

## **Appendix D**

### **Scoping Letter**



File Code: 1950

Date: April 7, 2006

Dear Forest User,

The Logan Ranger District is beginning an environmental analysis on a proposal to relocate a portion of the Millville Peak and Logan Peak Roads for the purposes of public safety and to provide alternate ground access to the State-owned communications facility on Logan Peak. The attached document initiates the scoping process and provides preliminary information on the proposed project.

The scoping process is for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Providing comments at the time of scoping does **not** provide “standing” for an appeal of a project. Standing for appeal purposes comes from providing substantive comment during the “opportunity for comment” at the release of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) expected late fall 2006.

I would also like to invite you to a public information meeting to be held on Tuesday April 25, 2006, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Logan District Office (1500 East Highway 89, Logan, Utah). There will be a brief 15-minute presentation followed by a 45-minute period for public questions on the proposal.

This is an information-providing meeting for clarification and questions about the proposal. Scoping comments will **not** be officially recorded. Forms **will** be available that night on which you can submit your written scoping comments, or you may submit them at a later date.

I have asked that Rob Cruz, Logan District Ranger accept comments on my behalf. Written comments may be mailed to Rob Cruz, Logan District Ranger, 1500 East Highway 89, Logan, Utah, 84321. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from the Logan Ranger District, (435) 755-3620.

Sincerely,  
/s/Faye L. Krueger

FAYE L. KRUEGER  
Forest Supervisor





## Scoping Document

## Millville Peak/Logan Peak Road Relocation Project

USDA Forest Service  
Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
Logan Ranger District  
Cache County, Utah

**Comments Due: May 12, 2006**

### The Purpose of this Scoping Document

This document is to inform you that the Logan Ranger District is initiating an environmental analysis to assess the potential impacts of the relocation of a portion of the Millville Peak and Logan Peak Roads. We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this proposal.

### What is being proposed?

The Forest Service proposes to relocate a total of about 5 miles of the Millville Peak and Logan Peak Roads (Forest Roads 20168 and 20042, respectively) to avoid areas where a high voltage power cable buried beneath the roads is becoming increasingly exposed. The current situation presents a public safety hazard. Vehicular traffic and seasonal erosion have damaged sections of these roadways, making it difficult to safeguard the power cable and impacting access to a vital State-owned telecommunications site on Logan Peak. Portions of the roads are too rocky to bury the cable deeper or too steep to effectively hold enough gravel to keep it covered. The new roadways would be relocated away from the cable and designed to maintain an 8% or lower grade. They would be relocated up to one quarter mile from the existing roadways (at the greatest extent) and would have a maintenance level of 2; the same as the existing roads. The old roadways would be physically closed and revegetated. See attached map for the approximate road relocation.

The Millville Peak Road forms a part of the boundary between the Mount Logan North Roadless Area (19,197 acres) and the Mount Logan South Roadless Area (17,001 acres). The section of road to be relocated would be constructed near the edge of the two roadless areas. The management prescriptions within which the road would be relocated, Management Prescriptions 3.1w (Watershed Emphasis) and 2.7 (Special Interest Areas), allow no road construction. Re-alignment of the road within the 3.1w or 2.7 management prescriptions would necessitate a non-significant amendment of the Forest Plan.

### Why are we proposing this project?

The purpose of the Millville Peak/Logan Peak Road Relocation Project is for public safety, resource improvement, and to provide a safe, reliable, ground access route for maintenance of the vital State-owned communications facility at Logan Peak.

The State of Utah, Information Technology Services, owns a high voltage electrical power line buried beneath the surface of a portion of the public access roadways, Millville Peak Road (Forest Road 20168) and Logan Peak Road (Forest Road 20042). The power line, installed nearly twenty years ago, serves the State-owned radio communications facility located at Logan Peak. The tower houses microwave equipment for several local, state, and national public safety entities, providing a vital link in their communications systems.

Normal vehicular and off-highway recreational traffic on the roadway, combined with irregular road maintenance and seasonal erosion, have severely damaged the surface of the roadway to the site, exposing the power line at several locations. The potential for death and serious injury is significant around those locations where the cable has been exposed. Severe damage to the roadway impacts accessibility to the communications facility at Logan Peak.

The first two-thirds of the 16-mile roadway accessing the communications site have been repaired and maintained, where the cable could be buried deeper and the road maintained with additional gravel and installation of proper drainage. However, along the later section where the roadway gets excessively steep and rocky, road damage has resulted in the cable becoming increasingly exposed. Travel on this section of the road is unsafe and limits access to

the communications facility on Logan Peak. The cable can no longer be safely covered and the road damage cannot be corrected by maintenance.

There is a need to eliminate the public safety hazard posed by the exposed electrical power cable and a need to improve ground access to this vital communications facility located on Logan Peak.

### **Preliminary Alternatives**

In addition to the proposal presented above, a no action alternative will be considered. This alternative would continue current management without the actions of this proposal. Other alternatives may be developed in response to significant issues.

### **Preliminary Issues**

Preliminary issues identified by the interdisciplinary team include the effects on the roadless character of the Mount Logan North and Mount Logan South Roadless Areas, the effect on motorized recreation challenge opportunities provided by the current road, access to routes that currently connect to the portion of the Millville Peak Road proposed to be relocated (such as Forest Road 20126, the Logan Dry Canyon-Mill Hollow Trail #7017, and the Spring Hollow Trail #7124), the effect on snowmobile opportunities and experience from the proposed road cut below Logan Peak, the potential for new weed infestations from the proposed road, effects on T,E,S plant and wildlife species, effects on the stability of the proposed road prism on potentially erosive and unstable steep slopes in the area below Logan Peak, and the effectiveness of old Millville and Logan Peak Road closures in preventing future (unauthorized) use.

### **What is the Decision to be made?**

The decision to be made is whether or not to relocate this section of the Millville Peak and Logan Peak Roads and if so, where and to what degree.

### **Who will make the Decision?**

The Responsible Official is Faye Krueger, Forest Supervisor of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

### **When do we need your Response?**

Please submit your comments by **May 12, 2006**. Forest Supervisor Faye Krueger has authorized Logan District Ranger Rob Cruz to receive comments on her behalf. Comments should be directed to:

Attn: Millville Peak/Logan Peak Road Reconstruction  
Rob Cruz  
Logan Ranger District  
1500 East Highway 89  
Logan, Utah 84321

E-mail comments to: [comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-logan@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-logan@fs.fed.us)

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