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**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ON THE WASATCH FRONT FROM A COUPLED-
HUMAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE**

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Abstract: The Wasatch Front is a region with a rapidly growing population. It is also an area with rich ecosystems and outdoor opportunities. As such, the cities within the region need to balance population growth with protection of the natural environment. This paper analyzes how a coupled-human and natural systems framework can improve development policy on the Wasatch Front and achieve a balance between population growth and the environment. To illustrate the effectiveness of the framework, I analyze a Cottonwood Heights municipal policy, which outlines the goals for planned developments in the city beyond 2022. I found that the framework can lend itself to creating or improving policy by adding durability, resiliency, and sustainability to the policy. Each of these traits helps to improve the long-term success of the policy.