

Utah's State Wildlife Management Areas

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

NAE Interim Committee
September 19, 2012



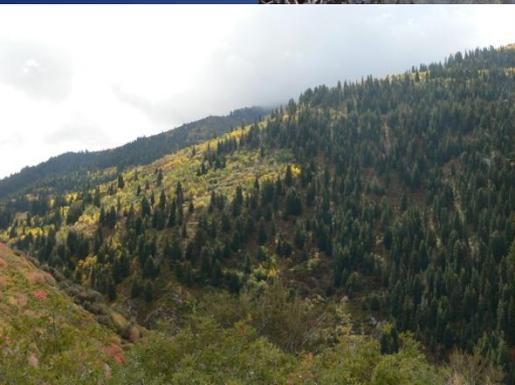
Purpose of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- DWR manages its lands for the benefit of wildlife, hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.



Purpose of WMAs

- WMAs provide crucial habitats for a variety of species



Big game winter range



Waterfowl marshes



Endangered and/or Sensitive Species



Public Access



Camping/Access Management

Access Points To Be Signed As follows:

- Post and Rail camping see pavement
- Post Camping Only
- Handwritten

To meet camp, sites will range from 500 sq. ft. to 1000 sq. ft. to accommodate hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers.

Additional rules may be posted at specific areas to include:

- Sites lower than 14 days (some areas have chains, and surface used for some people parking and leaving their RV for many days)
- Portable Toilet Required: Public toilets are not currently available at most areas in HRWMA. Human waste is integrity, unhealthful and contributes to diminished water quality.
- Campfire rings that do not meet State of Utah standards for wildlife preservation will be replaced.

Wildlife oriented recreation is within the mission of HRWMA and it has been the tradition of DWR to accommodate hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and camping as long as these activities are done with wise stewardship in mind.

Examples of wise stewardship and abuse are both found at HRWMA. In coming months, the DWR institute policies that promote wise stewardship by recreationists.

While camping is allowed, it is not the primary function of wildlife management areas.

Hardware Ranch
Wildlife Management Area Management Plan



State and Federal Land Management Some Differences.....

- Active Management
- Energy Development
- Grazing
- Land Use Planning

Active Management

- NEPA typically not required for management of WMAs
- DWR is able to utilize a full suite of beneficial practices to manage its lands
 - Using chaining as a restoration tool
- No special requirements or designations
 - Wilderness



Energy Development

- With very few exceptions, DWR does not own the mineral estate on WMAs
- DWR works closely with Industry to provide reasonable access across and on WMAs for mineral exploration and development



Energy Development

- Goal: Work with mineral owners so development can proceed without unnecessary impacts to wildlife and their habitat



Grazing

- Grazing is a valuable tool to enhance wildlife habitat and decrease the threat of large-scale wildfire



Grazing Practices on WMAs



- WMAs often grazed by adjacent Federal livestock permittee
- Spring grazing to enhance shrub growth and leave enough winter forage for big game

- Grassbanks for grazers involved in cooperative range restoration projects on their private lands



Land Use Planning

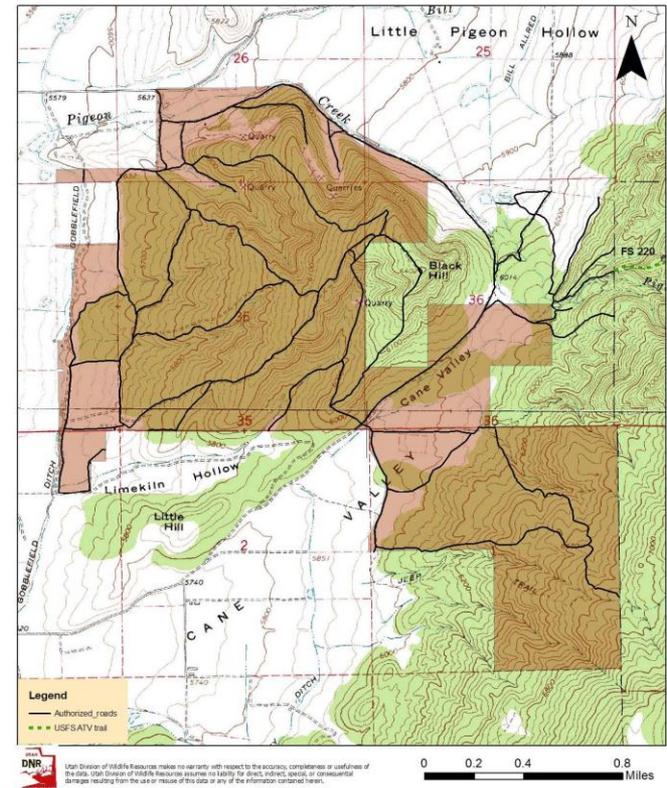
- State Wildlife Code requires DWR to conduct land use planning by preparing a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for all of its lands
- Land use planning requires coordination with counties, local governments, and other interested parties

Land Use Planning

- Sanpete HMP and WMA access plan



Map B2- Black Hill WMA Access Map



Thank you