

(Proposed)
Amendment to the General Plan of Piute County, Utah

Amending the Resource Management Plan
Section of The General Plan

The chapter of the County Resource Management Plan addressing forest and woodland management is amended to add the following:

**Piute County's Resource Management Plan Specific to U.S. National Forest
Inventoried Roadless Areas Located in Piute County**

I. Background

The U.S. Forest Service in 2001 promulgated a revised version of what is known as the Roadless Rule. Under the 2001 Roadless Rule the Forest Service established so-called Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) on 4,013,000 acres of Utah's 8,179,000 acres of National Forest lands.

Eleven IRAs have been established on National Forest lands in Piute County, identified as follows:

FOREST SYSTEM ID	IRA NAME	FOREST
7501	Tushar Mountain	Fishlake
7591	Circleville Mountain	Fishlake
7735	Tibadore	Fishlake

7766	Cove Creek	Fishlake
7818	Marysvale Peak	Fishlake
7920	Langdon	Fishlake
7922	Bullion - Delano	Fishlake
8101	City Creek	Fishlake
8198	Bullion - Delano	Fishlake
8238	Tushar Mountain	Fishlake
8298	Casto Bluff	Dixie

See Map # ___ depicting the eleven National Forest IRAs in Piute County.

II. Current Conditions: Problems of Improper Forest Management Found in all Eleven National Forest IRAs in Piute County

- a. Much-needed regular and systematic forest management efforts have not taken place in Piute County's eleven IRAs.
- b. Tree stands throughout these IRAs are dense and overcrowded, lacking in diversity of age class and type and thus prone to, and in some cases have already succumbed to, catastrophic fire, bark-beetle and other insect infestation and disease.
- c. Policies and permits have been withdrawn that used to allow much-needed regular silvicultural thinning projects, projects to remove understory, and aspen regeneration projects in order to restore and improve forest health and fire resiliency as well as improve wildlife habitat and grazing forage for permitted livestock.
- d. The watersheds and springs of several Piute County towns and communities are at serious risk of damage from erosion and silt runoff caused by the threat of catastrophic fire.
- e. Forest health, biodiversity and the surrounding wildland urban interface are all threatened. Road access by regular sized motor vehicles and general maintenance permission have been restricted to the point that it is impossible to regularly clean and clear logs, brush, and other forest products out from rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways in Piute County's National Forest IRAs.
- f. Such motorized and mechanized access has also been severely reduced making it impossible to regularly maintain, repair and upgrade town and city springs, streams, lakes and other municipal and agricultural water sources in the eleven IRAs.
- g. Motorized access to key roads that existed after implementation of the 2001 Roadless Rule has been cut off pursuant to arbitrary Forest Service Travel Management Plans.

- h. Disbursed outdoor recreation has been cut back and concentrated into smaller and smaller areas, thus creating more stress and damage to those concentrated areas. The public's motorized access to these eleven IRAs, once enjoyed for decades prior to the 2001 Roadless Rule, has been greatly curtailed.
- i. It is impossible to walk or ride a horse through many areas in the eleven IRAs in Piute County because of the buildup of fallen logs, other forest understory, and overcrowded trees.
- j. As forest health has declined throughout the eleven IRAs, many areas have become more prone to invasive non-native plants.
- k. Clean air and clean water are threatened by the high risk of catastrophic fire.
- l. Water yield has decreased due to overgrowth of pinyon and juniper, decadent sagebrush and other woody vegetation.

III. Desired Future Conditions: Piute County's Planned Remedies for the Problems Found in the Eleven National Forest IRAs in Piute County

- a. Protect and preserve clean water, clean air, forest health, forest resiliency against catastrophic wildfires, and biological strongholds against disease and invasives:
 - 1. Allow and maintain reasonable motorized access by regular sized motor vehicles for the upkeep and maintenance of all town culinary water sources and agricultural water rights situated within any of the eleven National Forest IRAs, and allow mechanized activities to perform such upkeep and maintenance.
 - 2. Allow and maintain reasonable motorized access by regular sized motor vehicles and use of needed mechanized equipment to regularly

clean out, remove and and clear logs, brush, and other forest products from rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways in Piute County's National Forest IRAs.

3. In all eleven IRAs, permit regular thin-cut logging, removal of the build-up of understory, and aspen regeneration where appropriate to achieve reasonable size and age class diversity of alpine stands, to increase resiliency and resistance to catastrophic wildfires, to permit the commercial removal of commercially viable timber after a fire, and to permit lop and scatter, bull-hogging and similar processes to remove the dense build up of pinyon and juniper and enhance wildlife habitat.
- b. Protect and enhance motorized public access and dispersed outdoor recreation:
1. Restore disbursed outdoor recreation with reasonable motorized access to all eleven of the IRAs, in order to lessen the stress and damage caused by non-dispersed camping in concentrated areas.
 2. Provide reasonable opportunities for regular sized vehicles to access the IRAs for outdoor recreation so as to not discriminate against the disabled and others who are in need of motorized vehicular assistance to gain access.
 3. Re-open, re-grade and do other needed maintenance for key roads that were once open to public access prior to the latest Travel Management Plan closures.

IV. Piute County's Plan to Reclassify the Management Regime for All National Forest IRAs in Piute County as ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREAS to Achieve the Remedies and Desired Future Conditions Planned in Section 3.0

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COUNTY	ID	NAME	FOREST	MGMT CATEGORY	COMMENTS
PIUTE	7501	Tushar Mountain	Fishlake	(4) Reinventory	
PIUTE	7591	Circleville Mountain	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	7735	Tibadore	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	7766	Cove Creek	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	7818	Marysvale Peak	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	7920	Langdon	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	7922	Bullion - Delano	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	8101	City Creek	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	8198	Bullion - Delano	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	8238	Tushar Mountain	Fishlake	(3) Active Mgmt	
PIUTE	8298	Casto Bluff	Dixie	(3) Active Mgmt	