

## **Changes from V1.0 to 2.0 – Special Areas**

Changes to this section include:

- Text edited for clarity
- Boundaries of the Proposed Delano recommended wilderness have been changed resulting in an increase of 6,000 acres.
- The use of mountain bikes and snowmobiles in the recommended wilderness areas has been clarified.
- A column was added to the table of Eligible Wild and Scenic rivers to show outstanding remarkable values.
- Language describing backcountry areas was changed to depict intentions and uses. This is also reflected in the suitability summary table. Unlisted uses consistent with desired conditions are suited.
- The white mountain backcountry areas was expanded to the west adding about 7,000 acres.
- The table about botanical and geologic areas was expanded to better describe suited uses.
- Suited uses for Research natural Areas was further described from FSM direction.

Need to do

- Meet with districts to discuss
  - ROS
  - SMS
  - Special Areas
  - Geographic areas description and mgt direction
  - Review comments related to Special Areas and GAs

## Special Areas

Special areas are areas within the NFS designated for their unique or special characteristics. These areas include wilderness, wild and scenic river corridors, research natural areas, and other areas. Some of these areas are statutorily designated. Other areas may be designated through plan development, amendment, revision, or through a separate administrative process with an appropriate NEPA analysis (36 CFR 219). Appropriate plan components are provided for existing designations and recommended areas. This may include desired conditions, management objectives, and guidelines. The following section addresses the special areas for the Fishlake National Forest and outlines a description of the area, the desired conditions, and management strategy.

### STATUTORILY DESIGNATED AREAS

#### Recommended Wilderness

Areas recommended to Congress for wilderness consideration are managed to maintain existing wilderness character. Activities in recommended wilderness do not compromise the wilderness character or reduce the area's potential for wilderness designation. Generally, all current legal activities will continue until Congressional action on the recommendation. Specifically, mountain biking would continue on designated trails and snowmobile use would continue to follow restrictions shown on current travel map (*link to image of 1997 travel map*).

Name of Area	Size in Acres	Area Type
Delano	30,000	Recommended Wilderness
Tushar	27,500	Recommended Wilderness

#### Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

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. (For additional details see: Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report, 2004).

Eligible Segments	Length of segment (miles)	Outstanding Remarkable Values
Corn Creek	2	Recreation Fishing
Fish Creek	15	Prehistoric/Historic Wildlife/Ecology Native Trout
Pine Creek	4	Wildlife/Ecology Native Fish—BCT
Salina Creek	6	Recreation Fishing
Quitcupah Creek	From 2004 Richfield RMP (BLM) analysis	Cultural

Length of segments from analysis done by other agencies is available by contacting the appropriate agency

## ADMINISTRATIVELY DESIGNATED AREAS

### Backcountry Areas

Backcountry areas are typically undeveloped landscapes that are natural appearing, with little evidence of recent human-caused disturbance. These areas allow opportunities for solitude and self-reliance. Ecological processes such as natural succession, fire, and insect and disease, are allowed to function with some human influence. While non-motorized recreation travel experiences are common, there may be some areas where existing motorized travel is allowed to continue.

Backcountry Area Suitability Summary Table

Name of Area	Size (acres)	Snowmobiles?	Est. Miles of access within		Mtn. Bikes?	Rx Fire or Wildland Fire
			Motorized	Non-motorized		
Beehive Peak	29,700	No	3	15	OK	OK
Signal Peak	16,700	No	0	22	OK	OK
White Mountain	35,000	No	7	44	OK	OK
Fishlake Hightop	20,100	OK	6	17	OK	OK
Wayne	11,300	No	0	2	OK	OK
Bullberry	2,500	No	0	0	OK	OK
Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top	2,000	No	0	5	OK	OK

Backcountry areas are identified as special areas to highlight the non-motorized recreation opportunities (See Figure xx). Although these are not the only areas of the forest that provide non-motorized opportunities, these are areas that offer unique opportunities, characteristics, destination attractions, or have otherwise developed a “sense of place”. The backcountry areas will also be used to help prioritize future investment for enhancement of non-motorized recreation.

### *Desired Conditions*

Backcountry areas are characterized by a predominantly natural-appearing environment where there is a moderate to high probability of solitude. Recreation opportunities generally require a high degree of self-reliance, and pose a moderate to high degree of risk. Although there may be some evidence of other land uses, there is a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sounds and sights of man. Structures are rare, but may include rustic shelters, bridges and signs, and primitive sanitary facilities.

Generally, backcountry areas are managed to meet the physical, managerial, and social settings consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum descriptions for semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) recreation. They provide a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities and settings. Natural processes are the primary agents for vegetative change. Remote habitat for native or naturalized species of game and non-game wildlife is provided consistent with the natural vegetation.

Non-motorized recreation opportunities are featured. Trails and closed roads provide abundant opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Limited motorized access is provided to trail heads and other access points. Mountain biking is restricted to existing designated trails.

#### Beehive Peak Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The Beehive Peak Backcountry is an area with limited motorized access. The area totals about 29,700 acres. Trails in this area include the Red Canyon Trail (015), Mill Canyon Trail (622), and the South Cedar Ridge Canyon Trail (028). The area is dissected with steep canyons cut into sedimentary formation of sandstone, shale, and limestone. The erosion patterns have carved interesting features such as Beehive Peak, Strawberry Canyon, and South Cedar Ridge Canyon.

#### Fish Lake Hightop Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The Fish Lake Hightop Backcountry area is northwest of Fish Lake. The area totals about 20,100 acres. The area is dominated by a high plateau of about 5,000 acres. The plateau features high elevation open grass meadows, unusual rock formations, and outstanding views of Fish Lake and the surrounding areas. There are a number of trails that provide access to the area. These include: Doctor Canyon (124), Pelican Canyon (125), Tasha Creek Trail (126), and the Seven Mile Trail (158). The Fish Lake Hightop trail (123) follows the plateau. The area is adjacent to the Fish Lake Basin recreation area and provides a stark contrast to the developed recreation opportunities offered in the Basin.

#### White Mountain Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The White Mountain Backcountry area is a large (about 35,000 acres) area with limited motorized access north of Accord Lakes. The non-motorized character was created when numerous roads were closed in the 1990's for soil protection purposes. The old road beds are now managed as trails. Primary uses include hunting and horseback riding. The trails include: White ledges (102), Salina Creek (263), (426, (157) (265), (269), and Skumpah Canyon (266). The area features steep narrow canyons and relatively broad flat gently rolling mesa lands. Musina Point (10,984'), on the northern edge of this area, offers outstanding views of central Utah. The Skyline Drive (FS rd 150) passes along and through portions of this area and provides access for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

#### Signal Mountain Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The Signal Mountain Backcountry area is non-motorized area 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 Trail (081), (083), (084), and Nielson Canyon (086).

#### Bullberry Backcountry Area (Figure xx)

The Bullberry Backcountry area is non-motorized area on the eastern edge of the forest between Bullberry Flat and Capital Reef National Park. The area is rugged and steep

with deep dissected canyons. The area does not contain significant non-motorized trails. The undeveloped nature of the area helps to compliment the Park Service management goals in the western edge of the Waterpocket Fold

**Wayne Wonderland Backcountry Area** (Figure xx)

The Wayne Wonderland Backcountry area is non-motorized area on the eastern edge of the forest between The Great Western Trail and Capital Reef National Park. The area is rugged and steep with deep dissected canyons. The area contains the Paradise Flats trail (154) that drops into the Park. The undeveloped nature of the area compliments the Park Service management goals in the Paradise Flats and Chimney Rock areas.

**Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top Area** (Figure xx)

The Thousand Lake Mountain Flat Top area is non-motorized area in the southern portions of the forest, north of Torrey, Utah. The area is a plateau of about 2,000 acres surrounded by steep cliffs. The Flat top is accessed by several horse and foot trails. Trails include Bull Run Flat trail (176), the Snow Lake trail (178), and the Flat Top trail (149).

**Municipal Water Sources**

Figure xx displays the known water sources for culinary and municipal water supplies. Those sources are to be protected according to the provisions within the Utah State Source Protection Plans. *Include url reference here.*

**Botanical and Geologic Areas**

Botanical and Geologic Area Suitability Summary Table

Name of Area	Size	Area Type	Snowmobiles?	Mtn. Bikes?	Rx Fire or Wildland Fire
Ant Hill	500 acres	Botanical	No	No	OK
Billings Pass	400 acres	Botanical	No	No	OK
Little Bryce	4,000 acres	Geologic	No	OK	OK

Desired conditions for geologic areas emphasize protection of the geologic resources for which the area is valued. Desired conditions for botanical areas emphasize protection of the botanical resources for which the area is valued. Secondary emphasis for these areas is allowed for public appreciation of the botanical resources and the geologic conditions or for research of these features.

Ant Hill and Billings Pass are also being considered for inclusion in the Research Natural Area program. These areas will be administratively managed as Botanical Areas. Resolution of the RNA considerations may alter this designation.

Ant Hill

The Ant Hill is a dome-shaped mountain, reaching 9,291 feet in elevation, on the southern end of Thousand Lake Mountain in south central Utah. The west and south sides are encompassed by a ring of 100 to 200 foot red Kayenta/Wingate sandstone cliffs, and the east side by a continuation of these cliffs which extend upward into the Navajo formation to create a 600 to 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.

Geology of the upper portion of the 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 the Ant Hill, extending from the cliffs to nearly the top, is covered with old-growth pinyon pine and juniper.

Billings Pass

Billings Pass is an area of diverse vegetation with regionally endemic plants. This is along the boundary with Capital 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 designed and implemented cooperatively with the Park Service.

Little Bryce

Little Bryce is an area of unique geologic formations that are reminiscent of Bryce Canyon National Park.

**Forest Service Scenic Byway**

- Fish Lake scenic byway (Forest Road 25)
- Loa to Hanksville scenic byway (Highway 24)
- Beaver Canyon scenic byway (Highway 153)

**Research Natural Areas (RNAs) of the Fishlake NF**

<i>Bullion Canyon RNA</i>	Beaver District
	Established: 2/2/88
<i>Upper Fish Creek RNA</i>	Beaver District
	Established: 2/2/88
<i>Partridge Mountain RNA</i>	Fillmore District
	Established: 7/9/79
<i>Old Woman Cove RNA</i>	Richfield District
	Established: 11/20/98

*Desired Conditions for RNAs*

Research natural areas (RNA's) are part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. Research natural areas are for nonmanipulative research, observation, and study. They also may assist in implementing provisions of special acts, such as the Endangered Species Act and the monitoring provisions of the National Forest Management Act.

Research natural areas 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." (Federal Committee on Ecological Reserves, 1977.)

### *Objectives and Management Guidelines*

Management direction for RNA's is outlined in the Forest Service Manual at FSM 4063. This direction includes objectives and guidelines for management. Snowmobiles, mountain bikes, and prescribed fire are generally unsuitable in RNA's. Wildland Fire Use is a suited use.

### **National Recreation Trails**

The Fishlake NF has two designated national recreation trails and two proposed.

- Lakeshore National Recreation trail
- Skyline National Recreation Trail
- Paiute ATV trail (Main loop recommended)
- Great Western Trail (Recommended)