

## IUFRO Field Trip PRE-05

Welcome to the IUFRO field tour PRE-05: Ecology and Biogeography of the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains. On this tour we will complete a loop of about 975km, with elevation varying between 1280 and 3300m along the way (with an opportunity to walk even higher). We will cross vegetation ranging from sagebrush steppe and semi-desert to alpine tundra. Much of the route is on highways, but a large fraction of the time will be spent on remote forest roads. **IUFRO insurance requirements prohibit anyone from following the tour in personal or rental vehicles.**

As of this update we have a relatively small group, which will allow some flexibility in our schedule. The general schedule is:

Day 1 (Oct 2): Salt Lake City to Logan Canyon; basic forest ecology and history of the area; hydrology of the Salt Lake basin and Bear Lake; silvicultural practices on the Utah State University Experimental Forest (lodgepole pine, aspen, spruce-fir); set-up for Day 2 with an evening talk on forest resource use in support of the Trans-Continental Railroad during the mid-late 1800s. Overnight in Evanston, Wyoming.

Day 2 (Oct 3): Traverse the north slope of the Uintas; tie-hack history (logging ghost towns) and resulting forest structure; mountain pine beetle epidemic; fire and forest/nonforest interface; aspen mortality; petroleum development in forest setting; geologic / scenic stops (including dinner) at Flaming Gorge. Overnight in Vernal, Utah.

Day 3 (Oct 4): South slope Uintas and Uinta Basin; treeline-to-treeline transect; high mountain lakes and paleoecological reconstructions; optional "top-of-world" view from the 3666m summit of Leidy Peak (40°46'02.28" N 109°50'12.62" W), otherwise, explore treeline / krummholz (note: the ascent of Leidy Peak is not technical, but is very rocky in some parts; sturdy shoes are recommended); Native American petroglyphs; possible side trip to Dinosaur National Park. Dinosaur NP is also our bad-weather alternative, should we get significant snow at high elevation.

The official agenda is for everyone to have breakfast on their own on the first day of the tour, to meet at a specified location at the Salt Palace (Congress venue), and to be loaded in the vehicles and ready to depart by 0800 on Oct 2. Ideally, we would like for everyone to contact us (see contact info below) upon arrival at their hotels in Salt Lake City, or to provide your lodging information so that we can contact you prior to the field trip. This will allow us to confirm that everyone has arrived, and it might also permit us to pick you up at your hotel rather than have you make your own way to the Salt Palace.

We recommend that you arrange your flight to allow for adequate rest the day before the tour. In addition to jet lag, you will also be dealing with the effects of elevation and low humidity. Throughout the trip we will remind everyone to maintain adequate hydration; plenty of water will be available.

The order of topics might get rearranged somewhat, depending on feedback from attendees and the results of additional pre-trip planning this summer. Although we have a full agenda planned, we are open to requests. If there is a specific aspect of this area that you might be especially interested in, please contact the tour leader (see below).

Early October can be very pleasant, but there is some risk of harsh weather. While average daytime high temperatures in the valleys average 21-23C with average overnight lows in of 7-10C, low temperatures can approach 0C at high elevations. As a result, plan on bringing layers of clothing and suitable footwear to the field. This is especially important if you plan to leave your large baggage at your hotel. Some hotels will allow this if you will be returning to the same hotel for the remainder of the Congress. However, we will be able to bring all baggage along on the field trip so it will not be necessary to leave anything behind.

As noted on the Congress web pages, there are 7 meals included in the tour (Day 1, lunch, dinner; Day 2, breakfast, lunch, dinner; Day 3, breakfast, lunch). There will be opportunities on the evenings of Day 1 and Day 2 to visit local pubs or other establishments (grocery, souvenir, etc), so it is advisable to have some cash on hand. Also, depending on group consensus (and endurance level), we may elect to stop for dinner enroute to Salt Lake City on Day 3. This meal would not be included in the tour price. Depending on the group decisions at the end of Day 3, we anticipate arriving back in Salt Lake City between 1900 and 2100.

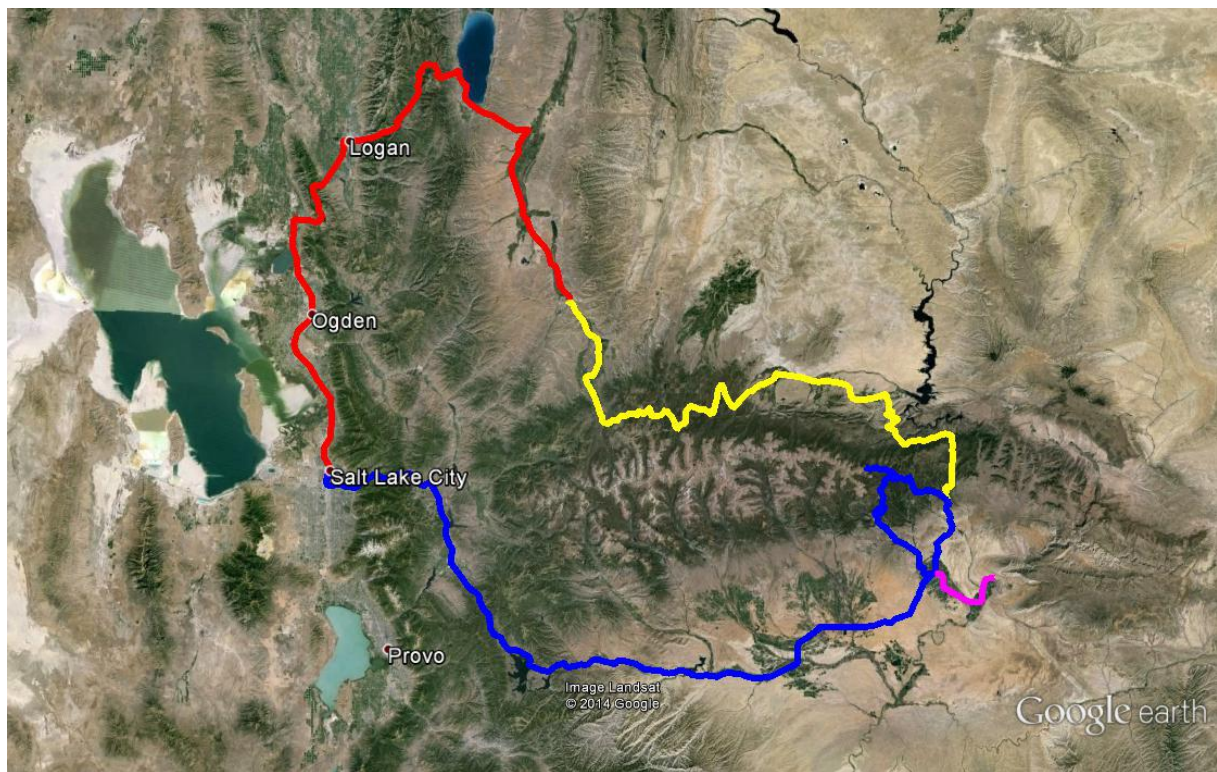
Please direct any additional questions you might have to the tour leader. The IUFRO organizing staff is limited in what details they can provide about the tour, since some small details may change very close to the tour date. We will send additional details as they become available, but there will be no changes that would alter travel plans that are based on the current schedule.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the tour, and at the Congress.

John

John D. Shaw (tour leader); [jdshaw@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdshaw@fs.fed.us); +001-801-598-5902

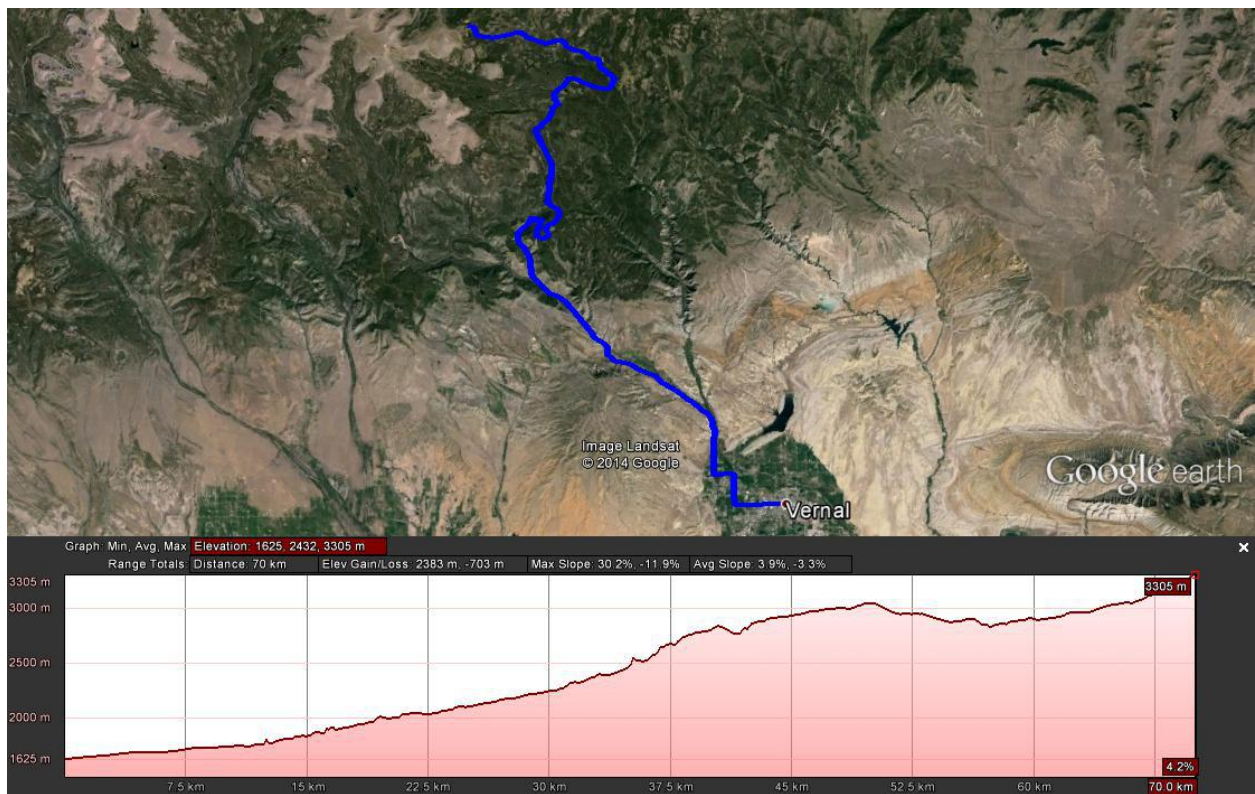
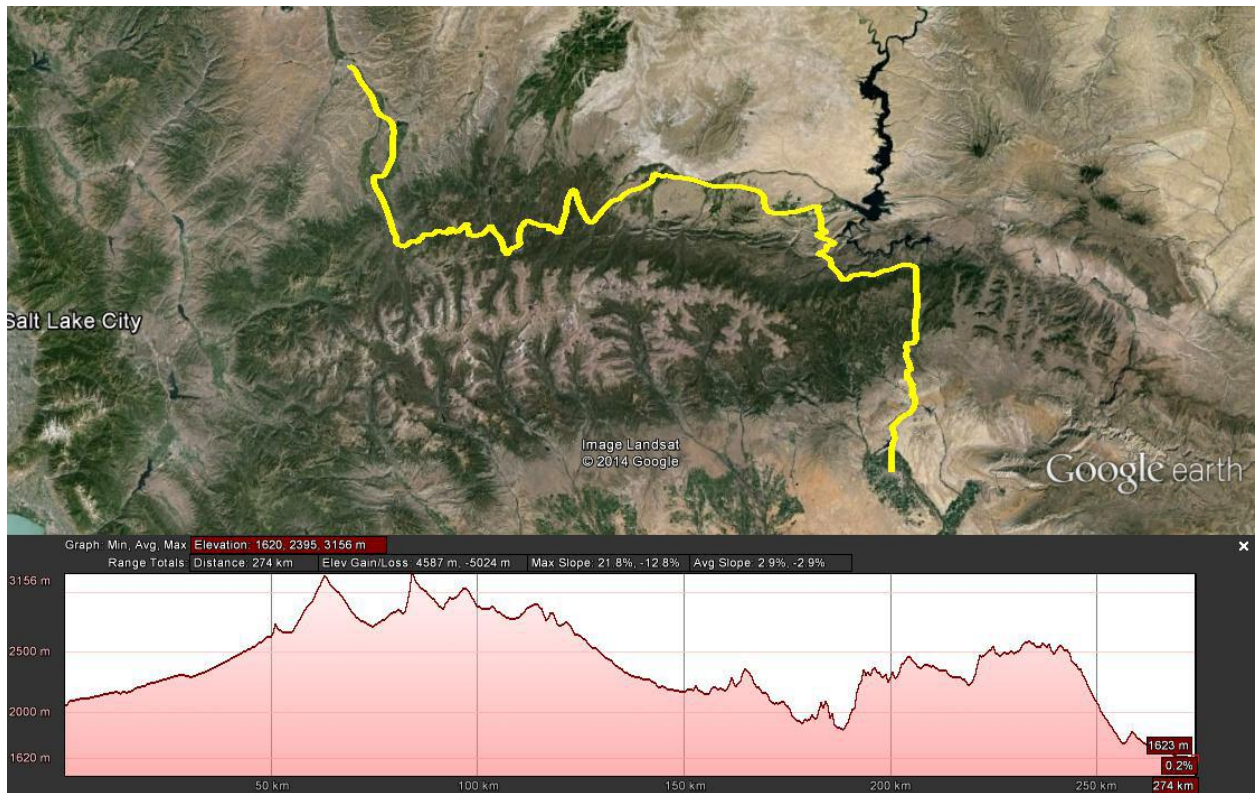
P.S. I have added some maps of the daily segments and elevation profiles below for your exploration.

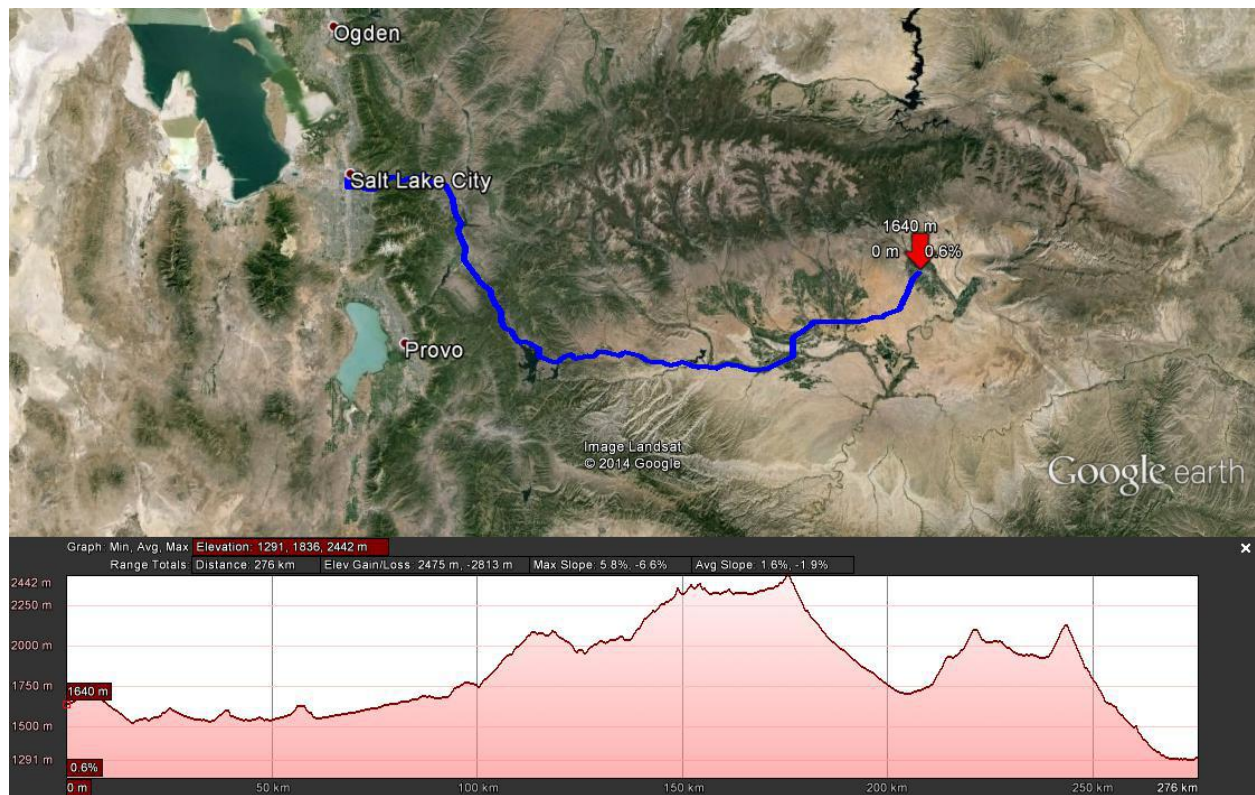


Day 1 = red, Day 2 = yellow, Day 3 = Blue, Optional = magenta









### Lodging Details

- October 2 – Comfort Inn, 1931 Harrison Dr., Evanston, WY, US, 82930; Phone: +001-307-789-7799
- October 3 – SpringHill Suites, 205 West Highway 40 Vernal Utah 84078 USA; Phone: +001-435-781-9000