

## Part Two: Strategy Special Areas

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## Part Two: Strategy

### Special Areas

#### 1. Introduction

This section of the plan addresses the special areas on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests. It outlines appropriate plan components for existing designations and for recommended areas. Plan components may include desired conditions, objectives, suitability of areas, and guidelines. A description of the area and management strategies may also be provided. See the *Dixie National Forest – Potential Special Areas* map on page 2c-33 and the *Fishlake National Forest – Potential Special Areas* map on page 2c-34 for forest-wide views of many of the special areas described in this section. More detailed maps of the special areas are referenced throughout this section in the specific area descriptions.

Special areas can be grouped into three broad categories:

1. **Congressional Designations.** Special areas that are statutorily designated by Congress include Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River corridors. The Land Management Plan may make preliminary recommendations that ultimately could result in Congressional action, though these recommendations would require additional documentation prior to forwarding to Congress. Such Congressional designations may require the development of management plans through processes separate from that for the Land Management Plan.
2. **Administrative Designations (Recommended by an Individual Forest).** In some cases, the Forest Supervisor may make recommendations for special areas that would need action at other administrative levels to become final. These special areas include areas designated through a separate administrative process at a national or regional level, or are designated by a different agency. These areas can include, but are not limited to, Research Natural Areas (designated by the Regional Forester with concurrence of the Research Station Director), Experimental Forests (designated by the Forest Service Chief), and National Scenic Byways (designated by the Federal Highway Administration). When the Forest Supervisor recommends consideration of a new special area, the Land Management Plan may provide broad management direction for the new area through the planning components. If the area is ultimately designated, further specific management direction may be needed separate from the Land Management Plan.
3. **Special Areas Identified by the Forest Supervisor.** Authority regarding this category of special areas rests with the Forest Supervisor. The Forest Supervisor may identify or remove some special areas through approval of the Land Management plan, a Land Management Plan amendment, or Land Management Plan revision.

As discussed earlier in the document, the Teasdale Ranger District on the Dixie National Forest and the Loa Ranger District on the Fishlake National Forest were recently consolidated into the Fremont River Ranger District. This new ranger district is administered by the Fishlake National Forest. For administrative purposes, the plan includes all discussion of lands on the Fremont River Ranger District under the Fishlake National Forest, which is responsible for their management.

Where special areas cross Forest boundaries, the area is generally described under the Forest that contains the majority of the area. The tables, however, will specify what acreage or mileage is on each Forest.

## 2. Congressional Designations

### 2.1. Designated Wilderness

#### 2.1.1. Description of Areas

The following table lists the wilderness areas on the Dixie National Forest, all of which were designated by Congress through the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984.

There are no wilderness areas on the Fishlake National Forest.

**Table 2c-1. Wilderness Areas on the Dixie National Forest**

Wilderness Area	Ranger District	Acreage
Ashdown Gorge	Cedar City	7,000
Box-Death Hollow	Escalante	25,600
Pine Valley Mountain	Pine Valley	50,200

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

#### **Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area**

The Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area is adjacent to the west and north boundaries of Cedar Breaks National Monument. The area is characterized by extremely steep-walled canyons cut through the west rim of the Markagunt Plateau. Exposed Wasatch limestone formations provide scenic interest. A stand of bristlecone pine known as the Twisted Forest is located in the area. Elevations range from 10,500 to 7,500 feet. Rattlesnake and Ashdown creeks flow through the area. This wilderness area is depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Ashdown Wilderness Area and Recommended Ashdown Northwest Addition Wilderness Area* map on page 2c-35.

### **Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area**

The Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area features walls of Navajo sandstone rising above two tributaries of the Escalante River. The name derives from “The Box,” a section of canyon on Pine Creek that cuts through the escarpment of the Aquarius Plateau, and “Death Hollow,” which refers to the treacherous trail across the hollow from which livestock were known to fall to their death. The Hell’s Backbone Road circles almost the entire wilderness area, and actually forms the wilderness boundary on the southeast. This wilderness area is depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area* map on page 2c-36.

### **Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area**

The Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area is a mountain island surrounded by desert. The mountain is composed of an intrusive rock outcrop that forms the Pine Valley laccolith. The area contains lush meadows and a forest of Engelmann spruce in the south, and spruce mixed with fir, pine, and large stands of aspen in the north. Elevations rise to a high of 10,365 feet on Signal Peak in the southern portion. On a clear day, Zion National Park to the west and some of Arizona's highest mountains to the south are visible from Signal Peak. The Whipple National Recreation Trail is located in the area. This wilderness area is depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area and Recommended Cottonwood Wilderness Area* map on page 2c-37.

## **2.1.2. Desired Conditions**

Wilderness is managed and preserved for plants and animals and their habitat, the preservation of large intact ecosystems, clean air and water, and primitive recreation opportunities. Natural ecological processes are dominant. Ecosystems are influenced by natural process with little or no human disturbance. Habitat needs for numerous native fish and wildlife species are provided compatible with the natural ecosystems. Management of designated wilderness is guided by wilderness management plans prepared subsequent to Congressional designation.

Designated wilderness areas are managed and their values protected according to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Wilderness is managed as a scarce resource, where wilderness-dependent activities are favored when managing wilderness use. Management activities emphasize practices that have the least discernible impact on the land. People visiting wilderness areas find opportunities for exploration, solitude, risk, self-reliance, and challenge. Human use of the wilderness is provided while preserving wilderness character. The adverse impacts of human use are controlled and reduced through education and minimum regulation.

A very high probability of solitude, a low level of encounters with other users, and only minor evidence of past use is an essential part of the social setting. Human travel, though not restricted to, is principally on system trails. Popular campsites show

evidence of repeated but acceptable levels of use. Minimum impact camping techniques are encouraged. Interpretive facilities are not provided at archeological or historical sites, nor are these sites restored or enhanced for recreation purposes.

Areas with evidence of unacceptable levels of past use are rehabilitated and the affected areas restored. Range allotments with authorized permanent structures may be present within the area.

### 2.1.3. Suitability

Prescribed fire is suitable in wilderness areas when it is necessary to meet wilderness fire management objectives or as portrayed in approved wilderness plans. Control of insect outbreaks or disease impacts is suitable when the outbreak or impact is predicted to result in loss of resource values outside the wilderness area.

Groups visiting wilderness areas in the summer on the Dixie National Forest with party sizes exceeding 25, inclusive of people and recreational stock (e.g., 15 people and 10 stock, 20 people and 5 stock, etc.), are not suitable.

Scientific and other compatible practices utilizing non-motorized equipment and requiring up to season-long occupancy are suitable.

## 2.2. Recommended Wilderness

### 2.2.1. Description of Areas

Two areas are proposed for recommendation for wilderness designation on the Dixie National Forest.

**Table 2c-2. Recommended Wilderness on the Dixie National Forest**

Area	Ranger District	Acreage
Ashdown Northwest Addition	Cedar City	1,700
Cottonwood	Pine Valley	3,200

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

### Recommended Ashdown Northwest Addition

The Recommended Ashdown Northwest Addition to the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area is located along the northwest boundary of the existing wilderness. The boundary of this recommended addition is a ridge, which would improve manageability of the area. The area includes Lake Creek, High Mountain, and Bristlecone Canyon, and the High Mountain Trail. This wilderness area is depicted

on the *Dixie National Forest – Ashdown Wilderness Area and Recommended Ashdown Northwest Addition Wilderness Area* map on page 2c-35.

### **Recommended Cottonwood Wilderness Area**

The Recommended Cottonwood Wilderness Area is located in the far southeast corner of the Pine Valley Ranger District, west of Silver Reef and north of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Red Cliffs Recreation Site. The area includes Quail Canyon and Dicks Canyon, and is adjacent to the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve established for the Mojave desert tortoise population. The recommended Cottonwood Wilderness Area is also adjacent to the Cottonwood Wilderness Study Area managed by the BLM's St. George Field Office. Though the area recommended on National Forest System lands is less than 5,000 acres, the adjoining Wilderness Study Area that is also being recommended for wilderness through the Washington County Lands Draft Proposal (Bennett 2006) is approximately 11,650 acres. This wilderness area is depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area and Recommended Cottonwood Wilderness Area* map on page 2c-37.

The Fishlake National Forest proposes to recommend two areas for wilderness designation. Both areas are depicted on the *Fishlake National Forest – Tushar and Delano Recommended Wilderness Areas* map on page 2c-38.

**Table 2c-3. Recommended Wilderness on the Fishlake National Forest**

Area	Ranger District	Acreage
Delano	Beaver	19,000
Tushar Mountains	Beaver	32,000

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

### **Recommended Delano Wilderness Area**

The Recommended Delano Wilderness Area is located on the east slopes of the Tushar Mountain Range southwest of Marysville. The topography of the area is generally rough and steep with four major peaks: Delano (12,169 feet), Mount Holly (11,985 feet), Copper Belt (11,383 feet), and City Creek (11,161 feet). The vegetation is predominantly alpine and subalpine, containing many unique species given the area's southern location along a transect of alpine zones from the Rocky Mountains to the Sierras. The Bullion Canyon Research Natural Area (described on page 2c-12) is located within the area, as is a portion of Pine Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River segment (described on page 2c-9). The Skyline National Recreation Trail passes along one edge of the area.

## **Recommended Tushar Mountains Wilderness Area**

The Recommended Tushar Mountains Wilderness Area is located on the west slope of the Tushar Mountain Range. As with the recommended Delano Wilderness Area, the topography of this area is generally rough and steep. There are three major peaks in the area: Mount Baldy (12,122 feet), Mount Belknap (12,137 feet), and Shelly Baldy (11,321 feet). The vegetation is predominantly alpine and subalpine, containing many unique species given the area's southern location along a transect of alpine zones from the Rocky Mountains to the Sierras. The Upper Fish Creek Research Natural Area (described below on page 2c-13) is located within the area, as is a portion of Fish Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River segment (described below on page 2c-9).

### **2.2.2. Desired Conditions and Management Strategies**

Areas recommended for wilderness designation are managed to maintain their existing wilderness character. Activities in these areas do not compromise the wilderness character or reduce the area's potential for wilderness designation.

Generally, all current activities would continue until Congressional action on the recommendation. Mountain biking would continue on designated trails and over-snow vehicle use would continue to follow restrictions shown on each Forests' travel map.

## **2.3. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers**

### **2.3.1. Description of Areas**

There have been two recent analyses of Wild and Scenic River eligibility for segments on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests. In 1997 the Escalante Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest began participation in an interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Analysis with Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. This results of the eligibility study were published as an appendix to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Monument's Draft Management Plan (BLM 1998).<sup>1</sup> In December 2004, the Dixie and Fishlake published a draft Wild and Scenic River evaluation report to determine eligibility for those segments not covered in either of the two earlier analyses (USDA 2004a).

As a result of these draft analyses, the following segments meet the eligibility requirements for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Recommendations for additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, however, cannot be made until a suitability determination has been made. Suitability determinations for all segments on the Dixie

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<sup>1</sup> The Monument proceeded to conduct a suitability analysis for eligible segments within the Monument boundary and eligible segments located between the Monument boundary and the Arizona state line. No suitability analysis was conducted for any other segments (BLM 1998).

and Fishlake National Forests have been deferred. Lengths given in the table below represent only those segments on National Forest System lands.

Eligible segments are depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers* map on page 2c-39 and on the *Fishlake National Forest – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers* map on page 2c-40.

**Table 2c-4. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Dixie National Forest**

Eligible Segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Ranger District	Length of Segment (miles)
North Fork Virgin River <sup>1</sup>	Scenic, recreational, geological	Cedar City	1.0
East Fork Boulder Creek <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, fish	Escalante	3.0
Slickrock Canyon <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, cultural, ecological	Escalante	1.5
Cottonwood Canyon <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, cultural	Escalante	6.5
The Gulch <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, cultural	Escalante	2.0
Steep Creek <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, ecological	Escalante	7.5
Pine Creek <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, ecological, geological	Escalante	8.0
Mamie Creek <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, cultural, ecological, fish, geological, historical, wildlife	Escalante	2.0
Death Hollow Creek <sup>2</sup>	Scenic, recreational, cultural, ecological, paleontological, wildlife	Escalante	9.5

<sup>1</sup> USDA 2004

<sup>2</sup> BLM 1998

All miles rounded to the nearest one-half mile.

**Table 2c-5. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Fishlake National Forest**

Eligible Segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Ranger District	Length of Segment (miles)
Corn Creek	Recreational, fish	Fillmore	2.0
Fish Creek	Prehistorical/historical, wildlife (native trout), ecological	Beaver	15.0
Pine Creek	Ecological, wildlife (native trout)	Beaver	4.0
Salina Creek	Recreational, fish	Richfield	7.5

Source: USDA 2004

All miles rounded to the nearest one-half mile.

### 2.3.2. Desired Conditions and Management Strategies

River segments and their corridors that are eligible as Wild and Scenic Rivers are managed to retain their free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values.

### 2.3.3. Suitability

Suitability for all segments on National Forest System lands that have been determined to be eligible has not yet been determined.

## 3. Areas Designated Administratively by Other Officials

The following designations are made at higher levels of the Forest Service administration or are made by other agencies. In some cases, the Forest Supervisor has made a recommendation to another official about possible designations. In such cases the Land Management Plan can provide management direction for those areas.

### 3.1. Research Natural Areas

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are designated by the Regional Forester with concurrence of the Research Station Director. Each RNA has an Establishment Record that includes detailed maps and descriptions of the area, objectives of the RNA, descriptions of the area's vegetation and wildlife, and discussion of why the area was added to the RNA system. The Establishment Records are available for review at the Forest offices.

#### 3.1.1. Description of Areas

The Dixie National Forest has five designated RNAs. No additional RNAs are recommended.

**Table 2c-6. Research Natural Areas on the Dixie National Forest**

Name	Ranger District	Year of Establishment	Acreage
Browse	Pine Valley	1998	2,180
Red Canyon	Powell	1987	460
Table Cliff	Escalante	1991	1,240
Timbered Cinder Cone	Cedar City	1990	640
Upper Sand Creek	Escalante	1998	1,880

All acreages from the establishment reports, and are rounded to the nearest 10 acres.

#### **Browse Research Natural Area**

The chief establishment objective for the Browse RNA is to preserve and maintain in undisturbed, naturally-functioning condition the biological and genetic diversity present within exemplary vegetation types and habitat occurrences within the area.

These include examples of terrestrial forest, woodland and shrub land types, riparian woodlands, and distinctive landform, soil, and geologic types.

Vegetation communities identified in the Browse RNA include:

- Ponderosa pine/Mexican manzanita,
- Velvet ash,
- Single-needle pinyon pine/Utah juniper,
- Gambel oak-birchleaf mountain mahogany-Utah service berry, and
- Dixie live oak-silk tassel bush.

### **Red Canyon Research Natural Area**

The objectives for establishing the Red Canyon RNA are to protect ecosystem structure and function in several of the more xeric forest and woodland situations typical of parts of the Utah high plateaus, and to maintain habitat for certain endemic or otherwise rare plant species. These objectives can be accomplished at Red Canyon without requiring any special management actions, other than protection against use that might jeopardize values for which the RNA was proposed.

Small stands of mixed conifers, primarily ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, occur on sites where soils and aspect are favorable. The most indicative understory plants are greenleaf manzanita on limestone and curleaf mountain mahogany on basalt. Communities of pinyon and juniper, curleaf mountain mahogany, and black sagebrush are also present. Much of the eastern part of the area consists of sparsely-vegetated slopes and outcrops of limestone.

### **Table Cliff Research Natural Area**

The Table Cliff RNA was established as a truly unique area of land. It contains very beautiful and scenic geologic features and Great Basin bristlecone pine. No special protection measures were foreseen as being needed. Signing was considered unnecessary and not advised. Although the RNA was established in 1991, the establishment report dates to 1979.

The principal distinguishing features in the Table Cliff RNA include:

- Massive scenic red and white cliffs of the Wasatch Formation,
- Great Basin bristlecone pine, and
- Mixed conifer forest type.

### **Timbered Cinder Cone Research Natural Area**

The major objective of the Timbered Cinder Cone RNA is to preserve a volcanic landform that is uncommon in this area, a section of associated lava field, and commercial forest types. The forested cone occupies about 25 percent of the area, while the rest is rough lava. The RNA will provide a reference site for study, a baseline for assessing long-term ecological changes, and a comparison area for

determining effects of management techniques and practices applied to similar ecosystems.

The principal distinguishing features in the Timbered Cinder Cone RNA include:

- An excellent example of a cinder cone,
- Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir stands, and
- Undisturbed, extensive lava flows.

No special protection measures were foreseen as being needed. Signing and other interpretive measures for casual visitors are probably superfluous because few people other than researchers are likely to visit the area.

### Upper Sand Creek Research Natural Area

The chief establishment objective of the Upper Sand Creek RNA was to preserve and maintain in undisturbed, naturally-functioning condition the biological and genetic diversity present within exemplary vegetation types and habitat occurrences within the area. These include outstanding examples of moderately-productive ponderosa pine forest; typical examples of mixed conifer, less-productive ponderosa pine, and pinyon pine-juniper communities, and distinctive landform, soil, and geologic types. Vegetation communities identified in the Upper Sand Creek RNA include:

- White fir/Gambel oak,
- Ponderosa pine/greenleaf manzanita,
- Ponderosa pine/bitterbrush, and
- two-needle pinyon pine-Utah juniper/cliffrose.

The Fishlake National Forest has four designated RNAs. No additional RNAs are recommended.

**Table 2c-7. Research Natural Areas on the Fishlake National Forest**

Name	Ranger District	Date of Establishment	Acreage
Bullion Canyon	Beaver	1988	1,300
Old Woman Cove	Richfield	1998	2,510
Partridge Mountain	Fillmore	1979	1,200
Upper Fish Creek	Beaver	1988	1,720

All acreages from the establishment reports, and are rounded to the nearest 10 acres.

### Bullion Canyon Research Natural Area

The establishment objective for the Bullion Canyon RNA is to protect ecosystem structure and function in representative subalpine forest and herbland and alpine herbland habitats of the Utah High Plateaus. Of special importance are the exemplary stands of Engelmann spruce. These values can be protected at Bullion

Canyon without requiring any special management actions other than protection against use that might jeopardize the values for which the RNA was established.

### **Old Woman Cove Research Natural Area**

The chief establishment objective for the Old Woman Cove RNA is to protect and maintain in undisturbed, naturally-functioning condition the biological and genetic diversity present within a number of exemplary terrestrial vegetation types and habitat occurrences within the area. These include examples of coniferous forest, woodland, shrubland, and herbaceous vegetation communities plus distinctive landform, soil, and geologic types.

The Old Woman Cove RNA also provides a reasonably accessible reference site for basic, non-manipulative studies of biotic patterns, ecological processes, natural disturbance regimes, and community succession.

### **Partridge Mountain Research Natural Area**

The Partridge Mountain RNA was established as a representative example of relatively undisturbed shrub and forest communities within xeric conditions. It also includes geologic features including several parent rock types and cliffs. The area is to be protected from fire and possibly conflicting uses.

### **Upper Fish Creek Research Natural Area**

The establishment objective for the Upper Fish Creek RNA is to protect ecosystem structure and function in representative alpine and montane habitats of the Utah High Plateaus. These values can be protected at Upper Fish Creek without requiring any special management actions other than protection against use that might jeopardize the values for which the RNA was established.

## **3.1.2. Desired Conditions**

RNAs are part of a national network of ecological areas designated for research and education and to contribute elements of biological diversity on National Forest System lands. RNAs are for non-manipulative research, observation, and study. They can also contribute to implementing provisions of special acts, such as the Endangered Species Act and monitoring provisions in the National Forest Management Act.

RNAs are "[a] physical or biological unit in which current natural conditions are maintained insofar as possible. These conditions are ordinarily achieved by allowing natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human intervention. However, under unusual circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be utilized to maintain the unique feature that the Research Natural Area was established to protect" (FSM 4063.05).

### 3.1.3. Management Strategies

General management direction for RNAs is outlined in the Forest Service Manual at 4063. This direction includes objectives and guidelines for RNA management.

## 3.2. National Scenic Byways

National Scenic Byways are designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. There is one designated National Scenic Byway on the Dixie National Forest: the Highway 12 Scenic Byway. This byway was designated an All-American Highway by the Federal Highway Administration in June 2002.

Highway 12 is located on the Escalante and Powell Ranger Districts on the Dixie National Forest and on the Fremont River Ranger District on lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest. The length of the byway on the Escalante and Powell Ranger Districts is 24 miles; the length on the Fremont River Ranger District is 18 miles. No additional National Scenic Byways are recommended.

## 3.3. Forest Service Scenic Byways

Forest Service Scenic Byways are designated by the Chief of the Forest Service. No additional byways are recommended on either Forest.

**Table 2c-8. Forest Service Scenic Byways on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests**

Name	Status	Ranger District	Mileage
<b>Dixie</b>			
Panguitch Lake (Forest Road 36)	Existing	Cedar City	25.0
Markagunt (Highway 14)	Existing	Cedar City	29.5
Brian Head (Highway 143)	Existing	Cedar City	4.0
<b>Fishlake</b>			
Fish Lake	Existing	Fremont River	12.5
Loa to Hanksville (Highway 24)	Existing	Fremont River	1.0
Beaver Canyon (Highway 153)	Existing	Beaver	33.5

All miles rounded to the nearest one-half mile. Acres are on National Forest System lands only.

## 3.4. National Recreation Trails

National Recreation Trails are designated by the Regional Forester. All four existing National Recreation Trails on the Dixie and Fishlake were designated in 1979.

The Great Western Trail, which runs throughout the western U.S. and through both the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests, is recommended for designation on both Forests. The trail is depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Great Western Trail* map on page 2c-

41, and on the *Fishlake National Forest – Piute and Great Western Trails* map on page 2c-42.

Additionally, the Fishlake National Forest is recommending the main loop of the Paiute ATV Trail for designation, as depicted on the *Fishlake National Forest – Piute and Great Western Trails* map on page 2c-42.

**Table 2c-9. National Recreation Trails on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests**

Name	Status	Ranger District	Mileage
<b>Dixie</b>			
Cascade Falls	Existing	Cedar City	0.5
Whipple	Existing	Pine Valley	6.0
Great Western	Proposed	Escalante, Powell	TBD <sup>1</sup>
<b>Fishlake</b>			
Lakeshore	Existing	Fremont River	14.0
Skyline	Existing	Beaver	9.0
Great Western	Proposed	Fremont River, Richfield	TBD <sup>1</sup>
Paiute ATV (Main Loop)	Proposed	Beaver, Fillmore, Richfield	166.5

<sup>1</sup> Exact segments to be proposed have yet to be determined.  
All miles rounded to the nearest one-half mile.

### 3.5. Municipal Water Sources

The State of Utah designates water sources for culinary and municipal water supplies to be protected according to the provisions within the Utah State Source Protection Plans. Management actions in the vicinity of municipal water sources should be coordinated with the municipality and may require a site review of the source protection plans and the water source.

## 4. Special Areas Identified by the Forest Supervisor

### 4.1. Botanical and Geological Areas

#### 4.1.1. Description of Areas and Specific Management Strategies

There is currently one botanical area on the Dixie National Forest. Five additional geological areas are proposed. The areas are depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Botanical and Geological Areas* map on page 2c-43.

**Table 2c-10. Botanical and Geological Areas on the Dixie National Forest**

Name	Type of Area	Ranger District	Status	Acreage
Red Canyon	Botanical	Powell	Existing	200
Lavabeds	Geological	Cedar City	Proposed	3,300
Powell Point	Geological	Escalante	Proposed	17,000
Red Canyon North	Geological	Powell	Proposed	10,400
Red Canyon South	Geological	Powell	Proposed	7,000
Pine Park	Geological	Pine Valley	Proposed	4,100

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

### **Red Canyon Botanical Area**

The Red Canyon Botanical Area was designated in 2001. The area is about 200 acres in size and is located on the west side of the Powell Ranger District just south of Highway 12. This area is surrounded by the proposed Red Canyon South Geological Area described below. The area includes unique geologic and botanical features. A number of endemic plant species live in this area. Management emphasis is on maintaining the endemic plants that live within the area's boundaries.

### **Proposed Lavabeds Geological Area**

The proposed Lavabeds Geological Area is comprised of about 3,000 acres of relatively young lava on the Cedar City Ranger District. The Timbered Cinder Cone RNA, described on page 2c-11, is located within the area's boundaries.

### **Proposed Powell Point Geological Area**

The proposed Powell Point Geological Area is a rugged area of about 11,300 acres just northeast of Bryce Canyon National Park. The area features many of the same geologic formations as the park.

### **Proposed Red Canyon North Geological Area**

The proposed Red Canyon North Geological Area is about 15,000 acres in size and is located on the west side of the Powell Ranger District just north of Highway 12. The area includes unique geologic and botanical features. The area also features the Cassidy, Casto, Rich, Losee, Arches, Birds Eye, Photo, and Pink Ledges trails.

### **Proposed Red Canyon South Geological Area**

The proposed Red Canyon South Geological Area is about 5,000 acres in size and is located on the west side of the Powell Ranger District just south of Highway 12. The area includes unique geologic and botanical features. The area also features

the Thunder Mountain, Castle Bridge, Tunnel, Buckhorn, Grandview, and Golden Wall trails.

### **Proposed Pine Park Geological Area**

The proposed Pine Park Geological Area is about 4,100 acres in size and is located on the far western edge of the Pine Valley Ranger District. Unique white hoodoos and other extraordinary geologic features characterize the area. The South Boundary trail runs through the area.

The Fishlake National Forest is proposing two botanical areas. The areas are depicted on the *Fishlake National Forest – Billings Pass and Ant Hill Botanical Areas* map on page 2c-44.

**Table 2c-11. Botanical Areas on the Fishlake National Forest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Area</b>	<b>Ranger District</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Ant Hill	Botanical	Fremont River	Proposed	600
Billings Pass	Botanical	Fremont River	Proposed	500

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

### **Proposed Ant Hill Botanical Area**

The 600-acre proposed Ant Hill Botanical Area consists of a dome-shaped mountain reaching 9,290 feet in elevation on the southern end of Thousand Lake Mountain. The west and south sides of the area are encompassed by a ring of 100-200 foot red Kayenta/Wingate sandstone cliffs, and the east side is ringed by a continuation of these cliffs which extend upward into the Navajo Formation to create a 600-700 foot sheer wall of sandstone. The north side reaches down to a saddle adjoining Thousand Lake Mountain. These cliffs make access very difficult, which has protected this dome from most human influence.

The geology of the upper portion of Ant Hill (excluding the north slope) appears to be from a volcanic intrusion as soils are not from the sandstone below and the area is covered with medium to large lava boulders. Most of the south side of Ant Hill, extending from the cliffs to nearly the top, is covered with mature-to-old pinyon pine and juniper. Management emphasis is on maintaining the endemic plants that live in the area. Ant Hill was previously recommended for inclusion in the RNA system. Regional Forester action on that recommendation may supercede this proposal.

### **Proposed Billings Pass Botanical Area**

The proposed Billings Pass Botanical Area is an area of diverse vegetation with regionally endemic plants. The area totals about 500 acres and is located along the boundary with Capitol Reef National Park. The unique plants and features of this area exist on both sides of the agency boundary. Management goals for this

area should be designed and implemented cooperatively with the National Park Service. Management emphasis is on maintaining the endemic plants that live in the area. The Billings Pass area has been previously recommended for inclusion in the RNA system. Regional Forester action on that recommendation may supercede this proposal.

#### 4.1.2. Desired Conditions

Geological areas emphasize protection of the geologic resources for which the area is valued. Botanical areas emphasize protection of the botanical resources for which the area is valued. Secondary emphasis for these areas is to allow for and enhance public awareness and appreciation of the botanical resources and the geologic conditions and for research of these features.

#### 4.1.3. General Management Strategies

- Botanical and geological areas are managed for the protection of the special resource(s) for which the area is valued.
- Botanical and geological areas are generally unsuitable for livestock grazing or timber harvest.
- Travel within botanical and geological areas is consistent with the Forest travel map. Motorized travel is limited to designated routes and areas.
- Treatment of noxious weeds and invasive species is allowed.
- Specific strategies for each area may include additional desired condition and objective components.

### 4.2. Backcountry Recreation Areas

Backcountry Recreation Areas are large, mostly undeveloped landscapes that are valued for their rugged and remote recreation opportunities. The areas principally feature recreation opportunities in a semi-primitive setting. These are special places identified to highlight unique opportunities, characteristics, historic features, vistas, destination attractions, or areas that have otherwise developed a sense of place. The management intent is to maintain the existing characteristics and features that make the area special. Areas should be prioritized for future investments in trails and recreation (e.g., trail maintenance, signage, and trailhead development).

Areas are managed to emphasize a range of high quality recreation opportunities. Other activities in these areas are described according to their suitability in the General Backcountry Recreation Suitability table on page 2c-28. As with all projects, effects of proposed activities will be analyzed to determine whether they are compatible with other values and how they could be achieved in a manner that would not detract from the setting and visitors' experience.

#### 4.2.1. Description of Areas and Specific Management Strategies

There are nine proposed backcountry recreation areas located either wholly or partially on the Dixie National Forest. These areas are depicted on the *Dixie National Forest – Backcountry Areas* map on page 2c-45.

**Table 2c-12. Proposed Backcountry Recreation Areas on the Dixie National Forest**

Name	Ranger District(s)	Acres <sup>1</sup>		
		Dixie	Fishlake	Total
Boulder Rim <sup>2</sup>	Escalante, Fremont River	13,700	30,700	44,400
Bumblebee	Pine Valley	14,200	0	14,200
Deep Creek	Powell	41,000	0	41,000
Fishhook	Powell	11,900	0	11,900
Little Creek	Cedar City	14,300	0	14,300
Longneck <sup>2</sup>	Escalante, Fremont River	4,400	20,400	24,800
Pilot Peak	Pine Valley	8,100	0	8,100
Pine Valley Front	Pine Valley	13,800	0	13,800
Pine Valley North	Pine Valley	8,100	0	8,100

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

<sup>1</sup> All acres on the Fremont River Ranger District, including those administered by the Fishlake National Forest, are included under Fishlake acres.

<sup>2</sup> The majority of the acreage in these proposed backcountry recreation areas is on lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest. Please see the Fishlake section beginning on page 2c-21 for descriptions of these areas. Acreages are included here for informational purposes.

#### **Proposed Bumblebee Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Bumblebee Backcountry Recreation Area, located on the Pine Valley Ranger District, comprises the western half of the Harmony Mountains (the eastern half is managed by the BLM). The BLM's Cedar City Field Office features the Bumblebee Spring mountain bike trail through this area. The trails through this area have become a popular recreation destination especially for residents of Kanarraville and New Harmony. The area features impressive views of the Kolob section of Zion National Park. Aspen Spring and Mahogany Point are popular local attractions. The Dry Lakes Trail leads to the Duncan Canyon Trail, Duncan Mountain, and Duncan Spring. The Bumblebee area is located near the Old Irontown historic site west of Cedar City.

#### **Proposed Deep Creek Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Deep Creek Backcountry Recreation Area, located on the Powell Ranger District, contains the watersheds for Deep Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Deer Creek. The area contains several popular trails including the Mount Dutton, North Cottonwood Creek, and Mountain Springs trails. These trails are most often used by equestrians, though use by mountain bikers is increasing. Deep Creek

Canyon offers opportunities for the study of geology and ecology. Cottonwood Peak and Mount Dutton are near the western edge of this area.

### **Proposed Fishhook Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Fishhook Backcountry Recreation Area, located on the Powell Ranger District, forms the southeastern boundary of Bryce Canyon National Park. The area is shaped somewhat like a fishhook, hence its name. The area features portions of the Grand View and Under-the-Rim trails, both of which offer a unique perspective of Bryce Canyon National Park from the eastern side. Some side trails provide access into the park.

Bryce Canyon National Park receives over 1.5 million visitors per year. The Fishhook Backcountry Recreation Area offers a semi-primitive setting near the park, and provides an alternative, less-developed experience.

### **Proposed Little Creek Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Little Creek Backcountry Recreation Area is located on the northern edge of the Cedar City Ranger District, the most visited district on the Dixie National Forest. In contrast, the Little Creek Backcountry Recreation Area is relatively undeveloped. The area offers rugged trails and challenging four-wheel drive routes. Excellent views of Bear Valley and the Spanish Trail are visible from Little Creek and Sandy peaks.

This area features Sandy Peak (9,537 feet), Little Creek Peak (10,140 feet), and Blue Meadows. Access to the area is provided by a number of low-standard four-wheel drive roads. The area is popular for its rugged hunting opportunities.

### **Proposed Pilot Peak Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Pilot Peak Backcountry Recreation Area is located in the western portion of the Pine Valley Ranger District, west of Highway 18. The Pilot Peak Trail runs through the area. Visitors can travel to Flat Top Peak (7,310 feet) or Pilot Peak (6,860 feet) with four-wheel drive vehicles. From Flat Top visitors have excellent views of the Bull Valley Mountains, Mount Escalante, and the Clover Mountain Wilderness Area in western Nevada.

Windy Peak and Pilot Peak are landmarks of the area. The area can be accessed by horse or foot from Honeycomb Rocks Campground near Enterprise Reservoir. Viewing and hunting the abundant wildlife of the area is a popular activity.

### **Proposed Pine Valley Front Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Pine Valley Front Backcountry Recreation Area is located along the eastern and southern edges of the Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area on the Pine Valley Ranger District. The area is rugged and steep with deep dissected canyons. A number of trails and trailheads provide access to the Pine Valley

Mountains. The Oak Grove Campground provides an excellent base camp with limited developments. The most prominent route in the area is the Cottonwood-Harmon Creek Trail, which parallels much of the wilderness area boundary.

### Proposed Pine Valley North Backcountry Recreation Area

The Proposed Pine Valley North Backcountry Recreation Area is located along the northern edge of the Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area on the Pine Valley Ranger District. The proposed area features a network of horse and foot trails.

From the Mill Canyon Trailhead visitors can ride for dozens of miles and emerge at Pinto Springs, Grants Ranch, or New Harmony. Popular resting points include the White Rocks Reservoir and Ben's Meadow. Rencher Peak (8,790 feet) provides a landmark that can be seen from nearly every point in this area.

There are 13 proposed Backcountry Recreation Areas either wholly or partially on the Fishlake National Forest and on lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest. These areas are depicted on the *Fishlake National Forest – Backcountry Areas* map on page 2c-46.

**Table 2c-13. Proposed Backcountry Recreation Areas on the Fishlake National Forest**

Name	Ranger District(s)	Acres <sup>1</sup>		
		Dixie	Fishlake	Total
Beehive Peak	East Pahvant	0	56,800	56,800
Boulder Rim <sup>2</sup>	Fremont River, Escalante	13,700	30,700	44,400
Circleville Mountain	Beaver	0	22,700	22,700
Fishlake Hightop	Fremont River	0	20,100	20,100
Little Bryce	Fremont River	0	3,300	3,300
Longneck <sup>2</sup>	Fremont River, Escalante	4,400	20,400	24,800
Merchant Creek	Beaver	0	4,600	4,600
Oak Creek	Fremont River	0	18,500	18,500
Shingle Creek	Beaver	0	15,600	15,600
Signal Peak	Richfield	0	28,600	28,600
Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top	Fremont River	0	1,900	1,900
Wayne Wonderland	Fremont River	0	11,300	11,300
White Mountain	Richfield	0	36,700	36,700

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

<sup>1</sup> Acres on the Fremont River Ranger District administered by the Fishlake National Forest are included under Fishlake acres.

<sup>2</sup> A portion of the acreage in these proposed backcountry recreation areas is located on the Escalante Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest. Acreages are included here for informational purposes.

### **Proposed Beehive Peak Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Beehive Peak Backcountry Recreation Area, located on the Fillmore Ranger District, features narrow canyons that contain majestic scenery rivaling that of Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks. The steep canyons have cut into sedimentary formations of red, yellow, and gray shades of sandstone, shale, and limestone. The erosion patterns carved interesting features such as Beehive Peak, Strawberry Canyon, and South Cedar Ridge Canyon.

High mesas within the area include many gnarled and twisted ancient juniper trees and provide scenic vistas of the Sevier Valley. Several of the existing travel routes were originally constructed to transport wood off these mesas. Notable historic features include pioneer cabin sites, an old sawmill site, and a cattle driveway. Horse and hiking routes in this area include the Red Canyon, Mill Canyon, and South Cedar Ridge Canyon trails.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Development of a trailhead and signage at the mouth of South Cedar Ridge Canyon would help control access and highlight geologic and scenic features.

### **Proposed Boulder Rim Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Boulder Rim Backcountry Recreation Area is a long narrow area that wraps around the southern, eastern, and northern slopes of Boulder Mountain south of Torrey. Although Boulder Mountain is best known for its large subalpine plateau, the rim area below the plateau features a network of motorized and non-motorized trails. It is possible to hike or ride for days on the extensive trail system without traversing the same trail twice.

The area, located on both the Fishlake and Dixie National Forests, has steep slopes and numerous small lakes with world class fishing. The area is accessed by several low-standard roads. There are several popular equestrian and hiking routes including the Wildcat, Chokecherry, and Rock Creek trails. The Great Western Trail passes through this area.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Develop partnerships for maintenance of the equestrian trail system.
- Develop Boulder Rim area information for distribution at the Wildcat Guard Station and Trailhead.

### **Proposed Circleville Mountain Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Circleville Mountain Backcountry Recreation Area is located in the southern portion of the Beaver Ranger District, west of Circleville. The area features the Circleville Mountain, with an elevation of 11,330 feet. The area offers an extensive trail system that includes both motorized and non-motorized

segments. Many of the trails have southern exposure, which makes them especially suited for use in the spring.

The area is accessed by the South Creek ATV Trail and several horse and foot trails. The Paiute ATV Trail passes through the eastern part of this area.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Establish a trailhead and kiosk in the vicinity of the Birch Creek Campground, near Betenson Flat, and on Forest Road #575.

### **Proposed Fishlake Hightop Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Fishlake Hightop Backcountry Recreation Area is located northwest of Fish Lake on the Fremont River Ranger District. The area is dominated by the 5,000-acre Fishlake Hightop Plateau (11,000 feet). The plateau features high elevation open grass meadows, unusual rock formations, and outstanding views of Fish Lake, Sevier Valley, and surrounding areas.

There are a number of trails that provide access to the area, including the Doctor Creek, Pelican Canyon, Tasha Creek, and Sevenmile trails. Forest Service Road #352 provides access to the Tasha Springs Trailhead, which in turn provides access to the Fishlake Hightop Trail that follows the plateau. The area provides a marked contrast to the developed recreation opportunities offered in the adjacent Fish Lake Basin.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Maintain the Tasha Springs Trailhead and signage to better identify the motorized travel boundary.

### **Proposed Little Bryce Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Little Bryce Backcountry Recreation Area is located in the southern portion of the Forest on the Fremont River Ranger District near the community of Bicknell. The area contains unique geologic formations that are reminiscent of Bryce Canyon National Park. These features include dramatic red rock cliff faces and hoodoos. The area is adjacent to the Sunslow Campground. The area includes the Red Canyon and Middle Ranger trails, and part of the Shingle Mill Creek Trail.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Create a foot and horse trail loop from the Sunslow Campground into the backcountry recreation area.

### **Proposed Longneck Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Longneck Backcountry Recreation Area is located on the Escalante and Fremont River Ranger Districts. The area is east of Highway 12 and adjacent

to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The area is rugged and steep with deep dissected canyons. Portions of the Slickrock Trail are within the area.

### **Proposed Merchant Creek Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Merchant Creek Backcountry Recreation area, located on the Beaver Ranger District, contains the headwaters of Merchant Creek. The area is bordered by several alpine peaks including Shelly Baldy (11,321 feet), Delano (12,169 feet), and Mount Holly (11,985 feet). The area is bisected by the Paiute ATV Trail, which provides a unique high country experience. The area is popular for semi-primitive recreation in all four seasons.

The area features breathtaking vistas and beautiful alpine meadows. A portion of the Skyline National Recreation Trail passes through the eastern portion of the area.

### **Proposed Oak Creek Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Oak Creek Backcountry Recreation Area is located east of Highway 12 and adjacent to Capitol Reef National Park. The area, located on the Fremont River Ranger District, is rugged and steep with deep dissected canyons. The area contains portions of the Slickrock Trail and portions of the Oak Creek Trail, which drops into Capitol Reef National Park.

### **Proposed Shingle Creek Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Shingle Creek Backcountry Recreation Area is located southeast of Cove Fort on the Beaver Ranger District. Access to the area is provided by a network of horse and foot trails in the Cove Creek and Shingle Creek drainages, including Cove Creek and Shingle Creek trails and numerous connecting trails. The Shingle Creek Meadows are located in the area. The character of the area is rolling hills covered in pinyon and juniper and coniferous forests.

### **Proposed Signal Peak Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Signal Peak Backcountry Area, located on the Richfield Ranger District, is on Monroe Mountain southeast of Monroe City. The area transitions from the steep slopes of the west side of Monroe Mountain to the relatively flat plateau on the top. The area contains a number of popular horse and hiking trails including Koosharem Guard Station and Nielson Canyon trails.

#### **Specific Management Strategies for the Area**

- Develop and maintain trailheads and signage for western access points.
- Develop partnerships for maintenance of the equestrian trail system.

### **Proposed Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top Backcountry Recreation Area is in the southeast corner of the Forest on the Fremont River Ranger District, north of Torrey. The area is an 11,000-foot elevation, subalpine plateau surrounded by steep slopes. The flanks of the plateau are covered with conifer forests. The top of Thousand Lake Mountain is capped with volcanic rocks that flowed out onto a preexisting surface. Fissure vents are visible on the sides of the Flat Top. These vents occurred where the molten lava was pushed up from the depths to flow out over the surface. Because the lavas were quite fluid, they formed a nearly flat surface similar to the one that is the Flat Top today.

The area features sweeping vistas of southeastern Utah including the La Sal and Henry mountains and the San Rafael Swell. Despite its name, there are few lakes on Thousand Lake Mountain. The area is accessed by several horse and foot routes, including the Peavine-Thousand Lake, Snow Lake, and Flat Top trails.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Develop partnerships for maintenance of the equestrian trail system.

### **Proposed Wayne Wonderland Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed Wayne Wonderland Backcountry Recreation Area is on the eastern edge of the Forest on the Fremont River Ranger District between the Great Western Trail and Capitol Reef National Park. The area is a tilted section of very colorful sedimentary formations that vary in color from buff to yellow to maroon to reddish brown. These formations are sandstone with briefly banded shales of fantastic shades and colors. This area is also known as the Land of the Sleeping Rainbow.

The area contains the horse and foot Paradise Flats Trail that drops into the park. The area is used by some as an alternate route into the Paradise Flats and Chimney Rock areas of Capitol Reef National Park.

### **Proposed White Mountain Backcountry Recreation Area**

The Proposed White Mountain Backcountry Recreation Area is located north of Acord Lakes on the Richfield Ranger District. The non-motorized character of the area dates back to the 1980s when numerous roads were closed for soil protection purposes. The old road beds are now managed as horse and foot trails. Primary uses of the area include hunting and horseback riding.

The area is the southern-most extent of the Wasatch Plateau and features steep narrow canyons and relatively broad, flat, gently-rolling mesa lands. The trails in the area include White Ledges, Salina Creek, and Skumpah Canyon trails. Musina Peak (10,984 feet) on the northern edge of this area offers outstanding views of

central Utah. Skyline Drive (Forest Service Road #150) passes along and through portions of the area and provides access for two-wheel drive vehicles.

#### Specific Management Strategies for the Area

- Much of this area overlays the SUFCO coal lease and has a high potential for additional coal exploration and mining. Access for coalbed exploration drilling, mine ventilation, and subsurface coal extraction could be compatible with the semi-primitive character of this area. Actual design features of the development would be based on site-specific analysis.

#### 4.2.2. Desired Conditions

Backcountry Recreation Areas are managed for natural appearing landscapes and offer opportunities for visitors to get away from developed areas and heavily traveled routes and experience a higher degree of challenge. Ecological processes such as natural succession, fire, and insect outbreaks and disease impacts are allowed to function with limited active management.

Areas offer a range of high quality dispersed recreation opportunities. Recreation opportunities pose an elevated degree of risk due to remote settings. Maintained trails and limited low-standard roads provide abundant opportunities for dispersed recreation including hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

The following table displays the acres and percent of each area by its Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Class.

**Table 2c-14. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes by Proposed Backcountry Recreation Area on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests**

Area	ROS Class								Total Area Acres
	Primitive		Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized		Semi-Primitive Motorized		Roaded Natural		
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	
Beehive Peak	0	0	44,800	79	9,600	17	2,400	4	56,800
Boulder Rim	0	0	31,500	71	11,200	25	1,700	4	44,400
Bumblebee	0	0	11,600	82	900	6	1,700	12	14,200
Circleville Mountain	0	0	15,900	70	6,100	27	700	3	22,700
Deep Creek	0	0	38,000	93	3,000	7	0	0	41,000
Fishhook	0	0	10,400	87	1,500	13	0	0	11,900
Fishlake Hightop	0	0	15,700	78	3,900	20	500	2	20,100
Little Bryce	0	0	3,000	91	200	6	100	3	3,300
Little Creek	0	0	11,800	83	2,400	17	100	<1	14,300
Longneck	0	0	22,400	90	1,800	7	600	3	24,800
Merchant Creek	0	0	4,200	91	400	9	<100	<1	4,600
Oak Creek	0	0	15,400	83	3,100	17	<100	<1	18,500
Pilot Peak	0	0	5,500	68	2,100	26	500	6	8,100
Pine Valley Front	1,100	8	11,000	80	1,200	9	500	3	13,800
Pine Valley North	0	0	7,900	98	200	2	0	0	8,100
Shingle Creek	0	0	14,100	90	1,200	8	300	2	15,600
Signal Peak	0	0	25,500	89	2,100	7	1,000	4	28,600
Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top	0	0	1,700	90	200	1	<100	<1	1,900
Wayne Wonderland	0	0	10,700	95	200	2	400	3	11,300
White Mountain	0	0	31,500	86	2,200	6	3,000	8	36,700

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

Management actions may be more evident in some places and may require periodic maintenance. Proposed activities within the areas would be designed to be consistent with the character, setting, and features for which each area is managed. Ground disturbing activities would generally be rehabilitated to a naturally appearing setting upon completion.

Backcountry Recreation Areas are managed to meet the physical, managerial, and social settings consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) descriptions for semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized settings.

### 4.2.3. Suitability

**Table 2c-15. General Backcountry Recreation Area Suitability**

Use	Suitability
Energy distribution systems	Conditional
Transmission corridors	Inconsistent
Treatment of noxious weeds and invasive species	Consistent
Special use authorization	Conditional
Mountain biking	Consistent
Prescribed fire	Consistent
Livestock grazing	Consistent
Vegetation treatment	Conditional
Forest products	Conditional
Insect and disease treatment	Conditional
Wildland fire use	Consistent <sup>1</sup>
Leasable minerals	Conditional
Locatable minerals	Consistent <sup>2</sup>
Mineral materials	Conditional
Motorized use	Conditional <sup>3</sup>
Winter motorized travel	Conditional

<sup>1</sup> Subject to resource conditions.

<sup>2</sup> Access is conditional.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the Forest's motorized travel planning. Some areas do not contain motorized routes.

Conditional: Suitability is based on site-specific analysis and documentation. Long-term activities should be consistent with the naturally appearing setting. Mitigation may be necessary to make short-term activities conform to desired conditions over the long-term.

Consistent: It is anticipated that these uses would be generally consistent with Backcountry Recreation Area management.

Inconsistent: The activity is generally inconsistent with Backcountry Recreation Area management.

## 5. Special Areas Summary Tables

The following tables summarize the special areas on each Forest, as well as identify in which Geographic Area each special area is located.

**Table 2c-16. Summary of Special Areas on the Dixie National Forest**

Area Name	Status	District(s)	Geographic Area(s)	Acres/ Miles <sup>1</sup>
<b>Wilderness</b>				
Ashdown Gorge	Existing	Cedar City	Cedar Breaks	7,000
Box-Death Hollow	Existing	Escalante	Boulder Creek, North Creek-Pine Creek	25,600
Pine Valley Mountain	Existing	Pine Valley	Pine Valley	50,200
<b>Recommended Wilderness</b>				
Ashdown Northwest Addition	Proposed	Cedar City	Cedar Breaks	1,700
Cottonwood	Proposed	Pine Valley	Pine Valley	3,200
<b>Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>				
North Fork Virgin River	Eligible	Cedar City	Navajo Lake-Duck Creek	1.0
East Fork Boulder Creek	Eligible	Escalante	Boulder Creek	3.0
Slickrock Canyon	Eligible	Escalante	East Slope-Slickrock	1.5
Cottonwood Canyon	Eligible	Escalante	East Slope-Slickrock	6.5
The Gulch	Eligible	Escalante	East Slope-Slickrock	2.0
Steep Creek	Eligible	Escalante	East Slope-Slickrock	7.5
Pine Creek	Eligible	Escalante	North Creek-Pine Creek	8.0
Mamie Creek	Eligible	Escalante	North Creek-Pine Creek	2.0
Death Hollow Creek	Eligible	Escalante	North Creek-Pine Creek	9.5
<b>Research Natural Areas</b>				
Browse	Existing	Pine Valley	Pine Valley	2,180
Red Canyon	Existing	Powell	Red Canyon	460
Table Cliff	Existing	Escalante	Antimony Creek-Pine Lake, Barney Top	1,240
Timbered Cinder Cone	Existing	Cedar City	Navajo Lake-Duck Creek	640
Upper Sand Creek	Existing	Escalante	North Creek-Pine Creek	1,880
<b>National Scenic Byways</b>				
Highway 12 (All American Highway) <sup>2</sup>	Existing	Escalante, Powell	Boulder Creek, Canaan Mountain, Paunsaugunt Plateau, Red Canyon	24

Area Name	Status	District(s)	Geographic Area(s)	Acres/ Miles <sup>1</sup>
<b>Forest Service Scenic Byways</b>				
Panguitch Lake (Forest Road 36)	Existing	Cedar City	Panguitch Lake-Mammoth Spring	25.0
Markagunt (Hwy 14)	Existing	Cedar City	Cedar Breaks, Navajo Lake-Duck Creek	29.5
Brian Head (Hwy 143)	Existing	Cedar City	Cedar Breaks, Navajo Lake-Duck Creek	4.0
<b>National Recreation Trails</b>				
Cascade Falls	Existing	Cedar City	Navajo Lake-Duck Creek	0.5
Whipple	Existing	Pine Valley	Pine Valley	6.0
Great Western <sup>2</sup>	Proposed	Escalante, Powell	Antimony Creek-Pine Lake, Boulder Creek, East Slope-Slickrock, Griffin Top, North Creek-Pine Creek, North Slope, Paunsaugunt Plateau	TBD <sup>3</sup>
<b>Botanical Areas</b>				
Red Canyon	Existing	Powell	Red Canyon	200
<b>Geological Areas</b>				
Lavabeds	Proposed	Cedar City	Navajo Lake-Duck Creek, Panguitch Lake-Mammoth Springs	3,300
Powell Point	Proposed	Escalante	Antimony Creek-Pine Lake	17,000
Red Canyon North	Proposed	Powell	Red Canyon	10,400
Red Canyon South	Proposed	Powell	Red Canyon	7,000
Pine Park	Proposed	Pine Valley	Enterprise	4,100
<b>Backcountry Recreation Areas</b>				
Boulder Rim <sup>2</sup>	Proposed	Escalante, Fremont River	Boulder Creek, East Slope-Slickrock, North Slope	44,400
Bumblebee	Proposed	Pine Valley	Pine Valley, Pinto	14,200
Deep Creek	Proposed	Powell	Mount Dutton	41,000
Fishhook	Proposed	Powell	Paunsaugunt Plateau	11,900
Little Creek	Proposed	Cedar City	Bear Valley	14,300
Longneck <sup>2</sup>	Proposed	Escalante, Fremont River	East Slope-Slickrock	24,800
Pilot Peak	Proposed	Pine Valley	Enterprise	8,100
Pine Valley Front	Proposed	Pine Valley	Pine Valley	13,800
Pine Valley North	Proposed	Pine Valley	Pine Valley	8,100

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres, except for Research Natural Areas, which are rounded to the nearest 10 acres. All miles rounded to the nearest one-half mile.

<sup>1</sup> All special areas are given in acres except Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic Byways, Forest Service Scenic Byways, and National Recreation Trails, which are given in miles.

<sup>2</sup> Information given is only for that portion of the special area on the Dixie National Forest. See Table 2c-17 below for information on the corresponding portion located on the Fishlake National Forest.

<sup>3</sup> Exact segments to be proposed have yet to be determined.

**Table 2c-17. Summary of Special Areas on the Fishlake National Forest**

Area Name	Status	District(s)	Geographic Area(s)	Acres/ Miles <sup>1</sup>
<b>Recommended Wilderness</b>				
Delano	Proposed	Beaver	Beaver River Basin, Piute Front, Tushar Mountains	19,000
Tushar Mountains	Proposed	Beaver	Beaver River Basin, Clear Creek, Indian Creek-North Creek, Tushar Mountains	32,000
<b>Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>				
Corn Creek	Eligible	Fillmore	West Pahvant	2.0
Fish Creek	Eligible	Beaver	Clear Creek, Indian Creek-North Creek	15.0
Pine Creek	Eligible	Beaver	Tushar Mountains, Piute Front	4.0
Salina Creek	Eligible	Richfield	Salina Creek	7.5
<b>Research Natural Areas</b>				
Bullion Canyon	Existing	Beaver	Tushar Mountains	1,300
Old Woman Cove	Existing	Richfield	Old Woman Plateau	2,510
Partridge Mountain	Existing	Fillmore	Canyon Range	1,200
Upper Fish Creek	Existing	Beaver	Tushar Mountains	1,720
<b>National Scenic Byways</b>				
Highway 12 (All American Highway) <sup>2</sup>	Existing	Fremont River	East Slope-Slickrock	18
<b>Forest Service Scenic Byways</b>				
Fish Lake	Existing	Fremont River	Fishlake Basin	12.5
Loa to Hanksville	Existing	Fremont River	Thousand Lake	1
Beaver Canyon	Existing	Beaver	Beaver Foothills, Beaver River Basin	33.5
<b>National Recreation Trails</b>				
Lakeshore	Existing	Fremont River	Fishlake Basin	14.0
Skyline	Existing	Beaver	Beaver River Basin, Tushar Mountains	9.0
Great Western <sup>2</sup>	Proposed	Fremont River, Richfield	Boulder Top, Gooseberry-Lost Creek, Last Chance-Geyser Peak, Mytoge Mountain-Tidwell Slopes, Salina Creek, Thousand Lake	TBD <sup>3</sup>
Paiute ATV (Main Loop)	Proposed	Beaver, Fillmore, Richfield	Beaver River Basin, Clear Creek, East Pahvant, Gooseberry-Lost Creek, Monroe Mountain, Piute Front, Tushar Mountains, West Pahvant	166.5
<b>Botanical Areas</b>				
Ant Hill	Proposed	Fremont River	Thousand Lake	600
Billings Pass	Proposed	Fremont River	Thousand Lake	500
<b>Backcountry Recreation Areas</b>				
Beehive Peak	Proposed	Fillmore	East Pahvant	56,800
Boulder Rim <sup>2</sup>	Proposed	Fremont River, Escalante	Boulder Top, East Slope-Slickrock, North Slope	44,400

Area Name	Status	District(s)	Geographic Area(s)	Acres/ Miles <sup>1</sup>
Circleville Mountain	Proposed	Beaver	Beaver Foothills, Piute Front	22,700
Fishlake Hightop	Proposed	Fremont River	Fishlake Hightop	20,100
Little Bryce	Proposed	Fremont River	Thousand Lake	3,200
Longneck <sup>2</sup>	Proposed	Fremont River, Escalante	East Slope-Slickrock	
Merchant Creek	Proposed	Beaver	Beaver River Basin, Tushar Mountains	
Oak Creek	Proposed	Fremont River	East Slope-Slickrock	18,500
Shingle Creek	Proposed	Beaver	Beaver Foothills, Clear Creek, Indian Creek-North Creek	15,600
Signal Peak	Proposed	Richfield	Monroe Mountain	28,600
Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top	Proposed	Fremont River	Thousand Lake	1,900
Wayne Wonderland	Proposed	Fremont River	Thousand Lake	11,300
White Mountain	Proposed	Richfield	Salina Creek	36,700

All acres rounded to the nearest 100 acres, except for Research Natural Areas, which are rounded to the nearest 10 acres. All miles rounded to the nearest one-half mile.

- <sup>1</sup> All special areas are given in acres except Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic Byways, Forest Service Scenic Byways, and National Recreation Trails, which are given in miles.
- <sup>2</sup> Information given is only for that portion of the special area on the Fishlake National Forest. See Table 2c-16 above for information on the corresponding portion located on the Dixie National Forest.
- <sup>3</sup> Exact segments to be proposed have yet to be determined.

Dixie National Forest – Potential Special Areas (dnf\_specialareas.pdf)

- JPEG (XX KB)
- PDF (XX KB)

Fishlake National Forest – Potential Special Areas (fnf\_specialareas.pdf)

- JPEG (XX KB)
- PDF (XX KB)

Dixie National Forest – Ashdown Wilderness Area and Recommended Ashdown  
Northwest Addition Wilderness Area (dnf\_wilderness\_ashdown.pdf)

- JPEG (XX KB)
- PDF (XX KB)

Dixie National Forest – Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area  
(dnf\_wilderness\_boxdeath.pdf)

- JPEG (XX KB)
- PDF (XX KB)

Dixie National Forest – Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area and Recommended Cottonwood Wilderness Area (dnf\_wilderness\_cottonwood.pdf)

- JPEG (XX KB)
- PDF (XX KB)

Fishlake National Forest – Tushar and Delano Recommended Wilderness Areas  
(fnf\_wilderness\_tushardelano.pdf)

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- PDF (XX KB)

Dixie National Forest – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (dnf\_wsr.pdf)

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Fishlake National Forest – Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (fnf\_wsr.pdf)

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- PDF (XX KB)

Dixie National Forest – Great Western Trail (dnf\_gwt.pdf)

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Fishlake National Forest – Piute and Great Western Trails (fnf\_piutegwt.pdf)

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- PDF (XX KB)

Dixie National Forest – Botanical and Geological Areas (dnf\_botgeo.pdf)

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Fishlake National Forest – Billings Pass and Ant Hill Botanical Areas (fnf\_botanical.pdf)

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Dixie National Forest – Backcountry Areas (dnf\_backcountry.pdf)

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Fishlake National Forest – Backcountry Areas (fnf\_backcountry.pdf)

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