



Volume 30, Issue 10

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# The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

## Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan *comments*

Comments on the proposed Forest Plan and DEIS for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest are due November 1. This latest round of the Plan is much improved from the preliminary versions put forth in 1999 and 2000, but it still needs improvements — improvements that won't happen unless our voices are heard. The Forest Service is under great pressure from motorized recreationists and livestock grazers to weaken environmental protections, but our letters can offset many of these pro-development "postcard" responses. All of our members can't be expected to study the Plan, so we've provided here a summary of the key points and our responses to the DEIS with respect to the Logan district. We need you to review these comments and write your own letter. Emphasize those areas that you know. Talk about problems you've seen. Ask that the Forest Service increase wilderness designations, drastically reduce grazing, provide more

areas for winter non-motorized use and adopt an implementation plan for the eventuality that they won't have adequate resources to monitor and patrol to stop damaging uses. Motorized recreationists have sent hundreds of postcards, but altogether, they're not worth one well written letter. And it doesn't have to be Shakespearean poetry, either. They want simple statements—dot points—that spell out what you've seen, what you want, and why it's important. Read on, then write that letter TONIGHT!

everywhere are being pushed into smaller and smaller habitats.

In 1999, the Forest Service released the first pass at a new forest plan, the Preliminary Assessment of the Management Situation, or PAMS. (Yes, this whole process overflows with jargon and acronyms, but it IS possible for the layperson to make sense of it.) BAS submitted comments summarized in the December 1999 issue of the Stilt. In 2000, the USFS released some draft alternatives, which subsequently led to the

## *write now, right now!*

### Background

In the years since the last Forest Plan in 1985, ORV and snowmobile use have swelled to epidemic proportions, ranchers continue to strip the land of vegetation and pepper it with piles of cattle feces, and timber sales have taken many acres of trees. Meanwhile, the demand for quiet recreation, peace, and ecological awareness have only increased, and species

proposed Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in May, 2001, with comments due November 1.

The Forest Service recognizes a need for change in their approach. Accordingly, for the next century they have adopted a new agenda which focuses on watershed restoration and maintenance, sustainable forest ecosystems, forest roads

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan Comments -Bryan Dixon	1
Detailed Comments	4
Map	6 & 9
Green Calendar	7
Local Notes	13





(Continued from page 1)

(including preserving roadless areas and decommissioning old roads), and recreation. From a habitat perspective, they've certainly put the most important first. For, if we maintain healthy and clean watersheds, most of the rest will follow.

The Plan gets kind of mired in planning jargon—goals, subgoals, objectives, standards, guidelines, etc. But the Forest Service has introduced a new concept that makes it easier to envision what the management practices will mean on the ground. This concept is the Management Prescription Category (MPC). The entire forest is divided into “zones,” much like a land use plan, but following watershed boundaries. Each zone is given a MPC designation. The categories are detailed in the accompanying box.

The FS presents specific alternatives, five of which seem like straw men, there only to articulate some pure visions of the world. The sixth is put forth as a synthesis of the other five and is, in fact, the Forest Service's preferred alternative. We think of these as:

- Alt 1: Maximize Wilderness - let Nature take its course
- Alt 2: Actively manage for biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability
- Alt 3: Original 1999 “Preferred Alternative” but modified for more winter motorized access
- Alt 4: “No Action” Alternative
- Alt 5: Emphasize “production” and motorized recreation opportunities, restrained protection of species
- Alt 6: “Preferred” - more emphasis on biodiversity, mimicking natural forces, protecting large roadless areas, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, more separation of motorized and non-motorized

***Motorized recreationists have sent hundreds of postcards, but altogether, they're not worth one well written letter. And it doesn't have to be Shakespearean poetry, either. They want simple statements—dot points—that spell out what you've seen, what you want, and why it's important. Read on, then write that letter TONIGHT!***

After much study we believe Alternative 6 is a pretty good start. But we believe it needs some tuning, specifically to include:

1. More wilderness
2. Less grazing
3. More restrictions on winter motorized
4. More enforcement of restrictions on summer motorized recreation
5. Better and more far-sighted plan for implementation

With regard to wilderness, the Plan proposes to add several thousand acres of wilderness on the south facing slopes north of Highway 89 between the mouth of Logan Canyon and Wood Camp Hollow. That's great, but they also need to add the strip north of the Naomi Peak Wilderness along the Idaho border, to dovetail with wilderness proposals for the Caribou National Forest. Further, Water Canyon (offshoot of Green Canyon near the end of the road) should be wilderness. It would further protect North Logan City's water supply and there are no real conflicts in this small canyon.

The biggest addition we propose is the 19,000 acres along the west and northern flanks of Logan Peak, beginning at Providence Canyon, encompassing Dry Canyon, and includ-

(Continued on page 3)

## Management Prescription Categories for the Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan

### Summary of Management Prescription Categories

#### 1.0 Wilderness

- 1.1 Existing Wilderness - Opportunity Class I
- 1.2 Existing Wilderness - Opportunity Class II
- 1.3 Existing Wilderness - Opportunity Class III
- 1.4 Existing Wilderness - No Class
- 1.5 Recommended Wilderness

#### 2.0 Special Management Areas

- 2.1-2.3 Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers (not used on revision maps)
- 2.4 Research Natural Areas
- 2.5 Scenic Byways
- 2.6 Undeveloped Areas
- 2.7 Special Interest Areas and Special Areas

#### 3.0 Protection, Maintenance or Restoration of Aquatic/Watershed or Terrestrial Integrity

- 3.1 Aquatic Habitat/Watershed Emphasis
- 3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis

#### 4.0 Multiple Resource Uses With Recreation Needs and Opportunities

- 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry non-motorized recreation settings.
- 4.2 Emphasis on Dispersed non-motorized recreation settings.
- 4.3 Emphasis on Backcountry Motorized recreation settings
- 4.4 Emphasis on Dispersed Motorized recreation settings
- 4.5 Emphasis on Developed Recreation Areas

#### 5.0 Multiple Resource Uses With Forested Vegetation Management Needs and Opportunities

- 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives.
- 5.2 Emphasis on managing timber for growth and yield while maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity.

#### 6.0 Multiple Resource Uses With Rangeland Vegetation Management Needs and Opportunities

- 6.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring non-forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives.
- 6.2 Emphasis on managing for livestock forage production while maintaining or restoring non-forested ecosystem integrity.

**7.0 Intermingled Public/Private Lands** (This prescription accompanied one of the other prescriptions in earlier versions. It has been eliminated because it made maps difficult to read and because private lands are already shown clearly on the maps.)

#### 8.0 Concentrated Development Areas

- 8.1 Mineral Development Emphasis



(Continued from page 2)

ing the north-facing slopes south of Highway 89 from the mouth of Logan Canyon to Right Hand Fork.

Grazing continues to cause untold damage to our forests. Despite the many myths used to justify grazing on public lands, grazing does not improve the land or its vegetative mix, does not help wildlife, is a drain on, not a boost to, the local and national economy, doesn't really preserve any particular lifestyle (and when was the last time the government offered to help preserve your lifestyle?), produces insignificant amounts of food, leads to habitat fragmentation, damages riparian areas, strips arid lands of topsoil, disturbs natural springs and seeps, and generally makes walking unpleasant through piles of fecal matter scattered hither and yon. If it's going to continue at all, we need much more monitoring and enforcement of range quality standards and allotment management plans. However, there are some places on the Logan District that deserve to be cleared of ALL grazing, because the livestock are trampling wetlands and stripping the ground of vegetation with little or no oversight or the lands are being used for forest research. These include:

1. In the High Creek drainage: the North Fork of High Creek, Little Left Hand Fork
2. Smithfield Dry Canyon
3. Birch Canyon
4. Blind Hollow
5. Upper Cottonwood Canyon
6. Steam Mill Canyon
7. Spawn Creek
8. T.W. Daniels Forest

If you know of others, let us know and include them in your own comments.

With regard to recreation management, it was interesting to find that there were no parcels explicitly set aside for non-motorized recreation. In later questioning, the FS did say informally that several small areas were set aside as "non-motorized" for winter skiers, including Green Canyon, Bunchgrass Drainage, Sink Hollow, and Garden City Canyon, but the vast majority of the terrain allows snowmobilers. Of course, snowmobilers will argue that non-motorized users have all of the Mt. Naomi and Wellsville wilderness areas, but these are generally much too dangerous for most skiers most of the time. Hence, we're proposing setting aside a large area east of Mt. Naomi from the

ridgeline to Franklin Basin Road, and from the north side of Steep Hollow south to Tony Grove. These areas include beginner, intermediate, and advanced terrain; are accessible on day trips; and are relatively safe. Moreover, these are the areas traditionally used by non-motorized recreationists. Quite simply, we've been pushed out of these areas by intrusive, and sometimes abusive, snowmobilers. We want them back.

If one takes the 1985 Travel Plan at face value, one would conclude that the summer recreation plan is really reasonable (except for the wastage of non-renewable energy and air pollution). The old plan said that summer motorized recreation was prohibited everywhere except on designated and maintained roads. The only problem is that these users pay no attention to the Travel Plan. Too many ATV and 4WD users are too eager to go anywhere they damned well please. As a result, we've got miles of ghost roads all over this district. We don't really think the Plan needs to reduce the number of roads legally open to motorized users, but we do think much greater enforcement is needed. And, since these users justify their trespass on the grounds that they "didn't see the sign", we think a new policy is in order: "It shall be illegal to ride an ATV anywhere on the Forest unless signs specifically allow it in that place." We're tired of irresponsible users tearing down the signs. Perhaps now, we'll find signs last longer. (Will we even find new "illegal" signs put up to "allow" off-road use? Hmmm.)

Finally, we think that implementation deserves much more attention in the plan. Repeatedly, when we bring some illegal action on the forest to the attention of FS personnel, we're told that they'd really like to be out there enforcing the regulations, but they just don't have the resources. Therefore, it only makes sense that, finding that to be the case in the future, they adopt larger and larger, simpler and simpler boundaries until policing and enforcement are possible. If

this means closing the entire forest to ATVs, snowmobiles, cattle, sheep and logging, then so be it. The forest won't mind.

So, there you have the simplest overview we could produce. **Now, it's time to write that letter—tonight, this weekend. Keep it simple, talk about areas you know, use dot-points. Send your comments to:**

**Wasatch-Cache  
Planning Team  
8226 Federal Building  
125 South State St  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138**

**or email:  
kamurray@fs.fed.us.**

**Comments due Nov. 1.**

If you want to make a verbal statement, there's a public hearing on October 11 at the Logan High School auditorium, 162 W. 100 S., Logan, from 5 to 8 p.m. Comments will be limited to three minutes each and the Forest Service has promised increased security to prevent a repeat of past intimidation by members of the ORV crowd.

For more information, feel free to contact Logan Ranger District personnel or Bryan Dixon (752-6830) or Jim Cane (713-4668), authors of the BAS response to the Forest Plan. Our working draft is posted on our website, <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org>.

*-written by Bryan Dixon.  
BAS would like to thank Bryan &  
Jim Cane for their many hours of  
research and work on this project.*

***Want more comments on the Forest Plan? Several other organizations have comments available, including USU ECOS ([jimsteitz@ususierraclub.org](mailto:jimsteitz@ususierraclub.org)), Bear River Watershed Council (<http://www.brwcouncil.org/>), and the High Uintas Preservation Council ([http://www.hupc.org/wasatch\\_cache\\_draft\\_eis\\_alert.htm](http://www.hupc.org/wasatch_cache_draft_eis_alert.htm)).***



# Detailed Comments

## on the proposed plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest

*from the BAS Board*

### Bear Management Area Comments on Management Prescription Categories and Summer/Winter Recreation

The comments below are keyed to Management Prescription Category designations in Alternative 6, following from north to south.

Management Area	Alternative 6 Proposes	BAS Requests Changes
I. North of Highway 89	3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis	3.2 We concur that management for terrestrial habitat is the best alternative for most of this area. However, although winter motorized recreation can be generally allowed throughout the area, Garden City Canyon and the west facing slopes between it and the gravel road from near the Highway sheds should be closed to snowmobiles as these are important and popular backcountry skiing and snowshoeing destinations. (See map below for approximate area of winter motorized closures.)
II. South of Highway 89 to Temple Fork	4.3 Backcountry Motorized Recreation	Motorized recreation is heavy in summer and winter. Dispersed summer camping by recreational vehicles causes numerous large openings in the forest, with attendant problems of human waste and ghost roads due to inappropriate use of ATVs. They may also increase the risk of wildfire, especially in drought years. If dispersed motorized camping is to be allowed in the future, more attention needs to be given to policing and education programs on low impact camping. This area receives heavy snowmobile use in winter which discourages non-motorized winter use. Provided users stay on designated routes, this designation should be workable.
	2.5 Scenic Byways	2.5 We concur. However, in its design for the new rest area near the Bear Lake overlook, we further urge the Forest Service to be cognizant of minimizing impacts to campers at the Sunrise Campground. Noise from trucks decelerating and accelerating to and from this rest area as well as glaring lights at the rest area, should be minimized with signage and lighting design, respectively. This is primarily a scenic byway, not a truck route.
	5.1 Emphasis on Maintaining or Restoring Forested Ecosystem Integrity while Meeting Multiple Resource Objectives; Summer recreation to allow dispersed motorized camping.	5.1 This area includes the T. W. Daniels Experimental Forest and timber cuts being used to research new timber management techniques. This is an appropriate use of this area, given its history and current conditions. In many cases, however, grazing and motorized recreation have taken a toll on the landscape, leaving to compacted soils, stripped vegetation, ghost roads and denuded areas from intensive camping.
III. South of Highway 89 from Temple Canyon to Monte Cristo	3.1 Aquatic Habitat Emphasis 3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis 4.3 Backcountry Motorized Recreation 5.1 Emphasis on Maintaining or Restoring Forested Ecosystem Integrity while Meeting Multiple Resource Objectives	No changes proposed, provided summer motorized use is effectively restricted to established and maintain roads.



These comments are keyed to the accompanying map from the Plan of the proposed Management Prescription Categories for the Logan District. See also the complete listing of MPCs.

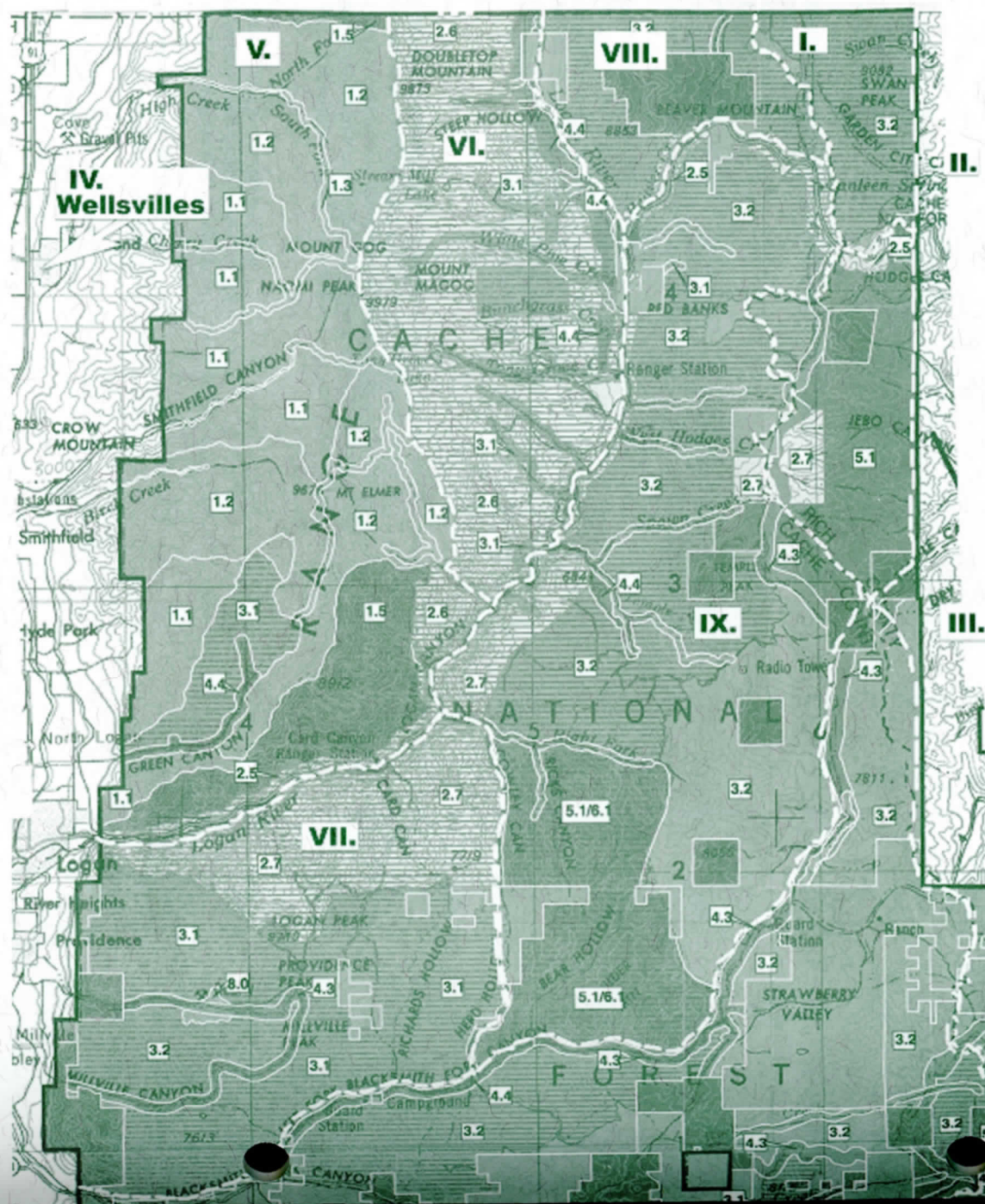
## Cache Box Elder Management Area Comments on Management Prescription Categories and Summer/ Winter Recreation

Management Area	Alternative 6 Proposes	BAS Requests Changes
IV. Wellsville Mountains	<p>1.1 Existing Wilderness</p> <p>1.5 Proposed Wilderness for a small parcel near Sherwood Hills</p> <p>3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis for various parcels on the perimeter of the Wellsville Mountain Wilderness</p>	<p>We generally concur with these designations. The DEIS noted that few comments were received in support of additional wilderness. In truth, the lands on the borders of the Wellsville Mountains that are owned by the Forest Service but not designated wilderness are difficult to access because of private lands. In most cases, wilderness would not offer significantly more protection than the proposed 3.2 designation. However, the one parcel at the very northern end of the Wellsvilles should be considered more carefully, as it may include springs that could benefit wildlife more reliably if protected as wilderness.</p>
V. Western Drainages of Mt. Naomi Wilderness from Idaho border to Highway 89 in Logan Canyon and Southern-facing Drainages in Logan Canyon between Logan City and Wood Camp Hollow, including the heads of Cottonwood and Blind Hollows	<p>1.1, 1.2, 1.3 Existing Wilderness</p>	<p>1.2 should be 1.1. We see no reason that any of these areas should be designated 1.2. The areas so designated are steep, rugged slopes well inside the wilderness boundaries where visitors are very unlikely to see anyone else. Travel in these areas is difficult as there are no trails on these slopes and there are frequent cliff bands. Hence, very few people travel inside these areas. They should all be designated 1.1.</p> <p>The corridor between Cherry Creek and Smithfield Canyon does not really exist. Although a road starts out in City Creek, there is no established trail up to the ridgeline and anyone traveling there would be very unlikely to see anyone else.</p> <p>The borders creating the polygon outlined just SW of Mt. Jardine should be eliminated and the area made part of the rest of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Grazing should be eliminated in the North Fork of High Creek Canyon. This canyon is very narrow and it's impossible for cattle to avoid defecating in the stream and decimating the little ground cover that exists in the canyon bottom.</p> <p>Grazing should also be eliminated in the upper reaches of Cottonwood and all of Blind Hollow. Overgrazing in recent years has stripped the ground of vegetation, leading to erosion of most of the topsoil and leaving the ground terraced from the hooves of sheep and cattle. It is unlikely that these soils will recover as long as livestock are permitted on these slopes. This is unacceptable for any lands, but especially for forest wilderness. Grazing permittees have been unable to manage livestock so as to prevent damage to the lands and so these permits should be revoked.</p>
	<p>3.1 Aquatic Habitat Emphasis</p>	<p>3.1 should be 1.5. This is Water Canyon, a side canyon of Green Canyon and the primary watershed for one of North Logan City's springs. While the municipal watershed is a key aspect of this canyon, the stream exists only at the mouth of the canyon or during heavy storms. The canyon is generally dry and isolated. North Logan would be unable to secure any more significant water by developing any higher, so this area should be proposed for wilderness. There is little aquatic habitat to protect, and wilderness designation would be a better alternative to ensuring water quality for North Logan while consolidating management practices for the west slopes.</p>



# Bridgerland Audubon Society

comments on the  
Wasatch-Cache  
Forest Plan.





# Green Calendar of Cache Valley

**4 USU Natural Resource & Environmental Policy Program** Kelly Alley, Auburn U, "Sacred Ecology and Pollution Control in the Ganga River Basin" NREPP Eccles 303 Thu 10/4/01 7 p.m.

**6 Bridgerland Audubon Society Outing: Stone Soup Canoe Trip.** Third annual BAS canoe trip with potluck cooked lunch. Enjoy one of the most scenic stretches of the Bear River as it cuts its way through the surrounding countryside from the Preston-Dayton Bridge to Cornish, a total of 13 river miles. LeRoy Beasley will be leading this trip and since it might be cool on the river he has offered to cook up some soup for the lunch. Folks should bring something to toss in the soup, or some other grub to go along with it, such as (but not limited to) cookies, bread, fruit, cookies, hors d'oeuvres, cookies, hot chocolate, or cookies. Bring your own soup mug and spoon. Meet Saturday, Oct. 6, at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis, (about 55 East and 150 North in Logan). You should provide your own boat, but if you need a partner, call LeRoy, 753-7491.

**9 USU ECOS: Bear River Range Forest Plan Tour.** Tuesday October 9th, afternoon. Visit the places and ecosystems to be affected by the new Wasatch-Cache National Forest management plan. Learn what improvements can be made to the plan, and how you can help. Contact jimsteitz@ususierraclub.org for details.

**10 USU ECOS: Earthfest!** Tuesday, October 10th, USU TSC Patio, 9 am - 2 p.m. Groups from throughout Utah and Cache Valley will be on hand to distribute information and raise awareness among students. For more information or to set up a table for your group, contact mag@cc.usu.edu.

**10 USU Natural Resource & Environmental Policy Program** Jack Payne, USU, "The Future of Habitat on Private Land" NREPP Eccles 303 Wed 10/10/01 7 p.m.

**11 Wasatch-Cache Management Plan Hearing.** October 11, 5 p.m., Logan High School auditorium, 162 W. 100 S., Logan, Utah. Your best chance to contribute to the protection and stewardship of the Wasatch-Cache! Each oral comment session will begin at 5 p.m. and will last for three hours; comments will be held to three minutes.

**11 Bridgerland Audubon Society General meeting.** Peter Kung, biologist and president of the non-profit organization EarthMatters.org, will be the featured speaker. The title of his presentation is "A Different Approach to Eco-tourism," and will focus on structuring eco-tourism in ways that tourists and scientists can give something back to host countries instead of benefiting those who live elsewhere. He will highlight work in remote rainforest areas of Venezuela and Peru where EM.org has involved locals and indigenous people in eco-tourism efforts such as studying Harpy Eagles. The meeting will be held at the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main at 7 p.m.

**13 Stokes Nature Center Nature Tales and Trails program: Stella Luna.** We will read this fun story about a lost bat and then make our own bats and other Halloween inspired decorations. The Tales and Trails program is designed for children 4 - 8 years old. The program runs from 10 a.m. to noon; SNC staff will meet your child at the riverside trail gate at 9:45 a.m. and will be waiting there at the end of the program at noon. Advanced registration is required. Please contact the Nature Center for registration information 435-755-3239 or visit <http://www.logannature.org/> The fall session fee is \$15 for non-members and \$11 for members.

More community events are available at: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/greencalendar/index.html>



**13 Stokes Nature Center Nature Second Saturday Programs: All About Bats.** Second Saturday Programs are designed for all ages. Some eat fruit, some eat insects, and some even drink blood (from animals, not people!). Join U.S. Forest Service Biologists for an exciting look into the fascinating lives of bats. 1 p.m. Program fee is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, half price for Nature Center members. For more information, call 435-755-3239 or visit <http://www.logannature.org/>

**17 USU Natural Resource & Environmental Policy Program** Richard Peiser and Carl Steinitz, Harvard U, "Alternative Futures for the Upper San Pedro River Basin, Sonoara, Mexico, Arizona, USA" NREPP Eccles 303 Wed 10/17/01 10 a.m.

**17-18 USU Ecology Center Speaker Dr. Julio L. Betancourt** of the USGS Paleoclimate Lab in Tucson AZ will speak on long-term vegetation dynamics in the western U.S.: Implications for conservation biology and ecosystem management and vegetation and climate history of the Atacama Desert, Chile. Dr. Betancourt is truly a recognized world authority on the detailed reconstruction of prehistorical desert plant communities using the fossilized refuse heaps of pack rats and other like mammals. He has used this information to infer climate changes and cycles during and since the last glaciation, and in turn, uses this information and tree ring data to understand patterns and cycles of natural fire in the western US over the past 10,000 years. Presentations: October 17, 6 p.m., NR 105 "Long-term vegetation dynamics in the western U.S.: Implications for conservation biology and ecosystem management"; October 18, 3 p.m., NR 105 "Vegetation and climate history of the Atacama Desert"

**Saturday, October 20. Bridgerland Audubon Outing: Birding the Sewage Lagoons.** Why, you ask, would we want to bird the Logan Sewage Lagoons? Because the birds are there! Why are the birds there? Because they're safe as hunting season pushes the ducks to havens like the sewage lagoons where we can see the "regulars" in large numbers and usually find some "irregulars," too. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis, (about 55 East and 150 North in Logan) for carpooling, or meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Sewage Lagoon entrance as far west on 600 North as you can go. We're usually finished within two hours, but those who want to bird longer can head out into the valley looking for other critters. For more information, call Keith Archibald, 752-8258.

**23 USU Natural Resource & Environmental Policy Program** David Hulse, U OR, "Alternative Futures for the Willamette River Basin, Oregon" NREPP Eccles 201-203 Tue 10/23/01 7 p.m..

**25 USU ECOS: Staples Protest!** October 25, late afternoon to evening. Tell Staples that devouring our forests to sell un-recycled paper products is not acceptable! Speak loud and be heard! Contact [jimsteitz@ususierraclub.org](mailto:jimsteitz@ususierraclub.org) for more info.

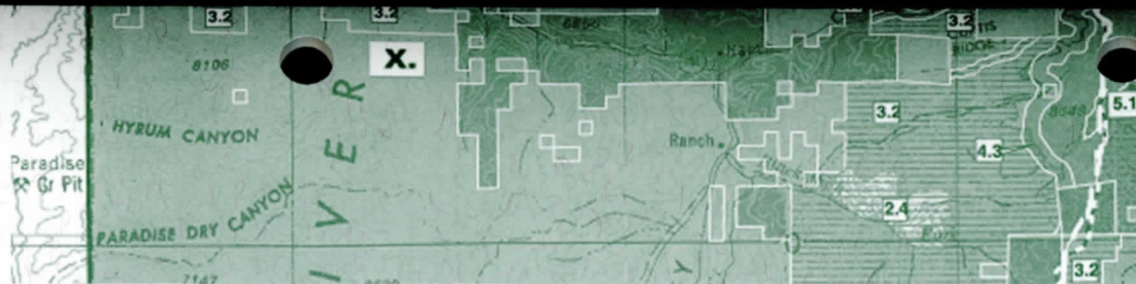
**31 USU ECOS: End Commercial Logging Slideshow** October 31, 4 p.m., USU TSC Auditorium. Come learn why and how to start the healing and restoration of National Forests in a post-logging regime.

**27 Stokes Nature Center Nature Tales and Trails program: How Turtle Flew South for the Winter.** Did you know that turtles can fly? Come learn about one turtle's journey south and explore how other local animals survive the winter as we create a mural for the nature center. You will also make and take your own turtle magnet home! The Tales and Trails program is designed for children 4 - 8 years old. The program runs from 10 a.m. to noon; SNC staff will meet your child at the riverside trail gate at 9:45 a.m. and will be waiting there at the end of the program at noon. Advanced registration is required. Please contact the Nature Center for registration information 435-755-3239 or visit <http://www.logannature.org/> The fall session fee is \$15 for non-members and \$11 for members.

## November

**3 Stokes Nature Center Auction.** This third annual fundraising event is fun and for a good cause!





## **Bear Management Area Comments on Management Prescription Categories and Summer/Winter Recreation**

- I. North of Highway 89
- II. South of Highway 89 to Temple Fork
- III. South of Highway 89 from Temple Canyon to Monte Cristo

## **Cache Box Elder Management Area Comments on Management Prescription Categories and Summer/Winter Recreation**

- IV. Wellsville Mountains
- V. Western Drainages of Mt. Naomi Wilderness from Idaho border to Highway 89 in Logan Canyon and Southern-facing Drainages in Logan Canyon between Logan City and Wood Camp Hollow, including the heads of Cottonwood and Blind Hollows
- VI. Western Drainages of Mt. Naomi Wilderness from Idaho border to Highway 89 in Logan Canyon and Southern-facing Drainages in Logan Canyon between Logan City and Wood Camp Hollow, including the heads of Cottonwood and Blind Hollows
- VII. East Slopes of Mt. Naomi Wilderness Bordered by Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area on the West, Franklin Basin Road on the Northeast and Highway 89 on the Southeast
- VIII. VI. East Slopes of Mt. Naomi Wilderness Bordered by Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area on the West, Franklin Basin Road on the Northeast and Highway 89 on the Southeast
- IX. Mt. Logan Area, between Highway 89 and Blacksmith Fork Canyon and from the western boundary to the Cowley Canyon-Herd Hollow Drainages
- X. Northern Central Bear River Range, from Idaho border to Highway 89
- XI. Mid-Bear River Range, from Highway 89 on the north to Blacksmith Canyon on the south, Cowley Canyon and Herd Hollow on the west and the Bear Management Area on the east
- XII. South of Hardware Ranch

More maps available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wcnf/>



Management Area	Alternative 6 Proposes	BAS Requests Changes
V. Western Drainages of Mt. Naomi Wilderness from Idaho border to Highway 89 in Logan Canyon and Southern-facing Drainages in Logan Canyon between Logan City and Wood Camp Hollow, including the heads of Cottonwood and Blind Hollows	4.4 Emphasis on Dispersed Motorized Settings	The strip in Green Canyon designated 4.3 does not venture as far up Water Canyon as indicated on the map. Summer recreation has become a bigger problem over the last few years as more people have left more trash, paint balls, axed picnic tables, garbage, and exposed human feces in and around campsites. A new campground is proposed for the mouth of Green Canyon, and when it is established, dispersed camping should be eliminated within ¼ mile of the road. This should also help protect North Logan City's water supply. Winter recreation policy should continue to allow only non-motorized access, as this is one of the few canyons on the west slopes that is safe for users, especially families, unfamiliar with avalanche hazard assessment.
	1.5 Proposed Wilderness	<p>We strongly support adding to the Mt. Naomi Wilderness. The small strip near the Idaho border should be added and managers of the Caribou National Forest should be encouraged to designate the forests to the north as wilderness.</p> <p>We also strongly support adding the south facing canyons north of Highway 89 from Logan City to Wood Camp Hollow. These lands are rugged and scenic, with cliff bands and steep slopes. There should be no objections by anyone to this addition.</p>
VI. East Slopes of Mt. Naomi Wilderness bordered by Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area on the West, Franklin Basin Road on the Northeast and Highway 89 on the Southeast	2.6 Special Management - Undeveloped	<p>We argued forcefully in the 1980s for wilderness designation. Both the Plan and DEIS recognized in several places the wild character, opportunities for solitude and stunning beauty of these canyons, ridges, peaks, small lakes and streams. Tragically, the Utah congressman in 1984 lacked any vision whatever regarding wilderness, and was persuaded by a few snowmobilers to remove these lands from the 1984 Wilderness Bill. The tragedy continues. Since that time, the lands have remained largely intact, with the exception of overgrazing in places, occasional trespass by ATVs and 4WDs, and a recent timber cut in Steep Hollow east of Doubletop Mountain. These lands are still deserving of wilderness designation.</p> <p>Two forces have ironically combined to undercut the rational call for wilderness designation: explosive growth in snowmobiling and mountain biking. Snowmobiling in Logan Canyon has been hyped by the Chamber of Commerce in an irresponsible and unseemly series of promotions, even including a video for the testosterone impaired. The result has been a flood of snowmobiles beginning with first snows in Tony Grove and continuing until late spring when the snowmobilers tear up the fragile alpine soils at Tony Grove again in their lust to reach the receding snow line. In between, the parking areas in Logan Canyon are jammed with huge fuel wasting vehicles pulling even larger trailers carrying up to 8-10 snowmobiles each. The winter traffic has gotten so bad on some days that it risks becoming a commercial snowmobile park instead of being maintained as a refuge for man and wildlife alike. The result is a din of noise and a dearth of consideration for historic users. As gasoline powered machines get more powerful, snowmobilers have invaded nearly every area used by back-country skiers, churning up the snow, sending two stroke whines across the canyons and ridgelines and leaving blue fumes in their wake. A responsible approach to safeguarding wildlife, historic uses, the need for large, relatively safe and accessible areas for peace and winter solitude, would be to designate the entire east facing canyon complex west of Franklin Basin Road as wilderness.</p> <p>Adding to the anti-wilderness rhetoric in recent years has been an upsurge in mountain bike use on the trails in Wood Camp Hollow and some of the canyons north of Tony Grove. These uses would be prohibited if these areas were designated wilderness.</p>



Management Area	Alternative 6 Proposes	BAS Requests Changes
VI. East Slopes of Mt. Naomi Wilderness bordered by Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area on the West, Franklin Basin Road on the Northeast and Highway 89 on the Southeast	2.6 Special Management - Undeveloped	<p>This area remains spectacular, isolated and yet, reachable on foot from Franklin Basin. It provides a phenomenal diversity of habitats in summer and winter. And we have seen other factors that argue more forcefully for wilderness protection. In recent years we have recognized the importance of protecting habitat for species such as lynx and Boreal Owl, two species that are infrequent, but whose habitats are threatened elsewhere, too. Snowmobiles threaten lynx by providing access over compacted trails to their predators, mountain lions, and their food competitors, coyotes. Snowmobiles threaten Boreal Owls by creating excessive noise and disturbance during the mating season of February and March.</p> <p>If the Forest Service is truly unable for political reasons to find this eastern slope worthy of wilderness, they have at least chosen the next most responsible designation and we are thankful for a 2.6 Special Management Area as undeveloped. Restrictions on motorized recreation in summer must be enforced, which may ensure opportunities for summer solitude (if seeing cattle, sheep and their fecal counterparts doesn't violate the concept of "solitude").</p> <p>There also need to be provisions for winter non-motorized recreation in this part of the forest. Non-motorized winter recreation has been an historic use because the various canyons west of Franklin Basin—Steep Hollow, Hell's Kitchen, Steam Mill, Bunchgrass and White Pine—are accessible to the foot traveler even in winter. It's possible to travel to the heads of any of these canyons, enjoy a day of winter recreation and return to the road within a short winter's day.</p> <p>The 2.6 designation should offer habitat protection for many species and help to prevent introduction of weeds and other pests via summer motorized uses, and secure some areas for primitive recreation experiences. We also suggest that the Twin Creeks Road be closed to motorized access, as in Alternative 1, at least for the springtime, as it is prime lush habitat to explore on foot or by mountain bike. The thawing soils are very sensitive to vehicle damage. As a compromise, it could then be opened to motorized traffic later in the summer.</p> <p>In sum, the 2.6 designation does not seem untenable, but our descendants will wonder why we gave up.</p>
	3.1 Aquatic Habitat Emphasis	<p>We concur. The streams formed by the deep winter snows need protection from grazing and other threats. Reduction in livestock numbers and more intensive management will be necessary to keep fecal matter out of these streams and protect the aquatic biota and riparian vegetation.</p>
	2.7 Special Interest Areas	<p>2.7 and 3.1 in Dry Canyon west of Mt. Logan should be 1.5 Proposed Wilderness! The Mt. Logan North roadless area that includes the west slopes from Providence Canyon to the mouth of Logan Canyon, and the north slopes from the mouth of Logan Canyon to Right Hand Fork is deserving of wilderness designation. Contrary to the findings on page 2-16 of the Plan, this area is eminently suited for roadless and even wilderness designation. It is over 19,000 acres, mostly steep slopes, forested by conifers on the north slopes, with few trails and much opportunity for solitude. It is not used by motorized recreationists because it is too steep. Indeed, in more than one instance when snowmobilers have dropped off the north side of this area, rescuers on foot have had to go out in the middle of the night to find them, and in one case, saved a life in the very nick of time. This area should be designated wilderness.</p>
VII. Mt. Logan Area, between Highway 89 and Blacksmith Fork Canyon and from the western boundary to the Cowley Canyon-Herd Hollow Drainages	3.2 Aquatic/Watershed Habitat Emphasis	<p>We concur. The slopes are generally dry but the streams in Providence and Millville Canyons run much of the year. Their value for aquatic wildlife is unknown, but the small cities below these canyons rely on water from these slopes for culinary use, so this justifies a designation to protect the watershed. Both of these canyons receive very heavy ATV and 4WD use, so there is almost certainly significant oil and gasoline pollution. Even a casual observer will find extensive soil erosion from past quarrying operations and recent irresponsible ATV users.</p>
	4.3	<p>This corridor is heavily used by motorized recreationists both summer and winter.</p>



Management Area	Alternative 6 Proposes	BAS Requests Changes
VIII. Northern Central Bear River Range, from Idaho border to Highway 89	3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis	We concur. Recent logging, dispersed motorized camping, and summer motorized vehicle damage have compromised this upland section, but future protection can help to restore it. We are particularly encouraged by the recent work by the Forest Service to remove informal camp sites along the Logan River. We hope this kind of work continues. The recent land swap with the State of Utah introduces more uncertainty in the management of Sink Hollow for non-motorized winter recreation, but we hope this program can continue to provide quiet and motor-free solitude in winter. Should pressure mount for increased development of Beaver Mountain Ski Area, the Forest Service should resist any development on adjacent federal lands.
IX. Mid-Bear River Range, from Highway 89 on the north to Blacksmith Canyon on the south, Cowley Canyon and Herd Hollow on the west and the Bear Management Area on the east	Beginning on the north... 2.5 Scenic Byways	We generally concur. We hope that future analyses will help designate more of the Logan River as Wild or Scenic and lead to stronger protections.
	3.1 Aquatic Habitat/ Watershed Emphasis 3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis	We concur with this designation wherever it is applied in this part of the forest. In many places, such as Richard's Hollow, the springs at the head of Steel Hollow, various parts of Temple Fork, etc., grazing has damaged the land, leading to trampled springs and fens, compacted soils, contaminated streams and ponds, etc. An emphasis on terrestrial habitat instead of livestock production is the necessary start to reigning in a "way of life" whose current intensity is often inappropriate on public lands.
	5.1 Emphasis on Maintaining or Restoring Forested Ecosystem Integrity while Meeting Multiple Resource Objectives 6.1 Emphasis on Maintaining or Restoring Non-forested Ecosystem Integrity while Meeting Multiple Resource Objectives	Although logging and grazing can severely damage lands, the forest has been a resource for these industries, and it is possible for them to continue if appropriate management practices are in place. The areas in Alternative 6 designated 5.1 and 6.1 seem like the best choices on the Logan District for these activities. Logging in these places will not affect scenic resources for most users, and, if managed appropriately, grazing can occur without destroying opportunities for recreation or incurring permanent damage to soils and vegetation.
X. South of Hardware Ranch	2.4 Research Natural Area	Mollen's Hollow should have been designated wilderness in 1984. The 2.4 designation and its isolation has protected it for the most part. However, cattle threaten the lower reaches and public access is very difficult. We concur with this designation but request that the Forest Service negotiate with the landowner at the mouth of the canyon to provide public foot access. Research Areas are valuable for academic purposes, but they can also help the layperson understand the natural forces around us.
	3.1 Aquatic Habitat/ Watershed Emphasis 3.2 Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis	In general we concur with these designations in these areas.



# Local Notes

## Cutler Dumpers?

In the last few weeks, someone has been dumping large piles of construction debris at the Benson and Valley View Marinas, in one case right in the water! Eve Davies, PacifiCorp's Manager for Cutler Marsh, has asked that anyone with information on these events or who sees anyone dumping anything into Cutler Marsh contact her at 801-232-1704 or eve.davies@pacificorp.com.

## HawkWatchers Have a Home

Thanks to Eric and Maureen Wagner who are sheltering the two observers from HawkWatch, International once a week during their two month tour of duty on the Wellsvilles. The observers, Lisa Sheffield and Pete Cole ex-

pressed their sincere appreciation. Thanks, too, to all the others who offered in response to the article in the Stilt. This is an annual need from late August to late October, so we'll be looking for more hosts next year.

## Needed (Desperately): BAS Outings Coordinator

We need an individual to coordinate outings for BAS. The job is really quite simple, and involves calling the tried and true list of trip leaders and snagging a few new ones each year, then sending emails to the papers, radio stations, the *Stilt* editor, and the webmaster announcing the upcoming trips. We have a stockpile of ideas for trips, so if you can volunteer a little time each month, you could help ensure that BAS's great outings program continues. Contact Val Grant if you're interested (753-5370 or biores@mtwest.net).

## Stokes Nature Center Auction

On November 3rd, the Allen & Alice Stokes Nature Center in Logan Canyon will be hosting its third annual fund-raising auction. Do you have artwork to donate, trips to lead, dinners to host, services to share? Please let Jen Levy know at 435/755-3239 or email her at jlevy@logannature.org.

**Boating the Bear** is available. (guide to the Bear River \$10 for the book (\$8 for members) and \$1 for postage, payable to Bridgerland Audubon Society. Contact Bryan Dixon bdixon@xmission.com or 752-6830.

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Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, September through June, in the Logan City meeting room, 255 N. Main St., Logan. Meetings start at 7 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, September through June. Locations change monthly. Everyone is welcome.



National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check this box.