



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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DECEMBER 1999

Canoeing the Bear River in October

Following the course of a river allows one to become intimate with the Earth—flowing along her arteries and veins, coursing with her tempos, languid and smooth, rapid, and dashed, skimming the curves, dips and hollows of her body, feeling the cool skin of her water pouch against your bow and paddle—canoeing is an act of communion. Thirteen intrepid Auduboners set forth to participate in this renewal, making themselves vulnerable to the mood of the river. On a cold, clear October morning, seven canoes plied the misty waters of the sinuous Bear River, putting in near Riverdale, Idaho, northeast of Preston, and taking out at the Dayton Bridge. Two dancing Belted Kingfishers sent them off with a raucous *bon voyage*.

The water was swift, riffled in places, whimsical and teasing. An eddy caught one boat unawares and flipped its contents into the icy liquid. The stunned canoeists remembered the first rule of a canoeing mishap—stick with the boat! Tenaciously, they clung to the canoe pushing it toward shore and solid footing. The other boaters responded, rushing to help, saving floating hats, paddles, and lotion bottles. Once the drenched and bedraggled boaters were safely ashore, the most amazing event of the day occurred; the other trippers pooled their emergency supplies and within minutes the two misfortunates were dressed in dry clothing and sipping hot soup made by LeRoy Beesley on his trusty stove. This group of canoists proved to be well prepared for misadventure!

With nothing damaged but a bit of pride, the troupe embarked once again upon the waters. Numerous red-shafted Northern Flickers crossed the path of the river,

flitting among the Cottonwood and Russian olive trees lining the banks. It was hunting season for pheasant or grouse in Idaho. Men in orange caps and their dogs scoured the hills along the river; the sounds of guns popping in the distance mingled with Marsh Wrens twittering in the Cattails and the whistling of an occasional flock of Golden-eye ducks flying overhead.

The river widened and slowed. No treacherous rocks, diversion dams, or overhanging branches in sight. Only a herd of cattle on the north bank. Suddenly, the whole herd started running downstream alongside the canoes. The lead cow decided the south shore looked safer so she plunged down the bank and into the river, with the entire herd of fifty snorting animals following. The canoeists back-paddled furiously to escape being swamped by the stampede of black and white beeves!

The morning adventures along the river brought on a mighty hunger among the boaters. Lunchtime spent among the Cattails saw the group sharing their faire in

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December Calendar Meetings

Thursday, December 9, 5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, at Chapter Two Bookstore, 130 N. 100 E., Logan. (*NOTE CHANGE* – Moved time and place in December only because of conflicts with the Forest Planning Meetings.) All BAS members are invited to join us as we review projects, priorities and issues.

Thursday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. General Meeting, 2nd Floor of Chapter Two Books, 130 N 100 E, Logan: Nature in Winter. A December nature program from the Stokes Nature Center. The public is invited; refreshments following.

November 30 and December 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Mt. Logan Middle School, 945 North 200 East, Logan. Creating a Future for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest: Alternatives for Management. We need conservation-minded folks to attend this meeting and articulate management alternatives that are in harmony with the natural world. See special supplement in this issue for details.

Field Trips

All BAS trips are open to the public. For more information, call the trip leader listed at the end of each description.

Saturday, December 4. Return to the Sewage Lagoons. Winter's coming on and water is starting to ice up. Some birds are still migrating through, and we often see very unusual waterfowl this time of year, such as Oldsquaw, unusual loons or scoters. The Logan Sewage Lagoons are not generally open to the public, so here's your chance to visit a rich, if rather odd, habitat. On last year's CBC, some observers watched a Peregrine Falcon chase down a Ruddy Duck at the Lagoons. Meet at 10 a.m. (eschew masochism) at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East in Logan); return by lunch. Some of us may continue birding in the afternoon (e.g., Hyrum Reservoir or Bud Phelps), so if that strikes your fancy, stay with us.

Saturday, December 18. 23rd Annual Christmas Bird Count. This is the 100th CBC! The CBC was initiated in 1900 as an alternative to the "Christmas Side Hunt," where, after the Christmas Dinner, folks would choose sides, venture forth, and the winner was the side who shot the most birds. (Check out more of the history on: <http://www.birdsource.org/cbc/hist.htm>.) The CBC remains one of the longest running efforts at wildlife conservation, as the count is compiled each year as an indicator of avian health and distribution. This will be the 24th year for the Logan CBC, conducted annually in the same 15-mile diameter area centered in Hyde Park. There are 11 sectors, each with a leader, and here's where you come in. We need observers - spare eyeballs

with brains and binoculars attached - to help find every single bird in this circle. If you don't have much experience, this is a fine time to start, because you'll be placed with others who do. If you've been birding for a while and know the area, we need you, too - we always need competent leaders. And we DO find interesting stuff. That's the other fun part. After the day's exertions, we gather for potluck dinner to share our findings and argue about whether that web-footed WhoGeeWhatZit could really have been up on Bigtop Mountain. This year the potluck is again at Sue and David Drown's home, 1776 East 1400 North in Logan, and it begins at 6:00 p.m. If you're too pressed for time to make a dish, not to worry, bring something easy (like cookies, maybe?) and we'll provide a mega-submarine sandwich. If you'd like to help out, contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258. Cost is \$5 per person to cover national compilation costs. (BAS will cover students' fees.)

Tuesday, December 28. The 3rd Annual Bear Lake CBC. Dennis Austin has organized a second CBC for northern Utah. The count area includes all of Bear Lake on the Utah side, the dry slopes on the east side of Bear Lake, the conifer slopes on the west side of Bear Lake to the drainage divide between Bear Lake and Logan Canyon, and extends southerly to the south edge of Round Valley. We should find about 50 species, with past notables including Osprey, Bald Eagles, Western Grebe, Tundra Swans, Pine Grosbeaks, and large flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches. For more information, call Dennis Austin, 245-5261.

Found: Nikon binocular case at the Oxbow overlook on Sam Fellow Road near Benson. To claim, call Bryan at 752-6830.

Email Alerts

Want to receive late breaking trip announcements, environmental alerts, local conservation news? Send an email to bdixon@xmission.com. We're trying to consolidate email lists for local environmental organizations so now's the time to join. We are very careful with this list and DO NOT distribute it.

Remember:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ut/bridgerland>
Check it for late breaking information and trips that were put together after the *Stilt* was published.

E-mail service provided by XMission. Use the following addresses to contact your BAS leadership:
stilt@xmission.com – for newsletter items

Forest Planning Workshops - Please Attend!

November 30, December 2 or Both!

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Logan Middle School

875 North 200 East

Introduction

The plan for your Wasatch-Cache National Forest is undergoing revision. This Plan will set forth how the forest will be managed for the next 20 years. We need to speak now for the health of the land, so read on to see how you can help. You can make a difference!

This Meeting

The FS will begin the meetings with a 30-minute update on the plan. They have divided the Wasatch-Cache National Forest into zones largely based on watersheds, within which are smaller zones that will be managed according to a particular management category. Following the introduction, we'll split into smaller groups of similar interests to develop alternatives for these zones. The FS has already developed a range of "management prescriptions" or "categories" that could be applied, and each category has a numerical reference. The abbreviated list is as follows:










- 1.1-1.5 - Wilderness with emphasis on maintaining wilderness attributes. (1.1 is existing Wilderness, 1.2 and 1.3 generally refer to trails, 1.5 is proposed new Wilderness.)
- 2.1-2.7 - Special Management Areas designated for the conservation of specific values (i.e., 2.1-2.3 Wild and Scenic rivers, 2.4 Research Natural Areas, 2.5 Scenic Byways, 2.6 Undeveloped Areas, 2.7 Special Interest Areas)
- 3.1-3.4 - Protection of Aquatic, Terrestrial and Hydrologic Integrity (3.1 emphasizes restoration, 3.2 Municipal Watershed, 3.3 Aquatic Habitat, 3.4 Terrestrial Habitat)
- 4.1-4.5 - Recreation, ***all still allow for snowmobiles*** (4.1 Backcountry Non-motorized, 4.2 Dispersed Non-Motorized, 4.3 Backcountry Motorized, 4.4 Dispersed Motorized, 4.5 Developed)
- 5.1-5.2 - Multiple Resource Uses Emphasizing Forest Vegetation (5.1 emphasizes forest health but allows timber cutting, 5.2 emphasizes timber cutting)
- 6.1-6.2 - Multiple Resource Use Where Non-forested Vegetation Predominates (6.1 allows grazing, 6.2 emphasizes grazing)
- 7.1-7.2 - Intermingled Public/Private Lands (always in conjunction with another category)

Audubon's Ideas

The FS is a bit ahead of itself. Typically, we'd expect an analysis of the condition of the forest - how much grazing is there, how many head and where? Where are the commercial stands of timber? What habitats are most threatened and where are they? How much damage has occurred in recent years by ORVs and livestock? Instead of providing us with this information, however, the FS has plowed ahead and drawn maps with their own preferences for how these zones will be managed. But even though we don't have good data to work from, it is critical that we tell them how WE WANT this forest managed.

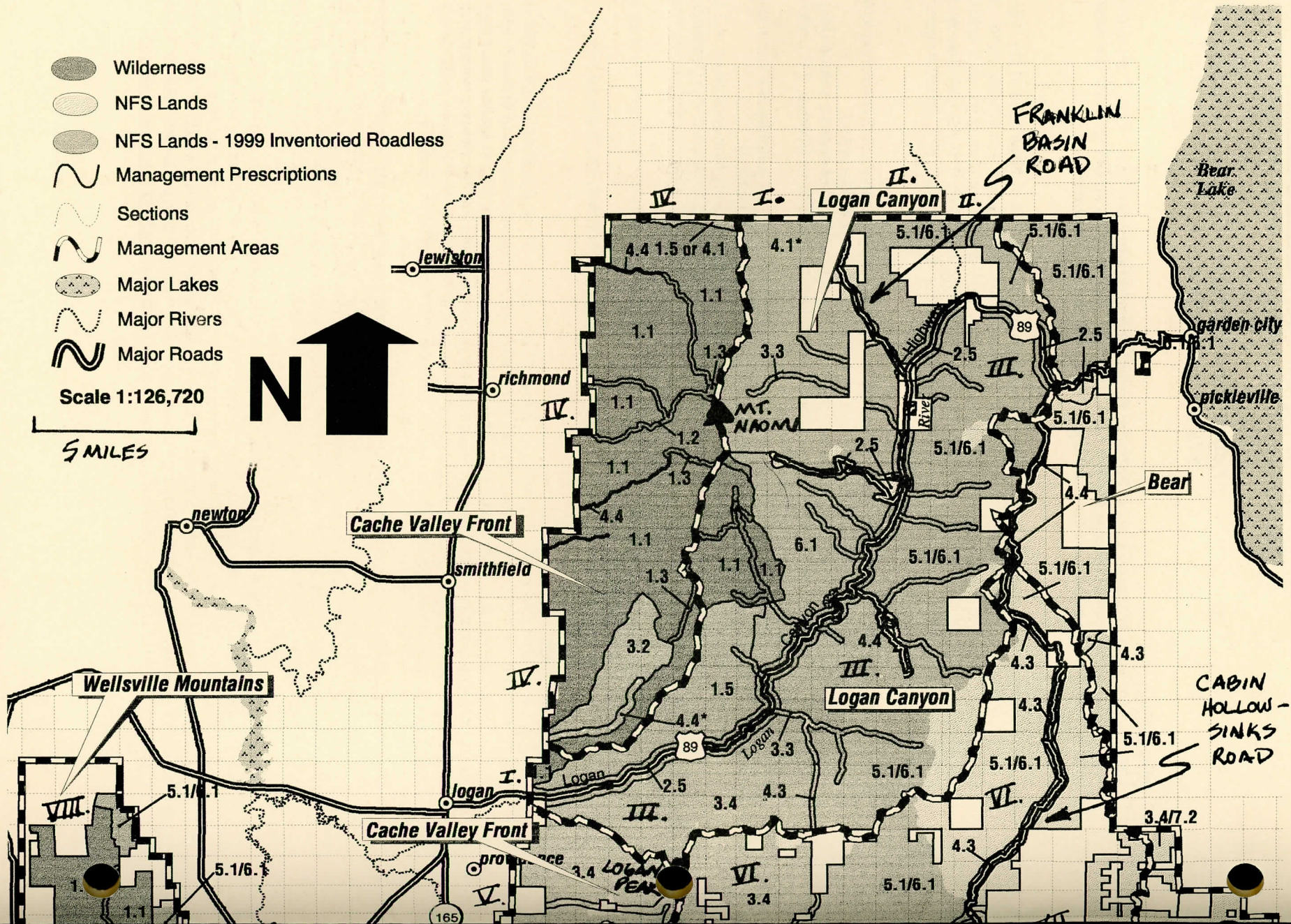
Members of Bridgerland Audubon have been involved since this process started and this supplement outlines our ideas about management prescriptions for the Logan District. Along with the enclosed map of proposed "management prescriptions" provided by the Forest Service, you can read below our analysis of the most important areas with an interpretation of the Forest Service prescription and our own recommendations. Read these over and bring them to the planning meetings with your own ideas.

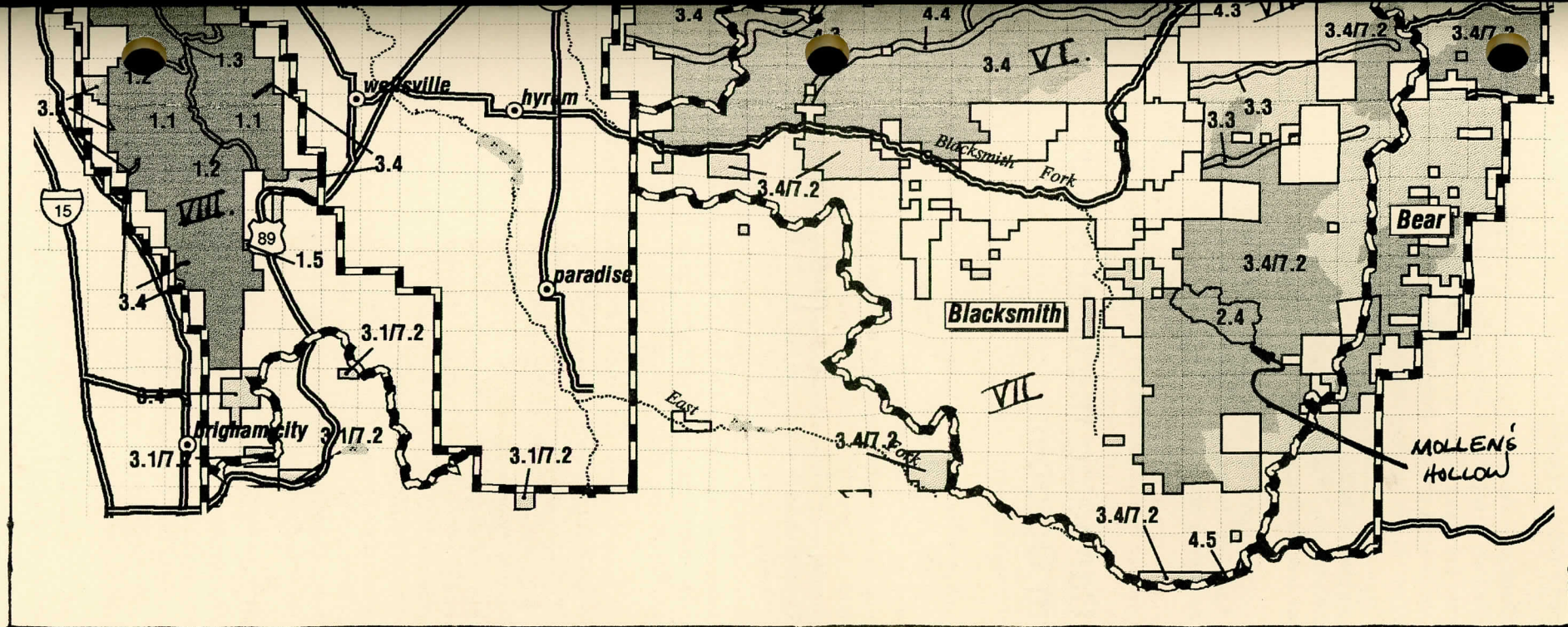
We recognize that we aren't the only users of the forest. However, those who travel on foot have a more intimate understanding of the forest. And no one person knows the entire forest, however, many of us know areas within our local district better than do the local FS personnel, and we almost certainly know this district better than the planning team. ***Will our lands be managed for wildlife, forest health, and natural systems, OR for livestock, motorized recreation and logging? Make it easier for our FS Planning Team to be good stewards for our public lands by making your voice heard!***

-  Wilderness
-  NFS Lands
-  NFS Lands - 1999 Inventoried Roadless
-  Management Prescriptions
-  Sections
-  Management Areas
-  Major Lakes
-  Major Rivers
-  Major Roads

Scale 1:126,720

5 MILES





**Proposed Management Areas
in Logan District
of Wasatch-Cache National Forest
for use in December 1999
Forest Planning Meetings, Logan**

- I. Logan Canyon - North of Route 89 and West of Franklin Basin
- II. Logan Canyon - North of Route 89 and East of Franklin Basin
- III. Logan Canyon - South of Route 89
- IV. Cache Valley Front - North of Logan
- V. Cache Valley Front - South of Logan
- VI. Blacksmith - North of Blacksmith Fork Road and West of Cabin Hollow and Sinks Road
- VII. Blacksmith - South of Blacksmith Fork Road and Bear
- VIII. Wellsville Mountains

Base map prepared by USFS.

Analysis by Management Area (See Map)

Management Area	Forest Service Proposes	We Respond
I. Logan Canyon - North of Route 89 and West of Franklin Basin	1.1 Existing Mt. Naomi Wilderness	We generally agree with the 1.5 designation. These canyons deserve the same protection as the Mt. Naomi Wilderness. Wilderness designation precludes mountain bikes on the Jardine Juniper trail, but it would be worth it to secure the wilderness protection of the area.
	1.5 Proposed new wilderness - the north side of Route 89 to the top of the ridge, all the way up Logan Canyon to Cottonwood Canyon, including Old Jardine Juniper, Wood Camp Hollow, Tab Hollow, Beirdneau Hollow, and Wind Caves.	<u>NOTE: At the last minute, the FS is proposing allowing "motorized and mechanized equipment for administrative purposes". IN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS? ? ?</u>
	2.5 Scenic Byways - Tony Grove Road and Route 89 Logan Canyon Highway.	2.5 OK.
	3.3 Managed for preserving, maintaining, or restoring quality aquatic conditions along streams.	3.3 OK. The FS is trying to protect streams and the Logan River for Bonneville Cutthroat, as well as other species, and some sections for Wild and Scenic eligibility and we agree.
	4.1 Backcountry non-motorized uses, including semi-primitive recreation. West side of Franklin Basin from Tony Grove Road to the Idaho border. (Allows snowmobiles.)	These lands deserve to be 1.5 Wilderness. They were left out of the original Wilderness recommendation in 1984 by Rep. Jim Hansen to appease his snowmobile friends. The FS uses 4.x classes for recreation but none of them truly preclude motors! Even the 4.1 option labeled "Backcountry non-motorized" allows snowmobiles - hardly "non-motorized". <u>This is our primary objective for change to the Forest Plan.</u> Wildlife and winter recreationists need places to go that are free of the far-reaching disturbance of ORVs or snowmobiles and this is the place. The only other non-motorized areas are the Mt. Naomi and Wellsville Mountains Wilderness areas, but avalanches make these generally too dangerous in winter for most users. In contrast, Steep Hollow, Hell's Kitchen, Steam Mill, White Pine and Bunchgrass drainages offer human-powered recreationists access within a day's travel to pristine places of solitude. The rapidly increasing population in Cache Valley makes such a reserve more and more critical every year. We must either make these lands 1.5 Wilderness and abandon the 4.x category or seek a 4.1 that is limited to non-motorized users. Snowmobiles have thousands of acres already available. Non-intrusive users need freedom from noise, air pollution and disturbance, and this is an unambiguous and easily managed alternative. The FS wants to restore and regenerate Aspen/Mountain Brush communities, and manage spruce-fir for large patches - a good plan unless that means large clearcuts. Our designations would help this happen.
6.1 Any use permitted with review, including logging, "vegetation treatment", roads, motorized recreation, grazing, recreation development, whatever. These are the drainages between Cottonwood and Tony Grove, including Bear and Blind Hollows.		
II. Logan Canyon - North of Route 89 and East of Franklin Basin	5.1/6.1 Emphasis on "full range of land and resource treatment activities" resource "development" - i.e., timber, road access, grazing, motorized recreation, recreation development.	We never want to see intensively developed resource use on the Logan District. Too much of the Bear River Range is already developed and more is coming (have you seen the cabins and lodges on private lands south of Hardware Ranch the last few years?). But we must take proposed projects on one at a time, and judge the merits of each within the context of the overall forest. We therefore will not protest this designation, but encourage the FS to find ways to control ORV abuse and protect riparian areas from "urban camping" and over-grazing. The areas around Beaver Mountain are now owned by the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration, which we think doesn't bode well for their long-term protection. We must try to monitor these uses and hope we can prevent outrageous developments.

Management Area	Forest Service Proposes	We Respond
III. Logan Canyon - South of Route 89	3.3 Managed for preserving, maintaining, or restoring quality aquatic conditions along streams.	3.3 OK.
	<p>3.4 Terrestrial habitat emphasis. These are the north-draining canyons from the mouth of Logan Canyon to Right-hand Fork. They include Mill Hollow, Spring Hollow, and Card Canyon. The FS proposes allowing motorized access once again, as well as "limited" timber harvest, roads, grazing and recreation development.</p> <p>4.4/5.1/6.1 Emphasis on "full range of land and resource treatment activities" resource "development" - i.e., timber, road access, grazing, motorized recreation, recreation development. This applies to the all of the lands south of Route 89 to the Logan Canyon Summit.</p>	<p>Once more, we find little reason why more of these canyons can't be better protected - the roadless areas in this zone should be 1.5 Wilderness. Except at their mouth and along Logan River, there is no significant development. They are steep and heavily forested. The steep terrain means that ORV access would only tear up the land. We shudder to think of new roads or logging being allowed. Why not give these lands <u>real</u> protection? The FS designation of 4.4/5.1/6.1 just relegates the forest to more resource exploitation. It wouldn't be half so bad if we thought the FS had enough personnel and resources to monitor these activities appropriately. But this plan totally ignores implementation - how will the FS monitor, much less protect these canyons? They don't have the resources, and they won't unless forests receive a new priority in federal funding.</p> <p>If it can't be Wilderness, then it should be 3.2 for Municipal Watershed Protection. The entire city of Logan depends on this canyon for its water. That demand will only grow. Let's make sure we protect one of the best sources of water in the country.</p>
IV. Cache Valley Front - North of Logan	1.1 Existing Wilderness designated in 1984. 1.2 and 1.3 Trails within the wilderness - slightly less solitude because visitors meet each other.	Mostly OK, but grazing should be gradually phased out in these areas. The few animals in these high meadows do extensive damage in just a few weeks; they pollute the streams and trample riparian areas, especially in the North Fork of High Creek.
	1.5 or 4.1 Thin sliver omitted from the 1984 Wilderness Act.	1.5 - Push for inclusion into the Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area. Designations on the Idaho side would create a more valuable and continuous wilderness.
	3.2 Municipal Watershed for North Logan.	3.2 Probably all right as long as North Logan doesn't propose additional extensive construction; this canyon provides rugged and remote habitat.
	4.4 Dispersed Motorized - Primarily for access roads already established into High Creek, Smithfield, Birch, and Green Canyons. The latter is designated 4.4* non-motorized in winter.	Mostly OK, but need better management and enforcement to prevent off-road motorized use, especially at the ends of trails. Need to reduce impacts of large camping groups adjacent to the roads. Need public access (foot only) to Birch and Smithfield Dry Canyons, where there are trailheads but the mouth of the canyons are privately owned and are now gated and posted "no trespassing."
V. Cache Valley Front - South of Logan	3.4 Managed for preserving, maintaining, or restoring quality aquatic, terrestrial, and hydrological conditions.	<p>The problem with the 3.x FS designation is that there is no restriction on motorized use. We therefore suggest:</p> <p>2.6 Undeveloped and non-motorized. Motorized vehicles have no place in Dry Canyon or the slopes to the west - they just tear up the trails and the ground trying to see how high they can get. Winter is finding more and more backcountry skiers in Dry Canyon - snowmobiles should be prohibited. This past year, ORVs have started to churn up the trail in Dry Canyon, creating deep ruts and damaging vegetation. The small canyons around Logan and Millville Peaks should not be logged. Grazing is not suitable. The Travel Plan prohibits ORVs, but enforcement is, once again, absent.</p>
	4.3 Backcountry motorized. Mainly the dirt road and snowmobile trail up Providence and Millville Canyons to Logan Peak.	Needs enforcement of off-road travel restrictions; side trails caused by ORVs are increasing at an alarming rate. Noise and foul air in winter are a sad consequence of snowmobile use in these canyons and make other uses unpleasant.

Management Area

Forest Service Proposes

We Respond

VI. Blacksmith - North of Blacksmith Fork Road and West of Cabin Hollow and Sinks Road

3.4 Terrestrial habitat emphasis. These are the canyons on either side of the road in Left-hand Fork of Blacksmith Fork. This area receives heavy vehicle use on the roads, and ORV use on and off the roads. The FS proposes continued motorized access, as well as "limited" timber harvest, roads, grazing and recreation development.

4.4/5.1/6.1 Emphasis on "full range of land and resource treatment activities" resource "development" - i.e., timber, road access, grazing, motorized recreation, recreation development. Hardware Ranch is state-owned, which explains its heavy, motorized recreation emphasis, but just a few miles north, one encounters Forest Service lands, with high meadows, rolling upland sagebrush, and mixed stands of timber. There is a dirt road that runs all the way to the summit of Logan Canyon, also known as the Sinks Road. These lands have been historically grazed, and logging operations are apparent.

3.4 We could concur with this designation if motorized users can be monitored and controlled. There are numerous mountain biking roads and trails, and the road between Right-hand Fork and Left-hand Fork is popular for a variety of forest users. Grazing along riparian areas has been a problem and, without better monitoring, will continue to be a problem, e.g., in Richard's Hollow and White Bedground Springs - any springs, actually. Nevertheless, this area receives abundant snowfall and could recover and remain healthy if managed carefully. The big problems are, again, ORVs driving up trails such as Leatham Hollow and snowmobiles disturbing large mammals in Herd Hollow.

5.1/6.1 If any area in the Logan District can be regarded as a sacrifice to grazing, this is it. The high meadows are only accessible in summer, and have some capacity to recover from the previous year. The problems are: 1) too many cattle and sheep too concentrated around water sources and overgrazing the lands when unattended, and 2) ORVs and 4WD vehicles driving through the meadows cutting new tracks. Add to this the din of snowmobiles in winter, and you've got anything but pristine. It's tempting to want to restore this part of the forest to the natural beauty and health it must have known in prior centuries, but the battle seems too big...

VII. Blacksmith - South of Blacksmith Fork Road and Bear

2.4 Research Natural Area - no timber harvest, no road building, no motorized recreation, no grazing.

3.4/7.2 Terrestrial habitat emphasis and intermingled private and public lands in a rural interface (whatever that means). Whenever 7.x is used, it is in conjunction with another prescription, in this case, 3.4. Here are large areas of public land with occasional private inholdings. Provisions need to be made for private landowners, but there is an implied effort needed to keep more intensive uses from leaking into the public lands.

2.4 Yes, this is Mollen's Hollow, a unique place with naturally upwelling springs and intimate groves. Here are intimate habitats unlike most of the Bear River Range. This is, indeed, the correct management prescription (and the only zone proposed by the FS to be truly non-motorized). **The only problem is you can't get there from here.** Not that every area must be accessible to everyone all the time. This holds the headwaters of the Blacksmith Fork River, but the only access is across private lands owned by the Miller family. There is no legal way that the public can walk in to the bottom without trespassing. The upper reaches are too inaccessible in winter, and in summer require high clearance vehicles over muddy or rutted mountain tracks. Perfect for ORVs (except those folks can't walk into these canyons). **The FS should acquire public on-foot access to the bottom of Mollen's Hollow.**

3.4/7.2 On its face, this would seem a responsible designation. The problem is, once again, intensive motorized use and high-impact camping. Visit this area before or during the deer hunt, and you'll see hundreds, if not thousands, of campers, 4-wheelers, horse trailers, 4WDs and the like, crammed together on private and state lands at night, dispersing onto public lands by day. There is extensive evidence of logging operations as well as grazing. These are not what you'd refer to as pristine lands - "over-used" fits much better. What can we do here but request that proposals go through the environmental review process, that grazing permits be properly scrutinized - *and then monitored?* The high ridges offer splendid forests and there's reasonable road access from the south, but scarring the woods and meadows are new ORV trails, and in the summer, areas beat down from too many irresponsible campers. The solution is more enforcement and monitoring.

**Management
Area**

Forest Service Proposes

We Respond

**VIII.
Wellsville
Mountains**

1.1, 1.2, 1.3 These are already designated as Wilderness.

1.x Major problem is, again, managing the wilderness to keep it wild. Generally, this area has been successfully managed. That's in large part due to its rugged topography, but there has also been private assistance. A horseman's organization recently built steel fencing to keep ORVs out of Deep Canyon. During the deer hunt, thoughtless campers dig tent platforms, leave trash and build fire rings. By the end of summer, nature and volunteers gradually rehabilitate the higher campsites. The Wellsvilles need more attention from the FS in terms of monitoring as well as no-trace education. Otherwise the Wellsvilles seem to be doing well.

3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

3.4 Probably OK.

5.1/6.1 Multiple Resource Goals (i.e., grazing)

5.1/6.1 The Maple Bench area has been a difficult management problem. Overgrazing, parties, 4WDs and ORVs gouging new tracks, all beat up the land. This past summer, some of the partying was brought under control, but this area needs more frequent monitoring. We need to continue ready access to the Stewart's Pass Trail, for that is the easiest access to the summit ridge, and the only way many locals ever climb the steep Wellsvilles - and appreciate their splendor.



JOHN
SULLIVAN

John Sullivan From "ECONEWS"

Board Stuff (As opposed to bored stiff . . .)

BAS is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets once a month (see *Calendar*). All BAS members are invited, of course.

Environmental Education – The Stokes Nature Center Fundraiser was a wonderful success. Thanks to all who participated in the dinner and the auctions. And special thanks to all the volunteers and staff at the SN. The unofficial total for the evening was over \$19,000! It's clear that the SNC is fulfilling an important role in our community and a broad range of citizens appreciate it.

Want to learn some new birding information on the Web? Check out National Audubon's web site and follow the links to "Birds and Science." This points you to good info from NAS, but there's also a "Links to Bird Sites" which takes you to other links such as general ornithological info, ornithological organizations, special programs, and sources of bird sounds and photos. I checked out one link that led me to a site from the University of Florida where I could listen to bird songs. Check it out:

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/ornithology/sounds.htm>

If you've found interesting sites, let me know and we'll publish them here (bdixon@xmission.com).

Conservation – The main focus for our conservation efforts is the forest planning process. (See details in the enclosed supplement.) Please attend the November 30 or December 2 meetings. If you can't, you can still write the Forest Supervisor to tell him you want more wild lands, better implementation and enforcement of protective regulations, and more attention to wildlife. Write:

Bernie Weingardt
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Attn: Revision Team
8236 Federal Building
125 S State St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
Or email to: revision/r4_w-c@fs.fed.us

On the water resources issue, it appears that the Utah Legislature's Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee is still looking at dams on the Bear River. A *Salt Lake Tribune* article published November 16 reported that they appointed the Water Development Commission (a bunch of legislators and representatives from Utah's big water districts, with one environmentalist) to look into what to do with CUP water coming from the Spanish Fork-Nephi diversion. Farmers in Juab county want this water because it's cheap (aka, subsidized). Environmentalists have noted that there are only a couple of dozen farmers, and a better use of the water would be for culinary use on the Wasatch Front to avoid damming the Bear River. David Ovard, director of the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy (that name still

gets me. . .) District said they'd still need Bear River water by 2015 or 2020 regardless of SFN water. Yahoo. Some folks just didn't get it.

Outings – We had a fabulous canoe trip October 30 on the Bear River. Saw a first - a herd of cows plunged into the water ahead of us to cross the river. Don't know what got into their heads (there's so little room, after all), but we had to slow down to avoid getting "squashed." LeRoy did a fabulous job on the soup, and despite the balmy temperatures, we all dug in and helped him finish it. Really needed some rain and cold to deserve that soup.

Got more outings coming up. Don't forget the CBC. And don't forget the FS planning meetings, either. We need your help.

— Bryan Dixon, President

Canoeing the Bear River in October

(Continued from page 1)

LeRoy's "stone soup" heated upon his stove. (The stove being twice a blessed gift during the cool autumn day on the river!) A choice of spinach and leek or vegetable mushroom soups tantalized the taste buds and warmed the tummy. Various cheeses, breads, pretzels, and chips rounded out the main course. Dessert of M & M's topped off the hearty and refreshing meal. Jake Masslich, the youngest adventurer (aged 5 or 6?), found the M & M's his favorite and loaded some into a container, making a convenient snack for later as well as an instrument of rhythm with which to rattle his dad's nerves.

Back on the river, the smell of sulfur wafted on the wind. Steam rising from warm geothermal activity rose at various places along the banks making a haven for Carp, a warm water loving fish. At one point, hot mineral waters pushed through the soils leaving weirdly shaped forms made of calcite. Rivulets of amber water flowed over the deposited terraces giving birth to brilliant green and golden algae communities. Another Kingfisher watched from his favorite perch while the voyagers investigated the warm spring waters closely. An old, plastic chair left along the bank here reminded them that not only Kingfishers had favorite perches.

The afternoon was graced with increased warmth from the sun and an intimate view of a Sharp-shinned Hawk sitting still on a leafless branch of a tree. It had its back toward the river but twisted and turned its head, following with its sparkling, black, perceiving eyes the flotilla of binoculars returning its intense gaze.

As the boats headed south-westerly toward the Dayton Bridge through Idaho farmlands, past banks shored-up

with old car bodies, some rusted beyond recognition, the moon, in its last quarter phase, hung white in the crisp, cerulean blue sky. A Great-blue Heron rose majestically from its fishing spot hidden in a secluded alcove, startled by the Audubon canoeists floating silently around a bend. The seven boats, filled with happy people, slid gently into shore. Jean Lown, Bryan Dixon, Joana Wilson, Keith Archibald, Dean Lester, De Ann Lester, Bill Masslich, Jake Masslich, Jim Hoffman, Jim Gessman, Keith Nielson, Joan Nielson, and their trip leader, LeRoy Beesely, pulled their boats out of the Bear River—Mother Earth's main artery into Cache Valley. With cramped muscles stretched and relieved, the group, united in their adventures of the day and their communion made with the river, bade one another and the river *adieu*, until next time.

— De Ann Lester

Audubon Wellsville Raptor Trip

Saturday, September 25, 1999

Wow! What a great day; great weather, birds, and mountains. About twenty hikers met at the Straw Ibis and then gathered at the Deep Canyon trailhead for the hike to the Wellsville HawkWatch International station on top of the ridge. Steve Hoffman, who discovered the site and founded HawkWatch International, went with the group and took a little time to discuss the history of the station and its mission before we embarked. The Wellsville monitoring site is its oldest, initiated in 1977, and migration of up to 5,000 raptors is documented here each fall.

Steve illustrated the value of the data gathered by HawkWatch International by helping us interpret some of the changes in raptor numbers observed at the station over the last 20 years. There's evidence of a strong comeback by Peregrine Falcons over the period when DDT levels in the environment have fallen. In fact, a peregrine was sighted on the Audubon Society field trip to the Amalga Barrens in August. However, populations of other raptors are still affected, as shown by sightings of the goshawk, which has decreased. In this case, destruction of old-growth forest habitat is the culprit.

It was a perfect day for the hike, sunny and warm with a light breeze down the canyon. Folks who had done the Audubon hike in the past took a few minutes to remember Allen Stokes' enthusiasm for this hike, and then we were off. As in the past, the group spread out along the trail, and considering the variations in inclination and fitness levels among the participants, there were lots of great excuses for rest breaks along the trail. Dick Hurren recommended the wild rose hips for tea, although there was some debate about just which ailment they would benefit the most. Best of all,

fall colors were just peaking, with many aspen on the southern slopes still green, while those on the northern slopes varied from yellow-gold to a rosy orange.

Reaching the ridgeline was cause for celebration – it's a pretty steep trail in places – and refreshment, before undertaking the last half-mile of the hike. The walk along the ridge was brisk and a little cool, but it was worth the effort with great scenery in all directions. At the viewing area we met the two HawkWatch observers, Laura and Jorge, who will be spending about two months at the site counting the migrating birds. Steve identified most of the raptors by gender, age and place of birth before a few of us could even pick them out of the sky, but no one missed out, because they all flew by in front of us eventually. The kestrels consistently swept by and dove below the ridge as they passed southwest of the station, and a few local redtails played all around the station, swooping and diving – enjoying the day along with us. Several large groups of Swainsons Hawks were seen, and in all that day, there were about 350 birds cited, which made it the best we ever had for the Audubon hike. The view of the Bear River oxbows at our feet to the west was spectacular.

Even on such a sunny day, it was cold and very windy on the ridge, so we could all appreciate the dedication of Laura and Jorge, who still had several weeks left at the station. Some members of the group brought special treats along for them; Reinhart's box of cherry tomatoes was a big hit.

— Jennifer MacAdam

New Members

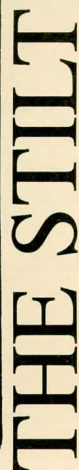
Brenda Barkle
Twila Boston
Levell F Bradley
Mr & Mrs A Jerry Butler
Margaret S Dice
James Dyer
Amy R Eskelsen
Fran W Fejer

April Fisher
Justin & Angela Henney
Carol B Johnson
James E Kingsland
P Kurek
Rebecca Luras
Ralph K Mansfield
Michael L Wolfe

Renewing Members

Micah R Austin
Kathryn Broughton
Mark W Brunson
John W Carlisle, MD
Ted Pease & Brenda Cooper
John W Devilbiss
W Bryan Dixon
Gail Duering
Marc D Henkels
Dawn Holzer
Kerkman Family

Bardley Kropp
Al Forsyth
Tim & Jacquelyn Henney
H Richard Hurren
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Mary Palley
Pam Riley
Marie & Nick Strickland
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