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Comments: Comments on Forest Proposed Plan

Chapter 2. Forestwide Direction

Wildlife, Page 33, paragraph 4

Please remove the term "conifer encroachment" from paragraph 4 in the Wildlife introduction. It is inappropriate to insinuate that conifers are encroaching upon wildlife habitat 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 third sentence in Paragraph 4 of the Wildlife introduction to read: "The vegetation desired conditions and guidelines also address the threat of invasive species and beetle epidemics that threaten these species."