
***Cedar City Field Office Resource Management
Plan/Environmental Impact Statement:
Analysis of the Management Situation***

Appendix G

Fire Management Units

APPENDIX G. FIRE MANGEMENT UNITS

Beaver FMU

The Beaver FMU is in the northeast corner of the Planning Area with the Fishlake National Forest on the eastern boundary, the Mineral-Black Mountains FMU on the west, and the Buckskin-Dog Valley FMU on the south.

Vegetative types are primarily pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. The sagebrush type is valuable as important crucial deer winter range. Much of the pinyon-juniper type is encroachment downslope into the sagebrush type from years of historic overgrazing and intensive fire control measures. Understory species are lacking in both major vegetative types.

In the Beaver FMU, 11,000 acres have been identified for treatment; 2,339 acres have been treated and 8,661 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 99 acres in the Beaver FMU. Communities at risk include Beaver, North Creek, Sulphurdale, Manderfield, and Pine Creek.

Buckskin/Dog Valley FMU

The Buckskin/Dog Valley FMU is shared between the CCFO and the Kanab Field Office. State Highway 20 passes through this area from Interstate 15 on the west to State Highway 89 on the east. On the north is the Beaver FMU and on the south is the Parowan Front-Antelope Range FMU.

Vegetation on this unit is diverse. The primary vegetative types are pinyon and juniper and sagebrush, with important inclusions of grasslands, mountain brush, riparian zones, conifers, and aspen. The sagebrush and sagebrush-bunchgrass types provide important habitat for Utah prairie dogs, greater sage-grouse, mule deer, and elk.

In the Buckskin/Dog Valley FMU, 32,400 acres have been identified for treatment; 3,650 acres have been treated and 28,750 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 270 acres in the Buckskin/Dog Valley FMU. Communities at risk include cabins in Buckskin and Bear Valley, and various unincorporated structures along Interstate 15.

Escalante Desert FMU

Escalante Desert is a large unit in the center of the Planning Area. It is an interior FMU that angles from the northeast at the northern Planning Area boundary to the southwest boundary with the Dixie National Forest.

There are two primary vegetative types in this FMU. The salt desert shrub vegetation type is by far most predominant, typically occupying the valley bottoms stretching from Enterprise in the south to Milford and beyond in the north. A large percentage of this area is under private ownership. Potential for burns of substantial size in the salt desert shrub is low, as evidenced by fire history for the FMU. However, annual forage production is capable of greatly increasing its biomass in years of abundant spring precipitation, so occasionally there is a potential for large burns. Natural rehabilitation potential is low for this vegetative type. The sagebrush vegetative type is present on the west benches of the Escalante Desert and north of Cedar City.

As with the salt desert shrub community, most of this vegetative type would have a low natural rehabilitation potential due to the lack of perennial forbs and grasses onsite.

In the Escalante Desert FMU, 2,000 acres have been identified for treatment; 1,578 acres have been treated and 173 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 1,674 acres in the Escalante Desert FMU. There are many communities at risk in Cedar Valley (Enoch) and south of Zane.

Hamblin Valley

The Hamblin Valley FMU is on the western side of the Planning Area, bordering Nevada. The Mountain Home FMU is to the north. The Wah Wah Needle Mountains FMU sounds the Hamblin Valley FMU.

Vegetative types within this FMU are extremely diverse, ranging from salt desert shrub (winterfat) at the low elevations to white fir and aspen at higher elevations. The south end of Hamblin Valley is typified by grasslands (old land treatment projects). Most of the unit is dominated by pinyon and juniper and sagebrush. Invasion of juniper into sagebrush areas is common due to a lack of wildfire and historic overgrazing.

In the Hamblin Valley FMU, 27,300 acres have been identified for treatment; 15,001 acres have been treated and 12,299 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 713 acres in the Hamblin Valley FMU. Communities at risk include Sheep Creek cabins, Commissary Creek cabins, South Hamblin Valley subdivisions, O'Grain Ranch, the UDWR cabin at Indian Peak Wildlife Management Area, the cabin south of Indian Peak Wildlife Management Area, homes west of Arrowhead Pass, and cabins at Little Pinto Spring.

Mineral-Black Mountain FMU

The Mineral-Black Mountain FMU is on the eastern side of the Planning Area. The Millard County line is on the north of the FMU. Surrounding FMUs are Beaver on the east and Escalante Desert on the south and west.

This is a large and diverse unit. The primary vegetative type is pinyon-juniper and sagebrush, although there are inclusions of salt desert shrub, grasslands, mountain brush, confers, and aspen. Large areas of sagebrush, which provides important habitat to greater sage-grouse and mule deer, are common throughout this area. Antelope bitterbrush is an important component of both the pinyon and juniper and sagebrush types and is generally intolerant of hot fires during the warm summer months.

In the Mineral-Black Mountain FMU, 63,000 acres have been identified for treatment; 109,666 acres have been treated (due to the Milford Flat Fire) and 11,000 acres are available to convert pinyon and juniper to sagebrush/grass community.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 139,241 acres in the Mineral-Black Mountain FMU. Communities at risk include Beaver, Milford, Minersville, Adamsville, Greenville, Ranch Canyon and Corral Canyon cabins, and Blundell Geothermal Plant.

Mountain Home FMU

The Mountain Home FMU is on the extreme northwest corner of the Planning Area and is bounded by the Fillmore Field Office to the north and the Ely (Nevada) Field Office to the west.

The primary vegetative type in this area is pinyon and juniper. The area is valuable for woodland products, particularly cedar posts and pine nuts. Relatively small inclusions of mixed conifer/aspens, low sagebrush, mountain brush, and grassland occur in the FMU. Grasslands are primarily seedings that can serve as valuable fuel breaks.

In the Mountain Home FMU, 13,250 acres have been identified for treatment; 1,220 acres have been treated and 12,030 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 487 acres in the Mountain Home FMU. Communities at risk include Loper's cabin, cabins at Cherry Spring, and Vance Spring.

Parowan Front/Antelope Range FMU

This FMU is the farthest east in the Planning Area and includes Iron County cities of Kanarrville, Cedar City, Summit, Parowan, and Paragonah. On the east is the Dixie National Forest. On the west are the Mineral-Black Mountain and Escalante Desert FMUs. On the north is the Buckskin-Dog Valley FMU.

The primary vegetative types in this area are pinyon and juniper and sagebrush. Large areas of sagebrush are common throughout this area. Much of the pinyon and juniper and sagebrush communities lack desirable understory vegetation. The sagebrush type is valuable as important and crucial deer winter range. Much of the pinyon and juniper type is encroachment downslope into the sagebrush types from years of historic overgrazing and intensive fire control measures. There are inclusions of mountain brush at higher elevations.

In the Parowan Front/Antelope Range FMU, 10,000 acres have been identified for treatment; 1,194 acres have been treated and 8,806 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 686 acres in the Parowan Front/Antelope Range FMU. Communities at risk include Paragonah, Parowan, Summit, Cedar City, Kanarrville, Woolsey Ranch, and Red Canyon Subdivision.

Pine Valley FMU

This FMU consists of north Pine Valley to the Planning Area boundary. The Mountain Home FMU is to the west. The Wah Wah-Needle Mountains and North Wah Wah FMUs are to the east. The Hamblin Valley FMU is to the south.

The primary vegetative type in this area is salt desert shrub with some desert grasslands. There are some sagebrush and pinyon and juniper inclusions in the FMU.

In the Pine Valley FMU, 1,100 acres have been identified for treatment; 0 acres have been treated and 1,100 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 16 acres in the Pine Valley FMU. Communities at risk include Vance Spring private and cabins at Pots Um Pa private.

Wah Wah-Needles FMU

The Wah Wah-Needles FMU is an extensive and diverse FMU in western Iron and Beaver counties and a small portion of Washington County. It borders the Fillmore Field Office on the

north, the Ely (Nevada) Field Office on the west, and the Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest on the south.

The primary vegetative types in this FMU are scrub forests of a combination of pinyon and juniper and extensive areas of sagebrush. There are small inclusions of old vegetative treatments, which were developed as nonnative grasslands (seedings) in the FMU. These seedings can serve as important fuel breaks, but are gradually being re-invaded by sagebrush, pinyon, and juniper, which limit their effectiveness as fuel breaks. There are extensive areas of pinyon and juniper invasion throughout the FMU, as evidenced by GAP data. There are also small inclusions of mature pinyon, mixed conifer/ponderosa pine, and mountain brush, which are very important for providing woodland products, wildlife habitat, and the like.

In the Wah Wah-Needle FMU, 40,400 acres have been identified for treatment; 13,276 acres have been treated and 27,124 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 16,693 acres in the Wah Wah-Needles FMU. Communities at risk include Frisco, Gold Springs, Pyramid Colony, Stateline, South Hamblin Valley subdivisions, Modena, Uvada, Skougard Mine, and Pine Grove.

Wah Wah Valley FMU

The Wah Wah Valley FMU is along the northern border boundary of the Planning Area and adjoins Millard County. It is surrounded by the Wah Wah-Needle FMU and the North Wah Wah WSA.

The primary vegetative type in this area is salt desert shrub with some desert grasslands. The FMU also includes some sagebrush inclusions on the south end.

In the Wah Wah Valley FMU, 1,000 acres have been identified for treatment; 3 acres have been treated and 997 acres are available for treatment.

Over the past 10 years (2001 through 2010), fires have burned 3 acres in the Wah Wah Valley FMU. Communities at risk include Old New House (historic ruins) and Wah Wah Ranch.