

## **Decision Memo**

### **Bel Mia Girl's Home and Maple Springs Campground Sewer Line**

#### **Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Logan Ranger District Box Elder County, Utah**

#### **Decision**

I have decided to authorize the issuance of a Special Use Permit for a sewer line to be constructed on National Forest System land. The sewer line will service the privately-owned Bel Mia Girl's Camp and Maple Springs Campground. The project is located near Mantua, Utah, approximately 4 miles east of Brigham City, in Sections 27 and 34 of T9N, R1W.

The Special Use Permit will be issued for a 4,000-foot sewer line which will connect to the existing waste water collection system at the Forest Service Box Elder Campground. That system connects to the wastewater collection and treatment system operated by Brigham City. All of the sewer line construction will occur along existing roads and a previously disturbed route for an existing water pipeline. The width of the short-term, ground disturbance during the construction phase will be approximately 15 feet.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures, which are part of the decision, include the following:

1. The area of ground disturbance along the pipeline construction route will be re-vegetated with native seed following construction.

#### **Scoping and Public Involvement**

On October 30, 2007, the Forest Service began the public scoping process by mailing a letter describing the proposed project to individuals on the district mailing list. The project was included in the Winter 2008 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA). The District received 1 response, concerned that the scoping letter did not specify the length or the extent of the pipeline disturbance and its potential effect on wildlife.

Documentation of public scoping is in the project file and available for review through the Logan Ranger District.

#### **Reason for Categorically Excluding the Project**

Based on public input, interdisciplinary team review, past experience, and consideration of the resource conditions listed below, I have determined the effects of implementing this action will be of limited context and intensity and will result in little or no environmental effect to either the physical or biological components of the environment. As such, this is a decision that has been categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed action falls under 36 CFR Part 220 and Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 - Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Section 31.2, Category 3 – Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land. As described above, all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts have been incorporated into the decision. The categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action. There were no significant effects identified for the resource conditions listed below.

- a. **Federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.** The wildlife biologist, fisheries biologist, and botanist have determined there will be no significant effects to rare or endangered species or critical habitats from the implementation of this project. They have determined there will be “no effect” to any threatened or endangered species and “no impact” to any sensitive species because either there is no suitable habitat present or the species are not found in the project area, and because all activity will occur along existing roads and a previously disturbed route for a water pipeline.
- b. **Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.** The forest hydrologist and soil scientist determined there will be no significant effect to any flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds as a result of this project because there are no wetlands in the area and the project is not located within any floodplains or municipal watershed.
- c. **Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas.** This project is not in any congressionally designated area and therefore, will have no effect on any such area.
- d. **Inventoried roadless areas.** The project is not in any inventoried roadless area and therefore, will not have any effect on any roadless area.
- e. **Research Natural Areas.** The project is not in any Research Natural Area and therefore, will not affect any RNA.
- f. **American Indian and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.** The forest archaeologist has determined no such religious or cultural sites will be affected by the project because of its limited area of impact and location within a previously disturbed site.
- g. **Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.** The forest archaeologist has determined no archaeological sites or historic properties will be affected by the project because of the limited area of impact and location within a previously disturbed site.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws**

This decision is consistent with the Revised Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan (USFS, 2003) as required by the National Forest Management Act. The project was designed in conformance with Forest Plan standards and incorporates appropriate forest-wide and management prescription guidelines. The project is consistent with the desired future conditions as described in the Forest Plan.

## Appeal Opportunity and Implementation

This decision pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f) is not subject to appeal and may be implemented immediately.

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Jennefer Parker, District Ranger, 1500 East Highway 89, Logan, Utah 84321, (435-755-3620).

/s/Brian Ferebee

September 22, 2008

**BRIAN FEREBEE**  
Forest Supervisor

**Date**

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