



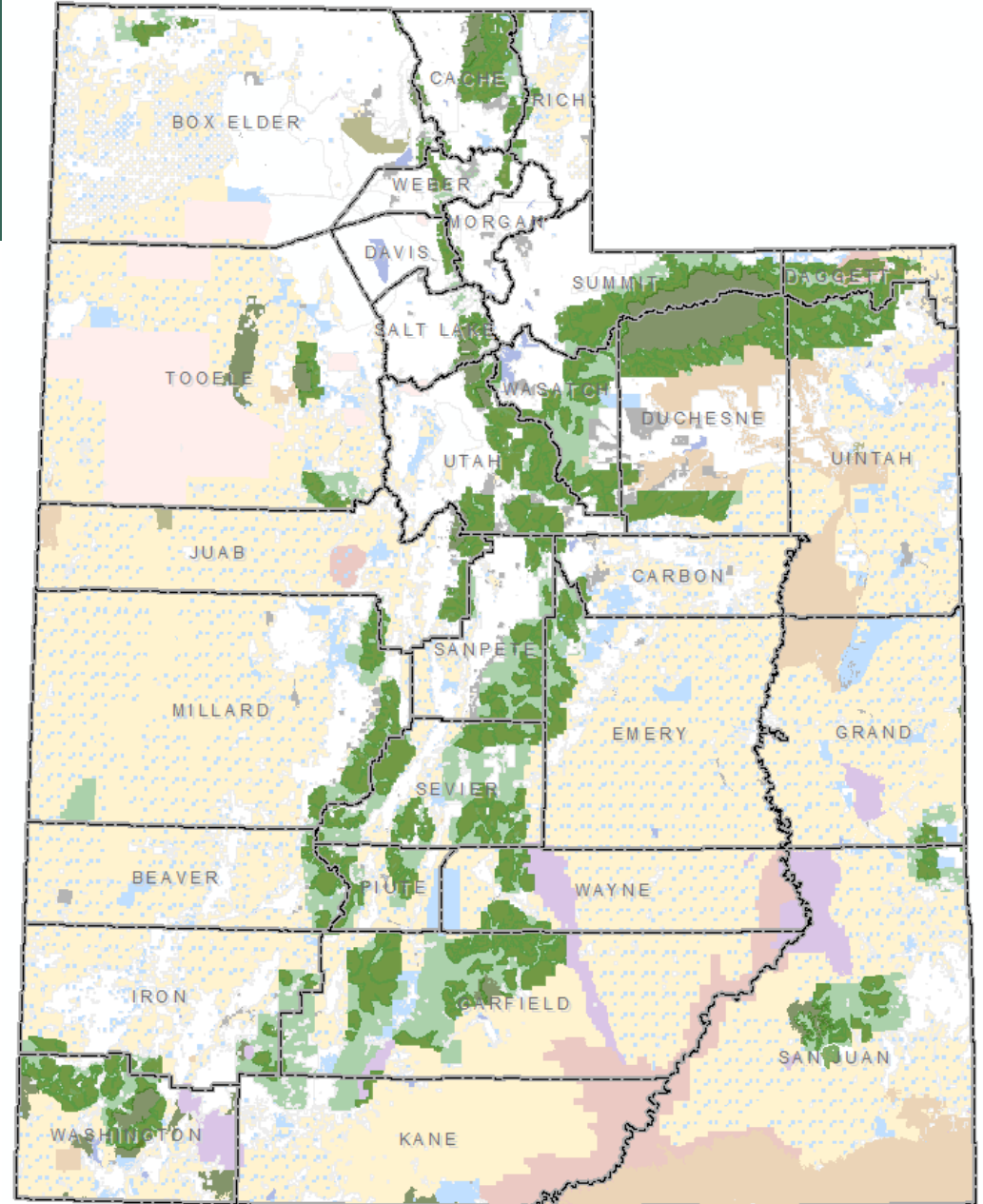
PETITIONING THE ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE

A STATE-LED EFFORT FOR A STATE-SPECIFIC RULE

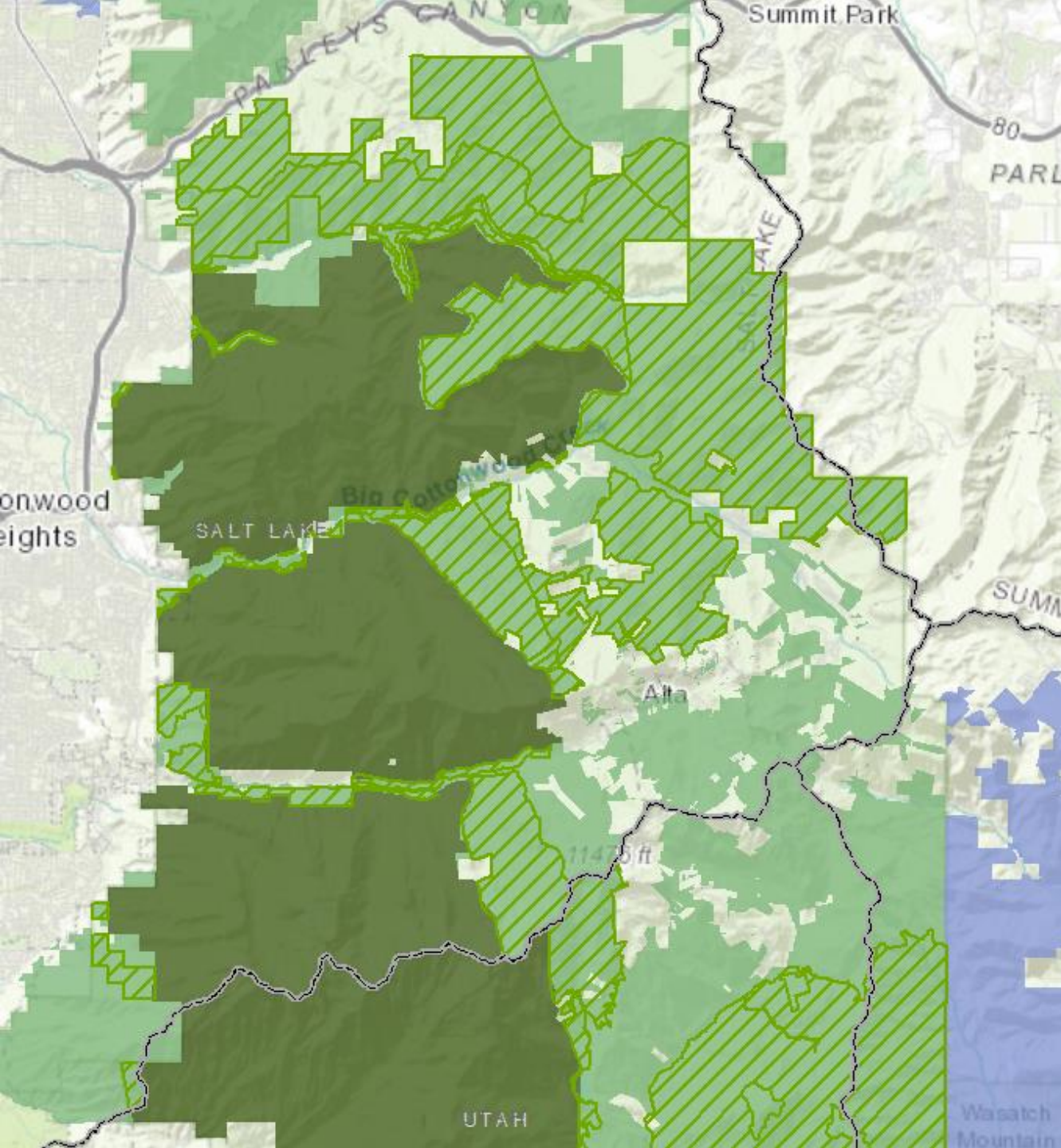


2001 ROADLESS RULE





- Adopted January 2001
- Protects social and ecological values and characteristics of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) from road construction and reconstruction and certain timber harvest activities.
 - These have the greatest likelihood of altering or fracturing landscapes, resulting in immediate and long-term loss of roadless area values
 - Activities are not prohibited but are restricted
- 49 percent of Utah's National Forests are designated as Roadless



Roadless Areas within the CWC focus area



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|------------------|
|  | Inventoried Roadless Area |  | USFS, Wilderness |
|  | US Forest Service |  | State Parks |

EXCEPTIONS IN THE 2001 RULE

Exceptions to road construction prohibition

- To protect public health and safety
- CERCLA response
- Reserved or outstanding rights
- Road safety improvement
- Prevent irreparable resource damage
- In conjunction with pre-2001 mineral leases

Exceptions to timber harvest prohibition

- To improve endangered, proposed, sensitive species habitat
- To maintain or restore characteristics of the ecosystem
- Incidental to another activity that is not otherwise prohibited
- For personal or administrative use
- IRA characteristics have been substantially altered by road construction and timber cutting within certain parameters

WHY DOES UTAH WANT A STATE-SPECIFIC RULE?

- Give the local Forest Service districts more flexibility to manage the unique challenges in Utah's roadless areas, promote healthy forests, and mitigate catastrophic wildfires.
- Many of Utah roadless forests suffer from bark beetle-infestations, excessive buildup of deadfall and ladder fuels, excessive tree density, pinyon-juniper encroachment into sagebrush habitat, and other symptoms of poor forest health.
- These conditions can impair watershed health, degrade wildlife habitat, and increase risks of catastrophic wildfires.
- Catastrophic wildfires pose extreme risks to Utah's air quality, water quality, wildlife, recreation, and private property in the "wildland-urban interface."
- A state-specific roadless rule could give the Forest Service greater flexibility to remove deadfall and ladder fuels, cut beetle-infested trees, minimize pinyon-juniper encroachment, and thin overgrown stands in Forest Service roadless areas.
- Such projects in roadless areas will help safeguard Utah's watersheds, air quality, wildlife, and resiliency to catastrophic wildfires.

PROCESS

Prepare Petition

- County, Agency recommendations
- County RMP amendment
- Stakeholder outreach
- Listening sessions

June – December 2018



Submit Petition

- USDA Review
- Potential revisions
- Acceptance

December 14, 2018



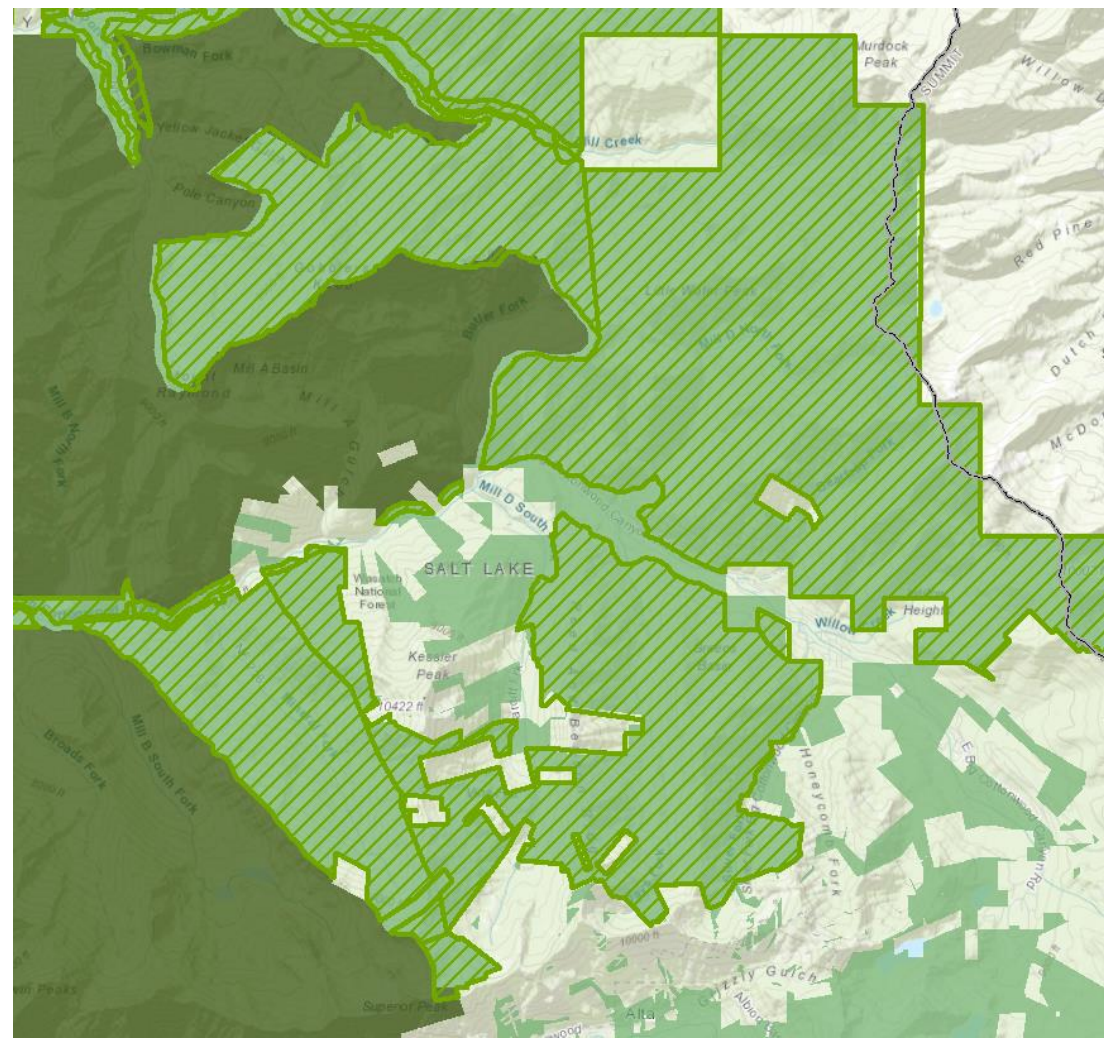
EIS Analysis

2019 - ?

WHAT MAY CHANGE UNDER A STATE-SPECIFIC RULE

Three management categories

- **1: Primitive Areas:** same management as 2001 Rule (no change)
- **2: Forest Restoration Areas** (moderately restrictive)
- **3: Forest Stewardship Areas** (least restrictive)
- Re-inventory or boundary adjustment



WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE

- Land remains under jurisdiction of US Forest Service
- NEPA reviews will still be required for projects
- Motorized travel must follow each Forest's Travel Management Plan
- Access to mineral extractions is limited to pre-2001 permits
- Wilderness or other land use designations remain



PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS

October 18
Monticello

October 23
Vernal

October 24
Richfield

October 24
Heber

October 25
Manti

October 30
Cedar City





QUESTIONS?

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