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Agriculture

Forest  
Service

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# Environmental Assessment

## Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

Uinta National Forest, Utah

Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Utah

Fishlake National Forest, Utah

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## SUMMARY

The Uinta National Forest proposes to acquire by exchange non-federal land located in Highland, Utah, as a site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility in accordance with Public Law (PL) 107-329. In exchange for the non-Federal property, the Forest Service has offered to exchange up to six federally owned parcels within the Uinta, Fishlake, and Wasatch-Cache National Forests. The properties exchanged would depend on values equalization.

The purpose of this initiative is to acquire lands suitable for construction of an interagency (U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service) administrative and visitor facility. This action is needed because the existing Pleasant Grove Ranger District and Timpanogos Cave National Monument facilities are inadequate to meet administrative and public service needs, and the federal lands proposed for exchange are not situated strategically to provide the appropriate public needs. The proposed exchange would allow construction of a state-of-the-art facility and enable both the Forest Service and Park Service to provide better customer service.

The proposed action would create no significant impacts to cultural resources, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, scenic quality, or recreation values.

In addition to the proposed action, the Forest Service also evaluated a No Action alternative. This alternative analyzes the effects of not implementing the proposed land exchange.

Based upon the effects of the alternatives and valuation conclusions, the responsible official will decide:

- 1) Whether to acquire by exchange non-federal land located in Highland, Utah, as a site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility.
- 2) Whether to exchange the six federally owned parcels.
- 3) Whether to combine the exchange of certain portions of the lands with a cash equalization payment as necessary.

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Document Structure

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The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations. This EA discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. The document is organized into four chapters:

### *1.0 Introduction*

This section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.

### *2.0 Comparison of Alternatives, including the Proposed Action*

This section provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. Finally, this section provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.

### *3.0 Environmental Consequences*

This section describes the resources which may be impacted by implementing the proposed action, and describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized first by issue, and then by resource. Within each section, the affected environment is described first, followed by the effects of the No Action Alternative, which provides a baseline for evaluation and comparison with the proposed action.

### *4.0 Agencies and Persons Consulted*

This section provides a list of preparers and agencies consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.

Additional documentation, including more detailed analyses of project-area resources, may be found in the project planning record located at the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office in Pleasant Grove, Utah.

## 1.2 Background

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On December 6, 2002, the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, Public Law (PL) 107-329, was signed by President Bush and became law. This Act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to, "acquire by exchange non-Federal land located in Highland, Utah, as the site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility."

The Pleasant Grove Ranger District visitor information center/administrative office is housed in a 1960's era building that was not designed for today's staffing requirements, visitor service needs, or modern day computer and communication needs.

The original administrative office and visitor center at Timpanogos Cave National Monument was built as part of the National Park Service's Mission '66 program. It was destroyed by fire in 1991. In 1992, as an emergency measure, the National Park Service began use of a modular building for a temporary visitor center. The trailer still serves as the visitor center for the Monument's visitation of 125,000 people annually. Additionally, the National Park Service administrative office is a building leased from PacifiCorp. The building is tentatively slated for demolition and site restoration in 2006 and 2007 as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's proposed American Fork Hydroelectric Power Plant decommissioning project.

### 1.3 Purpose and Need for Action

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The purpose of this initiative is to acquire lands suitable for construction of an interagency (U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service) administrative and visitor facility. This action is needed because existing Pleasant Grove Ranger District and Timpanogos Cave National Monument facilities are inadequate to meet administrative and public service needs, and Federal lands suitable are not situated strategically to provide the appropriate public needs. The proposed exchange would allow construction of a state-of-the-art facility and enable both the Forest Service and Park Service to provide better customer service and to better meet administrative needs. The land exchange would provide the following benefits:

1) *Cost Effective*

This exchange would provide an opportunity to share administrative resources resulting in more cost-effective operations. The Forest Service and National Park Service have recommended co-located facilities. By improving the cost-effectiveness of agency operations, a larger portion of the funding from visitor and user fees could be used directly to provide better services to the public.

2) *Build and Strengthen Partnerships*

The joint-agency facility would build upon the strong partnership that already exists between agencies. The joint-agency facility would also provide better visitor service, and education and information to schools and the public.

3) *Adequate Space*

The National Park Service has been using inadequate, temporary office and visitor information facilities. The Pleasant Grove Ranger District office does not have adequate space for the current staff and is also located incompatibly in a residential area. The surrounding neighbors have expressed concern with traffic associated with the Ranger District office. The locations currently utilized by both agencies are too small with little option for expansion. The new facility would include space for a visitor center adequate for the more than one million visitors that American Fork Canyon receives annually. The new facility would also include interpretive exhibits and provide more educational opportunities for the public.

4) *Communities and Local Government Support*

The proposed site just outside of American Fork Canyon is within the city limits of Highland City. The cities of Highland and Alpine, Utah County, Alpine School District, National Park Service, Forest Service, and many other agencies and publics, participated in a design concept workshop in November 1998. A shared vision for the new facility was drafted, and participants voiced a desire to have a facility of high quality and large enough to service a growing population. The concept was later presented to the Highland City Council and Planning Commission. They voted in favor of the facility, and agreed it would be compatible with the City and beneficial to residents and visitors.

Local businesses, conservation groups, and others have also voiced support for the joint facility.

5) *Public Service*

The existing facilities for both the Pleasant Grove Ranger District and the Timpanogos National Park are inadequate due to significant increases in population and visitor use of American Fork Canyon and surrounding areas. The existing facilities do not meet the public's need for parking, information services, opportunities for environmental interpretation, and other public needs and demands such as law enforcement. It has been shown that shared facilities between agencies, such as the Forest Service and the Park Service, provide much more effective public service.

6) *Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act Directive*

This Act, sponsored by Senator Robert Bennett, was passed into law and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to approve the exchange of resource lands for administrative land. Congressman Chris Cannon has also strongly supported the proposal.

This action responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the Uinta National Forest Plan, and helps move the project area towards desired conditions described in that plan.

## 1.4 Proposed Action

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The action proposed by the Forest Service to meet the purpose and need is to, acquire by exchange non-federal land located in Highland, Utah, as a site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility, in accordance with PL 107-329 ("the Act"). This land exchange must conform to the "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions." Furthermore, the proposed exchange would be conducted with a private entity that is willing to trade their property for various US Forest Service parcels.

The lands being considered for exchange are described below.

### 1.4.1 Non-Federal Land Being Acquired

The Act specifies the non-federal parcel to be acquired as the parcel of land comprising approximately 37.42 acres located at approximately 4400 West, 11000 North (SR 92), Highland City, Utah, in T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 31, NW ¼. The Act notes that this land would become part of the Uinta National Forest.

### 1.4.2 Existing Federal Lands That May Be Exchanged

PL 107-329 also specifies the following federally owned tracts that may be exchanged:

1) *Pleasant Grove Ranger District Parcel*

This is the existing Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office compound. The parcel contains an office and warehouse building and is located in Pleasant Grove, Utah, in T. 5 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 20. This parcel is approximately 0.83 acres in size.

2) *Provo Sign and Radio Shop Parcel*

This is the existing Uinta National Forest, Sign and Radio Shop site located in Provo, Utah, in T. 7 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 12, NW ¼. This parcel is approximately 0.18 acres in size.

3) *Springville Parcel*

This parcel is located on the Uinta National Forest in Springville City, Utah, in T. 7 S., R. 3 E., Sec. 28, NE ¼, SW ¼, NE ¼. This parcel contains a utility corridor and debris basin, and is approximately 7.37 acres in size.

4) *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon Parcel*

This parcel is located on the Uinta National Forest in Wasatch County in T. 5 S., R. 3 E., Sec 13. The parcel is undeveloped, but does contain a utility corridor and an easement for Highway 189. The site is approximately 237 acres in size.

5) *Beaver Administrative Site Parcel*

This is the existing Fishlake National Forest, Beaver administrative site located in Beaver, Utah. This parcel contains a residence and garage, is located in T. 29 S., R. 7 W., Sec.15, S ½; and is approximately 0.18 acres in size.

6) *Corner Canyon Parcel*

This parcel is located on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest southeast of Draper, Utah, in T. 3 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 33. The site contains a segment of the Salt Lake Aqueduct and Corner Canyon road and is approximately 20 acres in size.

***The proposed action does not include:***

1) *Exchange of any parcels not identified in the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, Public Law (PL) 107-329.*

The Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act identifies the seven parcels described in the proposed action. Exchange of any other properties would be in conflict with the legislation and analysis of additional properties is therefore outside of the scope of this assessment.

2) *Construction or design of the interagency facility.*

As per the Act, responsibility and funding for construction and design of the interagency facility is with the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS is conducting a separate environmental analysis for construction of an interagency facility.

3) *Future changes in land use on the exchanged federal parcels.*

The future use of parcels would be governed by existing rights (e.g. easements, withdrawals, and/or rights-of-way) and local zoning laws, and would, therefore, be consistent with the surrounding land uses.

4) *Valuation of the proposed exchange parcels.*

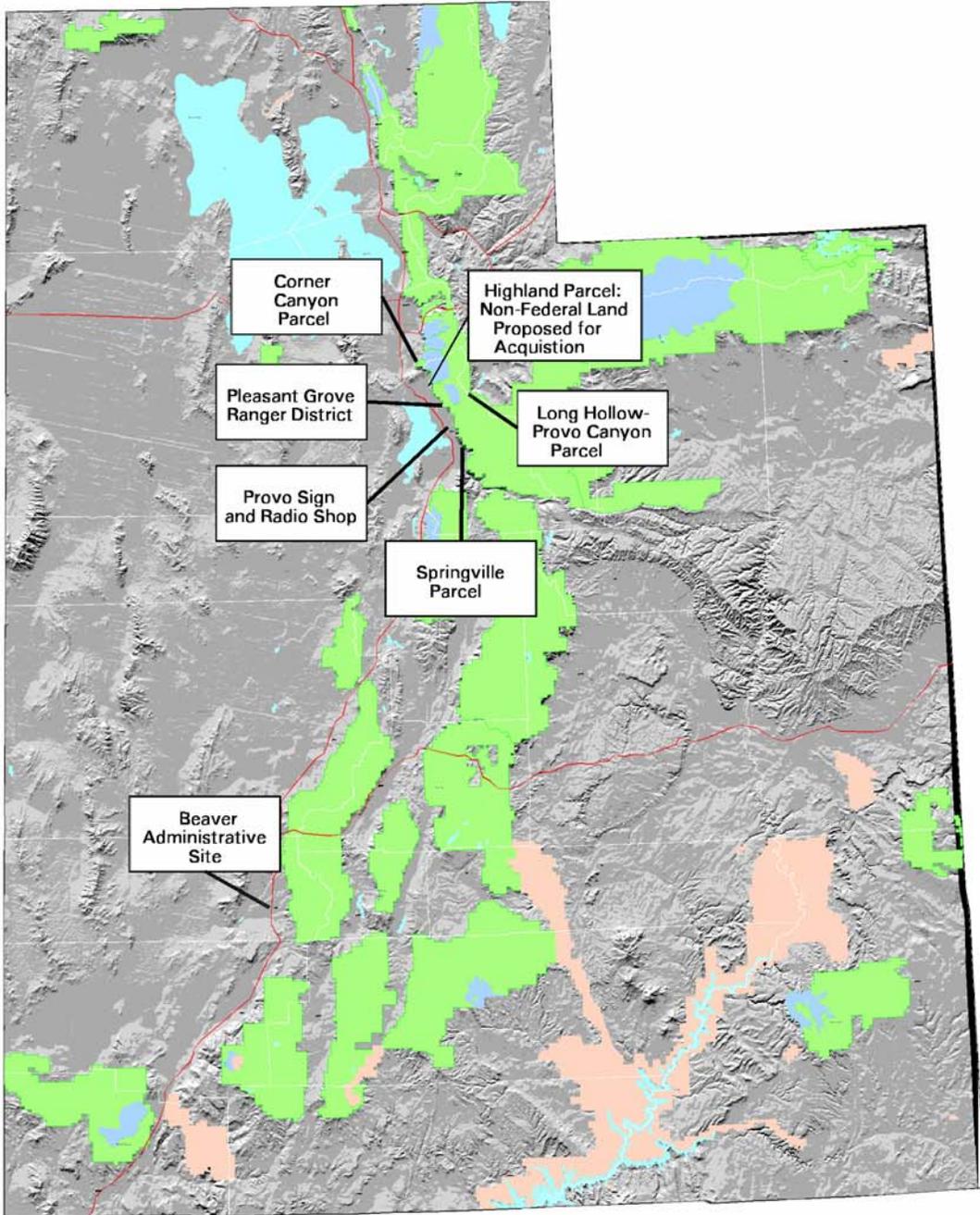
The EA considers the environmental impacts of a proposed land exchange. A separate Forest Service report will address valuations and appraisal information for a Forest Service decision.



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

## Location of Sites Within Utah



12 March 2001

## 1.5 Decisions to be Made

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Given the purpose and need, the US Forest Service, Director of Lands for the Intermountain Region, will review the proposed action and the other alternatives in order to make the following decisions:

- 1) *Whether to acquire by exchange non-Federal land located in Highland, Utah, as a site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility.*
- 2) *Whether to exchange the following parcels:*
  - Pleasant Grove Ranger District
  - Provo Sign and Radio Shop
  - Springville
  - Long Hollow–Provo Canyon
  - Beaver Administrative Site
  - Corner Canyon
- 3) *Whether to combine the exchange of certain portions of the lands with a cash equalization payment as necessary.*

Valuation issues are not addressed in this EA but will be considered in the decision.

## 1.6 Conformance with Plans and Regulations

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The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) contains the Forest Service's general land use management authority over public lands. The proposed action is consistent with FLPMA, and has been prepared in accordance to the regulations outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The proposed action has been reviewed and is found to be in conformance with the following local and federal plans and regulations, as shown by the following excerpts.

- *Uinta National Forest Plan*  
Objective 8-7 reads: "By 2008, relocate the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office. Continue to support the collocation of the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office with the Timpanogos Cave National Monument Administrative Office."
- *Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan*  
Forest-wide Goal 11–Land Ownership reads, "Achieve a national forest ownership pattern that reduces management costs and helps meet ecosystem management objectives. Acquire land to connect large tracts of public ownership to maintain biologic and hydrologic linkages in partnership with other public agencies. Locate and maintain national forest boundaries that are visible to forest users and neighbors."

- *Fishlake National Forest Plan*  
Rights-of-way and Land Adjustments Management Direction 4. reads, “Classify lands for disposal according to the following priorities: ...  
C. When suitable for development by the private sector, if development (residential, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc.) is in the public interest.”
- *Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329*  
This legislation authorizes “the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire by exchange non-Federal land located in Highland, Utah, as the site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility.”
- *Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. as amended)*  
This Act reads, “It is further declared to be the policy of Congress that all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered species and threatened species and shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.”
- *Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management*  
This order reads, “Each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out its responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands, and facilities;...”
- *Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands*  
This order reads, “Each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency’s responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands and facilities;...”

## 1.7 Public Involvement

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The proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions in spring, summer, and fall 2003. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment through a scoping notice in April of 2003. Three comments were received from the public by either mail or telephone in response to this notice. The comments were submitted by the Utah Environmental Congress, Bureau of Reclamation, and Western Land Exchange Project.

An interdisciplinary team (ID Team) meeting was held on August 5, 2003, to discuss the scoping comments received by the public, and to identify any additional issues. Using the comments from the public, comments identified through interagency scoping, and those identified by other agencies, the interdisciplinary team developed a list of issues to address.

## 1.8 Issues

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The following issues, identified by the ID Team, are based on public and agency comment, resource evaluations of the affected area, and Forest Service knowledge of the parcels and their use.

The Forest Service separated the issues into two groups: driving issues, which were carried forward for detailed analysis; and non-driving issues, which were not carried forward. Driving

issues were defined as those directly or indirectly caused by implementing the proposed action. These issues are consistent with the scope of the analysis, pertinent to the decisions to be made, and appropriate for the development of a range of reasonable alternatives including the proposed action.

Non-driving issues were identified as those: 1) outside the scope of the proposed action; 2) already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision; 3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or 4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence.

### **1.8.1 Issues Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis**

The Forest Service identified four driving issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment. These issues include:

***Issue 1: The extent to which the proposed land exchange may affect cultural resources.***

Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect cultural resources located within or adjacent to the parcels associated with the exchange.

***Issue 2: The extent to which the proposed land exchange may affect natural and biological resources.***

Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect natural resources located within or adjacent to the parcels associated with the exchange. These may include:
  - Vegetative cover
  - Federally listed threatened and endangered, and Forest Service sensitive species
  - Riparian and wetland areas
  - Wildlife and fisheries habitat

***Issue 3: The extent to which the proposed land exchange may affect visual and recreational resources.***

Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect visual or scenic quality.
- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect recreational resources.

**Issue 4: The extent to which the proposed land exchange is in conformance with the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329.**

Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative complies with the standards and requirements set forth in PL 107-329.

### **1.8.2 Issues Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis**

The following issues were considered but not carried forward for detailed analysis. It was determined that these issues were beyond the scope of this analysis, not directly related to the decisions to be made, or not affected by the proposed action. These issues were not used in the development or evaluation of the proposed action or associated alternatives.

- *Valuation of the separate land parcels*

The properties involved in the exchange will be appraised, and the appraisals will be reviewed following Forest Service appraisal policy and directives. The purpose of this is to assure that all parties to the transaction receive market value consideration for their property. The appraisals will be prepared by a qualified appraiser who will be provided Forest Service instructions describing the property to be appraised and mandating compliance with Forest Service appraisal specifications which require application of the “Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions” and the “Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.” A Forest Service review appraiser will review any contract appraisals to assure compliance with the instructions, specifications, and standards.

The appraisal reviews and findings will be made available for public inspection along with the final decision document.

- *Air Quality*

The proposed action does not include actions that would have any impact on air quality.

- *Native American Religious Concerns*

There are no known Native American religious sites or resources within the parcels considered for exchange. The proposed action would not have any impact on Native American religious concerns. All tribes and bands which have the potential to be affected by this proposal have had the opportunity to make comments.

- *Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers*

There are no streams or rivers within the parcels considered for exchange under the proposed action that have been identified as eligible or are recommended for wild, scenic, or recreational designation. However, some sections of the north fork of the Provo River, flowing past Sundance Ski Resort, have been recommended for wild or recreational designation. The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel includes a small portion of the Provo River, but the sections recommended for designation are downstream and on another tributary of the Provo River. The proposed action would not have any impact on the free flowing status or outstandingly remarkable values of any wild, scenic, or recreational rivers.

- *Wilderness Values*

There are no designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or research natural areas located within the parcels considered for exchange under the proposed action. The proposed action would not have any impact on wilderness values.

- *Environmental Justice*

The proposed action would not create any environmental justice concerns. The proposal would not result in unequal justice or unequal protection of any part of the population of Salt Lake, Wasatch, Utah, or Beaver Counties. All parts of the community that have potential to be affected by this proposal have had the opportunity to make comments.

- *Hazardous Wastes*

Lead paint has been found in structures on both the Provo Sign and Radio Shop and the Beaver Administrative parcels. Low levels of radon have been detected on the Beaver parcel as well. The proposed action would not affect the volume or toxicity of these hazards. The only impact of the proposed action on hazardous wastes would be a change in ownership and responsibility of these two parcels. Any occurrence of lead paint and radon would be fully disclosed to the party acquiring these parcels to mitigate this impact.

- *Safety and Fire*

The land exchange of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel would eliminate the Uinta National Forest suppression responsibility in an extremely limited access situation. The exchange of this property would remove the Forest Service suppression responsibility, as the Forest would not have land within 1/2 mile of the forest boundary. This piece of property is surrounded by state and private land.

There are 3 other land parcels of land associated with the Uinta National Forest. These parcels include the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office, the Provo Sign and Radio Shop, and the Springville parcel. The exchange of these parcels would transfer suppression responsibilities to the various city jurisdictions.

Relocating fire suppression resources from their existing location at the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office to the parcel in Highland, Utah, off of Hwy 92, would result in decreasing response times to suppress wildfires for the north end of the Pleasant Grove Ranger District and increase slightly for the south end of the district. This should not be much of a factor due to the mutual aid responses from the various volunteer fire departments and Utah County resources, as well as response from the Spanish Fork Ranger District. The benefits of increased work area, interagency interaction, and improved facilities offset the response time difference.

The impact of the proposed action on safety and fire suppression is minimal, and is therefore not carried forward for detailed analysis.

- *Socio-Economic Conditions*

The seven exchange parcels are located in or near different communities and each have different socio-economic conditions to consider. The proposed action would have a negligible impact on the socio-economic conditions associated with these parcels.

The majority of the parcels fall within Utah County which is the fourth fastest growing county in the state. Utah County holds 17% of the state's total population at 368,536

individuals. Major sources of income for the county are education, medical, manufacturing, computer, and service companies. Utah County boasts over 10,575 businesses. The largest employer is Brigham Young University; followed in decreasing order by Alpine School District, IHC Health Care Services, Utah Valley State College, Nebo School District, Convergys, Novell, Provo School District, Nestle USA, and Modus Media International. Recreation and use of Forest resources do not make up a significant portion of Utah County's economy.

Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Utah County websites.

- *Fisheries*

The only fishery included in the proposed action is a small corner of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel which extends into the Provo River. The Provo River is one of the most popular trout streams along the Wasatch Front, and anglers heavily fish the section below Deer Creek Reservoir in Provo Canyon. The majority of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is difficult to access from the River, and the proposed action would have no impact on the recreational aspect of the Provo River fishery. Likewise, the corner of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel that extends into this section of river is less than  $\frac{1}{10}$  acre in area, and would have no impact on the biological or hydrological aspects of the fishery. The Provo River is within the historic range of the Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Management Indicator Species for the Uinta National Forest. This river is outside the historic range of the Colorado River cutthroat trout, another Uinta National Forest Management Indicator Species. Although within the historic range of the Bonneville cutthroat trout, the lower Provo River no longer contains this or any other generally listed threatened or endangered, or Forest Service listed sensitive species.

- *Inventoried Roadless Areas*

There are no inventoried roadless areas located within the parcels considered for exchange under the proposed action. There would be no impact to inventoried roadless areas under the proposed action.

- *Prime Lands*

There are no prime farmlands, rangeland, or forest lands located within the parcels considered for exchange under the proposed action. The proposed action would not have any impact on prime lands.

- *Steep Slopes or Highly Erosive Soils*

The proposed action would not have any impact on steep slopes or highly erosive soils. Although some of the parcels do contain steep slopes and erosive soils, the exchange of ownership of these parcels would not have any impact on steep slopes or erosive soils. Potential future development on the Springville and Corner Canyon may require cuts and fills, but analyzing the impacts of these possible future activities is beyond the scope of this EA.

- *Caves*

The Federal Cave Resources Protection Act is intended to secure, protect, and preserve significant caves to the extent practical. No caves are known to exist on any of the parcels, and therefore, none would be affected by this proposed action.

- ***Minerals, Geothermal, Oil & Gas Resources***

Four of the six federal parcels have low mineral potential for the occurrence of potentially valuable deposits of locatable, leasable, and salable minerals. Two parcels (Corner Canyon and Springville) have low potential for the occurrence of potentially valuable mineral deposits of locatable and leasable minerals, but high potential for the occurrence of salable minerals in the form of sand and gravel.

Sand and gravel deposits are of significant value in pits at many locations throughout Utah and Salt Lake County. Some pits, large or small (active or abandoned) are near the Corner Canyon and Springville parcels. Consequently, the deposits on the two parcels may be valuable if of suitable quality and not hindered from development by land use restrictions. Consideration of the potential value of the deposits on each parcel will be part of the appraisal process.

The non-federal parcel (Highland Parcel) intended to host the new federal administrative site and visitor center has low potential for locatable and leasable minerals but high potential for salable minerals in the form of sand and gravel. These deposits are being exploited at sites nearby in Utah County and may be of value on the tract unless zoning or other land restriction were to render them undevelopable. Again, consideration of the potential value of the deposits on this parcel will be part of the appraisal process.

The proposed land exchange would result in a change in ownership of these parcels and the potentially salable deposits associated with these parcels. The proposed exchange would not result in any direct effect to these mineral deposits, and consideration of the value of these deposits will be addressed as part of the appraisal process; therefore, impacts to minerals from the proposed exchange are not addressed in this document.

- ***Grazing Permits***

There are no grazing permits associated with the parcels considered for exchange under the proposed action. Therefore, the proposed action would not have an impact on grazing.

## 2.0 ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes and compares the alternatives considered for the Timpanogos Land Exchange. It includes a description of each alternative considered. This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, defining the differences between each alternative and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public.

### 2.1 Alternatives

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#### 2.1.1 Alternative A—No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the federally owned parcels. Existing inadequate facilities would continue to be utilized. Service to the public would not improve. No land exchange would be implemented to accomplish Forest Service goals, nor would the intent of PL 107-329 be met.

#### 2.1.2 Alternative B—Proposed Action

The action proposed by the Forest Service to meet the purpose and need is to: in accordance with PL 107-329, acquire by exchange non-federal land located in Highland, Utah, as a site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility. This land exchange must conform to the “Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.” Furthermore, the proposed exchange would be conducted with a private entity that is willing to trade their property for various USFS parcels.

Also in accordance with PL 107-329, the Secretary may as the circumstances require, either make or accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the total value of the lands or interest transferred out of Federal ownership.

The lands being considered for exchange are described below.

#### **Non-Federal Land Being Acquired**

The Act specifies the Non-Federal tract to be acquired as a parcel of land comprising approximately 37.42 acres located at approximately 4400 West, 11000 North (SR 92), Highland City, Utah, in T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 31, NW ¼. The Act notes that this land would become part of the Uinta National Forest.

#### **Existing Federal Lands That May Be Exchanged**

PL 107-329 also specifies the following Federally-owned tracts that may be exchanged:

1) *Pleasant Grove Ranger District Parcel*

This is the existing Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office compound. The parcel contains an office and warehouse building and is located in Pleasant Grove, Utah, in T. 5 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 20. This parcel is approximately 0.83 acres in size.

2) *Provo Sign and Radio Shop Parcel*

This is the existing Uinta National Forest, Sign and Radio Shop site located in Provo, Utah, in T. 7 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 12, NW ¼. This parcel is approximately 0.18 acres in size.

3) *Springville Parcel*

This parcel is located on the Uinta National Forest in Springville City, Utah, in T. 7 S., R. 3 E., Sec. 28, NE ¼, SW ¼, NE ¼. This parcel contains a utility corridor and debris basin, and is approximately 7.37 acres in size.

4) *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon Parcel*

This parcel is located on the Uinta National Forest in Wasatch County in T. 5 S., R. 3 E., Sec 13. The parcel is undeveloped, but does contain a utility corridor and an easement for Highway 189. The site is approximately 237 acres in size.

5) *Beaver Administrative Site Parcel*

This is the existing Fishlake National Forest, Beaver administrative site located in Beaver, Utah. This parcel contains a residence and garage; is located in T. 29 S., R. 7 W., Sec.15, S ½; and is approximately 0.18 acres in size.

6) *Corner Canyon Parcel*

This parcel is located on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest southeast of Draper, Utah, in T. 3 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 33. The site contains a segment of the Salt Lake Aqueduct and Corner Canyon road and is approximately 20 acres in size.



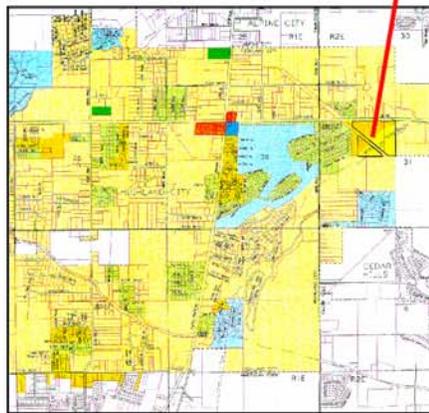
United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

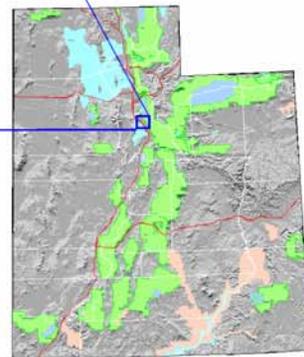
## Uinta National Forest Highland Parcel



Highland Parcel  
Non-Federal Land:



General Location



### Legend

 Non Federal Lands  
Proposed for Acquisition

Highland Parcel:  
Approx. 37.42 acres



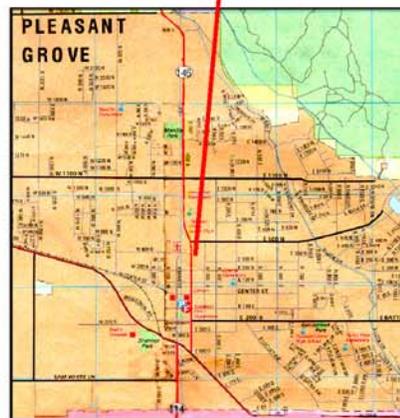
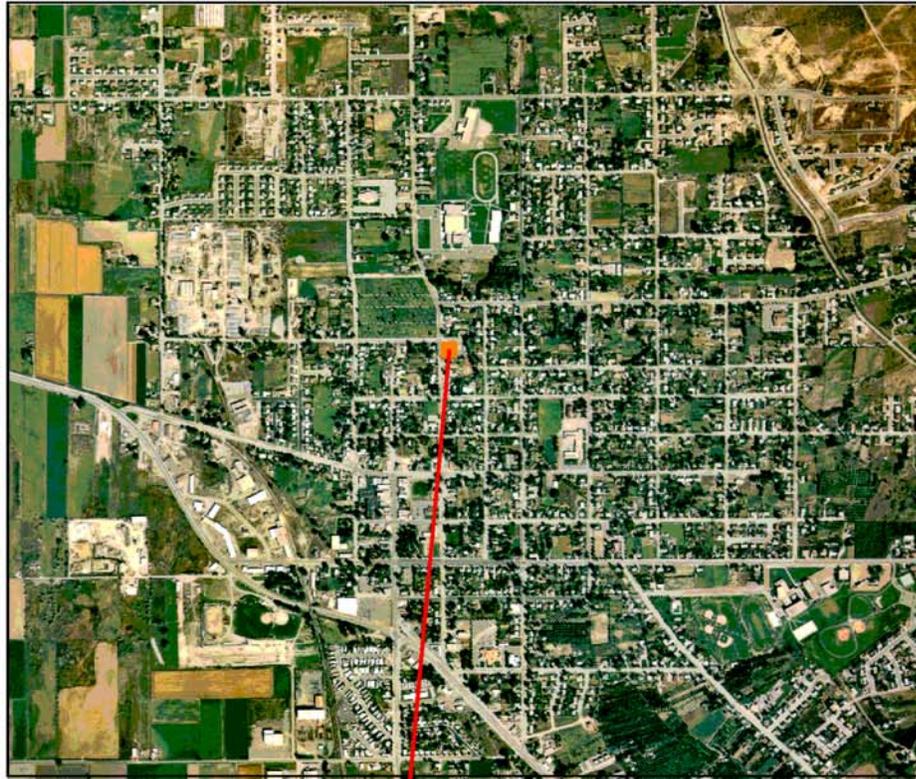
12 March 2001



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

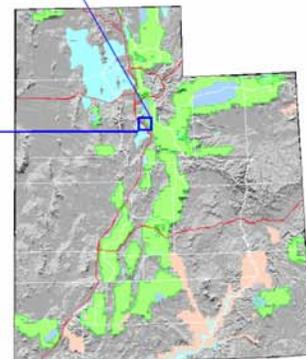
# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

## Uinta National Forest Pleasant Grove Ranger District



Pleasant Grove  
Ranger District

General Location



### Legend

-  Federal Lands Considered for Conveyance to Private Ownership

Pleasant Grove Ranger District:  
Approx. 0.83 acres



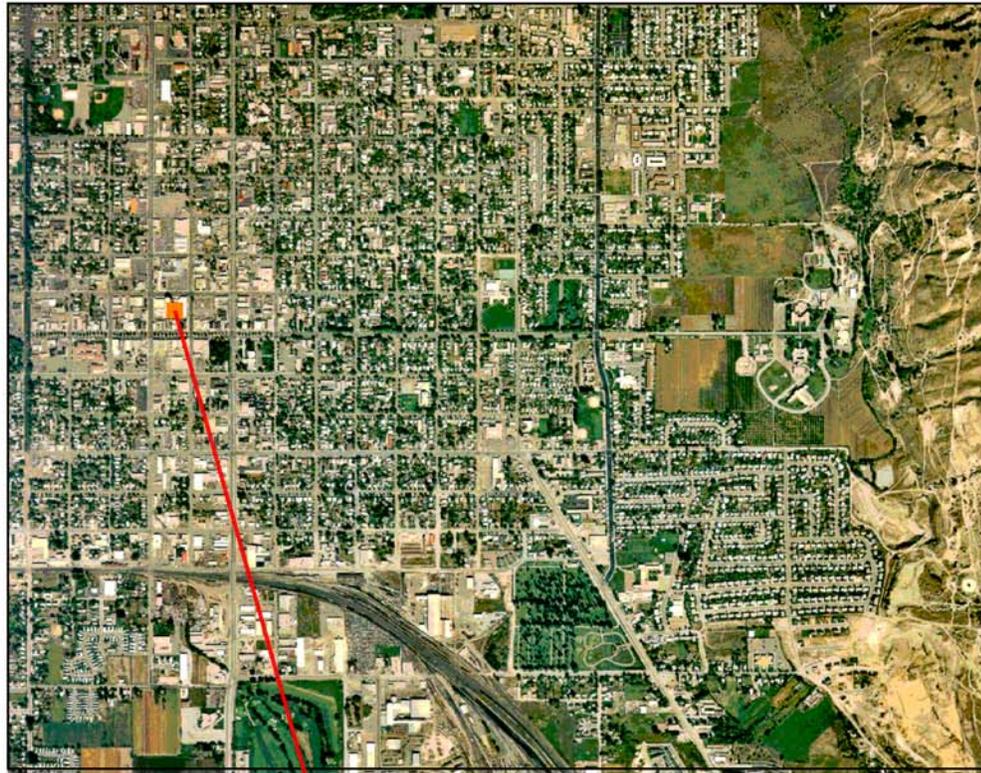
12 March 2001



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

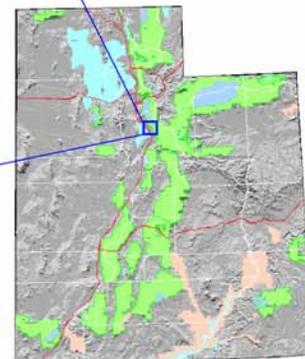
# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

## Uinta National Forest Provo Sign and Radio Shop



Provo Sign and  
Radio Shop

General Location



### Legend

 Federal Lands Considered  
for Conveyance to  
Private Ownership

Provo Sign and Radio Shop:  
Approx. 0.18 acres



12 March 2001



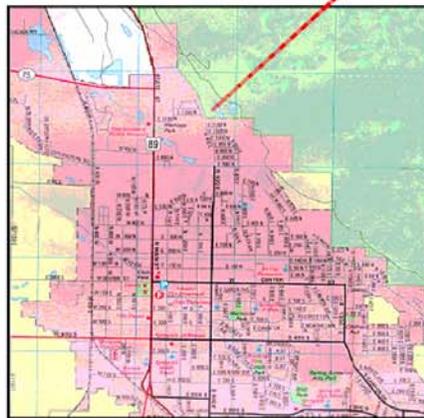
United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

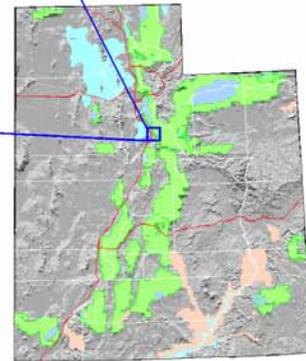
## Uinta National Forest Springville Parcel



Springville  
Parcel



General Location



### Legend

-  Federal Lands Considered for Conveyance to Private Ownership

Springville Parcel:  
Approx. 7.37 acres



12 March 2001



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

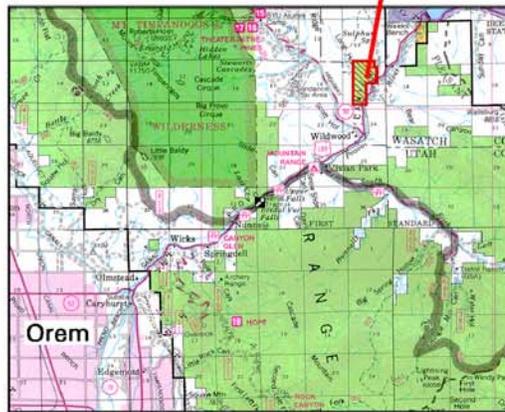
# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

## Uinta National Forest

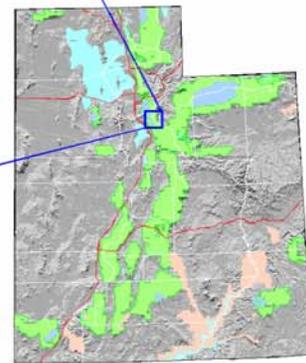
### Long Hollow-Provo Canyon Parcel



Long Hollow  
Provo Canyon  
Parcel



General Location



#### Legend

 Federal Lands Considered  
for Conveyance to  
Private Ownership

Long Hollow-Provo Canyon  
Parcel: Approx. 237 acres



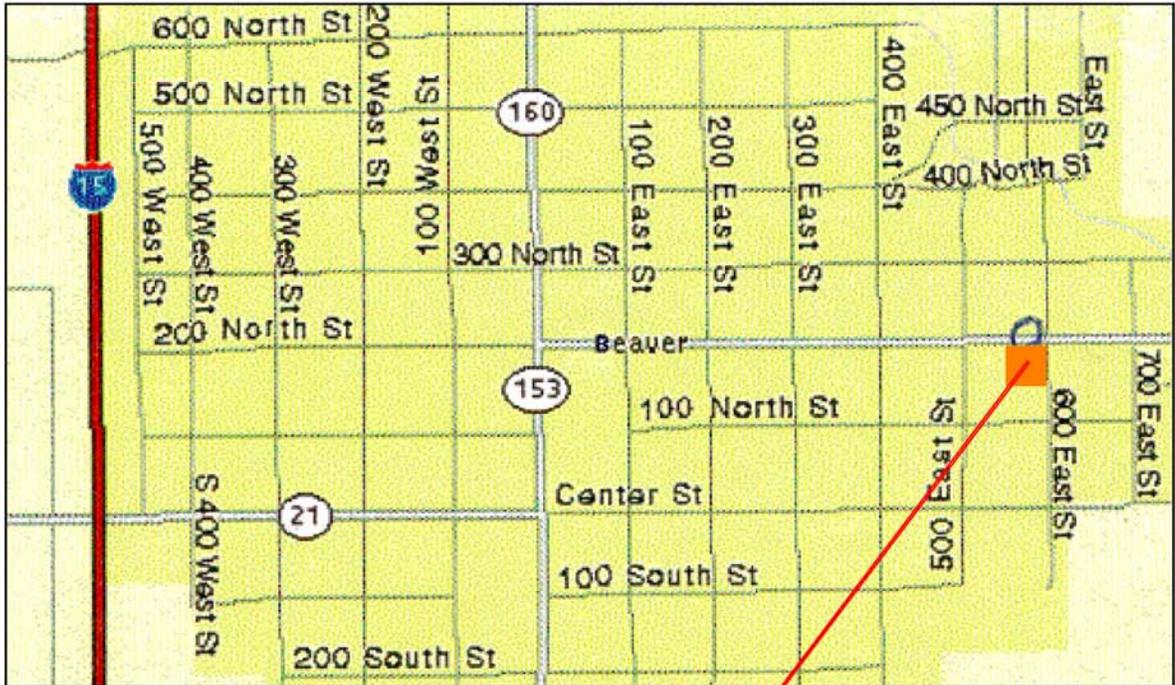
12 March 2001



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

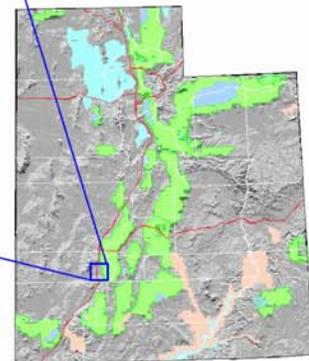
## Fishlake National Forest Beaver Administrative Site



**Beaver  
Administrative  
Site**



**General Location**



### Legend

- Federal Lands Considered for Conveyance to Private Ownership

Beaver Administrative Site:  
Approx. 0.18 acres



12 March 2001



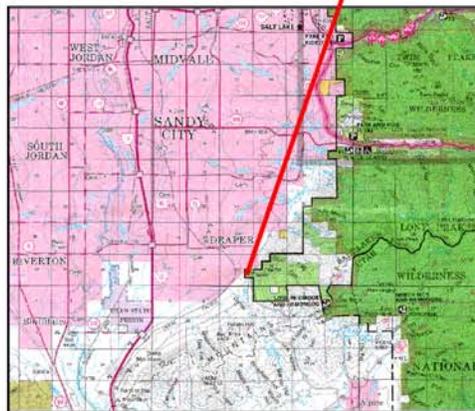
United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# Proposed Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange

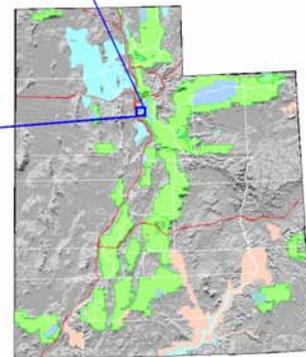
## Wasatch-Cache National Forest Corner Canyon Parcel



Corner Canyon Parcel



General Location



### Legend

 Federal Lands Considered for Conveyance to Private Ownership

Corner Canyon Parcel  
Approx. 20 acres



12 March 2001

### 2.1.3 Alternatives not carried forward for further analysis

The following alternatives were discussed by the Interdisciplinary Team and determined to be outside of the scope of this Environmental Assessment, or not directly related to the decisions to be made. The alternatives are not carried forward for further analysis are summarized below.

1) *Exchange of any properties not outlined in the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329.*

This Act authorizing the exchange only identifies the specific properties listed in the proposed action. Therefore, consideration of any other properties for exchange falls outside of the scope of this decision and therefore such alternatives have been eliminated from further analysis.

2) *Exchange of preliminary sites considered by USDA Forest Service realty officials.*

These properties are outside of the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329 decision, and any alternative including these parcels was eliminated from further analysis.

3) *Title fee purchase of the Non-Federal parcel without the exchange of properties.*

This proposed land exchange is operating under legislation which directs an exchange of lands between two parties; the Forest Service and the non-federal private party. The legislation does not provide for the option of purchasing the Non-Federal parcel in title fee.

### 2.1.4 Comparison of Alternatives

The following table provides a summary comparison of the alternatives carried forward for detailed analysis in this Environmental Assessment.

Table 1. Alternative Comparison Matrix

Parcel/Element	Alternative A—No Action	Alternative B—Proposed Action
<b>Exchange Parcel Ownership</b>		
Corner Canyon	This parcel would remain in Federal ownership.	Ownership of this parcel would be transferred to a private party in exchange for Federal acquisition of the Non-Federal parcel.
Long Hollow–Provo Canyon	This parcel would remain in Federal ownership.	Ownership of this parcel would be transferred to a private party in exchange for Federal acquisition of the Non-Federal parcel.
Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office	This parcel would remain in Federal ownership.	Ownership of this parcel would be transferred to a private party in exchange for Federal acquisition of the Non-Federal parcel.
Springville	This parcel would remain in Federal ownership.	Ownership of this parcel would be transferred to a private party in exchange for Federal acquisition of the Non-Federal parcel.
Beaver Administrative Site	This parcel would remain in Federal ownership.	Ownership of this parcel would be transferred to a private party in exchange for Federal acquisition of the Non-Federal parcel.
Provo Sign and Radio Shop	This parcel would remain in Federal ownership.	Ownership of this parcel would be transferred to a private party in exchange for Federal acquisition of the Non-Federal parcel.
Non-Federal	This parcel would remain in private ownership.	This parcel would be acquired by the Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Uinta National Forest in exchange for up to six federally owned parcels.
<b>Critical Element or Issue</b>		
Cultural Resources	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to cultural resources associated with this alternative.	<p>There would be a loss of two cultural resources associated with this alternative on the Provo Sign and Radio Shop and Springville parcels. These are the Provo Warehouse and the Little Rock Canyon Water Diversion System. Measures have been identified to mitigate this loss, resulting in no significant impact to cultural resources.</p> <p>There are no cumulative effects on cultural and historical resources within the parcels associated with this alternative.</p>
Vegetation	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to vegetation associated with this alternative.	<p>There would be some loss of native wildland vegetation associated with this alternative, specifically on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon, Springville, and Corner Canyon parcels. Approximately 265 acres of sagebrush/grass and/or oak/maple vegetation would be taken out of federal ownership. However, this is not considered a significant impact and no mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>There are no cumulative effects on vegetation within the parcels associated with this alternative.</p>

Parcel/Element	Alternative A—No Action	Alternative B—Proposed Action
Wildlife	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to wildlife or wildlife habitat associated with this alternative.	<p>There would be some loss of wildlife habitat associated with this alternative, specifically on the Springville and Corner Canyon parcels. These parcels are situated adjacent to existing residential developments and therefore have a higher potential for eventual development. Although the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is the largest intact parcel and also contains important wildlife habitat, it is not likely that this land would be developed to the extent that would eliminate its value as habitat.</p> <p>Between the Springville, Corner Canyon, and Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcels, approximately 228 acres of high use winter deer and elk range would be transferred out of federal ownership, and approximately 27 acres of critical winter range would similarly be lost. However, this is not considered a significant impact and no mitigation measure are needed.</p> <p>There are no cumulative effects on wildlife or habitat within the parcels associated with this alternative.</p>
Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Forest Service Sensitive Species	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service sensitive species associated with this alternative.	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service sensitive species associated with this alternative.
Wetlands, Floodplains, and Riparian Areas	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains associated with this alternative.	There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains associated with this alternative.

Parcel/Element	Alternative A—No Action	Alternative B—Proposed Action
Scenic Quality	<p>There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to scenic quality on the Federally-owned parcels associated with this alternative.</p> <p>It is likely that the Non-Federal parcel would be developed under this alternative. The future development would likely be in a style and density consistent with adjacent land uses. Since this parcel is currently undeveloped, there would be a loss of scenic quality associated with development of this parcel</p>	<p>There will be no adverse impacts to scenic quality on the Non-Federal parcel. Federal ownership and development of this parcel would most likely be an improvement to the scenic quality of the property. Development of this parcel would be less intense under Federal ownership than likely under private ownership, and would therefore maintain a higher scenic value.</p> <p>There would be some loss of scenic quality on the Corner Canyon and Springville parcels as they would likely be developed under private ownership. Development would be subject to local zoning codes and would likely be consistent with adjacent land uses in both density and type of development.</p> <p>The scenic quality of the Beaver Administrative, Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office, and the Provo Sign and Radio shop parcels would not be affected by this alternative. It is not likely that there would be any significant land use changes to these parcels. Likewise, it is not likely that there would be a significant land use change to the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel under private ownership, and therefore the scenic quality of the parcel would be maintained and not adversely affected.</p> <p>There would be no significant adverse cumulative effects on scenic quality under this alternative.</p>
Recreation Values	<p>There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to recreation values associated with this alternative.</p>	<p>There would be some loss of recreational opportunities associated with this alternative, specifically on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon, Springville, and Corner Canyon parcels. If this alternative is selected, access and public use of these parcels may be limited or prohibited.</p> <p>OHV use is occurring illegally on some parcels, and the loss of this use is not considered to be an adverse impact. Loss of recreational opportunities on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is negligible, and no mitigation measures are necessary. There would be no significant impact to recreation values on the exchanged parcels.</p> <p>There are no cumulative effects on recreation values within the parcels associated with this alternative.</p>

<b>Parcel/Element</b>	<b>Alternative A—No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B—Proposed Action</b>
Conformance with the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329	This alternative is not in conformance with the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329, and does not meet the Purpose and Need.	This alternative is in conformance with the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329, and does meet the Purpose and Need.

## 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section describes the resources which may be impacted by implementing the proposed action, and describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized first by issue, and then by resource. Within each section, the affected environment is described first, followed by the effects of the No Action Alternative, which provides a baseline for evaluation and comparison with the proposed action.

The issues which were identified in scoping that may be affected are brought forward for detailed analysis in this chapter. The ID Team discussed the impacts of the proposed action on the critical elements of the human environment. If it was determined that the proposed action may impact a critical element, the element was carried forward for detailed analysis in this chapter

### 3.1 General Setting

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The proposed action includes seven parcels located within the Uinta, Fishlake, and Wasatch-Cache National Forests in Utah. The seven exchange parcels all fall within different settings ranging from developed city lots to relatively pristine forest.

#### 3.1.1 Corner Canyon

The Corner Canyon property is located on the Salt Lake Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. It is located approximately three miles southeast of Draper, Utah. It is bordered on the east by the Draper-Alpine (Corner Canyon) road. The Salt Lake City Aqueduct runs through the property from south to north. The parcel is bounded on the North and the West by residential subdivision developed lands. The property is situated at an elevation ranging from approximately 4640 feet to 5040 feet. The parcel is moderately steep. Cherry Canyon crosses through the parcel and runs water intermittently. There are known encroachments on this site from private landowners in the adjacent residential development. Vegetation on this site is primarily sagebrush and grasses, and this area is considered important winter range for deer and elk. There are no wetlands, seeps, or springs on this site, although a portion of the parcel is in a floodplain.

#### 3.1.2 Long Hollow–Provo Canyon

The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is located in Provo Canyon on US Highway 189 approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Deer Creek Reservoir. The property is situated at an elevation ranging from approximately 5200 feet to 6100 feet. The parcel is relatively flat on top with a steep bluff facing southeast rising above the Provo River. There are no buildings on the land, but there are several two-track roads that originate on adjacent private lands. US Highway 189 cuts through the property in two different locations, and a power line also crosses the property.

The majority of this site cannot be seen from any public travel corridor or common viewpoint. This site is relatively difficult to access and is primarily visited by hunters and hikers. A corner of the parcel drops down a steep slope and extends into the Provo River. This corner includes a railroad right-of-way, and the floodplain area along the Provo River has been altered due to the railroad tracks that were constructed there. US Highway 189 follows Provo Canyon and transects this same corner of the parcel. This highway is in need of realignment to address landslide hazards and increased traffic. An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the proposed realignment, and a Record of Decision approves construction. The realignment would shift the highway's current right-of-way farther upslope on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel.

Vegetation on this site contains both sagebrush and grass communities, as well as maple and oak brush forest. This parcel provides habitat for a number of species including big game, neotropical migratory birds, and small mammals. There are no wetlands, seeps, or springs on this site, although a portion of the parcel is in the Long Hollow drainage. There is riparian vegetation along the Provo River. Additionally, water occasionally collects behind an earthen dam.

### **3.1.3 Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office**

The Pleasant Grove District Office parcel is located in a residential area of Pleasant Grove, Utah. This site is fully developed and no native vegetation remains on this parcel. It currently provides no habitat for wildlife, and there are no water resources on the site. There are a number of structures on this site: a 2304 sq. foot building which houses the Pleasant Grove Ranger District offices, a warehouse used for office space and storage, a storage shed, a corral for temporary horse holding, and two parking areas.

### **3.1.4 Provo Sign and Radio Shop**

The Provo Sign and Radio Shop is located in a commercial area of Provo, Utah. There is one building on this site which is currently used as a warehouse and limited office space. There is also a parking lot on this parcel. The property lies in the middle of a city block with no frontage on main arterials. Access to the site is via an alleyway. This site is fully developed and no native vegetation remains on this parcel. It currently provides no habitat for wildlife, and there are no water resources on the site.

### **3.1.5 Springville**

The Springville parcel is located outside and adjacent to the proclaimed National Forest boundary and is bordered by housing development on the west and south borders. The Uinta National Forest boundary is the property's northern and eastern boundary. The parcel is located behind the Spring Hills subdivision in Springville City, Utah. It is located a mile south of Provo City and lies in an area that is in high demand for residential development. There are also a number of known encroachments by the owners of the lots in the neighboring subdivision and from utility companies. The property is relatively flat with an approximate 4600 foot elevation. There are no buildings on the land, although the parcel has a berm, catch basin, and floodwater canal on it, all constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Vegetation on this site is primarily sagebrush and grasses, and this area is considered important winter range for deer and elk. There are no wetlands, seeps, or springs on this site, although a portion of the parcel is in a floodplain.

### **3.1.6 Beaver Administrative Site**

The Beaver Administrative parcel is located in a residential area in Beaver, Utah. There is a home on the parcel which is used sporadically as a residence for employees of the Fishlake National Forest. This site is fully developed and no native vegetation remains on this parcel. It currently provides no habitat for wildlife, and there are no water resources on the site.

### **3.1.7 Non-Federal**

The Non-Federal parcel is a piece of vacant land situated near the mouth of American Fork Canyon in the northeastern part of Highland City, Utah. The site is relatively flat with elevation ranging from 4920 feet to 4980 feet. The parcel includes both developable land on the north bench and floodplain along the American Fork River drainage. There are no wetlands, seeps, or springs on this site.

The property is adjacent to the south side of US Highway 92. The property is made up of two parcels separated by a 125 foot strip of land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and leased to the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City. There are three ditch easements across the land from east to west and two power easements from north to south. An electrical line borders the northern boundary of the property. Vegetation on this site is representative of disturbed areas, although some riparian vegetation exists along two parallel canals and the American Fork River drainage.

## **3.2 Issue 1: The extent to which the proposed land exchange may affect cultural resources**

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Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect cultural resources located within or adjacent to the parcels associated with the exchange.

### **3.2.1 Cultural and Historical Resources—Affected Environment**

Eight European-American archaeological or historical sites are located on parcels of land involved in the proposed exchange. Seven of these sites were documented by this project and evaluated for eligibility for the National Register. These sites are 42SL341; 42WA146, 147, and 148; 42UT1317 and 1318; and the Little Rock Canyon Water Diversion System, which is located on the Springville parcel. One site, the Provo Warehouse, located on the Provo Sign and Radio Shop Parcel, was previously recorded but its historic building form was updated and its National Register eligibility re-evaluated as part of this analysis. Two building complexes (the Pleasant Grove District Ranger Office and the Beaver Administrative Site) were found to be 41 years old or less, and are therefore not sufficiently old to be considered for the National Register. They were not documented as part of this analysis.

All six of the archaeological sites found on potential land exchange parcels are Not Eligible for the National Register. 42SL341 and 42UT1318 are primarily trash scatters that do not have the potential to yield additional information. 42UT1317 is a larger complex of collapsed buildings or foundations with associated domestic artifacts. However, it also does not have sufficient age to qualify for the National Register. Site 42WA146 is an earthen dam created to water livestock, and does not have architectural merit. 42WA147 and 148 are livestock grazer's camps and/or corrals that do not have the potential to yield additional information about their use. None of the six archaeological sites can be associated with important persons or events.

On the other hand, the two historical sites are associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps: the Provo Warehouse, and the Little Rock Canyon Water Diversion Dam. They are important representations of the work that this program accomplished in Utah Valley. The Provo Warehouse and Little Rock Canyon Diversion Dam were both built in 1935 by men from the Hobble Creek Camp, and both retain their historic character. Both of these sites are Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

### 3.2.2 Cultural and Historical Resources—Environmental Consequences

#### Alternative A- No Action

##### Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no direct or indirect effects on cultural resources. Cultural resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

##### Cumulative Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no cumulative effects on cultural resources. Cultural resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

#### Alternative B- Proposed Action

##### Direct and Indirect Effects

The Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange has the potential to adversely affect both of the National Register Eligible sites involved in the project. None of the current regulations that protect its historic character would continue to function if the Provo Warehouse leaves federal management. It would therefore be subject to alteration or demolition. Provo City does have a Landmarks program which seeks to protect buildings considered important to the historic character of the city; however, the Provo Warehouse building is not part of the city's Landmarks program.

A little less than half of the Little Rock Canyon Water Diversion System is being considered for exchange on this project. This portion includes most of the lower diversion dam and its spillway, part of the diversion canal currently under Forest Service management, and part of the lower diversion dam debris basin. The other half of the system (the upper diversion dam and spillway and its entire debris basin) would continue to be managed by the Uinta National Forest. The area is currently considered a floodplain and this would likely preclude any kind of residential or commercial development on the half which might enter private ownership. However, this kind of protection against alteration cannot be guaranteed under current Utah County or Springville City zoning. As a result, the land exchange would adversely affect the long-term historic integrity of the overall Water Diversion System if half of it went into private ownership with the exchange of the Springville parcel.

##### Cumulative Effects

There are no cumulative effects on cultural and historical resources within the parcels associated with this alternative.

##### Mitigation

If the final land exchange includes either the Provo Sign and Radio Shop or the Springville parcels, then the proposal would have an adverse effect on their associated historic properties. Resolution of the adverse effects would be formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement between the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Uinta National Forest, and the Timpanogos Cave National Monument. Since both of the adversely affected sites were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, mitigation measures designed to preserve and celebrate CCC history in Utah Valley are appropriate ways of making up for the potential loss of these sites. These mitigation measures could include:

- 1) A complete Intensive Level Inventory Form for each site;
- 2) Complete sets of black and white archival quality 35 mm photos of each site;
- 3) Interpretation of the Civilian Conservation Corps at the new Timpanogos Interagency Visitor's Center; and
- 4) Submission of this new information, plus all existing Uinta National Forest photos and historical information on the CCC to the Utah State Historical Society for inclusion on their website and project database on the CCC.

A significant amount of past research on the CCC has been done on the Uinta National Forest, but none of this existing information is available for the general researcher. The new Utah State Historical Society website provides an opportunity to make that material available to researchers, former CCC participants, and their families.

#### Monitoring

No monitoring would be required for these sites if adverse impacts are mitigated as described above.

### **3.3 Issue 2: The extent to which the proposed land exchange may affect natural and biological resources**

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Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect natural resources located within or adjacent to the parcels associated with the exchange. These may include:
  - Vegetative cover
  - Wildlife and wildlife habitat
  - Federally listed threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service listed sensitive species
  - Riparian and wetland areas

#### **3.3.1 Vegetation—Affected Environment**

##### **Corner Canyon, Springville, and Non-Federal Parcels**

Three of the proposed land exchange parcels (Springville, Corner Canyon, and Non-Federal) are located on the west-side foothills of the Wasatch Mountains between 4,640 to 5,040 feet elevation. Sagebrush is the dominant vegetation in these three parcels, which also contain sparse patches of small trees. Like most of the Wasatch Front, exotic weeds have been present for years or are threatening to invade. Such exotic species include cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*), jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrical*), and bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*). These grasses are found abundantly in at least one of the proposed parcels. Musk thistle (*Caduus nutans*), dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*), and houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) are also common. Dalmatian toadflax and musk thistle have been listed as noxious weeds by the State of Utah and houndstongue has been listed as a noxious weed by Wasatch County (Merritt et al. 2000). These species have been recognized as highly invasive; and in the case of grasses, they provide a mass of dry, fine fuels, which burns readily (Westbrooks, 1998).

Crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) and intermediate wheatgrass (*Agropyron intermedium*), among other grasses, are also common and provide forage to big game through the early spring and summer. The non-federal parcel also contains a riparian vegetation zone along two entrenched water channels that run east west through the property. This riparian zone contains well-established native trees, shrubs, forbs and herbaceous vegetation. Water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), alder (*Alnus incana*), river hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), cliffrose (*Cowania mexicana*), and false hellebore (*Verarum californicum*) are among the species found there.

### **Long Hollow–Provo Canyon**

The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is located in Provo Canyon, between 5,236 to 6,200 feet elevation. Two main vegetation types dominate the landscape; a meadow located in the center of the parcel and mountain brush (oak-maple) forest bordering it. Species found in the meadow include big sagebrush and grasses like Sandberg’s bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) and intermediate wheatgrass (*Agropyron intermedium*), which provide forage to big game through the early spring and summer. Weeds such as musk thistle (*Caduus nutans*), dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) are also abundant. These weeds are also observed along the two-track road that connects the parcel to Highway 189 through a private summer home development. At the northern side, small patches of quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) connect the meadow with the mountain brush community. The southeast boundary contains a closed canopy mountain brush (oak-maple) forest with a few conifers established on slopes steeper than 20%. River hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and true mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) are among the species found on those slopes. No rock outcrops were observed within this parcel.

Two portions of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel intersect with or border the Provo River. The two sites were surveyed for potential habitat for Ute Ladies-tresses orchid and dainty moonwort.

Both of the corners of land are on cutbank sides of the river’s meanders. They are densely forested with a mix of riparian trees and shrubs, notably narrow-leaf cottonwood, box elder, bigtooth maple, red-osier dogwood and a variety of willow species. Neither site has a wet meadow community along the river nor inland, though scattered grasses and forbs occur. The two sites contain neither the gravel bar substrate preferred by the orchid, or saturated organic soil preferred by the moonwort.

### **Beaver Administrative, Provo Sign and Radio Shop, and Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office Parcels**

These three parcels are all fully developed properties in urbanized areas. Vegetation on these sites is entirely urban landscape vegetation. No native vegetative communities exist on these parcels.

## **3.3.2 Vegetation—Environmental Consequences**

### **Alternative A- No Action**

#### Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no direct or indirect effects on vegetation and soils. Vegetation and soil resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

### Cumulative Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no cumulative effects on vegetation and soils. Vegetation and soil resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

## **Alternative B- Proposed Action**

### Direct and Indirect Effects

A direct effect of the proposed action is the loss to private ownership of approximately 28 acres of federal land made up of sagebrush-grassland in the Wasatch Front west side (20 of which belongs to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest), and approximately 56 acres of sagebrush-grassland and 181 acres of mountain brush contained in Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel at Provo Canyon. An assessment of properly functioning condition at a sub-regional scale indicates that mountain brush risk for loss of properly functioning condition (PFC) is low, however in some places this community is becoming decadent because of fire suppression, and would likely become more decadent as fires continue to be suppressed (USDA 1998). Sagebrush risk for loss of PFC at lower elevation is relatively high, especially on foothills adjacent to urban areas (USDA 1998). Heavy big game use and invasion by cheatgrass and other annuals have increased the frequency of fire and have resulted in a dramatic reduction of sagebrush in some areas of Wasatch Front west-side foothills. This assessment also applies to the existing condition of the proposed parcels' vegetation.

If the private owner maintains current land use in the proposed land exchange parcels, the vegetation would maintain its existing condition and there would be no direct or indirect effects as a consequence of this action. If there is a change of land use, this analysis assumes that on subsequent activities the owner would comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations.

Based on current trends, however, it could be expected that Springville and Corner Canyon parcels would eventually be incorporated into the urban development of Salt Lake and Utah Counties. In such case, a direct effect on vegetation would be the removal of sagebrush, eliminating some of the already limiting big game winter habitat available in the Wasatch Front west side foothills. Regarding the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel, information given by the potential owner indicates that, if any, small construction may be carried out. This could include a small building and a connecting road, which would imply removal of some mountain brush and sagebrush-grassland. This may have an effect on habitat quality that these communities offer to wildlife; on one hand the removal of vegetation would break mountain brush canopy continuity, on the other hand road construction would open a venue for weeds dispersal and increased human presence.

The Non-Federal property's disturbed sagebrush would be removed as a consequence of this land exchange. However, the value of riparian vegetation would be maintained and probably improved as a consequence of landscape activities.

### Cumulative Effects

If land exchange parcels are not incorporated into urban development, cumulative effects from the proposed action would be directly related to on-going human impacts such as uncontrolled use of off-road vehicles (OHV) and bikes (Springville and Corner Canyon), weed invasion, mountain brush decadence, and potential for wildfire on sagebrush and mountain brush. In the long-term these impacts may negatively affect the resilience of the native vegetation and its capability to provide to wildlife. The proposed action could also lead to land-use change, contributing to the on-going process of sagebrush loss to urban growth, forest fragmentation, and creation of favorable conditions for weed dispersal. However, drastic changes in vegetation are not expected as a consequence of the proposed land exchange in a foreseeable future.

### Mitigation

No mitigation measures are necessary. There are no significant impacts to vegetation under the proposed alternative.

### Monitoring

No monitoring of impacts to vegetation is necessary since there would be no significant impacts.

## **3.3.3 Wildlife—Affected Environment**

Data for MIS (Management Indicator Species) was gathered using information collected by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and Forest Service personnel. A site visit to the land exchange parcels was conducted for potential habitat for MIS animal and plant species. These species are discussed as they pertain to the proposed land exchange project.

### **Corner Canyon**

Corner Canyon is located on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Housing developments are located on the north, south and west sides. The parcel receives a large amount of disturbance from recreational uses. It is mainly a sagebrush/grassland community with few trees located within it. This area is considered critical use deer winter range by the UDWR. There are no permanent rivers or streams that flow through the parcel. Neotropical migratory birds use the area for breeding, nesting, and foraging. Species found in this type of habitat are:

- California quail
- Broad-tailed hummingbirds
- Lazuli bunting
- Rufous-sided towhee
- Western meadowlark
- Virginia's warbler
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Northern oriole
- Black-billed magpie
- European starling
- Brown-headed cowbird

### **Long Hollow—Provo Canyon**

The Long Hollow—Provo Canyon exchange parcel has an oak/maple forest, sagebrush/grassland meadow, and aspens and conifers lining the edge of the area. Two corners of the parcel extend down and include some riparian vegetation by the Provo River. Weed species such as musk thistle and dalmatian toadflax inhabit much of the meadow. A small pond, with periodic water, is located within the meadow, and a two-track road allows access into this area. Private houses are located to the east of the parcel. During a survey of the area a large amount of elk sign was observed. The UDWR has designated the Long Hollow—Provo Canyon parcel and surrounding lands as high use winter range for elk and deer. Neotropical migratory birds utilize the area for breeding, nesting, and foraging. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats are known to use Provo Canyon as winter range, however, the Long Hollow—Provo Canyon parcel has not been designated as bighorn sheep or

mountain goat habitat. The Provo River flows through the parcel and is a prime trout fishery (primarily brown trout). However, the parcel contains less than  $\frac{1}{10}$  acre of the Provo River.

Bridal Veil Falls has the same habitat type as the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon land exchange parcel: oak/maple forest, sagebrush/grassland meadow, aspen, and conifers. Forest Service neotropical migratory bird surveys at Bridal Veil Falls indicate some of the species found in this habitat type are:

- Steller’s jay
- black-capped chickadee
- mountain chickadee
- red-breasted nuthatch
- Swainson’s thrush
- hermit thrush
- black-headed grosbeak
- warbling vireo
- solitary vireo
- green tailed towhee
- rufous sided towhee
- western tanager
- chipping sparrow
- dark eyed junco
- Cassin finch
- pine siskin
- red-tailed hawk
- wild turkey
- broad-tailed hummingbird
- Hammond’s flycatcher
- Duskey flycatcher
- western wood-peewee
- northern flicker

### Springville

The Springville exchange parcel is located right behind a housing development that borders it on the west and south sides. A debris basin is located to the east and a canal is to the west of the parcel. There are roads that allow access into this area; OHVs, bike riders, and hikers use it extensively. No permanent or intermittent rivers or streams flow through the parcel. The Springville parcel is mostly sagebrush/grassland habitat with few trees. This parcel is considered critical use deer winter range by the UDWR. Neotropical birds may use the sagebrush habitat for breeding, nesting and foraging. The Uinta National Forest has a big game winter range study plot within the Springville parcel, which was read in 2002.

Forest Service neotropical migratory bird surveys are completed on the Forest every five years. Timpanogos Cave #1 was surveyed in 1994 and 1999. It is in the same habitat type as Springville and Corner Canyon land exchange parcels, sagebrush/grassland. Some of the species found in this habitat type are:

- California quail
- broad-tailed hummingbirds
- lazuli bunting
- rufous-sided towhee
- western meadowlark
- Virginia’s warbler
- blue-gray gnatcatcher
- northern oriole
- black-billed magpie
- European starling
- brown-headed cowbird
- 

### Non-Federal

The non-federal parcel consists of decadent and dead sagebrush interspersed with weeds and grasses. There is a riparian corridor with cottonwoods, willows and small shrubs that runs east/west on the north side of the parcel, and some riparian vegetation along two parallel canals which cut through the parcel. Neotropical migratory birds use the riparian area for breeding, nesting, and foraging, even though the area receives a large amount of disturbance from recreational uses.

The non-federal land exchange parcel vegetation types (oak/maple forest, sagebrush/grassland meadow, and aspens and conifers) would have habitat for riparian dependent species such as yellow warbler, orange-crowned warbler, MacGillivray’s warbler and Cordilleran flycatcher. Other species found in this habitat include:

- Steller’s jay
- black-capped chickadee
- mountain chickadee
- red-breasted nuthatch
- Swainson’s thrush
- hermit thrush
- black-headed grosbeak
- warbling vireo
- solitary vireo
- green tailed towhee
- rufous sided towhee
- western tanager
- chipping sparrow
- dark eyed junco
- Cassin finch
- pine siskin
- red-tailed hawk
- wild turkey
- broad-tailed hummingbird
- Hammond’s flycatcher
- Duskey flycatcher
- western wood-peewee
- northern flicker

**Beaver Administrative, Provo Sign and Radio Shop, and Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office Parcels**

These three parcels are all fully developed properties in urbanized areas and do not provide wildlife habitat.

**Table 2. Management Indicator Species (MIS) for the Uinta, Wasatch-Cache, and Fishlake National Forests**

W-C: MIS belonging to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (Land Management Plan 2003)  
 U: MIS belonging to the Uinta National Forest (Land Management Plan 2003)  
 F: MIS belonging to the Fishlake National Forest (Land Management Plan 2002)

	<b>SPECIES Common name (Scientific name)</b>	<b>SUITABLE HABITAT IN THE PROJECT AREA</b>	<b>SUITABLE HABITAT IN THE ANALYSIS AREA</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION/HABITAT ASSOCIATION</b>
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
W-C, U	Beaver ( <i>Castor canadensis</i> )	N	Y	Riparian and wetlands
W-C	Snowshoe hare ( <i>Lepus americanus</i> )	N	N	Pole/Sapling Aspen, Conifer, and Mixed Conifer
F	Mule Deer ( <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> )	N	N	Grass/forb, sagebrush, mountain brush, pinon/juniper, sapling or mature aspen or conifer
F	Elk ( <i>Cervus canadensis</i> )	N	N	Grass/forb, sapling/mature aspen, sapling/old growth conifer
<b>BIRDS</b>				
W-C, U, F	Goshawk ( <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> )	Y	Y	Old growth and mature Douglas fir, mixed conifer, and aspen
U	Three-toed woodpecker ( <i>Picoides tridactylus</i> )	N	N	Snags, old growth, or decadent conifer and aspen

	<b>SPECIES</b> Common name ( <i>Scientific name</i> )	<b>SUITABLE</b> <b>HABITAT</b> <b>IN THE</b> <b>PROJECT</b> <b>AREA</b>	<b>SUITABLE</b> <b>HABITAT IN</b> <b>THE</b> <b>ANALYSIS</b> <b>AREA</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION/HABITAT</b> <b>ASSOCIATION</b>
F	Hairy woodpecker ( <i>Picoides villosus</i> )	N	N	Cavity Nester – Snags, dead standing trees
F	Western bluebird ( <i>Sialia mexicana</i> )	N	N	Cavity Nester – Snags, dead standing trees
F	Mountain bluebird ( <i>Sialia currucoides</i> )	N	N	Cavity Nester – Snags, dead standing trees
F	Lincoln's Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza lincolni</i> )	N	N	Riparian communities
F	Song Sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia</i> )	N	N	Riparian communities
F	Yellow Warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> )	N	N	Riparian communities
F	Brewer's Sparrow ( <i>Spizella breweri</i> )	N	N	Sage Nester – Mature sage
F	Vesper Sparrow ( <i>Poaeetes gramineus</i> )	N	N	Sage Nester – Mature sage
<b>AQUATICS</b>				
W-C, U, F	Bonneville cutthroat trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i> <i>utah</i> )	Y	Y	Aquatic
W-C, U	Colorado cutthroat trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i> <i>pleuriticus</i> )	N	N	Aquatic
F	Brown trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )	N	N	Aquatic
F	Brook trout ( <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> )	N	N	Aquatic
F	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	N	N	Aquatic
F	Lake trout ( <i>Salvelinus namaycush</i> )	N	N	Aquatic
F	Cutthroat trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i> )	N	N	Aquatic
F	Microvertebrates	N	N	Aquatic
<b>PLANTS</b>				
F	Rydberg's Milkvetch ( <i>Astragalus perianus</i> )	N	N	Harsh sites at upper elevations, openings in mixed aspen, fir, and conifer. Also found on igneous intrusive gravels

### 3.3.4 Wildlife—Environmental Consequences

#### Alternative A- No Action

##### Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no direct or indirect effects on wildlife resources. Wildlife resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

### Cumulative Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no cumulative effects on wildlife resources. Wildlife resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

## **Alternative B- Proposed Action**

### Direct and Indirect Effects

#### *Corner Canyon*

Corner Canyon is located near a housing development. There would be no direct effects such as loss of individuals, fawning or calving areas. There would be direct effects to deer winter range and neotropical migratory bird habitat. There is a chance that houses would be built on the parcel; however, steep slopes and the presence of the Wasatch Fault significantly limit housing and other development potential. If development occurs, some of the approximately 20 acres of critical use deer winter range would be lost. Urban encroachment into this specific winter range habitat has already caused the deer population to decrease along the Wasatch Front (UDWR). Neotropical migratory bird habitat could potentially be replaced by artificial means, (birdhouses, bird feeders, and bird baths) which would benefit the species. Planting of more trees and shrubs in an urban setting would increase nesting habitat for certain bird species in the long term. There is no habitat for Wasatch-Cache management indicator species on this parcel. The proposed project would not have any effect on the population trends for those species.

#### *Springville*

Springville is located behind a housing development. There would be no direct effects such as loss of individuals, fawning or calving areas. There would be direct effects to approximately seven acres of deer winter range and neotropical migratory bird habitat would no longer be under the ownership and management of the Uinta National Forest. If Springville City becomes an owner of the property, it may put a ballpark within this area or the area could remain intact and be available for use by deer, migrant birds, and other wildlife species. There is no habitat for Uinta management indicator species on this parcel. The proposed project would not have any effect on the population trends for those species.

#### *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon*

Long Hollow is surrounded by private land with little development. There would be no direct effects such as loss of individuals, fawning or calving areas. Direct effects include a potential loss of elk and deer winter areas and disturbance to neotropical migratory birds. The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is designated high winter range for elk and deer by the UDWR. The development of this parcel would cause disturbance to animals wintering here and reduce wintering habitat in this area. Provo Canyon, the Wasatch Front, the North Fork and South Fork Canyons are all designated high or critical winter range for both elk and deer. There are other meadows in close proximity to the parcel, but they are smaller and contain no ponds. The herd that is using this meadow as a wintering place may lose winter habitat if development takes place. Human disturbance to nesting and breeding birds and their habitat may increase depending on seasonal use and amount of visitors. A Utah open space properties group would be taking ownership of this parcel. It is understood that they have no intention of developing this parcel, and intend to maintain it as open space.

The Uinta National Forest has potential habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout and northern goshawk on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon land exchange parcel. There were no goshawks sighted in the parcel but there is potential habitat. Purer Bonneville cutthroat are known in the upper reaches of the Provo River above Jordonelle Dam. Jordonelle and Deer Creek may hinder Bonnevilles from using the Lower Provo River. No pure Bonnevilles have been found here. Beavers use the South Fork of the Provo River, are not known to use the Provo River through the project area. There is no potential habitat for three-toed woodpeckers or other MIS species on this parcel. Management of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is not expected to change. The proposed project would not have any effects on the population trend of these species.

#### *Non-Federal Parcel*

The Non-Federal parcel is located on a disturbed area, however it contains a riparian zone that provides habitat for neotropical and resident birds. There would be no direct effects to neotropical birds such as loss of individuals or nests as removal of riparian vegetation would not take place until after breeding bird season, which lasts from early April until late August. This would displace birds that use this year to different riparian areas. Indirect effects include removal of 60 feet of vegetation from the riparian zone. There would be landscaping which would contribute to the improvement of habitat for birds utilizing the parcel. A planned trail would help educate the public on different habitat types and what species uses them. There is no habitat for Uinta management indicator species on this parcel. The proposed project would not have any effects on the population trend for those species.

#### *Beaver Administrative*

There is no habitat for Fishlake management indicator species on this parcel. The proposed project would not have any effects on the population trend for those species.

### Cumulative Effects

#### *Corner Canyon and Springville*

Urban development would continue in Utah and Salt Lake Counties. This would potentially increase recreation activities such as hiking, mountain biking, and OHV riding in and around the parcel. The Wasatch Front deer winter range has declined from Payson, Utah, to Salt Lake City, Utah, an area of about 60 miles causing deer to travel further away to find winter forage in urban settings increasing deer fatalities by vehicles. The proposed project would not have any effects on the population trends for MIS species.

#### *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon*

Livestock grazing has been eliminated from the area, eliminating competition with wildlife species. Vegetation changes may occur with a change in ownership. Management responsibility would be transferred to the private landowner, and current management practices may not be continued. Human disturbance to wintering elk and deer or wildlife may increase, and some wildlife may avoid the area altogether. Disturbance to nesting birds and habitat from recreation activities may also increase. There also could be a decrease in recreational activities because of private ownership, which may offer increased protection for wildlife and vegetation. The proposed project would not have any effects on the population trends for MIS species.

#### *Non-Federal*

There is a housing development to the west and south sides and one being constructed to the southeast, which may already preclude deer from using the area. Development will continue throughout Utah County, decreasing already limited winter habitat and causing deer to travel further away to find winter forage in urban settings and increasing deer fatalities by vehicles. The proposed project would not have any effects on the population trends for MIS species.

#### *Summary*

In summary, approximately 27 acres of critical deer winter range and 228 acres of high elk and deer winter range would be removed from Forest Service ownership if the land exchange occurs. All or a portion of the habitat may become unusable to wild ungulates and neotropical birds, displacing them to other areas of the Forest. The proposed project would not have any effects MIS species on or adjacent to any of the parcels considered for exchange.

#### Mitigation

No mitigation measures are necessary. There are no significant impacts to wildlife under the proposed alternative.

#### Monitoring

No monitoring of impacts to wildlife is necessary since there would be no significant impacts.

### **3.3.5 Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, or Sensitive Species—Affected Environment**

Data for threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service sensitive species was gathered using information collected by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and Forest Service personnel. A site visit to the land exchange parcels was conducted for potential habitat for threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service sensitive species animal and plant species. These species are discussed as they pertain to the proposed land exchange project.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threatened (T), endangered (E), candidate (C) species list was obtained for Utah and Salt Lake Counties. The most current list (July 2003) includes:

- Bald eagle (T) (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo (C) (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*)
- Clay phacelia (E) (*Phacelia argillacea*)
- Ute ladies'-tresses (T) (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)
- Deseret milkvetch (E) (*Astragalus deserticus*)
- Slender moonwort (C) (*Botrychium lineare*)
- Canada lynx (T) (*Lynx canadensis*)
- June sucker (E) (*Chasmistes liorus*)
- Utah valvata snail (E) (*Valvata utahensis*)

A complete survey was conducted to identify any potential or known habitat for threatened, endangered, or candidate species on the parcels considered for exchange under the proposed action. There is no suitable or potential habitat for any of these species with the exception of bald eagle and western yellow-billed cuckoo.

Similarly, a complete survey was conducted to identify any potential or know habitat for Forest Service sensitive species on the parcels considered for exchange. There is no suitable or

potential habitat for any Forest Service sensitive animal species with the exception of flammulated owl, northern goshawk, and spotted bat. Wasatch jamesia is the only sensitive plant species with potential habitat within the proposed exchange parcels.

### **Bald Eagle**

There are only four known nest site occurrences in Utah, none of which occur on the Uinta National Forest (UDNR, 1998). On the Uinta National Forest, wintering bald eagles are known to occur in American Fork Canyon, Provo Canyon, Diamond Fork Canyon, Salt Creek, the Vernon Management Area, as well as other areas across the Forest (FEIS, 2003). The species selects mature trees with well-developed canopies for roosting and perching. Its winter habitat is usually along lakes, streams, or rivers for feeding (Saxton, 1997). The riparian area is potential wintering habitat within the non-federal parcel.

### **Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

The western yellow-billed cuckoo is a candidate for listing on the Endangered Species List. This species requires large blocks (> 25 acres) of riparian habitat for nesting, particularly woodland areas with cottonwoods and willows (Federal Register 2001). This species has not been found on the Uinta or Wasatch-Cache National Forests. It has been seen along sections of the Provo and Spanish Fork Rivers, both of which are in close proximity to the Uinta National Forest (Webb 2001). There is potential marginal habitat located along the riparian corridor within the non-federal parcel.

### **Flammulated Owl**

Flammulated owl (*Otus flammeolus*) is listed as a Forest Service sensitive species for the Wasatch-Cache, Uinta, and Fishlake National Forests. This species prefers mixed pine forests and aspen and conifer habitats in Utah (USDA 1991a). There is potential habitat for this species on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcels.

### **Northern Goshawk**

Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*) is listed as a Forest Service sensitive species for the Wasatch-Cache, Uinta, and Fishlake National Forests. This species prefers closed canopy mature and old growth aspen and conifer habitats with an open understory (USDA 1999). The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel may provide potential habitat for this species.

### **Spotted Bat**

Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) occur in many different habitats. Cracks in limestone and sandstone between 1-2 inches wide are important roosting areas (USDA 1991a). This mammal is listed as a Forest Service sensitive species for the Wasatch-Cache, Uinta, and Fishlake National Forests. There is potential habitat for this species on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel.

### **Wasatch Jamesia**

Wasatch jamesia (*Jamesia americana* var. *macrocalyx*) is a Forest Service sensitive species for the Uinta National Forest. This species prefers rock crevices and cliffs on mountain brush and spruce-fir communities. At lower elevations, it occurs in protected, mainly north facing outcrops. (Welsh et al 1993). There is potential habitat for this species on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel.

### 3.3.6 Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, or Sensitive Species—Environmental Consequences

This section analyzes the environmental effects that the proposed action would have on animal and plant species listed as threatened, endangered, candidate, or Forest Service sensitive species. Those animal species that are known to have the potential to be found within one or more of the land exchange parcels include bald eagle (threatened), Western yellow-billed cuckoos (candidate), flammulated owl (sensitive), spotted bat (sensitive), and Northern goshawk (sensitive) as discussed above. Wasatch jamesia (sensitive) is the only threatened, endangered, candidate, or Forest Service sensitive plant species with potential habitat within the proposed exchange parcels.

#### Alternative A- No Action

##### Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no direct or indirect effects on threatened, endangered, candidate, or Forest Service sensitive species.

##### Cumulative Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no cumulative effects on threatened, endangered candidate, or Forest Service sensitive species.

#### Alternative B- Proposed Action

##### Direct and Indirect Effects

A total of 19 plant species were analyzed to evaluate the effect of this project on the Threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service sensitive plant species found in the Uinta, Wasatch-Cache, and Fishlake National Forests. Most of these plants occur under very specific environmental conditions and narrow habitats, making many of them endemic to specific locations.

Plants such as Smith violet, Logan buckwheat, Cronquist daisy, Maguire draba, Starveling milkvetch and Cache beartongue are endemic to limestone and dolomite substrates found on northern Utah. Mound cryptanth is found in Millard County, specifically on Sevey dolomite substrates. Rockcross draba and Garrett's bladderpod grow above timberline in gravelly substrates. Slender moonwort and Dainty moonwort are found in alpine marshes and wet meadows. Species such as Brownie ladyslipper, arctic poppy, and Uinta greenthread occur in the Uinta Mountains and Barneby woody aster has been found on rock outcrops at Mt. Nebo (Southern Wasatch Mts.). Other species with high endemism are Deseret milkvetch, found on soils of the Moroni formation; and Clay phacelia, found on Green River shale barrens. None of these species have potential habitat within the project area, because the proposed parcels are neither located within the natural distribution zone of these species nor on substrates with similar characteristics.

Field checkups were conducted in the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel to search for potential Wasatch jamesia habitat. However, the absence of rock outcrops and the presence of closed canopy vegetation indicate that there is no potential habitat for this species within the parcel boundaries. The lack of potential habitat for Wasatch jamesia indicates that there will be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on this species.

The lack of potential habitat for any of the threatened, endangered, candidate or any of the sensitive plant species mentioned above indicates that there will be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on these species.

A survey was conducted to evaluate the effect of this project on the Threatened, endangered, candidate, and Forest Service sensitive animal species found in the Uinta, Wasatch-Cache, and Fishlake National Forests.

#### *Non-Federal Parcel*

There would be no direct effects to bald eagles or western yellow-billed cuckoos, such as loss of individuals or nests. Indirect effects would occur to potential habitat. Building new entranceways into the non-federal site would affect potential winter habitat for bald eagles and potential breeding and nesting habitat for western yellow-billed cuckoos. Both species use riparian habitats consisting of cottonwood trees, willows and/or small shrubs. The project would reduce some of this potential habitat. Bald eagles are known to use the mouth of American Fork Canyon for winter roosting and foraging grounds. The parcel is located less than one half mile west of the Canyon entrance. Western yellow-billed cuckoos have not been found on the Uinta National Forest since 1942 (UNDR 1998), however it has been seen along the Provo 13 miles away and Spanish Fork Rivers 22 miles away from the project area (Webb 2001) in recent years. Human disturbance would continue to a greater degree, as employees and visitors would be coming and going all day.

#### *Springville and Corner Canyon*

There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to any threatened, endangered, candidate or Forest Service sensitive species due to lack of specific habitats and occurrences in these two parcels.

#### *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon*

There would be no direct effects to flammulated owls, spotted bats, peregrine falcon, and goshawk such as loss of individuals, nests, or primary roosting habitats. Indirect effects would occur to potential habitat for flammulated owls, spotted bats, peregrine falcons and goshawks. Flammulated owls and goshawks could use the aspen habitats that occur on the edge and outside the parcel for nesting and foraging for insects and small mammals. Spotted bats could use the parcel for foraging around the pond and roosting in the interspersed conifers. Peregrine falcons are known to nest near the mouth of Provo Canyon and could use the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel for a foraging area. The party gaining ownership of this parcel through the exchange intends on maintaining the parcel as open space which would continue to provide potential habitat for these species.

### Cumulative Effects

#### *Non-Federal*

There are housing developments to the west and south sides and one being constructed to the southeast, which may already preclude the species from using the area.

#### *Springville and Corner Canyon*

There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to any threatened, endangered, candidate or sensitive species due to lack of specific habitats and occurrences in these two parcels.

### *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon*

Livestock grazing has been removed from the area, reducing competition with small mammals that may be used as prey species by goshawks and peregrine falcons.

Human disturbance may increase in potential habitat for the flammulated owl, spotted bat, peregrine falcon, and goshawk.

#### Mitigation

No mitigation measures are necessary. There are no significant impacts to threatened, endangered, candidate, or Forest Service sensitive species under the proposed alternative.

#### Monitoring

No monitoring of impacts to threatened, endangered, candidate, or Forest Service sensitive species is necessary since there would be no significant impacts.

### **3.3.7 Wetlands, Riparian Zones, and Floodplains—Affected Environment**

Of the six National Forest System parcels, one has an intermittent stream feature, one has both intermittent stream features and a small portion of the Provo River, another has a non-functioning canal, while the other three parcels are developed properties containing buildings or structures with no floodplain/wetland features. The Non-Federal parcel contains the channel for the American Fork River with a wide floodplain. Three ditches (American Fork Canyon Ditch, the Lehi Ditch, and the Mitchell Ditch) run through the property as well. The American Fork River is diverted upstream of the parcel. The majority of the water is taken from the channel. There is a bypass channel that allows some water to pass through the Non-Federal parcel.

#### **Corner Canyon**

The Corner Canyon parcel is approximately 20 acres in size. About 1,100 feet of intermittent drainage (Cherry Canyon) flow through the parcel. Approximately 1,350 feet of the Salt Lake Aqueduct is buried through the parcel as well. Like many of the small drainages along the Wasatch Front, Cherry Canyon only flows during debris flows or large precipitation events. An estimated 0.2 acres of floodplain exist on the parcel. The channel is the floodplain. There is no indication of standing water or hydric soils in the Cherry Canyon floodplain, indicating that the floodplain is not a wetland area. No seeps or springs are present on the parcel.

#### **Long Hollow–Provo Canyon**

The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel is 237 acres in size. Long Hollow flows through the parcel, although no defined stream channel exists for Long Hollow. This is similar to Bear Hollow, the tributary that enters the Provo River opposite the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel on the south side of Provo Canyon, which does not have a defined channel either. A portion of the Provo River and floodplain with an area less than a tenth of an acre is contained within the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel as well.

The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel sits in a rain shadow zone. Average precipitation for the parcel is 18 inches per year with close to 80 percent occurring as snowfall. What precipitation does occur normally infiltrates into the ground before having the opportunity to run off. No geomorphic floodplain area or riparian vegetation exists on the parcel except for the less than one tenth acre area along the Provo River. The floodplain area along the Provo River has been altered due to the railroad tracks that were constructed there.

From field review, two structures have been constructed on the parcel. The eastern structure was holding very little water (15 feet wide by 1 foot deep) on June 11, 2001. According to Charmaine Thompson, Forest Archeologist, there was no water behind that structure in early September 2002. Currently, there is no livestock grazing on the parcel as directed by the 2003

Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Large game use water as evidenced by the hoof prints. No wetland vegetation is present around the structure indicating that the presence of water is limited to spring and isolated periods during other parts of the year. The State of Utah Water Rights database shows a Point of Diversion (POD) owned by Kerry Chipman. The Water Rights Number is 55-7816 and is said to be associated with a spring. In assessing the property, the only visible surface water was associated with the eastern structure. It is unclear whether Water Right Number 55-7816 is associated with this eastern structure.

The western structure does not hold water. It was constructed across the low point within the Long Hollow channel. There is the potential that it was constructed for erosion control. There is no evidence of water being stored behind this structure at all. Currently the site has sagebrush/grass vegetation. Sagebrush is highly intolerant of standing water or saturated soils; indicating no water is retained by this structure. The watershed, soils, and precipitation are not conducive for a stock water dam here.

Besides the Provo River, the only visible sign of water is associated with the eastern structure. No riparian vegetation is present anywhere on the upper portions of the parcel, indicating that wetlands, seeps, or springs are not present. WR Number 55-7816 is a water right claim for a spring. Unless a small underground spring that is not apparent to the eye exists which provides water to the eastern structure, no springs or seeps appear to be present. Riparian vegetation does exist in the small corners of the parcel which border or intersect the Provo River.

### **Springville**

The Springville parcel is approximately 7 acres in size. The Springville 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle shows no intermittent drainages flowing through the parcel. An old canal is present that no longer flows water. If this parcel is developed by the private landowner, this canal easement would be addressed at that time. A field review of this parcel on June 11, 2001 indicated that no defined stream channels exist. The land formed on the parcel was created by ancient debris flows as the site is the bottom of alluvial fans. Average precipitation for the parcel is 20 inches per year with close to 60 percent occurring as snowfall. The mapped alluvial fans are the only floodplain areas on the parcel. No wetlands, seeps, springs, or riparian vegetation are present on the parcel.

### **Non-Federal parcel**

The Non-Federal parcel is 37 acres in size. The Lehi 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle and a June 11, 2001 field visit indicate the American Fork River, Mitchell and American Fork Canyon Ditches flow through the parcel. The field review of this parcel on June 11, 2001 indicated that a large floodplain exists downstream of a constructed debris basin. The floodplain is on the Non-Federal parcel while the debris basin is not. The majority of the American Fork River is diverted upstream of the parcel. A limited amount of water is put in a bypass channel that flows through the Non-Federal parcel. Approximately 20 acres of the site sits in the floodplain.

The Mitchell and American Fork Canyon ditches run through the parcel to the north of the floodplain. Riparian vegetation is present on the fringes of the American Fork River floodplain and edges of the canals. The presence of riparian vegetation does not mean that wetlands are present. The floodplain of the American Fork River is not inundated as in the past. The river does not typically reach the floodplain due to diverted flows at the mouth of American Fork Canyon. With no flows, off-channel wetlands that may have existed through this stretch are no longer present. The canals have been constructed as trapezoidal channels. Fringe riparian vegetation has established along the banks of these canals. There are no areas of standing water and/or hydric soils, indicating the absence of wetlands along these canals. No seeps or springs are present on the parcel either.

### **Beaver Administrative, Provo Sign and Radio Shop, and Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office Parcels**

All three parcels are developed sites with administrative buildings present on them. No wetlands, floodplains, seeps or springs are present.

## **3.3.8 Wetlands, Riparian Zones, and Floodplains—Environmental Consequences**

### **Alternative A- No Action**

#### Direct and Indirect Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no direct or indirect effects on wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains. These resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

#### Cumulative Effects

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no cumulative effects on wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains. These resources would remain consistent with the current conditions described above.

## Alternative B- Proposed Action

### Direct and Indirect Effects

The proposed exchange is consistent with Executive Orders 11988, Floodplain Management, and 11990, Protection of Wetlands, regulations and Forest Service Manual direction. No wetlands, seep or springs are present on any of the parcels and no threats exist to people's lives or property from floodplains. There is riparian vegetation along the Provo River on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel, and also some riparian vegetation on the Non-Federal parcel. The proposed action would have no impact on this vegetation. There would be no direct or indirect effects to wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains associated with this alternative.

### Cumulative Effects

There would be no cumulative effects to wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains associated with this alternative.

### Mitigation

There would be no direct or indirect effects to wetlands, riparian zones, or floodplains associated with this alternative, therefore no mitigation is necessary. Improvements would be made to riparian vegetation on the Non-Federal parcel to be acquired under Federal management. Additionally, any riparian areas disturbed on the Non-Federal parcel would be restored and the sites revegetated.

### Monitoring

The Non-Federal site would be monitored to ensure that existing riparian vegetation is maintained and improved, and floodplains are maintained and managed. There are no wetlands present on this parcel, but the parcel would be monitored to identify and manage any new wetlands that may be created in the future.

## 3.4 Issue 3: The extent to which the proposed land exchange may affect visual and recreational resources \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect visual or scenic quality.
- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative may affect recreational resources.

### 3.4.1 Scenic Quality Criteria—Affected Environment

All proposed land parcels were visited to identify any potential scenic values which might be affected by the land exchange. The Pleasant Grover Ranger District Office, the Provo Sign and Radio Shop, and the Beaver Administrative site are all located in urbanized and fully developed areas, and have scenic qualities consistent with that of other urbanized areas. The other parcels are located in more natural settings and have varying levels of scenic quality that are discussed below.

#### **Corner Canyon**

The Corner Canyon lands border growing residential areas and are in a relatively disturbed condition. Off highway vehicles (OHVs) have caused considerable damage to the vegetation

and soil stability of this site. Presently, this parcel does not appear to be typical National Forest land and is probably assumed by the public to be under other management or ownership. There is no outstanding vegetative cover on this parcel, and vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grasses. With the close proximity to residential development, this site does not offer notable scenic values.

### **Long Hollow–Provo Canyon**

The Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel has the highest scenic quality of any of the parcels considered for exchange. The property is relatively difficult to access, and from the property the viewsheds are not obstructed by any development or obtrusive signs of human presence. There are excellent views looking down into Provo Canyon, up to Mt. Timpanogos. In the Autumn, the colorful fall foliage provides a scenic backdrop for the few people who wander onto the site.

### **Springville**

The Springville parcel is immediately adjacent to suburban areas. Presently, this parcel does not appear to be typical National Forest land and is probably assumed by the public to be under other management or ownership. There is no outstanding vegetative cover on this parcel, and vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grasses. With the close proximity to residential development, this site does not offer notable scenic values. There are a number of structures on the parcel which were constructed by CCC workers, and may offer some scenic viewing to adjacent landowners.

### **Non-Federal**

The Non-Federal parcel is also located in a developed area and presently appears as a large vacant lot. The area has been heavily disturbed and does not offer notable scenic values. However, because this parcel remains undeveloped, it provides an island of natural scenic quality in an area that is almost fully developed. Additionally, the riparian vegetation following the three canals that run through the parcel soften the site's landscape and provide some scenic value to the parcel.

## **3.4.2 Scenic Quality Criteria—Environmental Consequences**

### **Alternative A- No Action**

#### Direct and Indirect Effects

There would be no direct or indirect effects on scenic quality to the Federally-owned parcels under this alternative. The Non-Federal parcel would likely be developed as a residential or commercial block. There are residential neighborhoods adjacent to this parcel, and it is likely that a similar density and type of development would eventually fill in this parcel under private ownership. Full development of the parcel would eliminate its open and undeveloped scenic qualities. However, the property is not viewed as a parcel with high scenic quality despite it remaining undeveloped.

#### Cumulative Effects

There would be no cumulative effects on scenic quality under this alternative. The scenic quality of the six federally owned parcels would be maintained and the losses associated with development of the Non-Federal parcel are minimal.

## Alternative B- Proposed Action

### Direct and Indirect Effects

#### *Corner Canyon*

Exchange and potential subsequent development of this parcel would have negligible effect relative to visual quality as seen from the public's perspective. The site is already somewhat disturbed and is most likely not perceived to be National Forest land. The parcel's slopes are generally not suitable for high density development, and any homes to be built would be visually consistent with existing adjacent development.

#### *Long Hollow–Provo Canyon*

The majority of the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon site cannot be seen from any public travel corridor or common viewpoint. The parcel, which is surrounded by private land and relatively difficult to access, is occasionally visited by hunters and some hikers. Consequently there would be some effect to scenic viewing associated with the loss of this limited recreational opportunity. Adjacent lands are largely private and accordingly there would be little effect to scenery as viewed by the general public. However, there could be potential effect to views from nearby private lands or residences if heavy development of this tract occurred after the exchange.

#### *Springville*

Exchange and potential subsequent development of the Springville parcel would have negligible effect relative to visual quality as seen from the public's perspective. The site is already somewhat disturbed and is most likely not perceived to be National Forest land. Any homes to be built would be visually consistent with existing adjacent development. If development requires that the historical CCC projects are removed, there may be some loss of scenic value associated with this historical site.

#### *Non-Federal*

The proposed location of the new Administrative Facility/Visitor Center is also located in a developed area and presently appears as a large undeveloped lot. Although the parcel is heavily disturbed, it remains undeveloped and open and therefore possesses scenic value. Development of the parcel would result in some loss of scenic value, but it is anticipated that future federal development would be of such quality as to become a visual asset to this area.

Because interagency facility proposed to be constructed on this site would be designed to serve as a visitor and interpretive center, and not simply a federal office building, the building design and property landscaping would be visually pleasing. The design of this facility would be consistent with, and less visually intrusive than surrounding developments. Additionally, the level of development on this parcel under federal ownership would be less intense than the surrounding land uses, and significantly less than it would likely be under private ownership.

### Cumulative Effects

There would be no cumulative effects on scenic quality under this alternative. Federal ownership and future development of the Non-Federal parcel would be improvements to the scenic quality of this parcel. The loss of scenic value on the other parcels is negligible and not considered to be a significant impact.

### Mitigation

There would be no significant impact to scenic quality under this alternative; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

#### Monitoring

Changes to the scenic quality of the Non-Federal parcel would be monitored over time to ensure that any future federal development of this site does not create adverse impacts to scenic quality of the site or adjacent areas. Any future changes to this site are expected to be a visual asset to the parcel.

### **3.4.3 Recreation Values—Affected Environment**

All proposed land parcels were visited to identify any potential recreation opportunities or values which might be affected by the land exchange. The Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office, the Provo Sign and Radio Shop, and the Beaver Administrative site are all located in urbanized and fully developed areas, and provide no recreation opportunities. The other parcels, discussed below, each provide some opportunity for recreation which may be impacted by the proposed action.

#### **Corner Canyon**

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail runs across the foothills above and past this parcel. Bicyclists, walkers, and hikers enjoy recreating on a trail that is conveniently close to residential development. A second, much smaller trail system runs directly through the property along the Salt Lake Aqueduct with connection to the Corner Canyon Road and nearby residential neighborhoods. There is no easement or Forest Service authorization for this trail, and it is not part of the formal Forest Service trails system. However, the trail has existed for some time and has been adopted by Draper City as part of its recreational trail system. Heavy OHV use is evident on this parcel, primarily along the Salt Lake Aqueduct road, and is adversely affecting the natural vegetation and soil. The Forest Service's policy is that all areas of the Forest are "closed unless posted open" for OHVs, meaning that current OHV use on this site is illegal.

#### **Long Hollow—Provo Canyon**

This site is surrounded by private land and relatively difficult to access, and is therefore not frequently visited by members of the public. Occasionally, hikers or hunters wander onto the property. There is also some evidence of OHVs on the site, presumably from neighboring private property owners because of the limited access to this site. Some recreational sight seeing is offered in the fall by the changing oak and maple foliage. Additionally, a small corner of the parcel extends across US Highway 189, a railroad right-of-way, and into the Provo River. Sightseers, traveling by either car or train, enjoy the scenery of Provo Canyon, although very little of the Long Hollow—Provo Canyon parcel can be seen from public right-of-way. The Provo River is a popular trout fishery, and many anglers cross through this corner of the Long Hollow—Provo Canyon parcel.

#### **Springville**

This site is located very close to existing residential development. Nearby residents use this area for walking, hiking, and for riding OHVs. Heavy OHV use is evident on this parcel, and is adversely affecting the natural vegetation and soil. Additionally, the OHV use is causing damage to the historical structures on this site. The Forest Service's policy is that all areas of the Forest are "closed unless posted open" for OHVs, meaning that current OHV use on this site is illegal.

**Non-Federal**

This parcel is located along a busy road and adjacent to existing development. Little recreation is currently occurring on this site, although nearby residents do walk their dogs around the parcel periodically.

**3.4.4 Recreation Values—Environmental Consequences****Alternative A- No Action**Direct and Indirect Effects

There would be no direct or indirect effects on recreational values under this alternative. OHV use would continue to occur illegally on the Springville and Corner Canyon parcels, and to a lesser extent on the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon parcel.

Forest Service trails specialists would evaluate the trails on the Corner Canyon parcel and make a determination whether: 1) they should be retained as part of the official Forest Service trails system and be maintained by the agency; 2) an easement or special use permit would be issued to Draper City for the trails; or 3) the trails should be obliterated and the area revegetated because they are not a necessary part of the Forest Service trails system, or because of their environmental impact.

Cumulative Effects

There would be no cumulative effects on recreational values under this alternative.

**Alternative B- Proposed Action**Direct and Indirect Effects*Corner Canyon*

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail which passes above the parcel would not be impacted by the proposed exchange. It is uncertain whether the trails in question would remain and be available to Draper after the exchange is completed. The outcome would depend on whether the City and the new property owner can come to agreement on allowing the trails to remain and be maintained and open to public use. If the trail is removed there would be some loss of recreation. Draper City is developing a new trailhead and access trail for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail approximately 1000 feet north of the Corner Canyon parcel. Because the Bonneville Shoreline Trail is very close by, and the new trail and trailhead development, the possible removal of this smaller trail would not create a significant impact.

Under private ownership, the heavy OHV use which is occurring on the site may be restricted or prohibited. Since the existing use is occurring illegally, possible removal of this use is not considered to create an impact on recreation values.

*Long Hollow–Provo Canyon*

Because of its difficult access, few members of the public use this site for recreation. Under private ownership, the few hikers and hunters which cross through the property may not be allowed to in the future. This parcel is surrounded by private land, and it is not likely that this potential closure would affect many people. There would be no impact to sightseeing by car or train, nor impacts to angling in the Provo River. These recreational uses occur in a very small corner of the parcel, access is not limited, and a change in ownership of the parcel would not affect recreation in this corner.

### *Springville*

Under private ownership, the heavy OHV use which is presently occurring on the site may be restricted or prohibited. Since the existing use is occurring illegally, possible removal of this use is not considered to create an impact on recreation values.

### *Non-Federal*

There would be no adverse impacts to recreation on this parcel. Future federal development of the property would likely provide new recreational opportunities and would be viewed as an overall improvement to the parcel.

### Cumulative Effects

There would be no cumulative effects on recreational values under this alternative. Loss of recreational opportunities is minimal. Furthermore, much of the existing recreation is occurring illegally and its loss is not considered to be a significant impact.

### Mitigation

There would be no significant impact to recreational values under this alternative, and therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

### Monitoring

Changes to the recreational values of the Non-Federal parcel would be monitored over time to ensure that any future federal development of this site does not create adverse impacts to recreation on or near the site. Any future changes to this site are expected to be an asset to the parcel.

## **3.5 Issue 4: The extent to which the proposed land exchange is in conformance with the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329**

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Evaluation Criteria used to compare alternatives include:

- A qualitative description of the extent to which each alternative complies with the standards and requirements set forth in PL 107-329.

On December 6, 2002, the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, Public Law 107-329, was signed by President Bush and became law. This Act authorized “the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire by exchange non-Federal land located in Highland, Utah as the site for an interagency administrative and visitor facility.” This legislation is significant in that it allows Forest Service resource lands to be exchanged for administrative land, which would otherwise not be authorized. The Secretary shall determine that the title to the non-Federal land is acceptable based on the approval standards applicable to Federal Land acquisition. Providing this, the Secretary may prescribe, convey by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land in exchange for the conveyance of the non-Federal Land.

The Act further directs, “Notwithstanding section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), the Secretary may, as the circumstances require,

either make or accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the total value of the lands or interest transferred out of federal ownership.”

The Act defines the term “Federal land” as the parcels of land and improvements to the land in the Salt Lake Meridian comprising the Long Hollow–Provo Canyon, Provo Sign and Radio Shop, Corner Canyon, Beaver Administrative Site, Springville, and the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Parcels. The Act defines the term “non-Federal land” as the “Highland Property.”

**Alternative A- No Action**

This alternative is not in conformance with the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange, PL 107-329, and does not meet the Forest Service Purpose and Need.

**Alternative B- Proposed Action**

This alternative is in conformance with the standards and requirements set forth in the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act, PL 107-329, and does meet the Forest Service Purpose and Need.

## 4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Forest Service consulted the following individuals, Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes and non-Forest Service persons during the development of this environmental assessment:

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