

OGDEN VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

**October 23, 2018
5:00 p.m.**

*Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call*

1. Minutes: Approval of the July 17, 2018, August 07, 2018, and August 28, 2018, September 25, 2018 and October 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes
2. Petitions, Applications and Public Hearings
 - 2.1. Legislative Items
 - a. New Business
 1. ZDA 2018-05: Consideration and action on GP 2018-06, a request to amend the Ogden Valley General Plan related to forest firefighting management of roadless areas on Forest Service Lands.
3. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda:
4. Remarks from Planning Commissioners:
5. Planning Director Report:
6. Remarks from Legal Counsel:
7. Adjournment:

*The regular meeting will be held in the Weber County Commission Chambers, in the Weber Center, 1st Floor, 2380 Washington Blvd., Ogden, Utah. Work Session will be held in the Breakout Room. A pre-meeting will be held in Room 108 beginning at 4:30 p.m. to discuss agenda items
No decisions are made in this meeting*



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary services for these meetings should call the Weber County Planning Commission at 801-399-8791



Staff Report to the Ogden Valley Planning Commission

Weber County Planning Division

Synopsis

Application Information

Application Request: To consider and take action on GP 2018-06, a request to amend the Ogden Valley General Plan related to forest firefighting management of roadless areas on Forest Service Lands.

Staff Report Date: October 15, 2018
Agenda Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018
Applicant: Weber County
File Number: GP #2018-06

Property Information

Approximate Address: Forest Service Land
Project Area: NA
Zoning: F-40
Existing Land Use: Forest
Proposed Land Use: NA

Staff Information

Report Presenter: Charles Ewert
cewert@webercountyutah.gov
801-399-8763

Report Reviewer: RG

Applicable Ordinances

§102-2-4 – Powers and Duties of the Planning Commission

Summary

The Forest Service has a rule that restricts building new roads on most forest service land. This restriction can make it difficult to effectively manage the health of a forest. One emerging concern is the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Historically, forest health has been dominantly maintained naturally through periodic wildfire purges. Human-caused suppression of wildfires has led to an unnatural level of under-growth and dead vegetation. These fuels create bigger and hotter wildfires that threaten our ability to effectively firefight.

A solution that the State of Utah hopes to employ is better management-access to forested areas. Better access can enable heavier equipment to be used to clear out dead timber. The State is not looking for unregulated road building in these roadless areas, but rather the ability to build a road for forest management purposes, and in most cases, remove and reclaim the road in a natural state.

In order to do this the state has to lobby for a rule change that create a specific rule applicable to the State of Utah. The state is following in the footsteps of Idaho and Colorado, who both have unique roadless rules applicable to their states. The state's current roadless rule draft is attached as Exhibit A.

The state is asking the counties to amend their resource management plans in a manner that offers a local-recommendation for roadless designations in accordance with their draft rule. For this reason, this general plan amendment is being proposed for your consideration.

Staff is recommending approval.

Legislative Decisions

When the Planning Commission is acting as a recommending body to the County Commission, it is acting in a legislative capacity and has wide discretion. Examples of legislative actions are general plan, zoning map, and land use code amendments. Legislative actions require that the Planning Commission give a

recommendation to the County Commission. For this circumstance, criteria for recommendations in a legislative matter require compatibility with the general plan and existing ordinances.

Planning Commission Considerations

The state is has drafted a proposed rule amendment to the Forest Service's roadless rule. The draft is attached as Exhibit A. Please take a moment to review it as part of this report. In it you will see that the state is requesting the following four roadless area categories:

1. Primitive areas (most restrictive for road building)
2. Forest restoration
3. Forest stewardship
4. Re-inventory or boundary adjustment

Staff are recommending that the areas affected by the Ogden Valley General Plan are categorized as "forest restoration" areas (category 2). This recommendation also comes with a caveat that the roadless rule should not restrict the development of ski resorts in the event the county decides to permit them in the future. This designation can be seen in the map included in this report as Exhibit D. This map is a new map being proposed to be included in the General Plan (as Map 10).

To complement this map, staff are also proposing the text changes shown in Exhibit C. The pages referenced in this proposed change are pages from the current Western Weber County Resource Management Plan. Those existing pages are shown as excerpts in Exhibit B for your reference.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission forward a positive recommendation to the County Commission regarding File #GP 2018-06, a request to amend the Ogden Valley General Plan related to forest firefighting management of roadless areas on Forest Service Land. This recommendation comes with the following findings:

1. That the amendment will offer necessary forest management guidance for the State and Federal Government.
2. That the county supports the state's efforts to better manage public lands.
3. That the changes are in the best interest of the public.

Exhibit

- Exhibit A: Utah Roadless Rule Petition [DRAFT].
Exhibit B: Affected excerpts from current General Plan.
Exhibit C: Proposed text amendment to the General Plan.
Exhibit D: Proposed map addition to the General Plan: Roadless Area Forest Management Categories.

Utah Roadless Rule Petition Proposed Management Area Categories

Management Areas – Most Restrictive to Least Restrictive

1. Primitive Areas
2. Forest Restoration Areas
3. Forest Stewardship Areas
4. Boundary Adjustment/Re-Inventory Areas

Brief Summary of Management Areas

1. **Primitive Areas – follows existing management**
 - a. Primitive Areas represent the same management that currently occurs in Roadless Areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule, 36 C.F.R. § 294. Road construction and reconstruction will be prohibited, except under certain circumstances such as when needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood or fire. The cutting, sale, or removal of timber will be prohibited except in special circumstances, such as reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects. Timber cut, sold, or removed under these exceptions will generally be small diameter. Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate mining activities is prohibited (beyond valid existing rights). Public motorized travel limited to routes designated by Forest Travel Plan.
2. **Forest Restoration Areas – moderate flexibility**
 - a. Preference toward temporary road construction with mitigation, commercial timber harvest allowed for forest health reasons only, temporary road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities is allowed. Public motorized travel limited to routes designated by Forest Travel Plan.
3. **Forest Stewardship Areas – high flexibility**
 - a. Permanent road construction is allowed (although temporary roads are preferred) full range of silviculture techniques allowed road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities allowed. Public motorized travel limited to routes designated by Forest Travel Plan.
4. **Boundary Adjustment/Re-Inventory Areas**
 - a. These areas should either have boundaries adjusted or be removed entirely from the Roadless Rule due to high presence of roads, motorized trails, energy infrastructure, and other features that disrupt roadless values. Also may include some areas that are smaller than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size threshold for Roadless Areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Comparison Table of Suitable Uses in Management Areas

Suitable Use/Activity	Primitive Area	Forest Restoration Area	Forest Stewardship Area	Re-Inventory/ Boundary Adjustment Area
Fire Management	Yes ¹	Yes ²	Yes ³	
Forest Health	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁵	Yes ⁶	
Timber Cutting	No ⁷	No ⁸	Yes ⁹	
Grazing	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Motorized Travel	Yes ¹⁰	Yes ¹¹	Yes ¹²	

¹ Prescribed fire, cutting, sale, and removal of generally small diameter timber when need to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13.

Timber cutting/removal expected to be infrequent.

² Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

³ Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

⁴ Cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber allowed when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber cutting, sale, and removal expected to be infrequent.

⁵ Cutting, sale, and removal of timber allowed using proper silviculture practices when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species. Includes timber cutting, sale, and removal that may require temporary road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.

⁶ Full range of silviculture techniques, including silviculture techniques that may require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.

⁷ The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is allowed when needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use (see 36 C.F.R. part 223), or under exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).

⁸ The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is allowed for forest health purposes, as well as for personal or administrative use, or under exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).

⁹ Full range of silviculture techniques for forest health or commercial purposes, including silviculture techniques that require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.

¹⁰ Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

¹¹ Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

¹² Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities	No ¹³	No ¹⁴	Yes ¹⁵
Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)	No ¹⁶	Yes ¹⁷	Yes ¹⁸
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weed/Pest Management	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mechanized Equipment Use	Yes ¹⁹	Yes	Yes

¹³ Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).

¹⁴ Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).

¹⁵ Construction/reconstruction of temporary administrative roads to facilitate permitted mining activities allowed. Road construction or reconstruction associated with mining activities must minimize effects on surface resources and may only be approved after evaluating other access options.

¹⁶ Road Construction/reconstruction prohibited, subject of exceptions found in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(b).

¹⁷ Preference toward temporary administrative road construction with mitigation; however, permanent administrative road construction permissible based on long-term ecological need, particularly if a road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of a threat of flood, uncharacteristic wildfire, or other catastrophic event, including long term threats.

¹⁸ Permanent administrative roads are compatible, particularly when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics or ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

¹⁹ Chainsaws, helicopters, other mechanical equipment that does not require the use of new trails wider than 50 inches.

Detailed Description of Management Areas

Management Area #1: Primitive Areas

Current Condition: Areas managed as Primitive Areas show little evidence of historical or human use. Natural processes are predominant. People visiting these areas can find outstanding opportunities for recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. Primitive Areas represent the same management that currently occurs in Roadless Areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule, 36 C.F.R. § 294.

Desired Future Condition: Areas managed as Primitive Areas will continue to show little evidence of historical or human use. As such, the natural processes of the area will continue to predominate, which will allow visitors to enjoy the same type of primitive recreation opportunities they found in the past.

Management Focus: These areas shall be managed to protect the primitive recreation opportunities of the area. Only activities and management actions not deemed an irretrievable commitment of resources will be considered suitable uses.

Watershed and Vegetative Restoration: Watershed and vegetative restoration shall be accomplished through passive, natural ecological processes.

Mechanized Uses: Mechanized uses (e.g. chainsaws, helicopters, and equipment that does not require the use of new trails wider than 50 inches, etc.) shall be allowed in these areas unless said use constitutes an irretrievable commitment of resources.

Primitive Area Suitable Uses and Activities

Available Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire Management	X		Prescribed fire, cutting, sale, and removal of generally small diameter timber when need to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber cutting/removal expected to be infrequent.
Forest Health	X		Cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber allowed when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber

			cutting, sale, and removal expected to be infrequent.
Timber Cutting		X	Personal or administrative use only, or under exceptions found in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.
Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities		X	Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).
Recreation	X		
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)		X	Road Construction/reconstruction prohibited, subject of exceptions found in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(b).
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	X		
Weed/Pest Management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		Chainsaws, helicopters, etc.

IRAs Recommended for Management as Primitive Areas:

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Acreage	Consistent W/ Current Forest Plan

Management Area #2: Forest Restoration Areas

Current Condition: Forest Restoration Areas includes areas where evidence of human use may or may not be present. Generally, few constructed features exist with the exception of trails and lookouts. These areas may also show some evidence of vegetative manipulation. Like the primitive areas, Forest Restoration Areas include a broad range of terrain and vegetative types.

Desired Future Condition: While areas managed as Forest Restoration Areas may display increased evidence of management activities, these areas will generally retain their roadless character.

Management Focus: Forest Restoration Areas will be managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities, while also ensuring adequate flexibility to maintain forest health. These areas may include trailheads and recreational sites (developed and dispersed). Depending on specific National Forest Travel Plans, these areas may be managed for summer and/or winter motorized recreation opportunities. Lastly, due to the increased management flexibility afforded to these areas, fish and game can potentially benefit from carefully conducted habitat manipulation.

Watershed and Vegetative Restoration: Watershed and vegetative restoration will be accomplished through a combination of active management and natural processes. Both active and passive management restoration activities (and in some cases use restrictions) may occur to address specific habitat needs of fish and wildlife.

Forest Management Area Suitable Uses and Activities

Available Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire Management	X		Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
Forest Health	X		Cutting, sale, and removal of timber allowed using proper silviculture practices when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species. Includes timber cutting, sale, and removal that may require temporary road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.
Timber Cutting		X	The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is allowed for forest health purposes, as well as for personal or administrative use, or under exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities		X	Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).
Recreation	X		
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)	X		Preference toward temporary administrative road construction with mitigation; however, permanent administrative road construction permissible based on long-term ecological need, particularly if a road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of a threat of flood, uncharacteristic wildfire, or other catastrophic event, including long term threats.
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	X		
Weed/Pest Management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		

IRAs Recommended for Management as Forest Restoration Areas:

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Acreage	Consistent W/ Current Forest Plan

Management Area #3: Forest Stewardship Areas

Current Condition: Forest Stewardship areas include locations that may display high levels of human use including roads, facilities, evidence of vegetative manipulation (e.g. silvicultural treatments, grazing) and mineral exploration/extraction. These areas also encompass a broad

range of terrain and vegetative types, and may be comprised of forest, grasslands, rangelands, or a combination thereof.

Desired Future Condition: These areas may over time display increased levels of human use including roads, facilities, and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Forest Stewardship areas will also include evidence of watershed restoration and/or mitigation activities. Despite higher levels of human use than Forest Restoration Areas, Forest Stewardship Areas will still retain some of their roadless qualities. In other words, an area designated as “Forest Stewardship” will not necessarily reflect all the characteristics of non-roadless forest lands.

Management Focus: Forest Stewardship areas will be managed to provide a variety of goods and services, broad range of recreational opportunities including both motorized and non-motorized, while also ensuring adequate flexibility to maintain forest, rangeland, and/or grassland health.

Watershed and Vegetative Restoration: Watershed and vegetative restoration shall be accomplished primarily through active management, including timber harvest, salvage, fuels reduction, projects, and grazing.

Forest Stewardship Area Suitable Uses and Activities

Available Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire Management	X		Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
Forest Health	X		Full range of silviculture techniques, including silviculture techniques that may require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.
Timber Cutting	X		Full range of silviculture techniques for forest health or commercial purposes, including silviculture techniques that require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.
Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities	X		Construction/reconstruction of temporary administrative roads to facilitate permitted mining activities allowed. Road construction or reconstruction associated with mining activities must minimize

			effects on surface resources and may only be approved after evaluating other access options.
Recreation	X		
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)	X		Permanent administrative roads are compatible, particularly when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics or ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	X		
Weed/Pest Management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		

IRAs Recommended for Management as Forest Stewardship Areas:

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Acreage	Consistent W/ Current Forest Plan

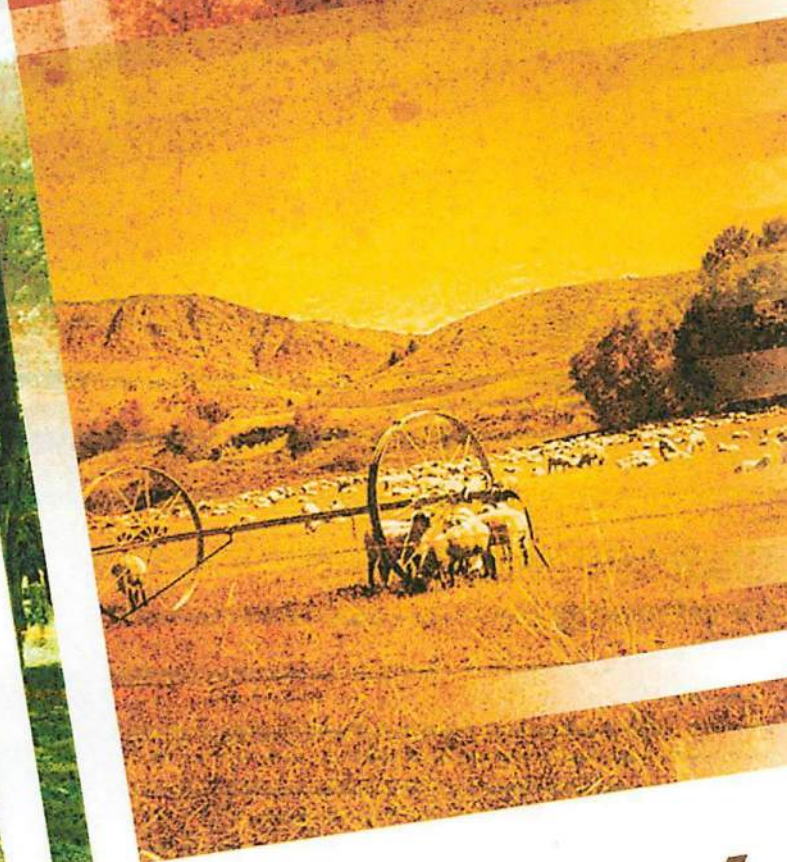
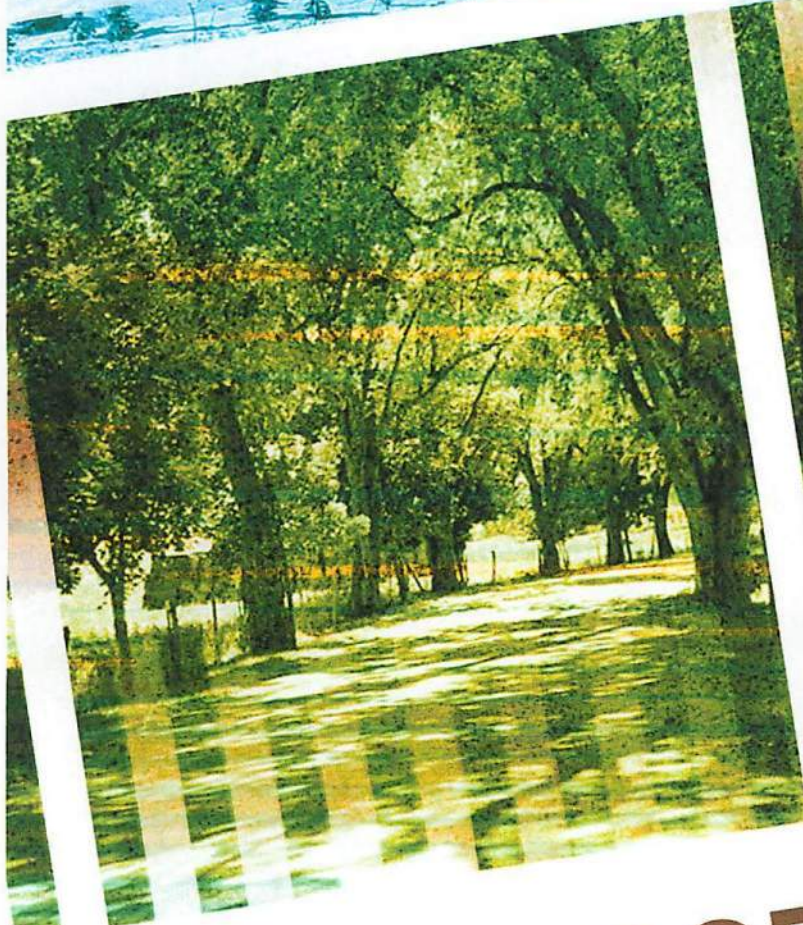
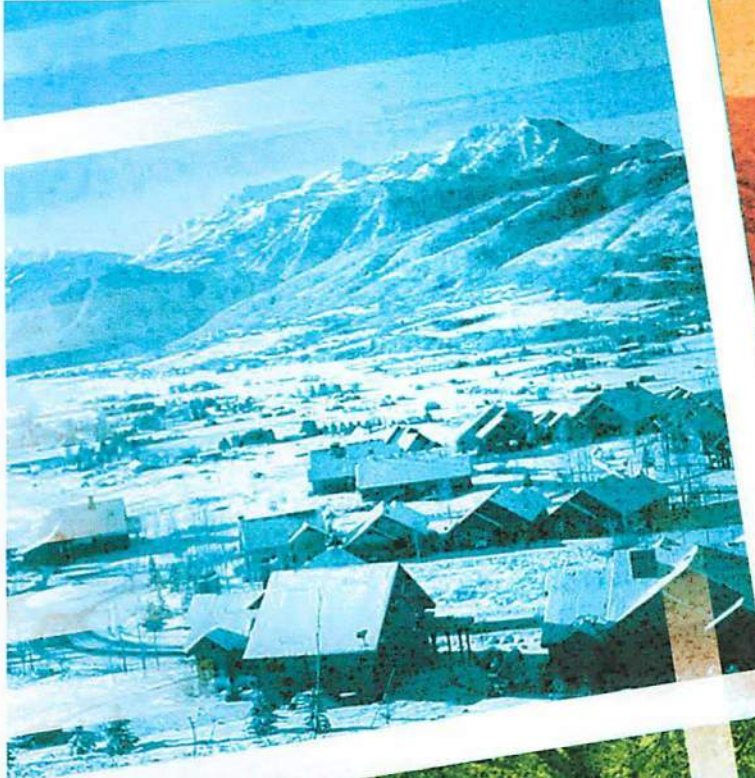
Management Area #4: Areas Recommended for Boundary Adjustments or Re-inventory

The State requests a re-inventory or boundary adjustments of some Inventoried Roadless Areas found not in conformity with the requirements for “roadless” designation as defined in the FEIS Nov. 2002, Volume 1 (i.e. “Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act . . .”). Boundary adjustment may include consolidation of existing Inventoried Roadless Areas. Some areas may necessitate boundary correction based on new information. If the Forest Service finds after re-inventory that certain areas are not in conformity with the requirements for roadless designations, such areas should be managed in accordance with the relevant forest plan.

IRAs Recommended for Boundary Adjustments or Re-inventory:

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Rationale

DRAFT



OGDEN VALLEY GENERAL PLAN

2016



water recharge, wild life habitat, aesthetics, etc.) and complement the rural character of the Valley.

Utilities and Public Services Principle 3.2: Provide for the planning, design, and construction of more advanced and attractive retention and detention facilities to minimize off-site stormwater effects.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 3.2.1: Complete and implement a stormwater master plan for Ogden Valley.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 3.2.2: Amend County ordinances to revise design standards for water retention and detention facilities in new developments to reduce off-site stormwater effects and provide other public benefits.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 3.2.3: Employ techniques such as financial security and performance measures to ensure proper completion and maintenance of stormwater facilities.

Utilities and Public Services Goal 4: A goal of Weber County is to reduce impacts of utility construction and operation in Ogden Valley.

Utilities and Public Services Principle 4.1: Plan future electric utilities to reduce visual impacts.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 4.1.1: Weber County will consider requiring the burial of power distribution lines within new development. ([Reference Community Character Gateways and Viewsheds Implementation 2.2.3](#))

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 4.1.2: To the extent that additional aboveground high-voltage transmission lines are necessary in Ogden Valley, they should be located within existing transmission line corridors, as is feasible, to reduce visual impacts.

Utilities and Public Services Principle 4.2: Require appropriate mitigation of the impacts of all utilities.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 4.2.1: Employ techniques such as financial security and performance measures to ensure proper completion, site restoration, maintenance, and weed control of utility facilities, corridors, and rights-of-way.

Utilities and Public Services Goal 5: A goal of Weber County is to improve public safety in Ogden Valley.

Utilities and Public Services Principle 5.1: Educate the public regarding life safety, including fire prevention and fire codes.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.1: Provide education about the Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code. Refine the Wildland Urban Interface in Ogden Valley and amend development ordinances to require notice of proximity to the interface.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.2: Provide education on fire-wise planning, including building materials and landscaping.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.3: Evaluate effects of current ordinances as they relate to fire access and the allowance of development on terminal street systems.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.4: Ensure that all development has adequate fire flow and fire flow storage.



Utilities and Public Services Principle 5.2: Maintain the ability of the community to respond promptly, efficiently, and effectively in the event of a major natural or human-caused disaster.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.2.1: Conduct ongoing public outreach regarding procedures and plans to be followed in the event of an emergency.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.2.2: Provide funding for programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team to conduct public education about emergency preparedness for all types of emergencies.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.2.3: Provide for emergency shelter and supplies to adequately serve the population in the event of a disaster.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

In Utah the state legislature tasked the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to devise a Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression policy known as SB-56. Under this plan, a master cooperative wildland fire management and Stafford Act response agreement is signed each year between numerous federal land management agencies and the State of Utah for cooperation during wildland fire incidents that occur throughout the state. Weber County is within the service area of the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center (NUIFC), located in Draper. NUIFC is a joint dispatch center operated through cooperation among the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the State of Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands. NUIFC is responsible for dispatching and coordination of wildfires (averaging 500 fires per/year) and incidents for approximately 15 million acres located in Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Tooele, Weber, Morgan, Davis, Duchesne, Juab, Sanpete, Salt Lake, Summit, Wasatch and Utah Counties.

The [Utilities and Public Services element](#) of this General Plan provides a narrative of current conditions, goals, policies and implementation steps for fire management in the Ogden Valley planning area.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Many species of exotic and invasive weeds exist in the Utah. The Utah Noxious Weed Act of 2008 defined 28 noxious weed species into three prioritization categories. In December 2015 the official State Noxious Weed list was updated to include 54 species and prioritization categories were modified to include five categories of priority for action.

State land managers, local governments, and property owners are responsible for controlling weed species on the state's noxious weeds list, and local weed species of concern if necessary. Weed control includes both lands under local management (roads, right-of-ways, parks, etc.) as well as enforcing weed laws on private lands. State law provides county weed managers the right to treat weeds on private lands (assuming proper notice is provided) if the landowner is unwilling or unable to treat the problem, and to seek reimbursement or apply liens for the work.

The local weed control program for the Ogden Valley planning area is the Weber County Weed Department. A Weber-County-specific weed control assessment is available from the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) and the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Weber County Resource Assessment (2013).



The U.S. Forest Service addresses weeds in the

planning area in the Wasatch Cache National Forest 2003 Revised Forest Plan with the goals of preventing and reducing weeds across the Wasatch Cache National Forest.

[Gateways and Viewsheds Goal 3](#) states: "A goal of Weber County is to protect key viewsheds throughout the Valley." Principle 3.2 address weed control.

[Land Use Goal 2](#) state: "A goal of Weber County is to support continued agricultural operations in Ogden Valley." Principle 2.3 addresses weed control.

[Utilities and Public Services Goal 4](#) addresses noxious weed management in connection with construction and maintenance of public utilities infrastructure.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest lands within the Ogden Valley planning area are primarily shrublands and Pinion-juniper-aspen forests, with some Douglas fir forest in the higher elevations. These forest lands provide grazing, recreation and wildlife habitat, as well as watersheds for valley residents. Forest management outside the national forests is the responsibility of the landowner.

Forest management is not specifically addressed elsewhere in this General Plan, but goals, principles and implementation related to forest lands are presented in the [Land Use](#), [Community Character](#), and [Parks and Recreation](#) elements of the Plan. In particular, the Parks and Recreation element of the General Plan calls for better collaboration with the Forest Service in offering recreational opportunities and managing recreational demand (discussed below).

Water Resources

WATER RIGHTS AND WATER QUALITY

Water rights in the Ogden Valley planning area have been fully adjudicated, and are managed according to the rules of the Utah State Engineer. During the planning process, concerns regarding the hydrology of the planning area and the availability of groundwater were expressed. As a result, Weber County is participating in a Valley-wide hydrogeologic study to better understand the hydrogeology and water budget of the planning area. Information from that study will be evaluated to determine whether the goals and policies of the General plan with regard to land use and the provision of water and sewer services should be revised.

The [Utilities and Public Services element](#) of this General Plan describes current conditions and trends; goals, policies and implementation steps with regard to water rights, quality, quantity and availability.

(Page 39) **Utilities and Public Services Goal 5: A goal of Weber County is to improve public safety in Ogden Valley.**

Utilities and Public Services Principle 5.1: Educate the public regarding life safety, including fire prevention and fire codes.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.1: Provide education about the Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code. Refine the Wildland Urban Interface in Ogden Valley and amend development ordinances to require notice of proximity to the interface.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.2: Provide education on fire-wise planning, including building materials and landscaping.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.3: Evaluate effects of current ordinances as they relate to fire access and the allowance of development on terminal street systems.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.1.4: Ensure that all development has adequate fire flow and fire flow storage.

(Page 40) **Utilities and Public Services Principle 5.2:** Maintain the ability of the community to respond promptly, efficiently, and effectively in the event of a major natural or human--caused disaster.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.2.1: Conduct ongoing public outreach regarding procedures and plans to be followed in the event of an emergency.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.2.2: Provide funding for programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team to conduct public education about emergency preparedness for all types of emergencies.

Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.2.3: Provide for emergency shelter and supplies to adequately serve the population in the event of a disaster.

[Utilities and Public Services Principle 5.3: Encourage and support effective forest management practices in a manner that enhances the health of forested areas and minimizes catastrophic wildfires.](#)

[Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.3.1: Coordinate and cooperate with the United States Forest Service and the State of Utah to ensure proper governance over and management of public lands.](#)

[Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.3.2: Support the State's roadless area forest management categories and associated principles. Map 10 designates the appropriate management category for each inventoried roadless area.](#)

[Utilities and Public Services Implementation 5.3.3: Encourage private landowners to follow fire-wise land management principles.](#)

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(Page 50) **Fire Management**

In Utah, the state legislature tasked the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to devise a Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness, and Suppression policy known as SB-56. Under this plan, a master cooperative wildland fire management and Stafford Act response agreement is signed each year between numerous federal land management agencies and the State of Utah for cooperation during wildland fire incidents that occur throughout the state. Weber County is within the service area of the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center (NUIFC), located in Draper. NUIFC is a joint dispatch center operated through cooperation among the

Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and the State of Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands. NUIFC is responsible for dispatching and coordination of wildfires (averaging 500 fires per/year) and incidents for approximately 15 million acres located in Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Tooele, Weber, Morgan, Davis, Duchesne, Juab, Sanpete, Salt Lake, Summit, Wasatch and Utah Counties.

[In 2018, the State further asked each county to identify their preferred roadless category for each inventoried roadless Forest Service land. The roadless categories define the forest management methods regarding the access to the land. The categories range from prohibiting new access roads to enabling them. In areas where new access roads are permitted, timber management and other forest health issues may be more easily accommodated.](#)

The Utilities and Public Services element of this General Plan provides a narrative of current conditions, goals, policies and implementation steps for fire management in the Ogden Valley planning area.

[Utilities and Public Services Goal 5 addresses forest management practices in connection with wildfire mitigation.](#)

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MAP 10: Roadless Area Forest Management

- Legend**
-  County Boundary
 -  Inventoried Roadless Area
 -  Management Area Category 2: Forest Restoration Area
 -  Management Area Category 2: Forest Restoration Area, with special consideration to support ski resort development
 -  Beetle Damage

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