



STATE OF UTAH: GREEN CANYON

The Green Canyon Forest Legacy project lands in northern Utah have been owned by the same family since 1906. The current landowner has a strong conservation ethic and looked to the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, in partnership with the State's Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL), to ensure his property would be maintained to protect important environmental values and natural systems. The result is the preservation of an important local viewshed, protection of wildlife, and continued public access to recreation.

"My family and I are pleased that future generations will be able to work the ground, hunt, fish and enjoy the property as my family has for over 100 years. With all of the development pressure occurring in Cache Valley it is comforting to know that when valley residents look up towards Blacksmith Fork Canyon, they will not see our foothills dotted with new residential subdivisions."

— Jon White, landowner



Due to the difficult economic conditions of logging and ranching in Utah, the landowner was incentivized to sell the project lands for the development of sub-divisions, especially as the region becomes increasingly urbanized. However, he elected to continue his family's tradition of land stewardship by pursuing a conservation easement (CE) through the Forest Legacy Program.

Green Canyon was identified as the highest priority for land conservation in the 2010 Utah Statewide Forest Resource Assessment. Its protection complements adjacent lands, including the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Millville Wildlife Management Area, and Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

The environmental benefits of the Green Canyon project range from wildlife conservation to watershed protection. While no packs are yet established in northern Utah, wolves have been seen on the property. The last known grizzly bear in the state was last observed near the project lands, which are considered prime bear habitat and are located just 90 miles south of the Yellowstone grizzly bear situation II recovery zone. Green Canyon is also home to numerous osprey and bald and golden eagles. It provides critical winter range for mule deer, elk, and moose. Two local cities, Paradise and Hyrum City, rely on Green Canyon for water, the quality of which exceeds state standards.

The property provides habitat for several of Utah's Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including **Columbian sharp-tailed grouse** and **Bonneville cutthroat trout**.



Public access that is preserved through the Green Canyon CE includes fishing, boating, hiking, biking,

and camping along the Blacksmith Fork River. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail, which, when completed, will run from Idaho to central Utah along the shoreline of the ancient (now drained) Lake Bonneville, also crosses the property. For more than 130,000 residents of the Cache Valley, Green Canyon's preservation also preserves the scenic viewshed.



The project provides public access to 4.5 miles of the Blacksmith Fork River and the 280 mile Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

Since 1906, Green Canyon has been stewarded by the White family and supplied forest products, cattle, and sheep to Utah, southern Idaho, and western Wyoming. With a CE in place through the Forest Legacy Program, the property will continue to be carefully managed as forest land to provide forest and non-forest products as well as support local wildlife populations, preserve a picturesque viewshed, and provide continued access to recreation.



"The whole process was fantastic ... I really enjoyed the experience of working with the Division (FFSL) through the application and closing process. My goal was to keep the property undeveloped for winter habitat for deer and elk, and I believe we achieved that."

— Jon White, landowner

AT-A-GLANCE



Tract size **5,574 acres**.



Home to **osprey, bald and golden eagles**, and provides critical winter range for **mule deer, elk, and moose**.



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Top L: Southwest corner of property overlooking aspen stands to the south. (Photo: Morgan Mendenhall, FFSL); **Bottom L:** Green Canyon property with Blacksmith Fork River in foreground. (Photo: Utah Division of FFSL); **Top R:** Green Canyon landowners planting trees. (Photo: Morgan Mendenhall, FFSL); **Middle R:** 1) Field of bluebells flowering in spring in Lopez Basin, 2) Top of Green Canyon on east edge of property with aspen leaves, and 3) Winter view of property from Blacksmith Fork Canyon. (Photo: Morgan Mendenhall, FFSL)

For more information, visit
<https://ffsl.utah.gov/forestry/private-landowner-forestry-assistance/forest-legacy/>.