

# Utah Roadless Rule Petition Proposed Management Area Categories

## Management Areas – Most Restrictive to Least Restrictive

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1. Primitive Areas
2. Forest Restoration Areas
3. Forest Stewardship Areas
4. Boundary Adjustment/Re-Inventory Areas

## Brief Summary of Management Areas

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- 1. Primitive Areas – follows existing management**
  - a. Primitive Areas represent the same management that currently occurs in Roadless Areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule, 36 C.F.R. § 294. Road construction and reconstruction will be prohibited, except under certain circumstances such as when needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood or fire. The cutting, sale, or removal of timber will be prohibited except in special circumstances, such as reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects. Timber cut, sold, or removed under these exceptions will generally be small diameter. Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate mining activities is prohibited (beyond valid existing rights). Public motorized travel limited to routes designated by Forest Travel Plan.
- 2. Forest Restoration Areas – moderate flexibility**
  - a. Preference toward temporary road construction with mitigation, commercial timber harvest allowed for forest health reasons only, temporary road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities is allowed. Public motorized travel limited to routes designated by Forest Travel Plan.
- 3. Forest Stewardship Areas – high flexibility**
  - a. Permanent road construction is allowed (although temporary roads are preferred) full range of silviculture techniques allowed road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities allowed. Public motorized travel limited to routes designated by Forest Travel Plan.
- 4. Boundary Adjustment/Re-Inventory Areas**
  - a. These areas should either have boundaries adjusted or be removed entirely from the Roadless Rule due to high presence of roads, motorized trails, energy infrastructure, and other features that disrupt roadless values. Also may include some areas that are smaller than 5,000 acres and do not meet the size threshold for Roadless Areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

## Comparison Table of Suitable Uses in Management Areas

Suitable Use/Activity	Primitive Area	Forest Restoration Area	Forest Stewardship Area	Re-Inventory/ Boundary Adjustment Area
Fire Management	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes <sup>3</sup>	
Forest Health	Yes <sup>4</sup>	Yes <sup>5</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>	
Timber Cutting	No <sup>7</sup>	No <sup>8</sup>	Yes <sup>9</sup>	
Grazing	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Motorized Travel	Yes <sup>10</sup>	Yes <sup>11</sup>	Yes <sup>12</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Prescribed fire, cutting, sale, and removal of generally small diameter timber when need to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber cutting/removal expected to be infrequent.

<sup>2</sup> Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

<sup>3</sup> Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

<sup>4</sup> Cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber allowed when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber cutting, sale, and removal expected to be infrequent.

<sup>5</sup> Cutting, sale, and removal of timber allowed using proper silviculture practices when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species. Includes timber cutting, sale, and removal that may require temporary road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.

<sup>6</sup> Full range of silviculture techniques, including silviculture techniques that may require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.

<sup>7</sup> The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is allowed when needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use (see 36 C.F.R. part 223), or under exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).

<sup>8</sup> The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is allowed for forest health purposes, as well as for personal or administrative use, or under exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).

<sup>9</sup> Full range of silviculture techniques for forest health or commercial purposes, including silviculture techniques that require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.

<sup>10</sup> Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

<sup>11</sup> Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

<sup>12</sup> Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities	No <sup>13</sup>	No <sup>14</sup>	Yes <sup>15</sup>
Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)	No <sup>16</sup>	Yes <sup>17</sup>	Yes <sup>18</sup>
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weed/Pest Management	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mechanized Equipment Use	Yes <sup>19</sup>	Yes	Yes

<sup>13</sup> Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).

<sup>14</sup> Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).

<sup>15</sup> Construction/reconstruction of temporary administrative roads to facilitate permitted mining activities allowed. Road construction or reconstruction associated with mining activities must minimize effects on surface resources and may only be approved after evaluating other access options.

<sup>16</sup> Road Construction/reconstruction prohibited, subject of exceptions found in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(b).

<sup>17</sup> Preference toward temporary administrative road construction with mitigation; however, permanent administrative road construction permissible based on long-term ecological need, particularly if a road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of a threat of flood, uncharacteristic wildfire, or other catastrophic event, including long term threats.

<sup>18</sup> Permanent administrative roads are compatible, particularly when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics or ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.

<sup>19</sup> Chainsaws, helicopters, other mechanical equipment that does not require the use of new trails wider than 50 inches.

## Detailed Description of Management Areas

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### Management Area #1: Primitive Areas

**Current Condition:** Areas managed as Primitive Areas show little evidence of historical or human use. Natural processes are predominant. People visiting these areas can find outstanding opportunities for recreation, including exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. Primitive Areas represent the same management that currently occurs in Roadless Areas under the 2001 Roadless Rule, 36 C.F.R. § 294.

**Desired Future Condition:** Areas managed as Primitive Areas will continue to show little evidence of historical or human use. As such, the natural processes of the area will continue to predominate, which will allow visitors to enjoy the same type of primitive recreation opportunities they found in the past.

**Management Focus:** These areas shall be managed to protect the primitive recreation opportunities of the area. Only activities and management actions not deemed an irretrievable commitment of resources will be considered suitable uses.

**Watershed and Vegetative Restoration:** Watershed and vegetative restoration shall be accomplished through passive, natural ecological processes.

**Mechanized Uses:** Mechanized uses (e.g. chainsaws, helicopters, and equipment that does not require the use of new trails wider than 50 inches, etc.) shall be allowed in these areas unless said use constitutes an irretrievable commitment of resources.

### Primitive Area Suitable Uses and Activities

Available Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire Management	X		Prescribed fire, cutting, sale, and removal of generally small diameter timber when need to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber cutting/removal expected to be infrequent.
Forest Health	X		Cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber allowed when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 294.13. Timber

			cutting, sale, and removal expected to be infrequent.
Timber Cutting		X	Personal or administrative use only, or under exceptions found in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.
Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities		X	Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).
Recreation	X		
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)		X	Road Construction/reconstruction prohibited, subject of exceptions found in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(b).
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	X		
Weed/Pest Management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		Chainsaws, helicopters, etc.

**IRAs Recommended for Management as Primitive Areas:**

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Acreage	Consistent W/ Current Forest Plan

**Management Area #2: Forest Restoration Areas**

Current Condition: Forest Restoration Areas includes areas where evidence of human use may or may not be present. Generally, few constructed features exist with the exception of trails and lookouts. These areas may also show some evidence of vegetative manipulation. Like the primitive areas, Forest Restoration Areas include a broad range of terrain and vegetative types.

Desired Future Condition: While areas managed as Forest Restoration Areas may display increased evidence of management activities, these areas will generally retain their roadless character.

Management Focus: Forest Restoration Areas will be managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities, while also ensuring adequate flexibility to maintain forest health. These areas may include trailheads and recreational sites (developed and dispersed). Depending on specific National Forest Travel Plans, these areas may be managed for summer and/or winter motorized recreation opportunities. Lastly, due to the increased management flexibility afforded to these areas, fish and game can potentially benefit from carefully conducted habitat manipulation.

Watershed and Vegetative Restoration: Watershed and vegetative restoration will be accomplished through a combination of active management and natural processes. Both active and passive management restoration activities (and in some cases use restrictions) may occur to address specific habitat needs of fish and wildlife.

**Forest Management Area Suitable Uses and Activities**

Available Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire Management	X		Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
Forest Health	X		Cutting, sale, and removal of timber allowed using proper silviculture practices when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, or to improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species. Includes timber cutting, sale, and removal that may require temporary road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.
Timber Cutting		X	The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is allowed for forest health purposes, as well as for personal or administrative use, or under exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.13(b).
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.

Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities		X	Road construction/reconstruction to facilitate permitted mining activities prohibited, subject to the exceptions listed in 36 C.F.R. §294.12(7).
Recreation	X		
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)	X		Preference toward temporary administrative road construction with mitigation; however, permanent administrative road construction permissible based on long-term ecological need, particularly if a road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of a threat of flood, uncharacteristic wildfire, or other catastrophic event, including long term threats.
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	X		
Weed/Pest Management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		

**IRAs Recommended for Management as Forest Restoration Areas:**

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Acreage	Consistent W/ Current Forest Plan

**Management Area #3: Forest Stewardship Areas**

Current Condition: Forest Stewardship areas include locations that may display high levels of human use including roads, facilities, evidence of vegetative manipulation (e.g. silvicultural treatments, grazing) and mineral exploration/extraction. These areas also encompass a broad

range of terrain and vegetative types, and may be comprised of forest, grasslands, rangelands, or a combination thereof.

Desired Future Condition: These areas may over time display increased levels of human use including roads, facilities, and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Forest Stewardship areas will also include evidence of watershed restoration and/or mitigation activities. Despite higher levels of human use than Forest Restoration Areas, Forest Stewardship Areas will still retain some of their roadless qualities. In other words, an area designated as “Forest Stewardship” will not necessarily reflect all the characteristics of non-roadless forest lands.

Management Focus: Forest Stewardship areas will be managed to provide a variety of goods and services, broad range of recreational opportunities including both motorized and non-motorized, while also ensuring adequate flexibility to maintain forest, rangeland, and/or grassland health.

Watershed and Vegetative Restoration: Watershed and vegetative restoration shall be accomplished primarily through active management, including timber harvest, salvage, fuels reduction, projects, and grazing.

**Forest Stewardship Area Suitable Uses and Activities**

Available Use/Activity	Yes	No	Notes
Fire Management	X		Prescribed fire, proper silviculture practices (including cutting, sale, and removal) when needed to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
Forest Health	X		Full range of silviculture techniques, including silviculture techniques that may require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.
Timber Cutting	X		Full range of silviculture techniques for forest health or commercial purposes, including silviculture techniques that require new road construction/reconstruction wider than 50 inches.
Grazing	X		
Motorized Travel	X		Public motorized access subject to existing Forest Travel Plans.
Road Construction/Reconstruction to facilitate mining activities	X		Construction/reconstruction of temporary administrative roads to facilitate permitted mining activities allowed. Road construction or reconstruction associated with mining activities must minimize



			effects on surface resources and may only be approved after evaluating other access options.
Recreation	X		
Road Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. over 50 inches wide)	X		Permanent administrative roads are compatible, particularly when needed to maintain or restore the characteristics or ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects.
Trail Construction and/or Reconstruction (i.e. under 50 inches wide)	X		
Weed/Pest Management	X		
Mechanized Equipment Use	X		

**IRAs Recommended for Management as Forest Stewardship Areas:**

National Forest	IRA Name	Approx. Acres	Recommendation	Acreage	Consistent W/ Current Forest Plan

**Management Area #4: Areas Recommended for Boundary Adjustments or Re-inventory**

The State requests a re-inventory or boundary adjustments of some Inventoried Roadless Areas found not in conformity with the requirements for “roadless” designation as defined in the FEIS Nov. 2002, Volume 1 (i.e. “Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act . . .”). Boundary adjustment may include consolidation of existing Inventoried Roadless Areas. Some areas may necessitate boundary correction based on new information. If the Forest Service finds after re-inventory that certain areas are not in conformity with the requirements for roadless designations, such areas should be managed in accordance with the relevant forest plan.

**IRAs Recommended for Boundary Adjustments or Re-inventory:**

<b>National Forest</b>	<b>IRA Name</b>	<b>Approx. Acres</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>

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