Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/25/2019 8:19:35 PM
First name: Jeffrey
Last name: Rust
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments on Forest Proposed Plan

Chapter 2. Forestwide Direction

Non-Forest Vegetation
FW-DC-NFV-01 (Page 28)
Please remove the term "encroachment of conifer tree species" from this document. It is inappropriate to insinuate that conifers are encroaching upon non-forest vegetation within a forest reserve that was set aside primarily because it contained conifer trees. The original boundaries of the Uintah Forest Reserve, which later became the Ashley NF, were chosen because they were "wholly or in part covered with timber" (Presidential Proclamation No. 20, Feb 22, 1897). The term "timber" almost exclusively refers to conifer trees. Conifers cannot "encroach" within a reserve that was legally set aside for the protection and management of conifers and other trees. This emphasis needs to change in order to align with the purpose for which the Forest was created.

I recommend changing the fifth sentence in this desired condition to state: "In 70% of vulnerable non-forest vegetation communities, tree crown cover is limited to 10 percent or less." This matches the desired condition of tree cover for sagebrush in greater sage-grouse seasonal habitat.

FW-OB-NFV (Page 28)
Please remove the term "conifer encroachment" from this document. It is inappropriate to insinuate that conifers are encroaching upon non-forest vegetation within a forest reserve that was set aside primarily because it contained conifer trees. The original boundaries of the Uintah Forest Reserve, which later became the Ashley NF, were chosen because they were "wholly or in part covered with timber" (Presidential Proclamation No. 20, Feb 22, 1897). The term "timber" almost exclusively refers to conifer trees. Conifers cannot "encroach" within a reserve that was legally set aside for the protection and management of conifers and other trees. This emphasis needs to change in order to align with the purpose for which the Forest was created.

I recommend changing the first objective to state: "Restore ecological function, integrity, and resilience; move toward upward trend; or maintain desired condition of 2,500 acres (on average) annually of nonforest vegetation during the life of the plan."

Chapter 4. Plan Monitoring Program

Table 20. Page 87. Row 1 - Terrestrial vegetation, at-risk plant species.
Change the third sentence to read: "In 70% of vulnerable communities, tree crown cover is limited to 10 percent or less." Please remove the term "conifer encroachment" from this document. It is inappropriate to insinuate that conifers are encroaching within a forest reserve that was set aside primarily because it contained conifer trees.

Table 20. Page 87. Row 6 - Terrestrial vegetation, non-forest vegetation.
Change the third sentence to read: "In 70% of vulnerable communities, tree crown cover is limited to 10 percent or less." Please remove the term "conifer encroachment" from this document. It is inappropriate to insinuate that conifers are encroaching within a forest reserve that was set aside primarily because it contained conifer trees.