



WASATCH

FOREST SERVICE REGION

Intermountain

NATIONAL FOREST

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

STATE

Utah

LANDSCAPE SIZE

1.1 million acres

TRIBAL CONNECTIONS

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation; Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah; Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation; Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation; Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation; Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

PARTNERS

Utah’s Watershed Restoration Initiative, including dozens of partners who contribute funding for fuels and forest health treatments to reduce wildfire risk; the fuels focus group for the central Wasatch Front, which includes the State of Utah, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake County, and Save Our Canyons; and the Summit and Wasatch County Collaborative Fuels Reduction Group

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

UT-1–4

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS

Fiscal years 2023–26

EXPECTED FUNDING IN FY 2023

\$18,250,000

LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The Wasatch landscape encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres, including National Forest System, State, private, and Bureau of Land Management lands. Fire hazard on about 382,000 acres of the Wasatch landscape is classified as high or very high, threatening watersheds, plant and wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities, and private property. The landscape encompasses four high-risk firesheds, as well as high-priority landscapes under Utah’s Shared Stewardship agreement.

Northern Utah has some of the Nation’s fastest growing areas in the wildland-urban interface, with an increasing number of communities at risk of wildfire, 92 of which are within or adjacent to the landscape. Watersheds in the landscape furnish drinking water to more than 2 million people; these watersheds are highly sensitive to projected increases in drought, heat, and flooding, as well as the effects of wildfires, insect and disease outbreaks, and land use change. The landscape has more than 300 miles of regionally important energy infrastructure supporting the growing population of northern Utah. Recreational values and infrastructure in the area support more than 13 million visitors a year, including a \$1.4-billion ski industry with seven resorts (five on national forest lands).

MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION

At the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, we have a well-established framework for responding to the wildfire crisis across jurisdictional boundaries on the Wasatch landscape, including a history of collaboration with Federal, State, and local partners and nongovernmental organizations. For the past 10 years, we have collaborated extensively with Utah’s Watershed Restoration Initiative to plan and carry out vegetation treatments that reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

We will reduce exposure to wildfire of private property and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface through cross-boundary mechanical treatments. We will increase opportunities to use prescribed fire and wildland fire to support the suppression of wildfires by creating or strengthening strategic fuel breaks. This work will protect watersheds and restore forest health and resilience.

Our goal is to treat 14,200 acres in FY 2023 and at least 105,000 acres over 7 to 10 years.