they were defined by the inventory protocol. In almost all situations an improved boundary could be mapped that would improve the shape of and the boundary location for a wilderness area.

## CACHE – BOX ELDER MANAGEMENT AREA

**Name:** Gibson #0419002

**Acres:** Gross: 5,347

**Location and Access:** The Gibson area straddles the Utah/Idaho border about 8 miles west of Bear Lake. This report will summarize the portion on the Wasatch-Cache. The western boundary is the Franklin Basin Road 006 going north to Idaho, the northern boundary is the Idaho State line, and the eastern boundary is Utah State land by Beaver Mountain and Logan Canyon Highway 89. Franklin Basin Road, Sink Hollow Road, Logan Canyon Highway and Beaver Mountain Ski Area can access the area.

**Setting:** The average elevation is about 8,500 feet. The topography is quite gentle with a few steep and rocky slopes. Vegetation cover types include mountain brush, maple, aspen, sagebrush and grass at lower elevations and lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, subalpine fir and spruce at higher elevations.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** The area has had no recent timber sales on the Wasatch-Cache side, although there is past evidence of earlier logging. There are 2,469 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** The area is used for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, summer ATV use, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and dispersed camping. Franklin Basin and Sinks Hollow are major winter snow play areas. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned. There are no oil and gas leases in the area. **Range:** Sheep are permitted to graze throughout the area. **Water:** The area is within the Logan City municipal watershed. **Land Uses:** A snowmobile rental and guide service under permit utilizes the area. **Roads and Trails:** There are no routes designated as open for motorized use within the area; however, there are many user-created roads and ATV routes in the area. Further surveying of the road system in recently acquired land needs to be completed. The only system trails are Sink Hollow, part of the Great Western Trail (motorized), and a small portion of the Peterson Hollow Trail (non-motorized).

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is low to moderate because of past management activities such as logging. User-created trails detract from the area's naturalness. Ecological and biological values are high. Remoteness and **solitude** are moderate to low because of the nearness to roads and ski area development, the small size of the area, and limited screening by vegetation and topography. There are moderate opportunities for **primitive recreation** though opportunities for **challenging experiences** are limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** Deer, elk and moose utilize this important habitat area. A wolverine sighting has been reported. Area is within lynx habitat. The Logan River headwaters and Beaver Creek have Bonneville Cutthroat trout present. A rare plant, Hopkins tower mustard, is present. There are no known heritage resource sites and the area has low potential for future discovery of historic and American Indian sites. The scenery values are average. The **manageability** of the area

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would be poor because of its proximity to the Beaver Mountain Ski Area and the narrowness of the area between private land in section 3 and the ski area (about ¾mile). The area is also narrow (about 1 mile wide) near Beaver Mountain Ski Area north to the Idaho State line. It borders about 1.5 miles of private land in the northwest corner.

**Need:** The area is low for unique landforms and non-motorized recreation needs. It has moderate values for wildlife needs and research purposes. The nearest wilderness is Mount Naomi about 4 miles to the west. The area is 20 to 25 miles from Logan and about 100 miles from Salt Lake. The area received limited public interest in recommending the area for wilderness.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Gibson</b>						
<b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres) <sup>1</sup>	5,347	5,347	640	0	0	5,347
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	4,707	5,347	5,347	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	5,345	4,352	5,345	4,347
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** Mount Naomi #0419012

**Acres:** Gross: 45,122

**Location and Access:** The area is located in Cache County, northeast of Logan and is part of the Bear River Range. Access is via Logan Canyon Highway 89 and can also be accessed via Forest roads in High Creek, Smithfield Canyon, Green Canyon, Tony Grove, and Franklin Basin. The roadless area is composed of several different units all of which are contiguous with the Mt. Naomi Wilderness.

**Setting:** Elevations range from 4,800 feet to 9,979 feet at Naomi Peak. The western slope (of which most is already wilderness) is very steep. Moderate to gentle slopes are more common on the eastern flank. Sinkholes and caves are found in some locations in the underlying limestone formation. Vegetation on the north and east exposures consist of tall forbs, shrubs, aspen and mixed conifer. The south and west exposures consists of grasses, forbs, shrubs, aspen, mahogany, and scattered conifer. Valley bottoms consist of sagebrush, chokecherry, mountain ash, aspen and mixed conifers.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are 19, 212 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. The area has potential for prescribed burns to benefit habitat improvement.

**Recreation:** The area receives heavy recreation use consisting of hiking, backpacking, biking, horseback riding, dispersed camping, rock climbing and hunting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Most of the mountain biking opportunities are in the northeast quarter and Franklin Basin areas. Some are considered the premier mountain bike trails in the Cache area. Mountain bikes use trails from the Wood Camp Hollow to Jardine Juniper, in Green Canyon, Twin Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, White Pine Creek, White Pine Lake, Blind Hollow, and Hansen Pond. White Pine Lake is a popular summer dispersed recreation site and offers an opportunity for a non-wilderness backcountry experience. Snowmobilers consider this area as one of the top area in the nation to snowmobile. The area provides good winter accessibility and a long season. Tony Grove area is viewed as valuable for late season snowmobile opportunities.

**Minerals:** The majority of minerals are federally owned. There is low potential for oil and gas.

**Range:** Cattle and sheep are permitted to graze the area. The area has several range improvements especially in the north. **Water:** The area provides water for Logan, Cache Valley, and southern Idaho for irrigation and municipal purposes. Water developments have been proposed periodically in the Green Canyon area. **Land Uses:** There are snow-monitoring sites operated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service near Mount Naomi and in Steep Hollow. An outfitter guide operates two yurts for cross-country skiers. **Roads and Trails:** There are no roads or motorized trails designated as open included in the roadless area.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is outstanding with limited influence by developments. Geological, biological, ecological, educational and historical values are high. The geologic and elevation changes contribute to the area's biodiversity and wildlife habitat. When considered with the existing wilderness and the adjacent roadless area on the Caribou, the area is



a part of a very large undeveloped ecosystem. The area is part of a critical wildlife corridor and link between the Yellowstone and Uinta Mountain ecosystems. Steep terrain and topography contribute to feelings of **solitude** and offer **challenging experiences**. **Primitive recreation** opportunities are abundant. These recreation related values are higher in the southern end and more moderate in Green Canyon and Franklin Basin areas. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area is known for its scenic qualities of unique rock formations, steep bowls, and park like lands. The Mount Naomi Trail from Tony Grove to High Creek Trailhead has been designated as a National Recreational Trail. Logan and Wind Caves and other limestone caverns are special geological features. Jardine Juniper is the oldest known tree of this species. Portions of several streams such as Bunchgrass Creek, White Pine Creek, and the Logan River have been found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory. Deer, elk, moose, bobcat, cougar, goshawk, golden eagle and grouse inhabit the area. There is habitat for numerous species at risk including boreal owl, Peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. There has been a reported sighting of a wolverine and the area has potential habitat for pine marten and lynx. Townsend big-eared bats inhabit Logan Cave. Some streams support native fish such as Bonneville Cutthroat. There are numerous populations of unique plants, such as threatened plant Maguires primrose, FS sensitive plants Maguires draba, Frank Smith violet, Cache beardtongue, Logan buckwheat, Cronquist daisy, brownie ladyslipper and rare plants Rydberg musineon and Wasatch rockcress. Several of the unique plant species are found in habitats such as on China Wall. Mount Naomi also has rare Whitebark Pine habitat. There are some historical and cultural resources related to the development of Cache Valley with moderate to high potential for discovery of American Indian sites. The **manageability** of the boundary of the south unit is aided by terrain and few conflicts with outside uses. Boundaries of the northern half are not as easily recognized on the landscape. A private inholding in the north half of the roadless area creates potential for future development.

**Need:** Mount Naomi roadless area is 10 to 30 miles from Logan, 95 miles from Salt Lake and 60 miles from Pocatello, Idaho. It is adjacent to the existing Mount Naomi Wilderness. The Wellsville Mountain Wilderness is located about 15 miles to the southwest. Opinion on wilderness designation for the area is polarized. The area has been a focal point for public comment, especially from Logan and the Cache Valley during the roadless inventory and analysis process. It has received some of the highest numbers of public comments and is one of the most controversial roadless areas in the region. Some felt the existing wilderness area was sufficient and that previously excluded westside canyons should remain excluded. Others felt these areas should be included to reduce fragmentation of the area. Some felt the south area was a valuable wilderness addition, but did not want the northern portion to become wilderness, because of snowmobile and mountain bike opportunities. Snowmobiling especially in the Franklin Basin and Tony Grove areas is viewed as an important contribution to the local economy.

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<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Mount Naomi</b>						
<b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	39,992	20,290	8,193	0	0	8,193
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	45,122	45,122	36,108	13,069	481	45,122
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	9,014	32,053	44,641	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	128	29,066	30,496	44,347	24,184
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Wellsville Mountains #0419014**

**Acres:** Gross: 1,763

**Location and Access:** The Wellsville Mountains are located just north of Brigham City and west of Hyrum and Logan. Access to the Wellsville Mountains is somewhat limited, especially on the west side because of private lands. Deep Canyon and Maple Bench in the northeast quadrant of the range are the key recreation access points. Highway 89 to Logan briefly crosses the Forest by Wellsville Canyon. The roadless area is composed of several different units all of which are contiguous with the Wellsville Wilderness.

**Setting:** Much of the remaining roadless area is lower elevation country 4,500 to 6,000 feet and primarily grassland with scattered patches of rock and trees.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There is no tentatively suited timber within the area.

**Recreation:** Primarily uses of these areas are hiking, horseback riding, hunting, bird watching, a few mountain bike opportunities and some winter recreation including snowmobiles, snowshoers and cross-country skiers. There are possible opportunities for additional recreation development

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at Deep Canyon and Maple Bench. **Minerals:** Almost all of the minerals are federally owned. The area has low potential for oil and gas and some potential for uranium and geothermal activities. The west side also has some potential for gravel pits development. **Range:** Cattle under permit graze most of the area. Range improvements are present. **Water:** Much of the area is an important municipal watershed for local communities. **Land uses:** All but one of the parcels have water developments for local communities. A utility corridor from the 1985 Plan crosses the western edge of a few of the units. **Roads and Trails:** There are no roads or motorized trails designated as open. There may be a few user-created roads.

**Capability:** The area is rated moderate for **naturalness of the environment** and ecological values. The current areas of roadless have less wilderness character than the existing wilderness. Opportunities for **solitude** are high because of the low use the area receives and limited access. There are opportunities for **primitive recreation** and challenging experiences. **Special Features or Attractions:** Raptor populations and fall migration routes are important. There is habitat for endangered peregrine falcon. Much of area is essential habitat for deer winter range. The area has been identified as potential habitat for bighorn sheep. There are some significant archaeological sites in the mountain range from the Shoshone tribe. There is low potential for historic sites. **Manageability:** There are few identifiable features to aid in boundary location.

**Need:** Most of the Wellsville Mountains is already designated wilderness. The area is about 15 miles from Logan and about 70 miles from Salt Lake. Very little public support for wilderness additions to the existing wilderness has been voiced.

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Wellsville Mountains						
Management Area: Cache-Box Elder						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	1,673	41	41	0	0	41
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	1,763	1,763	343	0	0	1,763
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	1,420	1,763	1,763	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	1,760	1,761	1,760	1,417
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

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<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Wellsville Mountains</b> <b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Mollens Hollow #0419015**

**Acres:** Gross: 17,676

**Location and Access:** The area is 3 miles east of Hardware Ranch in Cache County. Access is via Forest Service road 059 Curtis Creek.

**Setting:** Steep slopes characterize canyons while the terrain is more rolling in other areas. Elevations range from 6,000 feet to 8,600 feet. The area has a sinkhole where a stream disappears. The area has the largest stand of pinyon pine on the Cache portion of the Forest. Fir, spruce and aspen characterize north and east slopes. Mountain mahogany, maple, snowberry and juniper are found on the southern and western exposures.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** There are 6,700 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Select trees with insect problems were removed as recently as 1998. Prescribed fire has been used for habitat improvement and aspen regeneration. **Recreation:** Recreation use is generally light. There is some hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. Tilda Springs is a popular ATV trail network. The State of Utah is interested in providing additional trails in partnership with the Forest. The area receives heavy snowmobile use and parts of it are known as a snowmobile play area. **Minerals:** About 800 acres have private mineral rights. The area has some potential for oil and gas. **Range:** Sheep and cattle graze the area. There are many range improvements. **Water:** There are no formal culinary water uses. **Land Uses:** A 1985 Plan utility corridor crosses the northwest corner. **Roads and Trails:** There are no constructed roads present. Tilda Springs is a network of ATV trails. There are a few low maintenance non-motorized trails.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is fair. Past overgrazing and user created ATV routes have compromised its natural appearance. Mollens Hollow RNA offers intact ecological and biological systems and provides research opportunities. Opportunities for **solitude** and **primitive recreation** are somewhat limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area includes the 1,186 acre Mollens Hollow Research Natural Area (RNA). The area does offer some unique scenery. Important fall and winter range for deer and elk. Most of the area is potential lynx habitat. The area has potential to support cutthroat trout, but its presence has not been verified. Cache beardtongue and Logan buckwheat, two sensitive plants, are present. There is

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one known heritage resource site. The area has moderate potential for the presence of historic and American Indian sites. **Manageability** is affected by the open terrain, which makes it difficult to manage motorized use. There are several roads that have been excluded by cherry stems that access the area.

**Need:** The area is about 85 miles from Salt Lake, 25 miles from Logan and 45 miles from Ogden. Mount Naomi and the Wellsville Mountains are the nearest wilderness areas. Interest in the area has generally been limited. A few felt that it was a good example of what a mid elevation wilderness could be, which is not common in Northern Utah.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Mollens Hollow</b>						
<b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	17,676	17,676	17,676	0	0	17,676
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	0	17,676	17,676	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	4,415	4,415	11,853	8,228	11,853	11,853
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Mount Logan North #0419013**  
**Mount Logan South #0419029**  
**Mount Logan West #0419030**

**Acres:** Gross: North Unit: 19,197  
South Unit: 17,001  
West Unit: 5,281

**Location and Access:** Mt. Logan Roadless Area is just east of the communities of Logan, Providence and Millville. Because of developments since the last inventory the area is now split into three distinct units. Logan Canyon Highway 89 forms the northern boundary of the north unit. Private and state land borders the western edge. Roads in Providence Canyon and Millville Canyon split the units. Blacksmith Highway 101 forms the southern boundary of the south unit. Forest Service road 047 in Cowley Canyon/Herd Canyon forms the eastern edge.

**Availability: Vegetation:** The north unit has about 4,900 acres, the south unit 6,100 acres and the west unit 1,200 acres of capable and available timber. There is potential for future fuelwood gathering and prescribed fire in this area. **Recreation:** Use includes hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, dispersed camping, mountain biking, motorized trail use and snowmobiling. The area receives very heavy use for snowmobiling and summer motorized use. Mountain biking is takes place on several trails including Card Canyon, Richards Hollow, Richards Elbow, Leatham Hollow and the Great Western. Motorized recreation use takes place on South Fork Millville, Richards Hollow, Richards Elbow, Cart Hollow, Welches Flat, Card Canyon and some other trails. **Minerals:** Minerals are mostly federally owned except for 765 acres in the entire north unit and 252 acres in the south unit. Minerals in the west unit are all federally owned. There are no oil and gas leases. **Range:** The areas include grazing allotments for both cattle and sheep. There are several range improvements present. **Water:** Water is used for Cache Valley communities including Logan City's municipal and irrigation needs. **Land Uses:** A 1985 Forest plan utility corridor follows the southern edge of the south unit. **Roads, and Trails:** There are several non-constructed roads in the units, as well as motorized and non-motorized trails. A few of these short road segments in the north and south units are designated open in the District travel plan. The Great Western Trail traverses the south unit.

**Capability:** The north unit was rated as moderate in the **naturalness** of its environment with some geological and ecological values present. It is considered quite biologically diverse. Steep and rugged slope areas provide **challenging experiences**. **Remoteness** and **solitude** values are affected by the surrounding development and the popularity of the area. The south and west units are viewed as being less natural than the north unit. **Special Features or Attractions:** Logan Peak is a popular destination. Segments of streams found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory included Logan River and Left Hand Fork Blacksmith. Plant species at risk present in the northern unit include Maquires primrose, Maquires draba, Frank Smith violet, Cache beardtongue, Hopkins tower-mustard, and Rydberg musineon. The southern unit has a plant species of concern present, Kings woody-aster. The western unit has no known plants species of concern. Scenery throughout the area is typical of similar landscapes with colorful autumn colors. Views of Cache Valley are visible from much of the area. There is important summer and winter habitat for deer, elk, and moose. Other wildlife present includes bobcats, black bear, badger, and raptors including the bald eagle. All 3 units are potential lynx habitat. The northern unit has Bonneville cutthroat and cutthroat, rainbow and brown trout. The western unit has brown trout while the southern unit has brown trout, cutthroat trout, and whitefish. There are no known heritage resources sites, but Shoshone petroglyph sites exist near the area. Potential is low to moderate for historic and American Indian sites. **Manageability:** There are

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several intrusions such as an electronic site and rock quarry. The south unit has a significant road and private land exclusions in the White Bedground area on the north side. The west unit is small in size for wilderness. Private and state land and many roads surround nearly all the units. This may limit access to the area and encourage trespass of non-conforming uses.

**Need:** The area is six miles from Logan and 90 miles north of Salt Lake City. The nearest wilderness areas are Mount Naomi, one mile to the north and Wellsville Mountains, ten miles to the west. The majority of the public input received was strongly against any wilderness designation for these areas. Many of the motorized routes and snowmobile areas are very important to the local public.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Mount Logan North</b> <b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	19,197	19,197	18,863	0	0	19,197
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	334	19,197	19,197	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	13,995	13,457	19,197	11,795
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

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<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Mount Logan South</b>						
<b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
<b>Alternative:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	17,001	17,001	16,193	0	0	17,001
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	808	17,001	17,001	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	17,000	17,000	2,286	17,000
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Mount Logan West</b>						
<b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
<b>Alternative:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	5,281	5,281	4,540	0	0	5,281
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	1,549	5,281	5,281	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	73	73	5,281	5,281	5,281	5,281
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0



Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects Roadless Area: Mount Logan West Management Area: Cache-Box Elder						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Temple Peak #0419023**

**Acres:** Gross: 23,379

**Location and Access:** Area is located east of Logan Canyon Highway 89 about 20 miles northeast of Logan and 3 miles south of the Idaho State line. It can also be accessed by Temple Fork FS road 007, Sinks FS road 055 and Peter Sinks FS road 173.

**Setting:** Elevations range from 5,500 to over 9,000 feet. Terrain varies from moderate to steep with vegetation consisting of sagebrush, grass, mahogany and maple at lower elevations with aspen and fir at higher elevations.

**Availability: Vegetation:** There are an estimated 10,000 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. The area is also used for fuel wood gathering. **Recreation:** Uses include hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, dispersed camping, cross-country skiing, motorized recreation trail use and snowmobiling. Most trails are open to mountain bike use. Both motorized and mechanized recreation use is heavy in the area. Mountain bikers use the Spawn Creek, Little Bear, Turkey, Stump Hollow and Burnt Fork and Great Western trails. Sinks Road is a state groomed snowmobile route. Snowmobile opportunities in the area are considered ideal for families and beginners. The area offers good flyfishing opportunities. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned. **Range:** Sheep and cattle graze on portions of six allotments. **Water:** The area is part of the Logan municipal watershed. **Land uses:** Section 21 is part of a special use permit for the T.W. Daniel Experimental Forest for Utah State University used extensively for teaching, demonstration, and research in natural resources and ecosystem management. It is impacted by old cuttings and roads in the area and includes the already approved Bear Hodges Timber Sale. This section has been removed from the Temple Peak roadless area. **Roads and Trails:** Boundary locations have eliminated most roads from the area. The area includes several trails, some which allow motorized use such as Turkey, Little Bear ATV, and Worm Fence, a segment of the great Western Trail.

**Capability:** The area is rated moderate in **naturalness of the environment**. Biological and ecological systems are intact though not unique. Motorized use in Stump Hollow and Peters Sink has resulted in resource damage and has detracted from the area’s naturalness. **Challenging experiences** can be found but not to the degree they are present in Mount Naomi. **Solitude** is generally low because of heavy recreation use. Opportunities for **primitive recreation** are somewhat limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** Segments of Beaver Creek, Little Bear Creek, Spawn Creek, Temple Fork and Logan River have been found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory. The area has pleasing scenery but nothing unique. The area has a diversity of wildlife species. The area is part of a critical wildlife corridor and link between the Yellowstone and Uinta Mountain ecosystems. It is important early winter range. Elk utilize the area. Most of the area is potential lynx habitat. Species at risk that are present include boreal owl, wolverine, goshawk, Bonneville cutthroat trout, three toed woodpecker, spotted bat, big-eared bat, flammulated owl, boreal toad and spotted frog. Bird watching is popular in the area. The rare plant, Wasatch rockcress, is present. The area includes historic Temple Fork Sawmill site. There is moderate potential for additional historic and American Indian sites. **Manageability** is affected by exclusions of nonconforming uses. There are two very large exclusions – Peter Sinks (roads, gravel pit) and Temple Peak (roads, timber sales, state land).

**Need:** The area is located about 20 miles from Logan. The nearest wilderness area is Mount Naomi about 3 miles to the west. The area has received limited public interest in wilderness designation but has received high opposition primarily because of summer and winter motorized recreation needs as well as mountain biking opportunities.

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Temple Peak						
Management Area: Cache-Box Elder						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	23,724	23,724	3,176	0	0	23,724
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	20,548	23,724	23,724	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	975	25	20,308	20,548	23,722	19,401
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Temple Peak						
Management Area: Cache-Box Elder						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Boulder Mountain #0419024**

**Acres:** Gross: 8,845

**Location and Access:** The area is about 10 miles east of Logan. The best access to it is via the Left Hand Fork FS road 245. It can also be accessed from Dip Hollow FS road 056, Marie Spring FS road 147, Herd Hollow FS road 047 or Mud Spring FS Road 146.

**Setting:** Terrain varies from moderate to steep. Elevations range from approximately 5800 to 7500 feet. To some the area is known as a “high desert”. Vegetation consists of sage grassland in the north with steeper aspen and fir slopes to the south.

**Availability: Timber:** There are an estimated 3,600 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Prescribed burns have been done in the area. **Recreation:** Hunting use is heavy in the area. Though not allowed, the area does receive OHV use. Snowmobiles use the area in the winter. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned. A mine was active as recently as 1995 for exploration of gold. It is currently not being operated. **Range:** Sheep grazing is allowed within three allotments. Many range improvements are present. **Water:** The little available water is used for livestock. **Land Uses:** A small seismograph station is operated under permit. **Roads and Trails:** There are no routes designated as open for motorized use within the area; however, there are many user-created roads and ATV routes in the area.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is moderate and provides some **solitude**. It has high values for biological diversity and wildlife habitat. Because much of the area is difficult to access, it is rated moderate for **challenge and primitive recreation opportunities**. **Special Features or Attractions:** The Left Hand Fork of the Blacksmith was found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory. Scenery values are moderate to high. Important wildlife habitat is provided for elk and deer. The area is potential lynx habitat. Species at risk that are present include goshawk, flammulated owl, three toed woodpecker, great gray owl, boreal toad, and Bonneville cutthroat trout. Area has some Indian rock art. There is moderate potential for historic and American Indian sites. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness would be

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difficult. About 50% of the northern boundary is adjacent to private land. Though excluded from the area, Forest road 146 from the northeast to Mud Springs nearly bisects the area in two and would make the area difficult to manage as wilderness.

**Need:** The area is located about 30 miles from Logan, the nearest population center. The nearest wilderness area is Mount Naomi about 10 miles to the northwest. The area received limited public comment with the majority not favoring wilderness mainly because of motorized recreation needs.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Boulder Mountain</b>						
<b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	8,845	8,845	0	0	0	8,845
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	8,845	8,845	8,845	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	8,182	8,845	8,845	8,845
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Mahogany Range #0419025**

**Acres:** Gross: 11,400

**Location and Access:** The area is located about 10 miles east of Hyrum. Access is primarily by state highway 101 along the Blacksmith Fork. The Left Hand Fork FS Road 245 along the northern border of the unit is also a key access point.

**Setting:** The area has an expanse of mahogany, which is very valuable for wildlife habitat. Elevation ranges approximately from 5,100 to 7,500 feet. Much of the area is dry open sage/grass.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 1,200 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Prescribed fire is used to improve wildlife habitat and range suitability. **Recreation:** The area is open in the summer for motorized recreation. Uses include motorized recreation, dispersed camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, some mountain biking, and some hiking. The area is popular for horseback riding and OHV use. The area is closed to snowmobiling. **Minerals:** The minerals are federally owned. **Range:** The area is part of two grazing allotments and there are many range improvements in the area. **Water:** The few natural springs provide water for wildlife and livestock. **Land uses:** A 1985 Forest plan utility corridor crosses the southern portion of the area. **Roads and Trails:** There is one short segment of a low maintenance road, Pig Hole Spring, designated as open on the travel plan. The area has many user-created tracks that are not designated as open. There are non-motorized trails into Hogs Hollow, Pigs Hole and Sow Hole. Motorized access is also used for vegetation treatment as well as by grazing permittees.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the area** is rated moderate with high values for biological, ecological and wildlife. Unauthorized motorized use has resulted in resource damage in some areas and detracts from the natural appearance. **Challenging experiences, solitude** and opportunities for primitive recreation are listed as moderate. **Special Features or Attractions:** The unique complex of vegetative types and terrain, as well as being adjacent to the Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area provides special wildlife habitat. The area is particularly important in the winter and spring for deer, elk, moose, cougar, and bobcat. Most of the area is potential lynx habitat. Species at risk that are present include goshawk, flammulated owl, three toed woodpecker, great gray owl, boreal toad, and Bonneville cutthroat trout. There are brown trout, brook trout, and whitefish. The Left Hand Fork of the Blacksmith was found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory. The area does have sites of Shoshone Indian rock art. There is low to moderate potential for other historic and American Indian sites. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness would be hindered because the boundaries are along roads. Surrounding state and private land contribute to the complexity.

**Need:** The area is about 20 miles from Logan, the nearest major population center. The nearest wilderness area is Mount Naomi about 10 miles to the north. The area received limited public comment, but the majority of those did not favor wilderness designation. The area could add an ecosystem type that is currently not common in our wilderness areas.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Mahogany Range</b> <b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	11,400	11,400	10,436	0	0	11,400
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	964	11,400	11,400	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	11,399	2,480	11,399	2,480
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Right Hand Fork Logan #0419028**

**Acres:** Gross: 15,011

**Location and Access:** Located about 12 miles from Logan, south of Logan Canyon Highway. Access to the area is from Logan canyon highway, and Forest Service roads Right Hand Fork, Cowley Canyon and long Hollow.

**Setting:** Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 8,000 feet. Much of area is wide valley with open sage meadows, aspen and fir in the upper elevations.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 5,400 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Parts of area have been used for firewood cutting. There is potential for use of prescribed fire to improve habitat. **Recreation:** Mountain biking is very popular. The area also attracts hikers, cross-country skiers, motorcycle trail users, anglers, hunters, and campers. Motorized use on designated trails and snowmobiling use is heavy. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned. The area has low potential for oil. **Range:** Cattle graze within the area under

permit. Several range improvements are present. **Water:** The area is part of Logan City municipal watershed. **Roads and Trails:** The area contains no roads designated as open in the district travel plan. Two trails, Steel Hollow and Little Cottonwood, allow motorcycle use. There are also non-motorized trails in Ricks Canyon, Willow Creek, Maughan Hollow, and Ephraim's Cutoff. The Great Western Trail passes through the area.

**Capability:** The area is rated moderate in **naturalness** with high biological and ecological values because of diverse vegetation and habitat types. Its natural appearance is diminished somewhat by the evidence of off-trail use of ATVs. Scenery is rated moderate. **Challenge, solitude** and remoteness are rated moderate. **Special Features or Attractions:** The Logan River and Temple Fork have been found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory. There is good wildlife habitat, particularly in the area of Chicken Creek. Habitat for mountain lions and winter range for elk and deer is present. The area is potential lynx habitat. Species at risk that are present include goshawk, flammulated owl, three toed woodpecker, great gray owl, boreal toad, and Bonneville cutthroat trout. There are several TES plants including the threatened plant Maguire primrose. There is one known heritage resource site and the area has moderate potential for historic and American Indian sites. Because of several nearby sites the area is rated moderate for cultural and historic features. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness is affected by the several road exclusions. This is particularly true for Forest Service road 153 (Chicken Creek) and its intersecting motorized recreation trail that nearly cuts the area in two.

**Need:** The city of Logan is about 12 miles away. The nearest wilderness area is Mount Naomi located about 2 miles to the northeast. The majority of the comments received on this area have been against wilderness designation. Opponents generally favored the current uses and emphasized motorized and mechanical recreation needs.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Right Hand Fork Logan</b> <b>Management Area: Cache-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	15,011	15,011	1,548	0	0	15,011
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	13,463	15,011	15,011	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	15,011	15,011	15,011	13,654
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

## BEAR MANAGEMENT AREA

**Name: Swan Creek Mountain #0419001**

**Acres: Gross: 9,384**

**Location and Access:** The Swan Creek Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) straddles the Idaho/Utah border about 3 miles west of Bear Lake. It is shared with the Caribou National Forest though this report refers only to the Utah portion. It is located in Rich and Cache Counties. Logan Canyon Highway 89 is the southern boundary, Beaver Creek Road 011 is the western boundary, the state line is the northern boundary and the Forest boundary is the eastern boundary. The Swan Flat Road 014 splits the Utah portion into two areas. Access to the area is via Swan Flat, Beaver Creek and Logan Canyon Highway roads.



**Setting:** The topography is generally steep, but is rolling and gentle in some places. Elevation ranges from 7,400 to 9,082 feet. Vegetation consists primarily of sagebrush, grass, mahogany, and maple at lower elevations and aspen and fir at higher elevations.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 3,500 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. The area has potential for fuel treatment needs. **Recreation:** Hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing are popular recreation uses. The area is well suited for beginner and family snowmobile opportunities and has a highly used backcountry ski area (Garden City Canyon). New developments in Bear Lake Area have increased use in the area. **Minerals:** Minerals are mostly federally owned except for around 300 acres of State-owned minerals. There are no oil and gas leases within the area. **Range:** Sheep grazing is allowed under permit. **Water use:** The area is within Logan City Municipal watershed. **Land uses:** A fiber optic line traverses the southern boundary. A snowmobile rental and guide service operates under permit in the area and also guides horseback trips in the summer. **Roads and Trails:** There are no routes designated as open for motorized use within the area; however, there are many user-created roads and ATV routes in the area.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is low to moderate. The **natural appearance** of the area is highly impacted by the appearance of management activities and facilities. The area provides limited **challenge, solitude** and remoteness because of its small size and the presence of the Swan Flat Road. Opportunities for **primitive recreation** are average. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area is important year-round range for deer and summer range for elk and a few moose. Potential lynx habitat is present. The area generally provides good habitat for wildlife and sensitive species. A portion is adjacent to a state Wildlife Management Area. Beaver Creek drainage has Bonneville cutthroat trout present. One known heritage site is present with moderate potential for discovery of other historic and American Indian sites. Scenic features are moderate. Bear Lake is visible from numerous vantage points. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness would be difficult because of the Swan Flat Road exclusion.

**Need:** The area does not significantly contribute to the distribution of wilderness in Northern Utah, is not a unique landform, limited in primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities and limited in the ability to contribute to research. The area has received limited interest by the public, other groups and agencies for wilderness designation. The nearest wilderness is Mount Naomi about 7 miles away to the west. The area is 20 miles from Logan and 100 miles from Salt Lake.

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Swan Creek						
Management Area: Bear						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	9,384	9,384	488	0	0	9,384
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	8,896	9,384	9,384	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	9,384	9,384	9,384	8,872
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)						
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** Sugar Pine #0419031

**Acres:** Gross: 5,591

**Location and Access:** The area is located in the Monte Cristo area, just east of Monte Cristo Campground. Most of the access to the area is via Highway 39.

**Setting:** Elevations range from 7,600 to 8,900 feet. Key vegetation habitat consists of spruce, fir and Douglas fir forest, aspen and grass. The drier, south facing hillsides have a sagebrush and grass community.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** There are an estimated 3,600 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Prescribed burning has been used to improve wildlife habitat.

**Recreation:** The area receives limited recreation use, primarily hiking, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing, and hunting. There is snowmobile use adjacent to Highway 39. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned except for about 60 acres of privately owned minerals. **Range:** Cattle graze under permit throughout the area. Numerous constructed range improvements such

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as stock ponds, troughs, pipelines, spring developments, water systems, and fences are present. **Water:** Sugar Pine Creek and its tributaries are used primarily for agricultural uses. **Land Uses:** A 1985 Forest Plan utility corridor crosses much of the southern end of the roadless area. **Roads and Trails:** The area has no system roads nor system recreation trails; however, there are many user-created routes present.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the area** is low because of the many range improvements present and the many user-created roads. The area is moderate in geological, ecological and biological values. Nothing is unique about the area. There are limestone sinks in the Cave Ridge area. Evidence of human presence on the landscape detracts from the opportunities for **solitude**. **Challenging experiences** and **primitive recreation** opportunities are low. **Special Features or Attractions:** Sugar Pine Creek has Bonneville cutthroat trout. The area may have goshawk and boreal toad habitat. There is potential lynx habitat present. There is summer range for elk, deer, and moose. There is an historic mill site along Sugar Pine Creek and some old CCC spring developments are present. The area has moderate potential for historic and American Indian sites. The **manageability** of this area as wilderness is very limited. The northern and eastern boundaries are adjacent to private land and could increase the complexity for managing the area as wilderness.

**Need:** The area would not contribute to the national wilderness system; it is a small isolated primarily range area, located quite a distance from the Wasatch front. No public comments have been received promoting this area as wilderness. The area does provide for some primitive recreation such as hunting outside the wilderness.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Sugar Pine</b>						
<b>Management Area: Bear</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	5,591	5,591	5,574	0	0	5,591
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	17	5,591	5,591	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	20	17	5,591	5,591	5,591	5,591
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Sugar Pine						
Management Area: Bear						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Rock Creek—Green Fork #0419034**

**Acres:** Gross: 5,651

**Location and Access:** Area is about 7 miles east of Hardware Ranch straddling the Cache and Rich County lines. It is also about 8 miles west of the community of Randolph. Access is primarily from forest roads out of Elk Valley and Curtis Creek or via private and BLM roads leaving Randolph.

**Setting:** Rounded mountain terrain with predominately east-west drainage patterns characterizes the landscape. The forest is a mix of lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, sub-alpine fir and Englemann spruce. Lower elevations have chokecherry, serviceberry, mountain mahogany and sagebrush.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** There are an estimated 2,700 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. An adjacent section owned by the State of Utah has had extensive timber harvesting. The area is also used for fuel wood gathering. Prescribed fire has been used for aspen treatments and fuel reduction. **Recreation:** The area receives limited recreation use; primarily hunting, hiking and horse riding. There is some snowmobiling and some mountain bike use in the area. Access from Old Canyon road along the southern boundary of this area has a large amount of dispersed camping especially during the hunting season. **Minerals:** Minerals are most federally owned, but approximately 300 acres are private or state owned. **Range:** Sheep and cattle graze throughout the area in parts of four allotments. The area contains several range improvements. **Water:** Blacksmith Fork, which originates in the area, provides irrigation water. **Land Uses:** A 1985 plan utility corridor crosses much of the northern portion. **Roads and Trails:** The area contains no system roads. There are no routes designated as open for motorized use within the area; however, there are many unauthorized roads and ATV routes in the area. Road number 26981 is used to access a private forty-acre parcel within this area. There is a trail going up Rock Creek.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is low. Evidence of human activity is present. The area has little wilderness character. Opportunities for **solitude** and **challenging experiences** are low. **Special Features or Attractions:** Locally significant small caves are located near the southern boundary. Goshawk, Coopers hawk and other raptors inhabit this area. Rock Creek has Bonneville cutthroat trout. Area is potential lynx habitat. It is important for big game summer range. There are no known heritage resource sites, but there is moderate to high potential for historic and American Indian sites. The shape of the area presents difficulty in **manageability**. Without acquisition of state land, the area is very narrow with less than ¼ mile between old timber sales the state land in section 32.

**Need:** Because of manageability difficulties, this area has limited value as wilderness. No public interest on this area as wilderness has been received.

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Rock Creek - Green Fork						
Management Area: Bear						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	5,651	5,651	5,611	0	0	5,651
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	40	5,651	5,651	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	2,035	2,032	5,611	5,611	5,611	5,611
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

## NORTH WASATCH-OGDEN VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

**Name:** Willard #0419016

**Acres:** Gross: 20,011

**Location and Access:** The area lies on the western slope of the Wasatch Range between North Ogden and Brigham City. Private lands surrounding most of the area limit and restrict much of the access.

**Setting:** The area is steep and rugged and dominated by peaks such as Chilly, Ben Lomond, Willard and Grizzly. Elevation ranges from approximately 5,500 feet to 9,764 feet. The vegetation varies from grass and oak brush in the lower elevations, aspen and maple in the mid-slopes, to patches of fir and alpine in the high country. Rock outcroppings and cliffs intermingle between the vegetation.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** There are an estimated 3,100 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** Ben Lomond is a popular hike. Motorcycles and mountain bikes use the Wasatch Crest Trail (part of Great Western Trail). Some snowmobile use occurs on the eastern slopes. **Minerals:** The majority, approximately 75%, of minerals is privately owned. A few acres of state mineral rights are present. The area has had historic mining, but currently there are no active claims. **Range:** The area has no grazing allotments. **Water:** The area is an important watershed to local communities. **Land Uses:** A snow-monitoring site operated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service is located on Ben Lomond Peak. A 1985 Forest Plan utility corridor crosses the western and southern edges of the roadless area. Avalanche control work is done at North Ogden Divide. **Roads and Trails:** Wasatch Crest Trail allows for motorized use. Two short segments of roads allowing motorized use are present: Grizzly Peak (FS20092) and Duck Flat (FS26010). There are many user-created roads and ATV routes in the area.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** area is rated moderate. There is some evidence of human activity with several areas of old watershed terracing present (462 acres). Most are not substantially noticeable. **Solitude** is moderate since the Willard Basin Road nearly dissects the area. Noise from avalanche control work detracts from the sense of remoteness in the winter. **Challenging experiences** are present because the terrain is wild and steep. **Primitive unconfined recreation** opportunities are limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area has big game winter and summer range. Prime habitat for raptors is present including a significant bald eagle roost area. Mountain goats have been introduced to the area. Several populations of sensitive and rare plants are present including Burkes draba, Utah ivesia, Wasatch fitweed and Wasatch rockcress. Willard Creek was found eligible to be in the Wild and Scenic River inventory for its outstanding geological values. Outstanding vistas can be seen from Ben Lomond Peak. The area contains a CCC camp and evidence of their work is present in Willard

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Basin. **Manageability** as wilderness is hampered since most of the area is surrounded by private or state land and has eight different parcels of private and state inholdings.

**Need:** The area is between wilderness areas to the north (Wellsville Mountains, Mt Naomi) and to the south (Mt Olympus, Twin Peaks, Lone Peak). Much of the area is similar to these wilderness areas, very little uniqueness and would not add much to the wilderness system. The area is valuable for providing recreation that is not dependent on the wilderness resource.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Willard</b> <b>Management Area: North Wasatch-Box Elder</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	20,011	20,011	19,122	0	0	20,011
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	889	20,011	20,011	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	1,204	1,204	16,710	19,121	1,206	1,166
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.4
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** Lewis Peak #0419017

**Acres:** Gross: 12,092

**Location and Access:** The area is located in the Wasatch Range east of the cities of Ogden and North Ogden. Access to the area is via North Ogden Canyon road.

**Setting:** Elevations range from 4,599 feet on the western boundary to 8,031 feet on Lewis Peak. South and west slopes are vegetated with Gambels oak, mountain mahogany, juniper, sagebrush and grass. Maple, fir, aspen, chokecherry and mountain ash characterize north and east slopes.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** There are an estimated 300 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Prescribed burning has been used for wildlife habitat improvements and fuels reduction improvements. **Recreation:** Use includes hiking, horseback riding, motorcycle riding, winter non-motorized recreation, hunting and rock climbing. The area may receive a little snowmobiling use on the east side. Several of the trails are motorized and receive heavy motorcycle use. The area has been the focus of recent partnership with State of Utah for making trail improvements. These trails are some of the few system motorized trail opportunities on the Ogden District. The Wasatch Crest Trail, part of the Great Western Trail, traverses the area. There are several user-created trails in side canyons near the urban Wasatch Front. The area is being considered for possible location of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. **Minerals:** The majority, approximately 75%, of minerals is privately owned. There is low oil and gas potential and no leases present. **Range:** The area has no permitted livestock. **Water:** The area is a municipal watershed for Ogden and North Ogden cities. The east side is an important watershed for Pineview Reservoir. **Land Uses:** Utility corridors are present in Ogden and North Ogden Canyons and along the Wasatch Front. North Ogden City has a water system in Coldwater Canyon which needs maintenance access. There are other small water lines present. Nordic Valley Ski Area expansion that would expand into the area has been proposed. **Roads and Trails:** The area contains no roads. Most of the trails in the area are open (Wasatch Crest 2001, City View 2040 and Lewis Peak 2041) for motorcycle use. **Fire:** Proximity to Ogden City has caused a high occurrence of fires in the past. **Insect and Disease:** There are few insect and disease problems.

**Capability:** The areas **naturalness of the environment** is excellent. It is rated moderate for geological, biological and ecological values. Development at Pineview Reservoir, Nordic Valley Ski Area and along the Wasatch Front is visible. Opportunities for **solitude** are somewhat limited, due to inadequate vegetation screening and topography and being within the sights and sounds of the city. **Challenging** experiences and primitive recreation opportunities are excellent, due to its wild, rugged terrain along the Wasatch Front with steep canyons and rock cliffs. There are flat meadows on top allowing for recreation use on trails. **Special Features and Attractions:** The area is rated moderate for wildlife and TES habitat. The area has habitat for peregrine falcon and other raptors. The west side serves as important deer winter range. There



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are also elk, moose and various small animals and birds in the area. The area has rare plant, broadleaf beardtongue present. Scenic values are above average. There are no known heritage resources sites. The area has moderate potential for historic and American Indian sites.

**Manageability:** Most the area is surrounded by private land. The extent of private mineral ownership also hampers potential manageability as wilderness.

**Need:** The area is adjacent to the city of Ogden. The nearest wilderness is the Wellsville Mountains, about 20 miles to the north and Mount Olympus, about 45 miles to the south. The area has received limited public comments on recommending the area for wilderness. The ecosystem types are represented in other existing wilderness areas.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Lewis Peak</b> <b>Management Area: North Wasatch-Ogden</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	12,092	12,092	12,068	0	0	12,092
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	24	12,092	12,092	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	10,655	12,083	893	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** Upper South Fork #0419018

**Acres:** Gross: 17,255

**Location and Access:** The area lies 25 miles east of Ogden and due east of the South Fork of the Ogden River. Access is via Forest Service road 039 to Causey Reservoir and Highway 39 at the north end near Monte Cristo.

**Setting:** Elevations range from 5,700 feet to about 8,000 feet. Rounded ridge tops and very steep drainages with sheer cliffs characterize the area's topography. South and west slope vegetation typically includes mountain mahogany, serviceberry, Gambel oak, sagebrush and grass, while on north and east slopes there is fir, spruce, maple, snowberry and chokecherry. Cottonwood is present in the riparian habitats.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 4,800 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Prescribed burning has been used for habitat improvement and aspen regeneration. There is a partnership with Deseret Land and Livestock on the east side for prescribed burning. **Recreation:** The area is popular as undeveloped backcountry. Most of area is closed to motorized recreation and snowmobiling, though there is some limited snowmobiling on north end. Primary uses include hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, fishing and hunting. Day hiking is popular from Causey Reservoir, as well as hunting by foot or horseback. Mountain bikes use the Bluebell Flat area. **Minerals:** About 50% of the minerals in the area are privately owned. The area has had some minor mining historically. The area has low potential for oil and gas. **Range:** Sheep graze under permit in the north end. There are some range improvements. **Water:** Water from the area contributes to Ogden City's water supply, though most of the headwaters are on private land. **Land Uses:** There is a snow-monitoring site operated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the Bluebell Flat area. **Roads and Trails:** No system roads are present. There are non-motorized trails in Wheatgrass Canyon, and in the Bear Hollow, Baldy Ridge, and Cabin Hollow areas.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the area** is outstanding with little evidence of human intrusion except near Causey Reservoir. The scenic quality is enhanced by highly varied vegetation and geologic patterns. There are several canyons and caves. Geological, biological, ecological and wildlife values are rated moderate to high. Opportunities for **solitude** are high. The area receives low to moderate use. The area provides excellent opportunities for **primitive recreation**. The rugged and wild terrain provides visitors with **challenging experiences**. **Special Features or Attractions:** The Left Fork of the South Fork of the Ogden River was found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory. The area is an important winter range for deer, elk and moose. Little survey work has been completed in this area for species at risk. Small animals and birds including raptors are common. The area has a cave inhabited by Townsend big-ear bats. Bonneville cutthroat trout are present as is a healthy rainbow trout fishery. Kokanee salmon migrating from Causey Reservoir spawn in creeks in the area. The area is potential lynx habitat. The area has no known heritage sites, but has moderate potential for

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discovery of historic and American Indian sites. **Manageability** as wilderness is affected by being surrounded on 3 sides by private land and having 50% of the minerals are privately owned. These create the potential for future non-conforming uses in and around the area. The area is long and narrow and in some places down to one mile wide. Forest Service road 201, Bluebell Flat road, has been excluded.

**Need:** The area is located about 20 miles away from Ogden. Salt Lake City is about 70 miles away. The area is a fair distance from the nearest wilderness areas, with Mount Naomi 50 miles to the north and Mount Olympus 60 miles to the south. Some feel there is a need for a designated wilderness in the Ogden vicinity. Interest in the area has been moderate with little opposition for wilderness designation. The area represents an ecosystem type that is not common compared to the other higher elevation wilderness areas on the Forest.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Upper South Fork</b> <b>Management Area: North Wasatch-Ogden</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	17,255	0	17,255	0	0	14,391
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	17,255	17,255	17,255	14,326	15,474	17,255
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	0	2,929	1,781	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	1,052	1,052	2,628	2,628
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** Burch Creek #0419019

**Acres:** Gross: 7,518

**Location and Access:** The area is located in the Wasatch Range just east of the towns of Ogden, South Ogden and Uintah. Access is from the Wasatch Front, Interstate 84 and State Highway 226 to Snow Basin Ski Area.

**Setting:** The country is steep with varied geologic and vegetation patterns. South and west slope vegetation typically includes mountain mahogany, serviceberry, Gambel oak, sagebrush and grass. Douglas fir, subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, maple, snowberry and chokecherry are found on the north and east slopes. Elevations range from 4,500 feet to 9,572 foot Mount Ogden.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 100 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Prescribed fire has been used for wildlife habitat manipulation.

**Recreation:** Use includes day hiking, some backpacking, mountain biking, non-motorized winter recreation and hunting. Ski area development along the ridgeline is directly adjacent to the area. **Minerals:** The majority, approximately 65%, of minerals is privately owned. There is no known mineral potential or current activity. The area is not leased for oil and gas. **Range:** There are no permitted livestock. **Water:** The area is a valuable municipal watershed to Ogden and Uintah cities. **Land Uses:** The feasibility of a tram from Weber State University to Strawberry Peak has been studied though is not currently being considered. A 1985 Forest plan utility corridor crosses the southern portion above Interstate 84. Mount Ogden, directly adjacent to the area, has a communication site, which can require helicopter landings. **Roads and Trails:** The Beus Canyon Trail, ascending Mount Ogden, is part of the Great Western Trail system. An additional length of the Great Western Trail is proposed in the upper ridgeline area from Strawberry Peak to Ogden Canyon. A portion of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, which allows mountain bikes, has been completed between Beus and Strong Canyons near the urban interface. **Fire:** Fire occurrence and danger is high near Ogden City and in Weber Canyon. High value homes are located not far from the area. **Insect and Disease:** There is no disease or insect infestation.

**Capability:** A mostly **natural environment** is present. In some locations in the roadless area, a visitor's sense of **solitude** is diminished from the sights and sounds of nearby development. It is moderate for providing biological and wildlife values. Opportunities for **primitive recreation** are moderate, limited somewhat by the size of the area and screening from vegetation. The area provides a unique, unconfined experience for urban users in the Ogden area. The rocky, steep, rugged terrain provides **challenging experiences**. **Special Features or Attractions:** Peregrine falcon habitat exists. Lower Weber Canyon is important deer and moose winter range. A variety of small birds and mammals exist. Burch Creek has rainbow trout. There is a Forest Service sensitive plant, *Burkes draba* present. The area has one known heritage site and moderate potential for historic and American Indian sites. **Manageability** of the area as wilderness is

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somewhat hindered given it is surrounded by urban development, private land and is adjacent to the Snowbasin Ski area.

**Need:** The area is located adjacent to south Ogden. The nearest wilderness area is Mount Olympus, about 40 miles to the south. Much of the area is very similar to other Wasatch front wilderness areas. The area received few public comments, although there is high interest in the area because of nearby Olympic developments and the proposed tram.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Burch Creek</b> <b>Management Area: North Wasatch-Ogden</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	7,518	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	7,518	7,518	6,915	0	6,915	7,518
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	603	7,518	603	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	0	0	775	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

## CENTRAL WASATCH MANAGEMENT AREA

**Name:** Lone Peak Additions #0419027

**Acres:** Gross: 874

**Location and Access:** There are 3 parcels along the Wasatch Front-- Little Willow Canyon, Rocky Mouth Canyon and an area near Corner Canyon with a fourth parcel just south of Little Cottonwood Canyon near Coalpit Gulch. State Highway 210 can access that portion.

**Setting:** The area is lower elevation (5,500 to 8,000 feet) and primarily consists of rock, grassland, and scattered oak/maple patches with a few conifer.

**Availability:** **Vegetation treatment:** There are less than 100 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** The areas receive frequent use from local neighborhoods. Sandy City has established trailheads at Rocky Mouth and Little Willow Canyons. Use is primarily day hiking on user-created trails. Little Cottonwood Canyon is popular for dispersed use along the Creek. A mountain bike route leads up the canyon from the Temple Quarry Nature Trail. The Uinta National Forest has a trailhead just outside the boundary of the south end of the Corner Canyon parcel. It eventually leads to Lone Peak Wilderness. **Minerals:** Minerals on about 320 acres are privately owned. Most of the private minerals are in the Coalpit Gulch area. Mineral potential is suspected to be low. **Range:** There is no grazing by domestic livestock. **Water:** The area has some water rights. **Land uses:** There are developments present used by irrigation companies. **Roads and Trails:** The Bonneville Shoreline Trail could potentially cross three of the parcels.

**Capability:** The parcels on the front have **naturalness of the environment** diminished because of adjacent urban development. However, the parcel on the south side of Little Cottonwood is moderate in naturalness. The natural appearance in Corner Canyon has been diminished because of the resource damage caused by user-created ATV routes. **Solitude** and remoteness are quite limited being next to the Wasatch Front. **Primitive recreation** opportunities and challenging experiences are limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** Little Cottonwood Creek was found eligible in the Wild and Scenic River Inventory. The area includes some important deer winter range. A Forest Service sensitive plant *Wastach jamesia* is present. The area has no known heritage sites but moderate potential for discovery of relic mining and American Indian sites. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness is hampered because it is adjacent to private land that may be developed in the future. Privately-owned minerals could create conflicting uses should they ever be developed.

**Need:** The area is contiguous to the existing Lone Peak Wilderness area. Public interest in these parcels as future wilderness has been low.

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<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Lone Peak</b>						
<b>Management Area: Central Wasatch</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	874	498	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	874	874	874	0	0	874
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	0	874	874	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Twin Peaks #0419006**

**Acres:** Gross: 6,490

**Location and Access:** The Twin Peaks Roadless Area is located in the Wasatch Range between Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyons, west of Brighton and east of Salt Lake City and is composed of eight units. Four are less than 100 acres and three are smaller than 300 acres. Most of the area is within one unit of 5,600 acres and includes Mineral Fork, Days Fork and Silver Fork Canyons. Included in the Twin Peaks Roadless Area are Reed and Benson Ridge, Greens Basin, Mats Basin, and the area west of Kessler Peak. Along the Wasatch Front, the smaller parcels include Deaf Smith Canyon, the mouth of Ferguson Canyon and an area above the Little Cottonwood Park and Ride Lot. Access to the area is via State Highways 152 and 210 or from Wasatch Boulevard.

**Setting:** Much of the topography is rugged and steep, with peaks towering up to 11,000 feet (east of Superior Peak). The vegetation varies from maple, box elder, and Gambel oak to heavy stands of subalpine fir, aspen and some Douglas fir. There is also steep rock slope, riparian habitat, as well as subalpine and alpine country in the upper reaches.

**Availability:** **Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 800 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** Day hiking, cross-country and backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding are popular, especially in Mineral Fork, Days Fork and Silver Fork. The Mineral Fork trail is open to ATVs (vehicles less than 50 inches wide), motorcycles and mountain bikes. Motorized use is generally low except during hunting season. Use is low in Deaf Smith Canyon because access is difficult with housing developments adjacent to the forest boundary. Part of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail is proposed to cross near Ferguson and Deaf Smith Canyons. **Minerals:** The area has had mining activities in the past and some interest in prospecting continues. Some of the mining claims are still active and could warrant future access needs. The area does show evidence of mineralization. Most of the minerals are federally owned though in Deaf Smith Canyon and above Little Cottonwood Park and Ride there is substantial acreage of privately- owned mineral rights. There is one mining claim in lower Deaf Smith Canyon. There are no oil and gas leases and the potential is low. **Range:** There is no permitted domestic livestock grazing. **Water:** The area is part of the Salt Lake City municipal watershed. **Land Uses:** Parts of the area are under permit for guided helicopter skiing opportunities. These areas were excluded in the 1984 Wilderness Act because of this use. Solitude Ski area has expressed interest in expanding its downhill ski development into Silver Fork. **Roads and Trails:** It includes (or parts of) Mineral Fork, Days Fork, Silver Fork, Deaf Smith Canyon, and Ferguson Canyon Trails.

**Capability:** The area has moderate values for **naturalness** and environmental values with interior areas providing higher values. Much of the area is similar to the existing wilderness area. Opportunities for **solitude** and serenity are affected by the nearness to the Salt Lake Valley metropolitan area and the heavy recreation corridors of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. During the winter months solitude is also affected by helicopter noise at some times in some areas. The steep and off-trail country however provides diverse and **challenging experiences** and **primitive recreation**. Deaf Smith Canyon with its limited access and rugged, remote terrain offers excellent solitude and challenge. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area has renowned examples of glaciations. Little Cottonwood Creek was found eligible to be included in the wild and scenic river inventory. The area contains habitat for peregrine falcon and golden eagles. Little North Deaf Smith Canyon does have the sensitive Bonneville cutthroat trout. The parcels of roadless along the Wasatch Front provide important winter big game habitat. Many plant species of concern are present. They include Garrett's bladderpod, *Wasatch Jamesia*, Garrett's daisy, Wasatch fitweed and broadleaf beardtongue. The area contains sites of historic mining activities. There is high potential for additional mining sites and some potential for American Indian sites. **Manageability** of the area as wilderness could be affected by the seven parcels of private land included, primarily in the narrow corridor area (only ½mile wide in places) by Montreal Hill and west of Reed and Benson Ridge. The development potential of these lands is limited because of the area's steepness and county land use restrictions. Two of these parcels are owned by Salt Lake City for watershed values. Private mineral ownership of these parcels, as well as other tracts in the Deaf Smith Canyon and above the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride could create conflicting uses should they ever be developed.



**Need:** The closest portions of the area are adjacent to Wasatch Front communities. It is contiguous to the existing Twin Peaks Wilderness Area. People who support this area for wilderness see a strong need for the primitive recreation opportunities provided in close vicinity to urban populations. They also see the need to manage these areas to protect them from impacts. The area has strong public support from the City of Salt Lake (for watershed protection), as well as local environmental organizations for wilderness designation. Former Congressman Cook studied the area for possible wilderness designation.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Twin Peaks</b> <b>Management Area: Central Wasatch</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	5,789	2,317	480	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	6,490	6,490	4,312	3,523	3,240	6,490
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	2,178	2,967	3,250	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	47	47	518	425	826	47
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	611	2,628	2,482	3,405
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	2.7	2.7	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0.1	0.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** Mount Olympus #0419007

**Acres:** Gross: 10,038

**Location and Access:** The area is located on western slope of Wasatch Range between Big Cottonwood and Mill Creek Canyons. The area is composed of three separate parcels. Most of the area is east of the existing Mt Olympus wilderness. The two remaining parcels are Neffs Canyon and areas along the Mill Creek and Big Cottonwood corridors. Access to the area is provided by State Highway 152 (Big Cottonwood) and county road in Mill Creek Canyon.

**Setting:** Elevations range from about 6,000 feet to 10,246 feet on Gobblers Knob. Much of the area has steep rugged slopes with alpine scenery in the higher elevations. Douglas fir and subalpine fir grow in scattered patches on northern exposures and higher elevations. Other vegetation includes Gambel oak, maple, mountain mahogany, aspen and box elder.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 2,500 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** The area is a very popular year round recreation area. Uses include hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and some limited hunting. There is no motorized recreation, except for helicopter skiing in the winter. Most trails receive extremely heavy recreation use. Lake Desolation and a climb to the top of Gobblers Knob are popular hikes. The area has some of the best high elevation mountain biking opportunities in the Salt Lake area. Trails such as Dog Lake, Big Water, Mill D North, Desolation, and Great Western receive a high amount of mountain biking use. **Minerals:** The majority of minerals are federally owned except for 450 acres. The area has evidence of past mining activity, but there is little evidence of current mining activity. It is a mineralized area and has the potential for mineral reserves. **Range:** There is no permitted domestic livestock grazing. **Water:** The area is part of the municipal watershed for Salt Lake City. Neffs Canyon has potential for water development. **Land Uses:** Mount Olympus Water has a long-term special use permit for access rights to their water system. Parts of the area such as Alexander Basin/Gobblers Knob are under permit for guided helicopter skiing opportunities. These areas were excluded in the 1984 Wilderness Act because of this use. **Roads and Trails:** The area contains several non-motorized trails including the Great Western Trail on the eastern edge. The trail to Alexander Basin is one of the steepest in the Wasatch Range gaining 2000 feet in 1.5 miles.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** has been influenced little by human intrusion. The naturalness and associated values are high in the Alexander Basin/Gobblers Knob area and moderate in other portions of the area. **Solitude** is mostly moderate throughout the area but diminishes in areas near the Mill Creek and Big Cottonwood Canyon corridors. More solitude is offered in the interior and eastern portions especially in off-trail areas and in Alexander Basin. Development along the Wasatch Front is highly visible from the western portion of the area. Opportunities for **primitive recreation** are excellent. **Special Features or Attractions:** Scenery and views are outstanding in much of the area. The country around Alexander's Basin/Gobblers Knob is very steep and rugged, a geologic wonder of glaciation.

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Neffs Canyon has a deep limestone cave, managed for protection of cave resources. The area has habitat for Peregrine Falcon and golden eagle. There is summer and winter range for deer, elk, moose, bear and transplanted mountain goats. Forest Service sensitive plant *Wasatch jamesia*, and rare plants Wasatch shooting-star, and Wasatch and broadleaf beardtongue are present. The area has one known heritage site and has moderate potential for discovery of mining and American Indian sites. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness could be difficult along Mill Creek and Big Cottonwood because of heavy recreation developments and the Porter Fork summer homes area. The proximity of the Porter Fork development could create potential conflicting uses as evidenced by the occasional snowmobile trespass from this area into the existing wilderness. There is one private inholding near Beartrap Fork.

**Need:** The area is adjacent to the Salt Lake metropolitan area. It is contiguous to the existing Mount Olympus Wilderness area. Across Big Cottonwood Highway is the Twin Peaks Wilderness area. The area has a lot of public interest in wilderness especially in the Alexander Basin/Gobblers Knob area. Many have emphasized watershed protection, ecosystem and wildlife values and primitive recreation needs in the vicinity of urban populations. Some would prefer heliskiing and mountain biking opportunities continue. Local environmental groups and Salt Lake City Public Utilities recommend much of this area as wilderness.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Mount Olympus</b>						
<b>Management Area: Central Wasatch</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	9,494	2,170	2,007	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	10,139	10,139	9,476	9,379	9,015	10,139
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	663	760	1,124	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	253	159	617	135
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	2,514	4,092	3,773	4,273
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0.2	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name:** White Pine #0419004

**Acres:** Gross: 2,059

**Location and Access:** The area is located in the Wasatch Range south of Little Cottonwood Canyon and west of Snowbird Ski Area. The northern boundary is the Little Cottonwood Highway, the eastern boundary is Snowbird Ski Area, the southern boundary is the Uinta National Forest and the western boundary is the Lone Peak Wilderness. Access to White Pine is from a trailhead on State Highway 210 (Little Cottonwood). There is one private inholding.

**Setting:** Topography is rugged and steep with peaks towering over 10,000 feet. White Pine Lake (constructed reservoir) is a picturesque mountain lake located near the southern portion of the roadless area. Douglas fir and subalpine fir grow in scattered patches on the northern exposures and higher elevation. There is also gambel oak, maple, mountain mahogany, aspen and box elder. The upper portions of White Pine are alpine and subalpine terrain.

**Availability:** **Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 300 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** The area receives heavy hiking and backpacking use primarily on the White Pine and Red Pine trails. Mountain biking use is moderate, with most riders only going as far as the Red Pine/White Pine trail junction. Extreme bikers can continue all the way to the lake. There is some fishing at White Pine Lake. The area is very popular in the winter for outstanding backcountry skiing opportunities. **Minerals:** Minerals in the area are federally owned. **Range:** There are no permitted livestock. **Water:** The area is part of Salt Lake City's municipal watershed. **Land Uses:** The White Pine dam and road are under a special use permit that allows occasional motorized access for maintenance. Snowbird Ski Resort has expressed an interest for potential expansion in the White Pine area. The area is currently under permit for guided helicopter skiing opportunities. **Road and Trails:** A developed trail, which was a former road, leads to White Pine Lake. **Fire:** Area has low fire potential. There could be a need for fire control access, given its proximity to resort structures. **Insect and Disease:** Insect populations are low.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is moderate to high and influenced very little by human development except for the trail (former road) and the lake (reservoir with dam). Geological, biological, ecological, educational and historic values are moderate. Opportunities for **solitude** and **challenge experiences** are excellent away from the White Pine trail. There are some very rugged rock climbs and backcountry ski runs. **Special features and attractions:** The area is very scenic. The area provides habitat for deer, elk, moose, bear, mountain lion, and golden eagles. A Forest Service sensitive plant, Garrett's bladderpod is present. Other rare plants such as Garrett's daisy, Wasatch fitweed, and broadleaf beardtongue also inhabit the area. There are no known heritage sites but the area has moderate potential for discovery of American Indian and mining sites. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness is fairly good because it is mostly surrounded by easily identified ridgelines. The western boundary is adjacent to Lone

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Peak Wilderness. The ability to manage the area as wilderness along the eastern boundary would be more difficult given its proximity to Snowbird Ski Area.

**Need:** It is adjacent to Lone Peak Wilderness. Both the Mount Olympus and Twin Peaks Wilderness are nearby. The area is within a 5 to 10 mile drive from Salt Lake City. It is one of the most accessible high alpine areas in the Wasatch. There is strong public and Salt Lake City support for wilderness designation of the area. Others have said this area is needed for mountain bike use, heliski opportunities (key important area) and the potential ATV use.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: White Pine</b>						
<b>Management Area: Central Wasatch</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	2,059	2,059	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	2,059	2,059	1,942	1,942	0	2,059
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	117	117	2,059	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	0	0	0	7
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	1,896	1,939	1,898
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Mount Aire #0419008**

**Acres:** Gross: 9,701

**Location and Access:** The Mount Aire Roadless Area is located in the Wasatch Range east of Salt Lake City, bordered by Parleys and Lambs Canyon on the north and Mill Creek Canyon on the south. Access to the area is via the county road in Mill Creek Canyon, the Lambs Canyon Road, and Interstate 80 in Parleys Canyon.

**Setting:** The area is composed of primarily brush-covered steep slopes ranging to about 8,600 feet in elevation. Mount Aire and Grandeur Peak are the most prominent features. Vegetation at lower elevations includes maple, gambel oak and box elder with some aspen and fir are present at higher elevations.

**Availability: Vegetation Treatment:** There are an estimated 500 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** The area is a very popular dispersed recreation area. Almost all the hiking is day use. There are some limited cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities. The Pipeline Trail, paralleling a ¼ mile above the canyon is one of most popular mountain bike trail opportunities near Salt Lake. Use is extremely heavy on the Pipeline, Rattlesnake Gulch, Mount Aire and Grandeur Peak Trails. Burch Hollow and Lambs Canyon Trails receive lower use. Part of the area's popularity can be attributed to the fact it is one of the few areas in the Salt Lake portion of the Wasatch Front where dogs are allowed. Use is very low off the system trails due to brush and steep rocky slopes. The area does have some limited hunting. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned. There are no known significant mineral deposits. **Range:** There are no grazing allotments in the area. **Water:** Part of the area is in Salt Lake City municipal watershed, but currently it is not for culinary water purposes. North side drainages contribute to the Mountain Dell Reservoir, while south side drainages contribute to Mill Creek. **Land Uses:** The eastern side is currently under permit for guided helicopter skiing opportunities. There is a utility corridor from the 1985 Plan, which crosses the northwest corner of the area. **Roads and Trails:** The area contains no roads. All trails are non-motorized.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the area** has been somewhat affected in heavy trail use areas but the natural integrity is intact otherwise. Air pollution, noise pollution and visual views of urban development affect this area. The narrowness and proximity to development can affect the **solitude** available to the visitor. Noise from traffic, Mill Creek visitors and Lambs Canyon summer home users is often heard. Solitude opportunities are very low along the trail corridors year round; however off trail visitor can experience outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area can present very **challenging experiences** off trail. An example is the northern ridgeline of Mill Creek Canyon, which is very brushy and rocky and requires route-finding skills. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area has a rare plant, the Wasatch Daisy. The area has habitat for peregrine falcon and golden eagle. The area is important summer and winter range for deer, elk, moose, and small game. There is moderate potential for discovery of historical mining and

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American Indian sites. **Manageability** is somewhat affected by the narrowness of the area (down to ½mile in places), having a large portion of the area surrounded by private land and being adjacent to the heavily-used Mill Creek Canyon.

**Need:** The area is adjacent to Salt Lake City. There are three other wilderness areas within close proximity of Mount Aire. Although somewhat similar to nearby wilderness areas, Mount Aire does offer some diversity in wildlife and lower elevation habitat. This area may have similar watershed protection needs in the future as the other nearby wilderness areas. Salt Lake City Public Utilities is currently not pushing for wilderness designation for this area; however the area has strong local support from the public and environmental groups on having the area designated as wilderness or at least roadless undeveloped management.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Mount Aire</b>						
<b>Management Area: Central Wasatch</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	9,391	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	9,701	9,701	9,555	0	5,723	9,701
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	146	9,701	3,978	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	112	112	1,238	112
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	773	768	768	769
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Farmington #0419009**

**Acres:** Gross: 10,946

**Location and Access:** It is situated on the western slope of the Wasatch Range northeast of Bountiful in Davis County. The area is bordered by improved roads on three sides: Ward Canyon Road on the south, Skyline Drive along the eastern edge at the mountain crest, and Farmington Canyon Road on the north. Along the western side is the urban Wasatch Front.

**Setting:** The topography is steep and rugged with elevations ranging from 4,500 feet at the base to over 9,000 feet near the Skyline Road. Sagebrush, gambel oak, and maple vegetate the lower elevation slopes. Aspen and fir are found at higher elevations. The ridge near Skyline Drive is windswept and much of it consists of grass, rock and pockets of shrubs and trees including aspen and subalpine fir.

**Availability: Timber:** There are an estimated 1,000 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** Use is primarily day hiking with increasing dispersed camping. There are non-motorized winter recreation activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowboarding. Snowmobiles access portions of the area especially near Skyline Drive and along Farmington and Ward Canyon Roads. The area receives heavy hunting use and has some limited fishing opportunities. **Minerals:** The majority of minerals, approximately 60%, are privately owned. **Range:** Some sheep grazing is permitted in the area. **Water:** The area is valuable municipal watershed for the surrounding communities. A portion of the Davis County Experimental Watershed is within the area. **Land uses:** Part of this area is currently under permit for guided helicopter skiing opportunities. A utility corridor from the 1985 Forest Plan crosses some of the area as does the Davis Aqueduct. **Roads and Trails:** There are no roads except for a few remnants. There are no routes designated as open for motorized use within the area; however, there are many unauthorized roads and ATV routes in the area, particularly near the urban interface and off the main roads surrounding the area. Recreation trails exist in Parrish Creek and Farmington Canyon. There are a few trails up other canyons such as Rick's Creek and Steed Canyon. The proposed Bonneville Shoreline Trail could cross portions of the area along its western boundary.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** and appearance of the area is good, but generally wilderness characteristics are lacking. Extensive areas of terracing completed for watershed improvement are visible along the Skyline Drive just outside the area. Its evidence varies by location, season and lighting. A small area of terracing is within the roadless area itself. This element of human alteration of the landscape can affect one's sense of remoteness. In some locations in the roadless area, a visitor's sense of **solitude** is diminished from the sights and sounds of nearby development. **Challenging experiences and primitive recreation** are somewhat limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** The roadless area contains the 167 acre Morris Creek Research Natural Area (RNA), which was set aside as a benchmark area that was not impacted from past grazing. The area contains habitat for Peregrine falcon and goshawk. The



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area is important summer and winter range for deer, elk, moose and small game. Near the Skyline Drive, are ponds called Farmington Lakes, which have habitat for beaver, ducks, and dragonflies. There are no known heritage sites, but some prehistoric rock art has been found near the area. The area has moderate potential for discovery of historic logging, water control, recreation, and American Indian sites. **Manageability** of the boundary would be fair primarily because the development along the Front and the popularity of Skyline Drive. There is one intrusion of narrow private land on the south end.

**Need:** The area is within 15 to 20 miles of Salt Lake City adjacent to the South Davis communities of Centerville and Farmington. The nearest wilderness area is about 20 miles to the south (Mount Olympus). Public interest in the area as wilderness has been low.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Farmington</b>						
<b>Management Area: North Wasatch-Ogden</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	10,946	10,946	9,831	0	0	10,946
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	1,115	10,946	10,946	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	3,581	2,976	3,391	3,226
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	145	145	145	93
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Francis North #0419010**

**Acres:** Gross: 8,143

**Location and Access:** The area lies mostly on the western slope of the Wasatch Range east of Layton, south of Interstate 84 and north of Webb Canyon. Trails from Fernwood Picnic Area, Adams Canyon and the Great Western trail segment from Francis Peak Radar Station can access area.

**Setting:** The topography is steep and rugged, with elevations ranging from 4,500 feet near the valley to 9,707 feet at Thurston Peak. Drainages such as Hobbs Canyon and Adams Canyon cut through the area. Vegetation at lower elevations consists of Gambels oak, maple and grasses. Aspen and fir grow in patches on higher slopes, along with a few remnants of whitebark pine. The Great Salt Lake Valley, Antelope Island, Weber River Valley and Morgan Valley are visible from many vantage points.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are less than 100 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** Use includes hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting and some winter recreation activities. A popular hike is from the Francis Peak Federal Aviation radar facility in the south along the Great Western Trail to the top of 9,707 foot Thurston Peak. This portion of the trail also receives some mountain bike use. The Great Western Trail also receives use out of Fernwood Picnic Area. Adams Canyon is another recreation trail with a trailhead on the Wasatch Front. Portions of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail near Fernwood currently exist or are being planned. Other canyons such as Hobbs Canyon also receive some dispersed recreation use. **Minerals:** The majority of mineral, about 70%, are privately owned. **Range:** Sheep graze under permit on the Morgan County portion. **Water:** The area serves as municipal watershed for local communities. **Land Uses:** A portion of the area is within the permitted area for heliskiing. A 1985 Forest plan utility corridor crosses the western portion of the area. **Roads and Trails:** The area contains no roads, but has some recreation trails.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** remains intact with little influence of human activities. The opportunities for **solitude** and **challenging experiences** are generally good though in a few locations in the roadless area, a visitor's sense of **solitude** is diminished from the sights and sounds of nearby development. **Special Features or Attractions:** Thurston Peak is the highest point in Davis County. There is habitat for peregrine falcon and bald eagle. There is summer and winter range for deer, elk and few moose along with the usual variety of small birds and animals. The area has some of the most remote and spectacular scenic vistas from the ridgeline in Davis County. The area has moderate potential for discovery of heritage sites of historic water control, logging, and American Indian sites. **Manageability** is generally good, although private land surrounds much of the area. If private inholdings in Webb Canyon and Smith Creek Lakes areas were acquired, this area could be combined with the nearby roadless parcel adding about 3,300 more acres.

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**Need:** The area is located adjacent to the Davis County communities of Fruit Heights, Kaysville and Layton. The nearest wilderness area is Mount Olympus, about 30 miles to the south. Much of the ecosystem types of the area are represented in other wilderness areas. The area received limited public comment on its wilderness potential.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: North Francis</b>						
<b>Management Area: North Wasatch-Ogden</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	8,143	8,143	5,908	0	0	8,143
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	2,235	8,143	8,143	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	1,926	1,926	1,926	757
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Hogsback #0419026**

**Acres:** Gross: 7,931

**Location and Access:** The area is on the eastern slope of the Wasatch Range in Morgan County 5 miles east of Farmington and 7 miles southwest of Morgan. Primary access is by Skyline Drive and a segment of the Great Western Trail near Bountiful or Farmington. The Farmington Flats road that leaves Skyline Drive also reaches the area.

**Setting:** Much of the area is steep and rugged. The area is known for its ridgeline shaped like a “hog’s back” in the distance. This ridge is primarily grass, rock and scattered patches of shrubs. Elevation for the area ranges from approximately 7,000 feet to 9,259-foot Bountiful Peak.

Vegetation consists of grass, sage, and patches of shrubs, aspen and conifer. The ridge near Skyline Drive is windswept with rock outcroppings and remnants of a few whitebark pines.

**Availability:** **Vegetation Treatment:** There are an estimated 2,300 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** The primary recreation use is hunting. There is some day hiking, dispersed camping, snowmobiling and OHV use. **Minerals:** Half of the minerals are privately owned. **Range:** Sheep grazing is permitted in much of the area. **Water:** The area provides water for communities in Morgan Valley. **Land Uses:** A 1985 plan utility corridor crosses the southern boundary. A portion of the area is within the permitted area for heliskiing. **Roads and Trails:** There are three lightly used trails (Wasatch Crest, Arthur's Fork and Deep Creek).

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is moderate. Areas that have been terraced for watershed improvement are visible along the Skyline Drive and Farmington Flats areas just outside the area. **Solitude** is moderate because of the low use in the area, but is sometimes affected by noise from nearby motorized recreation use in the Farmington Flats area.

**Challenging experiences** are moderate. **Special Features or Attractions:** From the ridgeline, you can see vistas of the Great Salt Lake and Morgan Valley areas. The area has good habitat for deer. There are a few elk and moose that use the area as well as small game, grouse and raptors. There is a rare plant, the broadleaf beardtongue, present. There are no known heritage resource sites, but the area has moderate potential for historic and American Indian sites.

**Manageability** is affected because of very narrow portions of the area such as on the Hogsback, which is surrounded by private land. The area between Farmington Flats and Bountiful Peak has been excluded resulting in a difficult to manage boundary. The roadless area almost surrounds Farmington Flats FS road 084.

**Need:** The area is located near communities of Bountiful, Farmington and Morgan. The nearest wilderness is Mount Olympus about 15 miles to the south. It offers limited value as wilderness when compared to other nearby areas.

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Hogsback						
Management Area: North Wasatch-Ogden						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	7,997	7,997	0	0	0	7,997
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	7,997	7,997	7,997	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	0	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	252	0	252	252
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

## STANSBURY MANAGEMENT AREA

**Name:** Stansbury Mountains #0419011

**Acres:** Gross: 39,680

**Location and Access:** The Stansbury Inventoried Roadless Area is located in an isolated mountain range in the Great Basin. It is located southwest of Grantsville, Utah. The roadless area surrounds the Deseret Peak Wilderness area. Primary access to the area is Forest Service road 578 in South Willow Road from Grantsville. There is also access by other low development roads from the Skull valley Road, Highway 199 from Terra and Grantsville to St. John.

**Setting:** The terrain of the northern part of the range is steep and rugged while the southern part is rolling brush-covered area with some rocky peaks and slopes. Elevations range from 6,000 feet in the foothills to 10,301 feet at Vickory Mountain. The area contains some unique springs, limestone caverns and isolated forested stands.

**Availability:** **Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 1,200 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Fuelwood gathering has been allowed in the past, but is not currently being managed for that activity. **Recreation:** Use includes hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, motorized recreation, mountain biking, rock climbing, dispersed camping and hunting. The area receives some local snowmobiling use. **Minerals:** Minerals are federally owned. There are a few small claims that have been active in the past. The area is rated as low for oil and gas potential. **Range:** Cattle graze under permit throughout most of the area. **Water:** Water is used for agriculture and local community needs. **Land Uses:** There are minor water developments in some side canyons. **Roads and Trails:** There are numerous low maintenance and user-created roads. There are several motorized and non-motorized low maintenance trails. The Stansbury Front Motorized Trail, which traverses the east side of the range is very popular. West Canyon also receives OHV use, but it is much more limited.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is intact with few human intrusions noticeable. Evidence of user-created trails and roads and historic small watershed treatment terracing areas detract from the area's natural integrity in isolated areas. There are moderate values for naturalness, geological, biological, ecological and wildlife habitat. **Solitude** is outstanding because of the isolation, size and topography of the area. The area is wild and remote offering **challenging experiences** to visitors. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area is unique from much of the Wasatch-Cache, because it is part of the Great Basin ecosystem. The range itself is very scenic with views of the existing wilderness, surrounding desert and the Great Salt Lake. Area has one rare plant, the broadleaf beardtongue. There is habitat for deer, elk, mountain lion, raptors including peregrine falcon and goshawk, and a variety of small animals. There is potential for reintroduction of bighorn sheep. The area around Big Creek on the western side is part of the Big Creek Wild Horse Territory. Brown trout are found in North Willow Creek and rainbow trout are found in South Willow Creek. The area has about 20 known heritage sites including a prehistoric chipping area. Much of the area has high potential for discovery of relic mining and American Indian sites. **Manageability:** The Stansbury Front Trail dissects a major portion of the northern end of the roadless area. The proximity of motorized trails and accessible roads near future wilderness boundaries would create potential trespass problems as evidenced by current problems in Deseret Peak Wilderness. The Mining Fork Road and private land access would be difficult to manage because of the area between it and South Willow Canyon is very narrow.

**Need:** It is located 20 miles from the rapidly growing Tooele area and about 50 miles west of Salt Lake. It surrounds the existing wilderness area and is contiguous to BLM Wilderness study areas in the north and south. There have been several public comments to include the roadless area, existing wilderness and BLM WSA and other contiguous lands as a large wilderness ecosystem area. The area is known as a desert island roadless area, part of the Great Basin and Range ecosystem. There is some opposition to wilderness additions from local communities.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Stansbury Mountains</b> <b>Management Area: Stansbury</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	37,342	17,084	4,972	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	39,680	39,680	27,062	0	0	39,680
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	12,618	39,680	39,680	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	466	2,357	2,470	2,890	4,122	2,470
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	24.9	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0.2	26.2	26.2	26.8	26.8	26.8
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

## WESTERN UINTAS MANAGEMENT AREA

(The High Uintas Roadless Area is described in the Eastern Uintas Management Area)

**Name: Nobletts #0419003**

**Acres:** Gross: 3,113

**Location and Access:** Most of Nobletts roadless area is on the Heber District of the Uinta National Forest. This following will describe the Wasatch – Cache portion. It is located south of the Mirror Lake Highway between Pine Valley and Soapstone about 10 miles east of Kamas. The northern boundary is the Mirror Lake Highway, the western boundary is private land in Pine Valley and the southern boundary is the Uinta National Forest. Access from the Wasatch – Cache side is limited due to the Provo River, steep slopes and private land. Most access to the area comes from the Uinta National Forest side.

**Setting:** Much of the area is a heavily timbered mountain up to 9,400 feet forested with aspen, lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, subalpine fir and Douglas fir. There are rocky cliffs above the Provo River on the north side of the area.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 1,700 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. **Recreation:** Because of the area’s limited access, use is low. There is some hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and hunting. Dispersed recreation and fishing are popular on the north side of the Provo River. The portion north of the Provo River along the Mirror Lake Highway receives heavy dispersed recreation use. Terrain limits most snowmobiling opportunities. The area contains part of a groomed ski and snowmobile route near the Provo River. **Minerals:** Minerals are primarily federally owned except for about 100 acres. Mineral potential is low. **Range:** Cattle graze in a portion of in the area. **Water:** Water use is for livestock use. **Roads and Trails:** There are a couple of system trails by the Provo River. There are no roads designated as open in the area. A few user-created roads are present.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is high in its quality and integrity, because of its limited access and topography and little influence from human activities. The area provides moderate geological, biological, ecological and educational values. While the area does receive low use, **solitude** is somewhat diminished by the influence from Mirror Lake Highway and the Soapstone Summer Home area. **Primitive recreation** opportunities and **challenging experiences** are limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area provides habitat for bear, mountain lion and moose. It is an important area for elk calving. Views of the scenic rocky cliffs above the Provo River are especially pleasing. There are no known heritage sites and moderate potential for historic logging and American Indian sites. **Manageability** of the area is limited because its small size. Management of the area as wilderness is affected by adjacent private land on the west end.

**Need:** The High Uintas Wilderness is about 8 miles away to the east. The area is about 15 miles from Kamas and 65 miles from Salt Lake City. Some people felt designating wilderness here would protect a larger intact ecosystem important for wildlife needs.

Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Nobledds						
Management Area: Western Uintas						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	2,675	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	3,113	3,113	3,113	0	0	3,113
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	0	3,113	3,113	0



Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects						
Roadless Area: Nobletts						
Management Area: Western Uintas						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	3,112	3,112	3,112	3,112	3,112
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: Lakes #0419005**

**Acres:** Gross: 122,019

**Location and Access:** The Lakes Roadless area is immediately east of Kamas and north of Mirror Lake Highway. The area includes the headwaters of the Bear, Weber, Provo and Duchesne Rivers. Most of the area is within Summit County. Access to the area is State Highway 150 (Mirror Lake Highway), county road 213 (Weber River) and Forest Service road 160 (Whitney Reservoir)

**Setting:** Elevations range from about 7,500 feet on the west and south ends to 11,943 feet atop Bald Mountain near the east end. Mount Watson at 11,521 feet is another well-known peak. Deep canyons, forests and meadows characterize the west end; the east end is alpine country with high peaks and numerous natural and nine reservoirs. The extreme western and southern sections are vegetated with mountain mahogany, juniper, and sagebrush. The central portion is forested with aspen, lodgepole pine and mixed conifer stands. The high country is characterized by isolated stands of mixed conifer, patches of krumholz on windswept ridges and meadows composed of grasses and sedges.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 45,000 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. Evidence of previous timber sales is nearby. There is potential for prescribed burning in some of the area for habitat diversity improvements. **Recreation:** The area is extremely popular and receives high visitation. The more popular uses include day hiking,

backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, dispersed camping, and snowmobiling. The many lakes and higher elevation areas are major attractions during the summer months and several receive very high use. There is some mountain bike use. Motorized trails receive heavy use during the deer-hunting season and use is increasing. Snowmobiling is very popular with most of the higher use in the outer portion of the area (approximately 42% of the area). The remaining area provides opportunities for the highly skilled and adventuresome snowmobiler. About 95% of the roadless area is currently open to snowmobiling in the District travel plan. There is some rock climbing with fixed anchors in the Stone Garden area by Ruth Lake, near mile marker 18, on Bald Mountain and on the ridge north of Boy Scout Camp Steiner. **Minerals:** The majority of minerals are federally owned with an estimated 600 to 700 acres privately owned. The area has limited hard rock mining potential. There has been some prospecting in the past in Dry Fork near Fish Lake, in the South Fork of the Weber, Paulsin Basin and near Hoyt Peak. Two claims in the Paulsin Basin area are active and have proposed exploration and small-scale development. The area has low potential for oil and gas. There is one lease (about 100 acres) in the area around Gold Hill on the Evanston District. **Range:** Cattle are permitted to graze in much of the area except Dry Fork, Main Weber, Ruth Lake area and south of Bald Mountain. Cattle are not authorized above the 9800 feet elevation level. Sheep graze in lower Smith & Morehouse and directly south of Whitney Reservoir. **Water:** As the headwaters for several important streams, the area is a valuable watershed providing irrigation and culinary water to farms and communities downstream. **Land Uses:** There is one outfitter permit for cross-country skiers that use yurts for overnight use. Guided youth programs are also permitted in the Yellow Pine, Coop, Shingle, Norway Flats and Boulder Creek drainages. There are two snow-monitoring sites operated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Paulsin Basin and Spring Canyon, which are sometimes maintained by helicopter support. There is a small electronic site near the West Portal and a repeater station on Bald Mountain. There are nine reservoirs owned by private companies and operated under special use permits (Sand, Fish, Anchor, Ibantic, Castle, Kamas, Meadow, Abes and Notch). Maintenance to these reservoirs is generally limited though at times by helicopter support. **Roads and Trails:** The area has four short segments of roads that are designated open in the District travel plan. There are a few motorized trails primarily in the northwest corner of the area such as Swifts Canyon, White Pine, South Fork Weber River, Hoyt Peak and Slader Ridge. The area has substantial miles of non-motorized trails.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is outstanding particularly in the core of the area where man-made developments have influenced the wildness of the area very little. Resource damage from ATVs detracts from the natural appearance in several areas. The area is known for its large open country carved by glaciers, scenic vistas and high country lakes and wetlands. The Middle Fork of the Weber River has some of the wildest country in the Uinta Mountain Range. Areas like south of Abe's Lake and Hells Kitchen are known as very remote areas. Historic uses such as logging, shingle mills, mining and water developments have penetrated into the area though little evidence remains except for the dams, reservoirs and a few scattered remains. Many former reservoirs have been stabilized to natural lake levels. Restoration in these areas complements the undeveloped character of the land. Past watershed treatment

terracing areas in the Mud Lake Flat area (about 370 acres) are no longer substantially noticeable. Timber sales around the perimeter have affected the natural appearance somewhat in these areas. The opportunity for solitude ranges from moderate to high depending on location, distance from development, vegetation and topography. Because of its large size, there are good opportunities for **solitude** and remoteness. Noises from Mirror Lake Highway can be heard in portions of the roadless area with snowmobile noise being the most dominant. Solitude in the non-winter months is higher off trail, along the Weber River side, and on the Evanston District side by Whitney Reservoir. During summer season the solitude is diminished at some lakes because of crowding. Opportunities for **challenging experiences** are rated as moderate with much of the use from short day hikes. Diverse opportunities exist for **primitive recreation**.

**Special Features or Attractions:** The Lakes area includes some of the most scenic country and trails in northern Utah and in the state. The area has several segments of streams found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory – Main Fork Weber, Middle Fork Weber, Beaver Creek, and the Provo River. The area has abundant variety of species because of the diverse habitat present. The area is important summer and winter range for deer, elk and moose. There are also mountain lions, black bear, pine marten, weasel, beaver, bobcat, coyote, pika, badger and skunk. The Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources has introduced mountain goats in the area. The area is potential lynx habitat. Over 100 species of birds inhabit the area. Bonneville cutthroat trout are native to the area. Introduced fish include brook trout, rainbow trout and arctic grayling. Sensitive species present include goshawk, boreal owl, and boreal toad. There is a Utah species of concern, the smooth green snake and the area has potential habitat for the spotted frog. The area has Forest Service sensitive plant, rockcress draba and a rare plant, *Utah ivesia*. The area contains some known heritage sites. Limited prehistoric cultural evidence has been found in some isolated spots. There are a few remains of old cabins associated with shingle mills and discarded machinery associated with attempted mining operations. There is high potential for further discovery of past logging, water development, and American Indian sites. The **manageability** of the area as wilderness is complex because the boundary meanders substantially. The area is large over 122,000 acres, which allows some flexibility to help designate a more manageable area. There are several roads excluded such as Paulsin Basin, Upper setting, Norway Flat, around Lambert Meadow, Gardners Fork, Slader Basin, Box Canyon, Mud Lake Flat, Swift Canyon etc. Proximity to private land and private inholdings contribute to the complexity. The north and west sides are primarily adjacent to private land. Present vehicular trespass in closed areas especially on the Weber River side suggests potential problems in the future. There are two private inholdings west of Holiday Park. In addition, there is one private inholding of 158 acres excluded out with a cherry stem in the northwest corner by Swifts Canyon. Private land peninsulas intrude into the roadless area by Hoyt Canyon and Holiday Park.

**Need:** The area is 60 miles east of Salt Lake City. Both Kamas and Oakley are only about 3 miles away from the western edge of the roadless area. The nearest wilderness area is the High Uintas, the largest wilderness area in Utah. It is separated from the Lakes area by the Mirror Lake Highway corridor, in some places only 1 mile away. Lakes area is very significant as a roadless area, because of its size, one of the largest in Utah. Many view it is a large valuable ecosystem when combined with the roadless area and wilderness of the High Uintas. Because of

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this size it offers important habitat for the survival of wildlife. The effects on lynx and other carnivores and their habitat from winter recreation are an issue. The area has probably received the highest amount of public interest of all the roadless areas on the Forest. This interest has been highly polarized with some people very much in support of wilderness designation and others very much opposed to the idea. The support for wilderness designation includes environmental organizations that have emphasized this area as a high priority for wilderness designation. Some groups have proposed the area as the Mount Watson Wilderness – this is approximately the inner 2/3 of the roadless area (approximately 71,000 acres). Opposition is also high against the Lakes area as wilderness, primarily from the snowmobile community, summer motorized users and some local residents. Many feel it is better managed, as it is now as backcountry allowing for winter motorized use. The Lakes backcountry is a very valuable niche for the increasing demand for non-wilderness backcountry. It offers high lakes that contain fishing opportunities, for visitors wanting a backcountry-fishing trip, but not necessarily a wilderness experience that impacts the wilderness. This type of management could allow for more cost effective mitigation of human impacts in the face of drastically declining budgets. The demand for this type of opportunity is rapidly increasing. This area is viewed by the snowmobiling community as one of the critical opportunity areas for their use. Snowmobile use is viewed as important economic sources for communities like Kamas and Oakley.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: Lakes</b>						
<b>Management Area: Western Uintas</b>						
<b>Alternative:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	119,405	71,895	0	0	0	26,253
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	122,019	122,019	103,896	58,941	60,391	122,019
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	18,123	63,078	61,628	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	32	21,287	121,852	121,844	121,850	96,032
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski - acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	11.1	4.5	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	8.6	13.1	13.1	13.1	13.1
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

## EASTERN UINTAS MANAGEMENT AREA

**Name:** Widdop Mountain #0419020

**Acres:** Gross: 7,997

**Location and Access:** The area lies near the Utah – Wyoming state line south of Lone Tree, Wyoming. The area includes Widdop Mountain, the lower Burnt Fork drainage and the area around Coal Mine Hill. Access is primarily by the North Slope Road FS086 and from the north by the Gregory Basin Road (Summit County Road 589).

**Setting:** The terrain consists of short, steep east-west ridges. The north and west portions of the area are steep ridges with birch-leaf mahogany on southern exposures and dense stands of Douglas fir on the northern exposures. The ridges in the eastern and southern portion extending into the Burnt Fork drainage are vegetated with lodgepole pine. The area also offers rolling grasslands. Elevations range from 8,000 feet in the Burnt Fork drainage to the peak of Widdop Mountain at 9,451 feet.

**Availability: Vegetation treatment:** There are an estimated 3,400 acres of tentatively suited timber within the area. A past thinning project in the western portion just north of Hole in the Rock is evident. **Recreation:** Recreation use is light with most use occurring during the fall hunting season. Some fishing takes place in the Burnt Fork River. The area is also popular for 4-wheel drive and ATV use. It is used for dispersed camping opportunities. The area is closed to snowmobiles. **Minerals:** The area is located in the Green River Moxa-Arch oil and gas field. The oil and gas industry rates the area high for oil and gas potential. Several oil and gas leases have been issued or available. The area also has known deposits of coal. There were a few past efforts to attempt to mine coal in the area. All of the minerals are federally owned. **Range:** The range allotments have been vacant since bighorn sheep were introduced. The area has two substantial wire wildlife exclosures for vegetation study purposes. **Water:** The area provides irrigation water for Burnt Fork and Mckinnon, Wyoming. **Roads and Trails:** The area includes numerous user-created and low maintenance roads.

**Capability:** The **naturalness of the environment** is rated moderate influenced by the evidence of user created roads, timber harvest, vegetative treatments and grazing improvements. Opportunities for **solitude** are good especially away from existing roads, since the area has limited access and use is generally low. There are moderate opportunities for **primitive recreation**. **Challenging experiences** and diversity of opportunities are somewhat limited. **Special Features or Attractions:** The area has some stands of old Douglas fir and sagebrush areas in limestone outcroppings, which are somewhat unique for the North Slope. Thompson Creek was found eligible in the Wild and Scenic River Inventory. Values for wildlife habitat are high. It is an important big game summer and winter range – elk, deer, moose, and bighorn sheep. The area is potential lynx habitat. Burnt Fork has Colorado cutthroat trout, a Forest Service Sensitive Species. The area contains few known heritage sites, but has moderate

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potential for discovery of historic mining, logging, and American Indian sites. **Manageability:** The area is surrounded by state and private land in the north and northeast creating potential conflicts with nearby non-wilderness uses.

**Need:** Area is about 60 miles from Evanston and 150 miles from Salt Lake City. The community of Mountain View is about 30 miles away. The High Uintas Wilderness Area, the largest wilderness area in the State of Utah is about 3 miles away (separated by the North Slope Road and the large existing reservoirs). Public opinion on the area is divided. It has not received many comments compared to more popular nearby roadless areas like Lakes and High Uintas. Some have emphasized wilderness to protect ecosystem values for the entire Uinta Mountain range. Others feel this area is needed to meet the growing demand for dispersed motorized recreation opportunities. The area is also important for local community values of traditional Forest uses and recreation.

<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b> <b>Roadless Area: Widdop Mountain</b> <b>Management Area: Eastern Uintas</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	7,997	0	0	0	0	0
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	7,997	7,997	7,270	0	0	7,997
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	727	7,997	7,997	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	0	524	7,995	521	7,995	117
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.

**Name: High Uintas #0419022**

**Acres:** Gross: 103,071

**Location and Access:** The High Uintas Roadless Area is located on the Ashley and Wasatch-Cache National Forests. This write-up describes only the Wasatch-Cache portion. The area is a strip of land lying along the western and northern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness in north central Utah. Most of the access is off of or from roads and trails accessing State Highway 150 (Mirror Lake Highway) or Forest Road 058 (North Slope Road). In addition, there is one small area of 100 acres between Burnt Fork Lakes and Reader Lakes in the roadless area.

**Availability:** Current resource demands and uses of the roadless area vary significantly across the roadless area. Because the area is so large, characteristics of smaller areas will be discussed as appropriate.

**Vegetation Treatment:** Timber harvest in the area began in the 1860's, when the wood was used for railroad ties and charcoal. Evidence of past and present timber harvest is present in areas directly outside of the area. Several old timber sale areas are being used for fuelwood gathering permits. There are 43,300 acres of timber considered tentatively suited for harvest. Areas with higher timber values are found near Boundary Creek, East Fork Blacks Fork, West Fork Smiths, Middle Fork Beaver and Beaver Creek. There has been a proposal for timber harvest units in the Thompson/Kabell areas, where there are large stands of dead lodgepole pine. **Recreation:** The High Uintas Roadless Area is extremely popular for backpacking, horse packing, hiking, hunting, fishing and dispersed camping. Mountain biking is gaining in popularity. Much of the roadless area is used as primary access into the wilderness. ATV use is popular in several areas including Murdock Basin, Broadhead Meadows, and Wolverine areas. Big game hunting is heavy in portions of the area with less use on the Kamas District side. Recreation use is heaviest in areas accessed by roads and trails and around popular lakes. Lake basins are popular and receive high visitation. Snowmobiling use as well as non-motorized winter recreation (cross-country skiing and snowshoeing) is increasing on the North Slope.

The **Stillwater/Hayden** portion is made up of three areas – Hayden Fork, Main Fork and Stillwater drainages. Stillwater Fork is a popular backcountry recreation area because of easy access. Large Boy Scout groups frequent Scow Lake. The Main Fork is an isolated and lightly used drainage with the most concentrated use during the hunting season. There is some motorized trail use primarily in the northwest area.

The **East Fork Bear River** portion of the roadless area is made up of three areas – Lily Lake, Boundary Creek and East Fork Bear River. The Wolverine ATV Trail system occupies much of the Lily Lake portion. Firewood is harvested in this area. In the winter months there is a developed cross-country ski area near Lily Lake with a system of yurts available for overnight use. Anglers use the East Fork Bear River trail to access the river for fishing. Large groups often camp and fish at Lorena Lake. Boundary Creek has become a very popular area for large groups

seeking a backcountry camping experience. It is also popular for fall hunting and cross-country ski use is increasing. Snowmobile use is light except near the head of Boundary Creek.

The **Blacks Fork** area is comprised of East Fork, West Fork, and Middle Fork of the Blacks Fork. West Fork Blacks Fork is heavily used particularly during the fall big game hunt. Summer motorized use is popular along the road paralleling the river, as is snowmobiling in the winter. Most of Middle Fork Blacks has restricted motorized use, but a very low standard and rough road provides access to four-wheel drive and ATV's into the northern end of the area. East Fork Blacks Fork has increasing recreation use supported by nearby facilities. Motorized recreation is prohibited except for snowmobile use in the portion of the area north of the trailhead. The area behind the trailhead is restricted to all motorized use and is managed for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Cataract creek, Steel Creek Park and North of Bull Park are important snowmobile areas.

East Fork Smiths and West Fork Smiths form the **Smiths Fork** area. East Fork Smiths is near a heavily used road and campgrounds that receives heavy recreation use in the summer and fall. Snowmobile use is popular in the winter and the area has a developed mountain bike trail. Recreational use in West Fork Smiths Fork is very light with some increase occurring during the fall hunt. Snowmobile use in Steel Creek Park and north of Bull Park is very popular. The areas provide excellent snowmobiling opportunities, which are limited on much of the Mountain View District.

The **Henrys Fork/Gilbert Creek** area is similar to the West Fork Smiths Fork with numerous small roads that provide opportunities for development of bike, ATV and cross-country ski trails.

The **Beaver Creek** area can be divided into three fairly distinct areas – Bullocks Park, West Fork Beaver Creek and Middle Fork Beaver Creek. Bullocks Park and West Fork Beaver receives light summer use but increasingly heavy fall hunting use. Motorized use is prohibited except for snowmobiling, which only use the area infrequently.

The **Burnt Fork/Thompson/Kabell** area could be divided into three distinct areas – Thompson/Kabell Creek, Burnt Fork and Beaver Meadows. The Thompson/Kabell Creek area has two popular trails that provide access to the wilderness. Burnt Fork is becoming increasingly popular and receives quite heavy use during the fall hunt. Fishing is very popular on the scenic stream that has numerous small falls and pools.

**Minerals:** The majority of the minerals are federally owned. There are about 6,500 acres of privately owned minerals. The Uinta Mountains is considered high in its potential for oil and gas discovery, A substantial amount of the roadless area contains geology that has a high potential for formations known to contain hydrocarbons in other locations. There are 21,000 acres of existing oil and gas leases. **Range:** The area is summer range for numerous cattle and sheep allotments. Parts of 24 allotments are in the roadless area. There are many range improvements



in some areas such as fences and water developments scattered throughout the area. Several low-level maintenance roads are used for motorized access for grazing permittees. **Water:** The Uintas are the headwaters for several of Utah's river systems. Water from the Henrys Fork, Blacks Fork, Bear River, Duchesne River, and Provo River is used for downstream irrigation purposes. The area contributes to the water supply for developed recreation sites such as Meeks Cabin and Stateline Reservoirs. **Land Uses:** The Natural Resource Conservation Service has snow-monitoring sites in the Lily Lake area and south of Steel Creek Park. The Provo Water Users Association has two electronic sites maintained by helicopter and vehicular motorized access in the Duchesne Tunnel area. The Bureau of Reclamation has a weather station near the boundary up the West Fork Blacks Fork. The area does have two sites under special use permit for weather data collection that requires motorized access for maintenance. There is a constructed ditch with a headgate that diverts Thompson Creek water to Hoops Lake. The ditch was constructed with motorized equipment and could require motorized access for maintenance in the future. **Roads and Trails:** There are some motorized trails out of the Wolverine and East Fork of Bear River, as well as the Broadhead Meadows and Murdock Basin areas that are important areas for motorized recreation. A couple of short segments of low maintenance roads designated as open in the Kamas District travel plan are included in the roadless area. The West Fork Blacks Road is planned for closure, but will be kept open for administrative use and a special use weather station permit. There are some designated mountain bike trails near Stateline Reservoir. The Duchesne Tunnel crosses the roadless area underground. Motorized access for maintenance work on the tunnel is gained from outside the area. There is no surface disturbance.

**Capability:** The area is known for its size, high natural values, pristine and wild landscapes, remarkable scenery, and diverse landscapes. Human activities influence the natural environment near the perimeter, which are adjacent to timber sales, roads, and developed campground and trailheads. This is particularly true close to the North Slope Road. Opportunity for **solitude** is high for much of the area due to the area's large size and dense vegetative screening. **Primitive recreation** opportunities are also excellent because of the vast size and wildness of the area. Diversity of the landscape enhances the area scenic quality. Because of the uniqueness and size of the range, there are high educational and research values. The Middle Fork of Bear, Boundary Creek, Middle Fork Blacks and west Fork Beaver are known as the most pristine and remote areas.

The **Stillwater/Hayden** portion (Hayden Fork, Main Fork and Stillwater drainages) has the most diversity within the roadless area. Hayden Fork has outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. Much of the area has few impacts but its proximity to Highway 150 and developed campgrounds results in sights and sounds of mechanization filtering into the area. Stillwater Fork is similar to Hayden Fork. Scenic quality and primitive recreation opportunities are high away from the campground and summer home area. The Stillwater Fork trail is visited extensively affecting opportunities for solitude. Large groups in the Scow Lake area can diminish one's sense of remoteness. The Main Fork has outstanding scenery and is the most remote of the three drainages.

The naturalness of the environment of **East Fork Bear River** portion of the roadless area (Lily Lake, Boundary Creek and East Fork Bear River) varies significantly from one location to another. The natural environment of the Lily Lake area has been diminished somewhat by the presence of numerous four-wheel drive and ATV trails. Boundary Creek is known for its outstanding primitive recreation opportunities and isolation from nearby developments. The East Fork Bear has many wilderness characteristics present, although use from large groups diminishes solitude in some locations. A variety of habitats attract a multitude of wildlife. Remnants of old tie hack cabins are present.

The **Blacks Fork** area is comprised of East Fork, West Fork, and Middle Fork of the Blacks Fork. The West Fork has outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. In areas near the road solitude and remoteness can be affected; however most of the area is isolated from concentrated use and development. Past timber harvesting is all but nonexistent with a few old decrepit cabins, decaying stumps and old grown over narrow roads. There is good habitat for wildlife present. Middle Fork Blacks has outstanding primitive recreation opportunities available. There are high opportunities for finding solitude and remoteness in this area. Wilderness characteristics within East Fork Blacks Fork vary greatly. Near the East Fork Blacks Fork Road and in the more northern portion of the drainage solitude and remoteness are diminished. However, south of the East Fork Blacks Fork Guard Station, a deep sense of solitude and remoteness is present.

East Fork Smiths and West Fork Smiths form the **Smiths Fork** area. The West Fork Smiths Fork is a relatively narrow band of the roadless area. Scenery is not unique since most of the area contains extensive stands of lodgepole pine. Opportunities for primitive recreation activities are limited, however one can experience a sense of solitude and remoteness. East Fork Smiths Fork is fairly similar to West Fork Smiths Fork for providing solitude and primitive recreation opportunities. The area is more scenic. Numerous isolated ponds and small wet meadows afford excellent wildlife habitat viewing opportunities.

The **Henrys Fork/Gilbert Creek** area is also similar to the West Fork Smiths Fork. Its proximity to a very popular trailhead results in sights and sounds penetrating into the surrounding roadless area.

**Beaver Creek** can be divided into three fairly distinct areas – Bullocks Park, West Fork Beaver Creek and Middle Fork Beaver Creek. Bullocks Park is a relatively narrow piece of land lying between a recent timber sale and the wilderness, covered quite extensively by lodgepole pine with limited primitive recreation opportunities. West Fork Beaver is a large area that provides opportunities for primitive recreation. The terrain is diverse and the abundance of various habitats affords a good opportunity to see different wildlife. The Middle Fork Beaver Creek is very similar to the West Fork Beaver Creek.

The **Burnt Fork/Thompson/Kabell** area (Thompson/Kabell Creek, Burnt Fork and Beaver Meadows) are somewhat similar to Beaver Creek. Burnt Fork has somewhat higher scenic quality and could easily be managed as wilderness. Beaver Meadows is also similar to Beaver

Creek but more limited in primitive recreation opportunities, much of rest of the year, visitor use is light since scenery is not unique to the North Slope.

The portion of the roadless area on the Kamas District has moderate values of naturalness, solitude, remoteness, and primitive recreation. There are a lot of high elevation wetlands next to alpine country. The naturalness of the environment is somewhat lower near the Mirror Lake Highway and in Murdock Basin ATV network. The sights and sounds of the Mirror Lake corridor and the presence of roads affect solitude, and remoteness. **Special Features or Attractions:** The Uinta Mountains are known for their outstanding scenic qualities. The Uinta Mountain range is unique in that they are the highest range in Utah and the most prominent east-west range in the lower 48 states. There are many segments of streams that were found eligible in the wild and scenic river inventory: Henrys Fork, West Fork Beaver, Thompson Creek, West Fork Blacks, East Fork Blacks, Little East Fork, West Fork Smiths, East Fork Smiths, Stillwater, Hayden Fork, Ostler Fork, Left Hand Fork Bear, Right hand Fork Bear, East Fork Bear and Boundary Creek. The area has an abundant number of species of fish, amphibians, birds and mammals inhabit the Uintas, one of Utah's most biological diverse areas. Area offers important habitat for species at risk like lynx, wolverine, river otter and pine marten, as well as potential habitat for large carnivores such as wolves and grizzly bear, which once existed in the area. The area also has black bear, cougar, deer, elk, moose, fox, badger, weasel, skunk, grouse, and ptarmigan. Several drainages such as Beaver Creek, Burnt have extensive stands of lodgepole pine with numerous pockets of wet meadows and ponds scattered throughout providing for a variety of wildlife habitat where big game species flourish. East Fork Blacks is an important migration corridor for elk. Elk use the higher elevations of the roadless area extensively in the summer. There is a herd of Bighorn Sheep in the Hole-in-the-Rock area. Mountain goats have been have been transplanted to the area. Species at risk include great gray owl, boreal owl, osprey, three-toed woodpecker, goshawk, and boreal toad. Sandhill and whooping cranes and bald eagles migrate through the area. Streams have native Colorado and Bonneville cutthroat trout and rocky mountain whitefish as well as introduced rainbow trout, brook trout and grayling. Plant species at risk are rockcress draba, Uinta beardtongue and Siberian aster. There are several historical and cultural sites from use by American Indians, mountain men, and early pioneers. There are several remnants of the tie hack days. The area has high potential for additional historic tie hacking, logging, and American Indian sites primarily on the Evanston Ranger District.

**Manageability:** The manageability of the area varies significantly across the landscape from one area to another. Hayden Fork has an easily identifiable boundary though its proximity to concentrated use along Lily Lake Road and Highway 150 would make managing for wilderness challenging. East Fork Bear's terrain and layout of existing roads have isolated the area from the sights and sounds of development. The Bear River-Smiths Fork Trail provides an effective and easy to locate boundary. The terrain of West Fork Black affords manageability of the area for wilderness characteristics. The remote location and difficult access of Middle Fork Black contributes to its manageability for wilderness characteristics, though the checkerboard land ownership could hinder management as wilderness. East Fork Blacks manageability for

wilderness characteristics could be achieved with existing roads and streams used as identifiable boundaries. With relatively limited access, the East Fork Smiths area could be managed for wilderness characteristics. Much of the North Slope road could be used as a boundary. Alternately, manageability for wilderness in the West Fork Smiths, Henrys Fork and Bullocks areas would be hampered by the lack of physical features that could readily identify the boundaries of the area. The narrow corridor of roadless east of Stateline Reservoir and Bridger Lake would be difficult to manage as wilderness. The West/Middle Beaver area lacks outstanding physical features that may be used as a boundary. Areas along significant road exclusions and development (Murdock Basin, Main Fork, Stillwater Fork, East Fork Blacks Fork, East Fork Smiths Fork, Middle Fork Beaver and the oil and gas development area near Dahlgren) could increase potential for non-conforming motorized use.

**Need:** It is contiguous to the existing High Uintas Wilderness area, the largest wilderness in Utah (over 460,00 acres). The area is located 110 to 150 miles from Salt Lake City and about 30 miles southeast of Evanston, Wyoming. Other local communities include Kamas, Mountain View, Robertson and Lonetree.

The area has probably received much public interest. This interest has been highly polarized with some people very much in support of wilderness designation and others very much opposed to the idea. The area has received public interest in wilderness designation from both local and national groups. Some view the range as biologically important and an ecological sanctuary, part of an ecosystem complex that connects with the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. By including the existing wilderness and nearby roadless acreage as well as areas on the Ashley National Forest they view the value as a critical corridor as enhanced. They felt wilderness designation would also provide connectivity from sagebrush ecosystems to high alpine country. Others suggest that by increasing the size of the existing wilderness, pressure on other parts of the wilderness will be reduced.

Others have expressed opposition to wilderness designation for several different reasons. There is a growing segment of the public who want an outstanding backcountry experience without the restrictions that accompany a wilderness designation. They desire a place where large groups of more than 14 people can go and have a backcountry experience. Lakes like Baker, Lorena in the Boundary Creek/East Fork Bear area are popular for such large groups.

Snowmobiling groups have expressed a desire to have areas currently open remain open because of the great increase in use of snowmobiling. Many snowmobilers seek wide-open spaces with open steep slopes to challenge and the High Uintas roadless area provides this experience. They feel much of the available terrain is already closed because it is within the wilderness. Like non-motorized users, snowmobilers use and enjoy outstanding, rugged scenery.

Kamas portion of the roadless area has received less public interest when compared to the public interest along the North Slope.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

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<b>Alternatives and Potential Environmental Effects</b>						
<b>Roadless Area: High Uintas</b>						
<b>Management Area: West and East Uintas</b>						
Alternative:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recommended Wilderness (acres)	98,270	29,303	18,165	0	0	20,116
Roadless/Wilderness Character Protected (acres)	103,071	103,071	72,524	18,141	7,096	103,071
Available for Development (acres)	0	0	30,547	84,930	95,975	0
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Snowmobile - acres)	8	14,005	47,322	51,148	102,050	60,518
Winter Motorized Use Allowed (Heliski – acres)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails Closed to Motorized Use From Wilderness Recommendation (miles)	15.2	0	0	0	0	0
Motorized Travel Plan Trails Open (miles)	1.1	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4
Motorized Travel Plan Roads Open (miles)	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Prescription 2.6 or a prescription in that alternative that does not allow road construction or reconstruction.