

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Access Road For the Ogden City Water Storage Reservoir

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
Weber County, Utah
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Lead Agency:

USDA Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
8236 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Responsible Official:

Brian Ferebee
Forest Supervisor
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
8236 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

For Further Information Contact:

Chip Sibbernsen
Ogden Ranger District
507 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401
(801) 625-5112

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Environmental Assessment

Access Road for the Ogden City Water Storage Reservoir

Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need

1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is intended to document the analysis of a proposed action to authorize a special use permit to Ogden City for the construction and use of a short segment of road across National Forest System land. The analysis was conducted under the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). It has been prepared according to the Regulations for NEPA Compliance (36 CFR 200) and Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500).

Chapter 1 outlines the environmental review process, introduces the proposed action and the purpose and need it addresses, specifies the decisions to be made regarding the proposal, describes the scoping process and issues, and lists permits which may be required to implement the proposal.

Subsequent chapters in the document describe the alternatives (Chapter 2), provide information on the current condition of potentially affected resources and identify environmental consequences of the alternatives (Chapter 3) and provide the literature cited.

1.2 Background and History

Ogden City has determined a new reservoir is needed to address concerns of inadequate water pressure on the eastern edge of Ogden City between Lake Street and 29th Street. Although the new reservoir will be located on private land, road access across NFS land is needed to provide for its construction and maintenance.

1.3 Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of authorizing a special use permit to Ogden City for construction and use of a segment of road which crosses National Forest System land. The road will provide safe access for the construction and maintenance of a proposed 300,000 gallon, reinforced-concrete reservoir located on private land adjacent to the National Forest. The water reservoir will serve a new pressure zone for Ogden City's drinking water and fire protection system. The reservoir and associated pipelines will be

constructed entirely on private land. The road and reservoir site are located in the Taylor Canyon vicinity east of the Ogden City limit at approximately 28th Street in Section 35, T6N, R1W (see map in Appendix A).

The proposed action would authorize approximately 629 feet of existing road that was inadvertently constructed on National Forest System land by Ogden City in May 2008. When the road was constructed, the City believed that it was located entirely on private property. In September 2008, it was discovered that the GIS database used in the project design was in error and a small piece of National Forest System land had been incorrectly labeled as private land (see map in Appendix A). The length of road across NFS land is 629 feet and the width varies from 12 feet to 20 feet with an average width of 16 feet. The total area occupied by the road on NFS land is approximately 0.24 acres. Under the proposed action, Ogden City is seeking a road use permit from the Forest Service to allow the City continued use of the road for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the water reservoir in Taylor Canyon.

The segment located on NFS land is in the North Wasatch-Ogden Valley Management Area of the Revised Forest Plan and within a 3.1W management prescription. This management prescription, which includes lands where management emphasis is on “maintaining or improving quality of watershed conditions and aquatic habitats”, allows no road construction (Forest Plan, page 4-69). The proposed action would necessitate a non-significant amendment of the Forest Plan to approve a one-time waiver to the management prescription standard S3.1W, to allow road construction associated with this project.

1.4 Purpose and Need

Authorization for construction and maintenance of a 629-foot segment of road across National Forest is needed to provide safe access for the construction and maintenance of a 300,000 gallon, reinforced-concrete reservoir to be constructed for Ogden City on private land.

1.5 Forest Service Guidance

Forest Plan Direction

The 2003 Revised Forest Plan sets forth management direction for managing the land and resources of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and among other things, describes management goals and objectives, resource protection methods, and desired resource conditions. The Forest Plan is the result of programmatic analysis, which is addressed in the Forest Plan FEIS (USDA Forest Service 2003). The 2008 National Forest Management Act regulations at 36 CFR 219 became effective on April 21, 2008.

This EA is a project-level analysis; its scope is confined to addressing the significant issues and possible environmental consequences of the project. Where appropriate, the EA tiers to the Forest Plan FEIS, as encouraged by 40 CFR 1502.20.

Chapter 4 of the Revised Forest Plan contains Forest-wide as well as area-specific management direction (USDA Forest Service 2003). The pertinent Revised Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines are summarized in Section 2.4.

The Forest Plan divides National Forest System lands into management areas based on resource needs and opportunities. The Ogden City access road is within the North Wasatch-Ogden Valley Management Area. The management prescription within which the road is located is Management Prescription 3.1W (Watershed Emphasis).

Incorporation by Reference

Some material in this document tiers to or incorporates by reference related information in order to reduce the size and degree of redundancy in this document. Material incorporated by reference includes the following:

- Material specifically cited or otherwise used in preparation of this document is hereby incorporated by reference.
- Information in this document tiers to the direction in the WCNF Revised Forest Plan and its Record of Decision. Information in the Revised Forest Plan FEIS is hereby incorporated by reference.
- The entirety of the supporting project record is hereby incorporated without further reference.

Science

The techniques and methodologies used in this analysis consider current and accurate science. The analysis includes a summary of the credible scientific evidence which is relevant to evaluating reasonably foreseeable impacts. The analysis also identifies methods used and references scientific sources relied on. When appropriate, the conclusions are based on the scientific analysis that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information.

1.6 Decision to be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to authorize a special use permit to Ogden City for the construction and maintenance of the access road, and if so, to what specifications. The decision will be made by the Forest Supervisor and will be documented in a Decision Notice, subject to public review and appeal.

1.7 Public Involvement

An important aspect of the environmental analysis process is the participation of the public and other agencies in identifying issues and concerns regarding the potential impacts of a proposal. The issues and concerns are then considered in developing alternative ways of meeting the purpose and need.

1.7.1 Scoping and Notice of Opportunity to Comment

Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality require that Federal agencies involved in NEPA analyses include “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action” (40 CFR 1501.7). This “scoping” is intended to focus the analysis on the important issues associated with implementing a proposal and to set aside concerns that are unrelated or not central to the pending action.

The Ogden District Ranger mailed a scoping letter on January 23, 2009 to individuals and organizations on the District mailing list. The scoping letter was posted on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest website. In addition, the project was listed in the winter 2009 quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA). A legal notice of the opportunity to comment on the proposed action was included in the January 30, 2009 issue of the Salt Lake Tribune (newspaper of record).

The District received 4 responses to the scoping letter and notice of opportunity to comment. The comments were reviewed and placed in general issue categories. A complete listing of the individual comments is available in the project record.

1.7.2 Issues

The ID Team identified relevant issues to be addressed in the EA based on input from the public, other agencies, and internal comments. These issues guided the formulation of alternatives and provided a framework for the effects analysis documented in this EA. Other issues, identified as those outside the scope of the proposed action, already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision, or not relevant to the decision to be made were not used to guide the analysis, and are described below in Section 1.7.3.

1.7.2.1 Recreation

Construction and maintenance of the access road to the Ogden City water storage tank in Taylor Canyon may lead to unintended problems associated with the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Recreation is a major public use in this area, primarily on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail that crosses the new road.

Indicator used to compare alternatives:

- The impact to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail resulting from the proposed road segment

1.7.2.2 Soils and Water

The proposed project may increase the risk of erosion and sediment during construction of the proposed road segment.

Indicator used to compare alternatives:

- The degree of risk of erosion and sedimentation resulting from the proposed road segment.

1.7.2.3 Wildlife

The proposed road segment may affect winter range habitat for big game, particularly mule deer, in the vicinity of the project.

Indicator used to compare alternatives:

- The amount of crucial winter range lost by conversion to roadbed

1.7.3 Issues Not Covered in Detail

- **The need for a water storage tank** – this issue is outside the scope of the analysis for the proposal to construct a segment of road accessing a water storage tank. The City of Ogden has met on several occasions and discussed the need for a water storage tank with the public. The city has determined there is a need for the water storage tank and has submitted an application for authorization to cross National Forest System land to access it. The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis.
- **The road will lead to unintentional opening up of access to NFS land that will lead to unintended uses and abuses** – the road will be closed to the public and available only for administrative use; mitigation measures included in the proposed action will prevent unintended uses of the road;. Unauthorized roads and trails in the vicinity will be decommissioned and restored; bitterbrush will be planted to enhance wildlife habitat.
- **The likelihood of new subsidized foothill development and associated impacts will increase with the construction of the water tank and access road** – although further development may occur at some point in the future, the degree to which this takes place and the resultant resource impacts are speculative and not directly associated with the proposal for authorization to construct a segment of access road across NFS land. The decision for the water tank is beyond the scope of this proposed action. future development is not reasonably foreseeable as defined by 36 CFR 220.3.

1.7.4 Other Disclosures

Evaluation of the project indicated there would be little to no effect on the following resources, and effects on them would not vary between alternatives. Therefore, the following resources are not covered in detail, but are discussed briefly below to add to the overall understanding of the project.

1.7.4.1 Aquatics

The proposed access road is located south and west of Taylor Canyon. This site does not contain any water features nor does it support any aquatic species. The closest perennial stream is Beus Canyon which is located more than one mile to the south.

The project area appears suited to the proposed access road with proper mitigation measures included to meet the following objectives:

- Control of existing weed infestations and prevention of new ones
- Exclusion of unauthorized motorized vehicle use from the project area and from the construction access road both during and after construction.

There are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive aquatic species occurring within the proposed project area. Due to the distance from water and the mitigation measures and management requirements included in the proposed action, this project will not impact any aquatic species or aquatic habitat.

Since there are no direct or indirect effects associated with the proposal, there are no cumulative effects.

For more information, see the Aquatics Report and Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation in the project file.

1.7.4.2 Noxious Weeds

The project area consists primarily of upland vegetation including sagebrush and grass openings with scattered clumps of gambel oak. A field review of the project site was made on October 15, 2008 to assess the area's noxious weed infestations. Plant remains from the previous season's growth of several noxious weeds were observed.

A review of the Forest weed inventory and map indicated approximately 30 acres of infestation in and around the project area. According to the inventory and field visit, plants included in the 30-acre infestation consist of: Dalmation toadflax, Wand mullein, Dyer's woad, Myrtle spurge, Russian olive, Houndstongue, White top and Burdock. The 2005 Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan and Noxious Weed EIS list these species as aggressive and targeted for eradication.

Road construction creates conditions that could favor an increase of density in the above mentioned weeds. To control spread and reduce the risk of new infestations, a mitigation measure is included in the proposed action for an aggressive weed treatment program to be implemented by Ogden City. The treatment area should buffer the project area by 200 feet, begin immediately and should be continued for at least 5 years after project completion. In addition, a mitigation measure is included requiring all construction equipment working on the project to be power washed before delivery and use on National Forest land, to prevent the further introduction of weeds.

The inclusion of these mitigating measures is expected to control the spread of existing noxious weed infestations and prevent new infestations from occurring.

1.7.4.3 Rare Plants

The US Fish and Wildlife Service lists the Ute ladies tresses as the only threatened or endangered plant species potentially occurring in Weber County. Surveys conducted on the Wasatch-Cache portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest have not found any populations of this plant. Recorded historic populations along the Weber River in Weber County several miles south of the project area have since then failed to be relocated.

The Burke's draba, a sensitive species, occurs on talus slopes and rocky outcrops in fir-mixed conifer and maple/oak communities. There are element occurrences along the Wasatch Range, the majority occurring over 5,800 feet elevation. The project area was surveyed in October 2008 for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants. During this field review, no suitable habitat was found for any Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. (Botany Field Report and Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation are available in the project file).

1.7.4.4 Heritage Resources

Heritage resources are both the physical remains of, and knowledge about, past human activity on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. They include archaeological sites, artifacts, historic document collections, rock art, Forest administrative buildings, traditional plant gathering and ceremonial places, and human-altered landscapes (including tie-hacking and mining districts). Heritage resources are managed within the context of overall Forest management for the long-term benefit of all Americans.

Native American groups have occupied the Wasatch Mountains, and adjoining areas, for at least 14,000 years. The period of occupation is subdivided into several stages. The major subdivisions are: Paleo-Indian (14,000(+)-8,500 B.P.); Archaic (8,500 B.P.-1,550 B.P.); Fremont occupations/influence and Archaic continuation (1,550 B.P.-700 B.P.); Archaic (700-400 B.P.); Protohistoric and Historic Period (400 B.P.-circa 1930).

Archaeological materials associated with the Native American occupation of the Uinta Mountains consist of surface and buried deposits indicative of Native American cultures, in open air sites and rockshelter contexts.

Historic resources over 100 years old are located along the Wasatch Front. Most of these resources are related to early pioneer efforts, and the use of the canyons on the Wasatch Front for irrigation, mining, and logging. No historic resources are known to be near the project area.

The USDA Forest Service performed a Class III cultural resource inventory of the area of this project and did not identify any cultural resources.

In compliance with 36 CFR 800, and the National Historic Preservation Act, The USDA Forest Service, in consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer, has made the determination that authorizing the access road in this area will have no effect to historic properties as per 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). (Heritage Report is available in the project file)

1.7.4.5 Roadless

The project area, located east of the Ogden City limit at approximately 28th Street in Section 35, T6N, R1W (see map in Appendix A) is not within any inventoried roadless area (Revised Forest Plan, page C2-106). Therefore, it will have no effect on roadless values or roadless character for any inventoried roadless area.

1.8 Permits and Authorizations

Table 1.1 Permits, approvals, authorizations, and consultations that may be required for implementation of the decisions made for the depending on the specific activities associated with each alternative.

Agency	Type of Action	Description of Permit/Action
Forest Service	Forest Service Decision Preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA)	The decision to authorize construction and use of this access road is made in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, the Forest Service must complete a BA assessing the impact of the proposed action on federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Agency	Type of Action	Description of Permit/Action
	Preparation of a Biological Evaluation (BE)	In compliance with agency policy, a BE must be prepared assessing the potential impacts to Regional Forester-listed sensitive plant and animal species. A BA/BE was completed on April 15, 2009 and a finding of “no effect” and “no impact” was made for T,E,S species.
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation	A finding of “no effect” was determined for federally-listed threatened and endangered species; therefore, no consultation is required.
State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)	Review and comment	The DWR is responsible for the management and protection of wildlife and fish resources.
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation on National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 (review and compliance process)	SHPO is responsible for the protection of all heritage resources in the state; the Forest Service, in consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer, has made the determination that authorizing the access road in this area will have no effect to historic properties.

Chapter 2 – The Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the formulation of the proposed action and alternatives and discusses alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail. It also summarizes the environmental impacts of the alternatives and associated mitigation measures.

2.2 Formulation of Alternatives

Subsection 1502.14 of the NEPA regulations require that agencies should “vigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives” to the proposed action. The alternatives should achieve the same or similar purpose as the proposed action and should address issues raised and include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action. Alternatives that would not be reasonable, either because they do not meet the purpose and need or because of other considerations, may be eliminated from detailed study. A brief discussion of the reasons for their having been eliminated is given.

The Forest Service ID team evaluated the proposed action in consideration of the relevant issues. Alternatives to the proposed action addressing the relevant issues were developed. If alternatives were identified which were not reasonable, they were recorded but not analyzed in detail (see Section 2.3 below).

The resulting range of alternatives is consistent with the purpose and need for action and with the issues raised. Any of the elements included in the proposed action or any of the action alternatives could be implemented independently of each other, and therefore the Forest Service decision maker may ultimately choose and combine elements from any of the alternatives. This analysis fully discloses the effects of all activities considered, regardless of the alternative in which they are included.

2.3 Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

- **Construct the road entirely on private land** – this alternative was dismissed from detailed study because it would not meet the purpose and need for providing safe access for the construction and maintenance of the water tank. In addition, the proposed action would accomplish the purpose and need with fewer impacts than a route across private land. A route entirely on private land would be very steep, with a grade greater than 20%. This steep grade would be unsafe for truck travel, especially during wet periods, and, would make the road more susceptible to erosion. Also, a route entirely on private land would go through a heavily wooded area and would necessitate cutting several trees. No trees would be cut under the proposed action (letter dated 12/04/08, in the project record).

- **Construct the storage tank at a lower elevation** – this alternative suggested by a public respondent would construct the reservoir at a lower elevation, thereby avoiding an access road over NFS land. This storage tank would serve the existing development only. Although this alternative would avoid the steep slope of the previously described route, the decision to build the reservoir in a different location is beyond the scope of this decision. Ogden City has made the decision as to where the water storage tank is to be constructed. The proposed action and alternatives to it provide access for its construction and maintenance.
- **Use other configurations of storage tanks and pumps** – alternatives using smaller tanks and/or pumps for water storage and transmission were suggested to avoid construction of an access route across NFS land. These alternatives are beyond the scope of this decision. Ogden City has made the decision as to the need and location of the water storage tank. The proposed action and alternatives to it address access across NFS land for its construction and maintenance.

2.4 Alternatives Considered in Detail

The interdisciplinary team recommended and the District Ranger approved the following alternatives. The impacts of each alternative are discussed in Chapter 3. Management requirements and mitigation included in the proposed action are shown below.

2.4.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the no action alternative, no authorization would be given for construction and maintenance of a segment of access road across NFS land. The 629 feet of road inadvertently constructed would be decommissioned and rehabilitated. There would be no decommissioning of unauthorized routes in the vicinity and no planting of bitterbrush associated with the proposed action.

2.4.2 Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of authorizing a special use permit to Ogden City for construction and use of a 629-foot segment of road which crosses National Forest System land. The road would provide access for the construction and maintenance of a 300,000 gallon, reinforced-concrete reservoir located on private land. The water reservoir will serve a new pressure zone for Ogden City's drinking water and fire protection system. The reservoir and associated pipelines will be constructed entirely on private land. The road and reservoir site are located east of the Ogden City limit at approximately 28th Street in Section 35, T6N, R1W. The alignment of the access road bisects a segment of the Bonneville Shoreline trail just south of the mouth of Taylor Canyon.

The proposed action would authorize approximately 629 feet of existing road that was inadvertently constructed on National Forest System land by Ogden City in May 2008. When the road was constructed, the City believed that it was located entirely on private property. In September 2008, it was discovered that the GIS database used in the project design was in error and a small piece of National Forest System land had been incorrectly labeled as private land. The length of road across NFS land is 629 feet and the width varies from 12 feet to 20 feet with an average width of 16 feet. The total area occupied by the road on NFS land is approximately 0.24 acres. Under the proposed action, Ogden City is seeking a road use permit from the Forest Service to allow the City continued use of the road for the purpose of constructing and maintaining the water reservoir.

When completed, the road will include a 6 inch gravel surface, and will be out-sloped and cross ditched to minimize soil erosion. Much of the affected area is located within an old gravel pit development that contains old roads and trails. Under the proposed action, these disturbed areas would be reclaimed with native vegetation.

Motorized use of the access road would be restricted to Ogden City personnel and their contractors. The access road would be used on a daily basis during construction of the water reservoir which is expected to occur during the summer of 2009. Following construction, the road would be used infrequently for maintenance access to the reservoir. Construction and rehabilitation activities would be monitored by Forest Service personnel to assure that mitigation measures and management requirements are adhered to.

Mitigation and Management Requirements

Mitigation measures, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and forest-wide standards and guidelines included in the proposed action are listed below. Research and information substantiating these requirements are found in the Revised Forest Plan and FEIS (USDA Forest Service 2003). The proposed action includes the following mitigating measures to eliminate or reduce environmental effects:

Recreation

1. In order to keep the Bonneville Shoreline Trail open during construction and into the future, debris (including snow) will be kept clear of the trail surface where it crosses the access road and the trail's edge will be buffered to prevent damage to the trail surface.

Access

2. Motorized use of the new road will be restricted to Ogden City personnel and their contractors, before, during, and after construction of the access road and water tank.
3. Ogden City and its designated contractors will cooperate closely with the Forest Service to maintain the existing motorized use closure, focusing on maintaining existing travel management structures (i.e. fences and gates), and

improving travel management control with additional structures where needed.

Water and Soils

4. Proper road drainage improvements (such as drainage dips) will be installed to prevent runoff and sediment effects from impacting nearby recreation trails and private property.
5. All road drainage features are expected to be fully functional at all times during the construction period. They will be regularly maintained and/or repaired if damaged by construction activities.
6. Waste soil and rock from excavation of the water tank disposed of in the gravel pit area must be covered with additional top soil that will support re-vegetation. Earthen material needed for bedding of the tank foundation or of pipeline trenches, may be temporarily stockpiled on National Forest lands. Runoff and sediment from these stockpiles should be contained by a line of sediment fencing.
7. All project sediment fencing is expected to be fully functional at all times during the construction period. It should be cleaned periodically of rainstorm sediment and repaired whenever damaged by construction activities.
8. The construction access road to the project will be periodically watered to minimize dust.
9. No washout of concrete trucks will be allowed on National Forest lands.

Vegetation

10. Old roads and trails located on NFS lands in the vicinity of the gravel pit will be closed and rehabilitated with native vegetation.
11. To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive weed species, all construction equipment working on the project must be power washed before delivery and use on National Forest land.
12. All areas disturbed by construction activities will be seeded at a minimum rate of 40 pounds per acre and then covered with a mulch product that has a minimum of one full year of performance. The seed mix will be provided by the Forest Service and will be certified free of noxious/invasive weed species. Seeding will be done after final road grading has been accomplished.
13. Ogden City will be responsible for the treatment and control of noxious weeds that occur within the project area for a period of 5 years.

Wildlife

14. Approximately 350 containerized bitterbrush plants (quart-size or larger) will be established in the grass/shrubland openings within the surrounding area to compensate for the loss of mule deer winter range habitat.
15. A small water trough will be installed near the water tank to provide water for wildlife.

16. Where possible, construction/maintenance of the road should occur during the summer/fall, to reduce disturbance effects to wintering mule deer and nesting birds.

Wasatch-Cache NF Guidelines (G) that apply to this project.

(G3) Proposed actions analyzed under NEPA should adhere to the State Nonpoint Source Management Plan to best achieve consistency with both Sections 313 and 319 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. (RFP, p. 4-37).
(G4) At the end of an activity, allow no more than 15% of an activity area to have detrimental soil displacement, puddling, compaction and/or to be severely burned. (RFP, p. 4-37).
(G9) Avoid soil disturbing activities (those that remove surface organic matter exposing mineral soil) on steep, erosive, and unstable slopes, and in riparian, wetlands, floodplains, wet meadows, and alpine areas. (RFP, p. 4-38).
(G11) Use Best Management Practices & Soil & Water Conservation Practices during project assessment/ implementation to ensure maintenance of soil productivity, minimization of sediment discharge into streams, lakes and wetlands to protect designated beneficial uses (RFP 4-38).

2.5 Forest Plan Consistency

The segment located on NFS land is in the North Wasatch-Ogden Valley Management Area of the Revised Forest Plan and within a 3.1W management prescription. This management prescription, which includes lands where management emphasis is on maintaining or improving quality of watershed conditions and aquatic habitats, allows no road construction. The proposed action would necessitate a non-significant amendment of the Forest Plan to approve a one-time waiver to the management prescription standard S3.1W, to allow road construction associated with this project. The standard reads:

(3.1W timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed (RFP page 4-69).

All uses of the National Forest must be consistent with the Forest Plan. Alternatives in this analysis have been evaluated for forest plan consistency. The proposed forest plan amendment and evaluation of its significance is shown below.

The management prescription within which the access road would be located, Management Prescription Category 3.1W (Watershed Emphasis) allows no road construction. Construction of the segment of access road within the 3.1W management prescription would necessitate an amendment of the Forest Plan.

Alternative 2 is not consistent with the 2003 Revised Forest Plan. If this alternative is selected as the decision, the Revised Forest Plan would need to be amended, allowing road construction within management prescription 3.1W, for this project area only.

2.5.1 Forest Plan Amendment Significance Evaluation

Significance of Forest Plan Amendment

The “significance” of the amendment must be determined. It is important to note that there is a difference between “significance” of the change to a forest plan and “significance” of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Determination of “significance” for a forest plan amendment is based on the following criteria defined in the Forest Service Manual 1926.5 (Regional Forester letter dated August 9, 2007).

Changes to the land management plan that are not significant can result from:

1. Actions that do not significantly alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.
2. Adjustments of management area boundaries or management prescriptions resulting from further on-site analysis when the adjustments do not cause significant changes in the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.
3. Minor changes in standards and guidelines.
4. Opportunities for additional projects or activities that will contribute to achievement of the management prescription.

Goals and Objectives

This amendment will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management established during the planning process (See Chapter 4 and pages 4-17 through 4-34 of the Revised Forest Plan, 2003).

Management Prescription

Allowing this one-time waiver of S3.1W for road construction in this specific location within management prescription 3.1W (for the purpose of providing access to the Ogden City water storage tank) does not change or affect the management prescription for the rest of the Forest or for future projects in this same area. It does not alter management area boundaries.

Minor changes in Standards and Guidelines

This change is limited to only this project and is a waiver of standard S3.1W (Revised Forest Plan page 4-69). Because the waiver is limited in this way it is considered a minor change.

Opportunities for additional projects or activities that contribute to the achievement of the management prescription

This change will neither preclude nor necessitate additional projects. This change does not alter the ability to achieve the management prescription 3.1W. The area mapped as 3.1W will continue to be managed with a watershed health emphasis.

After reviewing the Forest Service manual direction, the proposed amendment for Alternative 2 was found to be “not significant” in accordance with the requirements of sections 1926.51 and 1926.52.

2.6 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 1 Comparison of alternatives

Activity	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Proposed Action
Feet of road constructed	0	629 feet
Acres affected	0	0.24 acres

Chapter 3 – The Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

3.1 Introduction

Chapter 3 provides a summary of the affected environment including the physical, biological, and social-economic (human) resource conditions that could be affected by the proposed action and the alternatives to it. This information provides a baseline from which comparisons can be made for the effects analysis. The CEQ regulations direct agencies to succinctly describe the environment that could be affected commensurate with the importance of the impacts (40 CFR 1502.15).

This chapter also provides a summary of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the physical, biological, and social-economic environment within the analysis area, and provides the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of the alternatives. Cumulative effects are defined as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions for the project area.

3.1.1 List of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Table 3.1 shows the actions considered in the cumulative effects disclosure. Past, present, and ongoing activities have resulted in the resource's existing condition. Reasonably foreseeable future actions are also considered. As applicable to each resource, these conditions, actions, and effects are described in Chapter 3. For the complete cumulative effects analysis for each resource area, see the individual resource section.

Table 3.1 Past, present and ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable activities within the analysis area

Action	Description	Date
Housing Developments	Private subdivisions exist adjacent to the project area; additional subdivisions may be expected to be built on private property along the Ogden bench.	1940s to present and future
Roads and Trails	Paved roads exist within the existing housing developments; roads on USFS lands have been decommissioned along the bench. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail allows for non-motorized use only.	1900s to present
Water Storage Tank	A water storage tank will be constructed for Ogden City on private land adjacent to NFS land.	2009

Fuels treatments have been implemented in the Mountain Green (2008) and Uinta Highlands (2007) areas and are proposed for the Strongs Peak area (2009). While these projects are in proximity to the project area, their effects do not overlap in time and space with any of the project effects.

3.2 Recreation

An issue was raised that construction and maintenance of the access road to the Ogden City water storage tank in Taylor Canyon may lead to unintended problems associated with the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Recreation is a major public use in this area, primarily on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail that crosses the new road.

Indicator used to compare alternatives:

- The impact to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail resulting from the proposed road segment

Affected Environment

The trails on and off National Forest along the Ogden Front are jointly operated and maintained with the Ogden Trail Network, a committee of the Mayor, Weber Pathways, the local trail advocacy group, and the Forest Service.

Current recreation uses of this area (public and private) are walking, mountain biking, running, geo-caching, horseback riding, and nearby rock climbing/bouldering and snowshoeing. Because of the low snow amounts on this west-facing hillside, the activities occur nearly year-round. No use counts are available for these activities.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) is a concept that defines a pathway on the west slopes of the Wasatch Range and the east slopes of the Oquirrh Range, on or near the shoreline bench of ancient glacial Lake Bonneville in Cache, Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah Counties. The trail may eventually connect from the Idaho border to Juab County, an airline distance of over 150 miles. The actual trail tread would far exceed that distance.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail concept began in 1990 as an effort to preserve a heavily used mountain biking, jogging, and walking pathway along a corridor between Emigration Canyon and Dry Canyon on the east side of Salt Lake City. The City of Ogden supports the concept of this regional trail.

The Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan EIS lists the BST (trail #6339) as an important Regional Trail in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (USDA Forest Service 2003, FEIS, page 3 – 240). The EIS states the following objectives for the BST on the Wasatch-Cache NF.

- Provide ready access to the Wasatch foothills public lands.
- Provide a place that is safe for people to pursue their recreational interests; a place that is aesthetically pleasing, trying where possible to accommodate a broad range of non-motorized uses.
- Provide a place for people to have an opportunity for quiet and scenic recreational use nearby, yet apart from the urban Wasatch Front.
- Provide for rapid deployment of fire fighting resources to the urban/foothills interface, opportunities for backfiring operations, cleared trails for firefighter

escape routes, and to serve as a buffer between the urban and natural environments.

- Contribute to the preservation of aesthetic, wildlife, historic and educational values of the foothills.

This section of the trail was used as a hiking trail well before the title Bonneville Shoreline Trail was assigned to it. Since it is the lower elevation route through this area, it services the greatest number of hikers and mountain bikers relative to the upper trail leading to Malan Basin. This trail extends south to the mount of Waterfall Canyon, another popular hiking destination.

Environmental Effects

The access road would cross the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and could affect use of this non-motorized hiking trail. The location where the trail crosses the road is directly adjacent to the tank location (where vehicles can park and turn around). Although the road would cross the trail, no undue adverse effects to recreation would occur because the location of this site is directly adjacent to Ogden City streets, a busy residential area. The access road would result in a minor conflict with the overall physical and psychological enjoyment of the project area.

Although not open to the public, the road would be used by administrative vehicles year round, for maintenance of the water storage tank. The evidence of this motorized activity would become a permanent feature of this area. This adjacency of motorized and non-motorized uses occurs in other areas along the Ogden Front where the gravel roads for the water pipelines are used for administrative purposes. It is possible this road will require plowing during the winter for management access, extending the season of use by motor vehicles.

The proposed action includes mitigating measures to limit administrative uses during construction and afterwards which will minimize effect on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail activities. The crossing of the actual trail will require regular maintenance to ensure that it will not prevent the trail uses, especially in the event the road is plowed of snow and could leave a steep snow mound. A mitigation measure is included in the proposed action to regularly clear the trail of snow and debris, resulting in no effect to BST uses.

Cumulative Effects

This area has a long history of human activities and impacts that are visible today. The bulk of the road and the water tank construction area are located entirely upon private land. The new water tank will be constructed at the top of 36th street near Weber State University, impacting trails in that area.

The top of 27th street is a minor access point for the trails. Public trailheads exist on 22nd street and 29th street. This improved road would become the preferred route to access the trails going south of 27th street. This could have a cumulative impact of increasing the

public uses from 27th street but would not likely increase or decrease the overall amount of recreation occurring in this area.

For more information on recreation and mitigation, see the Recreation Report in the project file.

3.3 Soils and Water

An issue was raised that construction and maintenance of an access road to the Ogden City water storage tank in Taylor Canyon may increase the risk of erosion and sediment during construction of the proposed road segment.

Indicator used to compare alternatives:

- The degree of risk of erosion and sedimentation resulting from the proposed road segment.

Affected Environment

The site is a gentle alluvial fan, south and west of Taylor Canyon. The sandy, non-cohesive nature of the soils found on the site makes them susceptible to accelerated soil erosion when the native vegetation is removed. Mitigation measures to control runoff are included in the proposed action.

The site contains early to mid-seral vegetation sagebrush, grass, and weedy annuals. Clumps of gambel oak are present in the area as well. The soil resource is dominated by the Kilburn gravelly sandy loam soil type.

The area appears generally suited to the proposed use, with proper mitigation measures to meet the following objective related to soils and water:

1. Protection of adjacent private homes and property from storm water runoff and sediment damages.
2. Control of existing weed infestations, and prevention of new ones.
3. Exclusion of unauthorized motorized vehicle use from the project area, and from the construction access road, both during construction and afterwards.

Environmental Effects

The construction of dips or water bars at as many points as possible along the access road will encourage rainfall infiltration in the gravel pit area and prevent concentration of runoff on the road. The location of cross drain features for the road is specified in the soils report (included in the project record). Since access road drainage features are expected to be fully functional at all times during the construction period through regular maintenance and/or repair, no damage from excess runoff is expected.

The management requirement to power wash construction equipment before delivery and use on National Forest land is expected to help prevent the introduction of weed infestations into the project area.

Since all project sediment fencing is expected to be fully functional at all times during the construction period (cleaned periodically of rainstorm sediment and repaired whenever damaged by construction activities) it is expected erosion and sediment will be controlled and effects on water and soils will be minimized.

Other mitigation including dust and mud abatement, and disposal of construction related waste materials such as concrete, will minimize effects on soil and water resources related to construction of the access road.

It is expected that revegetation of areas disturbed by construction activities (native grass and shrub species seeded and planted per Forest Service prescription) will effectively rehabilitate affected areas and minimize introduction of noxious/invasive weed species.

No adverse effects to water quality, wetlands, or floodplains would occur because there are no water features (streams or springs) in the project area. Mitigating measures to control sediment and rehabilitate disturbed areas will minimize effect on the soil resource. The commitment of soil resource is approximately ¼ acre. Mitigation to compensate for the loss of soil resource is achieved through rehabilitation of an equivalent area or greater in need of restoration. This will be accomplished by seeding of weed-free native seed and bitterbrush plantings.

Cumulative Effects

The water tank construction area is located entirely upon private land, immediately adjacent to and upslope of National Forest land. The area represents a source of runoff and sediment with a potential to cause rill and gully erosion on other private and public lands located down slope of the water tank. These lands will be most vulnerable to erosion and runoff from rainstorms immediately after the initial clearing and grub-out of vegetation of the water tank site. The objective of storm water control for this project is to contain runoff within the water tank construction site, and not allow excessive amounts of runoff from the area to channelize and travel down the access road. Runoff from the tank construction site will be intercepted and routed away from the access road by means of sediment control devices such as sediment fencing, berms, and/or ditching. This is expected to be effective in preventing erosion and sediment that may cumulatively impact private lands down slope of the project area.

For more information, and details on mitigation, management requirements, and BMPs, see the Soils and Water Report in the project file.

3.4 Wildlife

An issue was raised that the proposed road segment may affect winter range habitat for big game, particularly mule deer, in the vicinity of the road access project.

Indicator used to compare alternatives:

- The amount of crucial winter range lost by conversion to roadbed

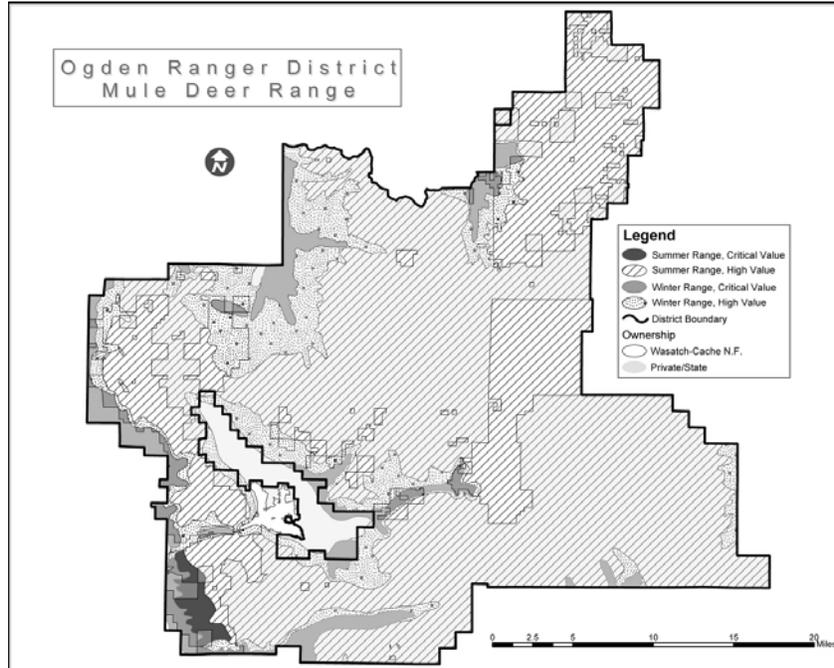
Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

The project area consists of a patchwork primarily of oak brush and shrub/grasslands. The wildlife section of this EA discusses the effects of construction of 629 feet of access road on the wildlife species which occur within the project area. A list of vertebrate wildlife species for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (USDA Forest Service, 2003) is located in the project file For game species, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources GIS habitat maps have been used for this analysis.

Mule deer - Big game species that reside within the boundaries of the project area are primarily mule deer, though moose may occasionally utilize the area. Mule deer habitat within the project area consists of crucial value winter range habitat (formerly called critical value winter range). The figure below displays deer habitat within the Ogden Ranger District and the project area (from the UDWR deer habitat map).

UDWR has changed its habitat value categories and definitions: critical, high, substantial, and limited value habitat are now categorized as crucial and substantial value habitat. Crucial value habitat is now the combination of critical value and high value habitat. *Crucial value habitat* is defined by UDWR as “habitat on which the local population of wildlife species depends for survival because there are no alternative ranges or habitats available. Crucial value habitat is essential to the life history requirements of a wildlife species. Degradation or unavailability of crucial value habitat will lead to significant declines in carrying capacity and/or numbers of the wildlife species in question.” *Substantial value habitat* is defined by UDWR as “habitat that is used by a wildlife species but is not crucial for population survival. Degradation or unavailability of substantial value habitat will not lead to significant declines in carrying capacity and/or numbers of the wildlife species in question.”

Mule Deer Habitat within the Ogden Ranger District (Map from Ogden Travel Plan Analysis)



The effect of the access road within key winter range habitat is mostly limited, since the road will be gated and only accessible for administrative use, thus limiting potential disturbance to mule deer. Approximately 0.24 acres of crucial winter range will be lost by conversion to road bed within the USFS portion of the project area. Approximately 350 containerized bitterbrush plants will be planted in grass/shrubland openings to provide compensation for loss of winter range habitat. See mitigation measures included in the proposed action (Section 2.4.2).

Management Indicator Species (Wildlife)

The WCNF Revised Forest Plan identified the goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), the snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), and beaver (*Castor canadensis*) as “wildlife” management indicator species (Forest Service 2003b:J4-J5). None of the wildlife management indicator species are likely to occur within this project area. Therefore, the construction of this access road will not affect management indicator species.

Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Wildlife Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services lists one Threatened and two Candidate species as occurring, or potentially occurring, in Weber County. These include the Canada lynx (T), Ogden Rocky Mountainsnail (C), and the yellow-billed cuckoo (C). Of these species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, only the Ogden Rocky Mountainsnail is likely to occur within the project area.

Ogden Rocky Mountainsnail

The location of this “subspecies” is near the eastern city limits of Ogden, near Rainbow Gardens. The Ogden Rocky Mountainsnail (*Oreohelix peripherica wasatchensis*) occurs under maple and gambel’s oak trees and is restricted in distribution to a very small area (~ 100 acres). The Ogden Rocky Mountainsnail has been found among the large boulder outcroppings just north of Taylor Canyon. These locations are approximately ¼ mile north of the proposed access road. Surveys for snails have been conducted along the road and in adjacent areas. No snails have been found within the area. Therefore, this proposed project will not affect the Ogden Rocky Mountainsnail.

Forest Service Intermountain Region Sensitive Species

Of the wildlife species listed as sensitive for the Wasatch-Cache NF, the Townsend’s big-eared bat is the only wildlife species likely to occur within the project area. Detailed habitat requirements and general distribution information for all sensitive species on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest are discussed in the Revised Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 2003). Additional information on sensitive species is contained within the Biological Evaluation.

Townsend’s big-eared bats are widely distributed throughout the Intermountain Region. The species occurs in large numbers at Bat Cave on the Ogden District and in Logan Cave on the Logan District. They may exist in other areas of the Forest where there is suitable cave or cliff roosting habitat. Western big-eared bats use juniper/pine forests, shrub/steppe grasslands, deciduous forests, and mixed coniferous forests from sea level to 10,000 feet. During winter they roost singly or in small clusters in caves, or rocky outcroppings, occasionally in old buildings, or mine shafts. Townsend’s big-eared bats likely forage for moths and other insects within the project area. The effects to foraging habitat for bat species would be minor and would not be significant (any effect would be insignificant in comparison to the amount of total habitat).

Neotropical Migratory/Song Birds

A U.S. Forest Service neotropical migratory bird survey (point counts) route has been established within the project area; the Taylor Canyon route occurs adjacent to the project area and has been monitored in 2000 and 2003. The results of these surveys are included in the project record (also see Appendix B, Table 2, Ogden Travel Plan FEIS).

Priority migratory bird species that occur within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest identified in the Utah Bird Conservation Plan (Utah Partners in Flight 2002) and/or those identified by USFWS as birds of conservation concern have been identified as species at risk in the Revised Forest Plan (see Forest Plan FEIS, Appendix B-2). The Species at Risk List was revised on February 23, 2004 (see project record). Of those species, the broad-tailed hummingbird and black-throated gray warbler are known to occur within the project area.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

The broad-tailed hummingbird is a common breeder in the eastern and central parts of the Great Basin. It winters primarily in Mexico. It nests primarily in riparian habitat though also occurs within aspen, ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and Douglas fir dominant habitats. The broad-tailed hummingbird typically requires streamside areas adjacent to open patches of meadows or grasses with good quantities of wild flowers available throughout the breeding season. This hummingbird feeds on nectar of wildflowers.

Nests are from as low as 3 ft to as high as 30 ft above the ground and are often found overhanging a stream. Threats to this species would include loss of riparian habitat and lack of wildflowers. Parrish et al (2002) did not suggest any recommendations related to management of roads in regards to the conservation of the broad-tailed hummingbird. No riparian habitat occurs within the project area. The effects to habitat for the broad-tailed hummingbird would be minor and would not be significant.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

The breeding range of the black-throated gray warbler lies within the western United States and southern British Columbia. Preferred breeding habitat includes dry oak slopes, pinyon and juniper woodlands, open mixed woodlands, chaparral, and dry coniferous and mixed woodlands with a brushy understory. The black-throated gray warbler winters primarily in Mexico. The black-throated gray warbler occurs statewide in Utah as a common summer resident. The species prefers densely wooded areas over areas where trees are more widely spaced; open areas are extensively used for foraging. Parrish et al (2002) identified road construction, trail, off-road vehicle use are likely to have detrimental effects, though the effects have not been studied.

This species has only been observed at Taylor Canyon within the Ogden Ranger District, though it is likely to be found in other juniper vegetation areas. Two black-throated gray warblers were observed at a survey point east of the project area in 2003. The project may affect some foraging habitat (open areas) for the warbler, though a portion of the area (the gravel pit) has been previously disturbed. Due to the limited size of the project's affected area (0.24 acres on USFS land), the effects to foraging habitat would be minor and would not be significant.

Cumulative Effects

Since the effects to wildlife resulting from construction of 629 feet of access road would be minor or none at all (as in the case of MIS wildlife species as described above) there are no cumulative effects related to this project. There would be no effect because the species are not present, there is no suitable habitat provided in the project vicinity, and/or the effects of the proposed actions (with mitigation) are negligible. Therefore, there are no cumulative effects to wildlife.

For more information on wildlife, see the Wildlife Report and the Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation in the project file.

Chapter 4

Response to Comments

Letter #	Comment	Category	Response
1a	I am writing in regards to Ogden City's request to encroach upon the Forest Service land in order to build a road so that the City may erect a water tank east of 28th Street.	Purpose and Need	The purpose and need for the project, authorization of an access road, is disclosed in the EA, Section 1.4.
1b	After reviewing the City's water system plan I find the City does not actually need a tank at the specific location or access across forest Service land to solve the water issues.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
1c	My comments are out of respect for the natural beauty of the area and out of concern with how much the City is spending.	Scope	We too are concerned for the natural beauty of the area; the issue of City spending is outside the scope of this analysis.
1d	I have knowledge of pipeline systems and storage tanks and have a good understanding of the city's water system.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
1e	With the rest of the water system improvements being designed and installed by the City, there is no need for the City to build a water tank in Taylor's Canyon.	Purpose and Need	The purpose and need for the project, authorization of an access road, is disclosed in the EA, Section 1.4.
1f	The argument that the tank is needed to provide adequate pressure and water inventories is not supported by fact.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
1g	The road will ultimately result in the unintentional opening up of access to Forest Service land in a way that will lead to unintended uses and abuses. This road will forever diminish our ability to protect the National Forest land.	Effects	The effects of construction and use of the access road are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EA. The proposed action includes mitigation measures designed to minimize resource effects.
1h	There are no compelling enough legitimate reasons provided by the City to justify the need to encroach into or permit the destruction of National Forest land.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3. Resource effects, as disclosed in Chapter 3, will not be significant.
2a	The proposed water reservoir and access road will require a Conditional Use Permit from Weber County. Appropriate building permits will also be required.	General	Ogden City is responsible for acquisition of these permits.

3a	The City has said the location of the water storage was chosen in anticipation of any new development on the bench lands. If the purpose were for existing customers, the City said the tank could be 58 feet lower.	Scope	The alternative to provide access to a water tank constructed at a lower elevation was considered but dismissed from detailed analysis as disclosed in the EA, Section 2.3, because it is outside the scope of this decision.
3b	Ogden's residents are undoubtedly divided on the question of developing the east bench, yet few would support subsidizing future developments on the bench through increased water bills paid by current users.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
3c	The impacts of new subsidized foothill development whose likelihood will be greatly increased if this project moves forward should be added to the list of issues.	Issues	The issue of future development of the foothills is addressed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
3d	There are other impacts to consider, including disturbing native vegetation, facilitating increased noxious weed invasion, and generally disturbing the quiet and natural character of the foothills.	Impacts	Impacts to vegetation and noxious weed invasion are addressed in the EA, Sections 1.7.4.2 and 1.7.4.3. Impacts on the natural character of the foothills, especially the effect on wildlife, would be minimal, as disclosed in the EA, Section 3.4; effects on the quiet and natural character are disclosed in Section 3.2.
3e	An alternative should be considered that would place the tank somewhat lower than currently proposed, with a goal to provide adequate pressure to existing customers only, eliminating the need for the access road.	Alternatives	The alternative to provide access to a water tank constructed at a lower elevation was considered but dismissed from detailed analysis as disclosed in the EA, Section 2.3, because placement of the water tank is outside the scope of this decision.
3f	It seems quite possible the proposed water tank is not needed at all.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
3g	A "wait and see" approach should be taken, to see if other water tanks and pipelines will alleviate the current problem without constructing this new water tank and access road.	Scope	The decision whether or not to construct the water storage tank is outside the scope of this analysis, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.7.3.
3h	The Sierra Club suggests the Forest Service postpone any further work on this project until other infrastructure improvements by Ogden City are completed first.	Scope	The decision to construct the water tank has already been made by Ogden City. The purpose and need for the proposed action is authorization of an access road, as disclosed in the EA, Section 1.4.
4a	There has been some confusion created due to inaccurate GIS representation of the property line.	Proposed Action	The background and history of the proposed action, including the GIS representation, is disclosed in the EA, Sections 1.2 and Section 1.3.
4b	The housing development looks to pre-date the 2003 LRMP. This proposal should have been brought up at that time.	Scope	In December 2008, Ogden City applied for a special use permit for access to construct a water storage tank, after the location had been decided on.

4c	The area in question is big game winter habitat; a road here would be in direct conflict with the LRMP which says to protect and improve big game winter range habitat areas.	Wildlife Habitat	The effects to big game winter habitat from the proposal, including mitigation, would be minimal, as disclosed in the EA, Wildlife Section 3.4.
4d	UEC would support the project if the city makes a commitment to rehabilitate, close, and decommission other routes (authorized and unauthorized) in the area highlighted on the enclosed map, including the gravel pit scars.	Wildlife Habitat	Effects to wildlife habitat would be minimal due to mitigation measures included in the proposed action to close unauthorized routes on NFS land and rehabilitate them (such as the gravel pit) with native plantings and seeding. See EA, Section 2.4.2 Mitigation and Management Requirements and Section 3.4 Wildlife.
4e	UEC would support the project if other than the new road (closed to the public) the only trails in the area would be non-motorized trails.	Mitigation	Mitigation measures are included in the proposed action to close unauthorized routes on NFS land and rehabilitate them (such as the gravel pit) with native plantings and seeding. Approximately 350 bitterbrush seedlings will be planted to compensate for .24 acres lost winter range habitat.
4f	The city should work proactively with private land owners to ensure this open space is protected and restored.	Scope	The decision for open space is outside the scope of this analysis; however, mitigation measures are included to close unauthorized routes and rehabilitate degraded areas on NFS lands. See EA, Section 2.4.2 Mitigation and Management Requirements.
4g	A key problem is the cumulative loss and decline in the quality and extent of low elevation winter range habitats along the Wasatch Front.	Wildlife Habitat	Effects to wildlife habitat would be minimal (.24 acres) and these effects would be compensated for with the planting of 350 bitterbrush seedlings to restore degraded areas. See EA, Section 2.4.2 Mitigation and Management Requirements and Section 3.4 Wildlife.
4h	With the modifications proposed (restore other impacts and scars), the project would result in a net improvement in this important big game winter range.	Wildlife Habitat	That is correct, as disclosed in the EA, Chapter 3, Section 3.4 Wildlife.
4i	If these modifications are not added to the proposed action, then an additional alternative should be considered to address these wildlife habitat concerns, and the EA should be circulated for review.	Wildlife Habitat	Mitigation measures are included in the proposed action to close unauthorized routes on NFS lands and rehabilitate them (such as the gravel pit) with native plantings and seeding. Approximately 350 bitterbrush seedlings will be planted to restore degraded areas.

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Appendix A Project Area Map

