Scoping Document	**Radford Hills/ Nordic Valley Fuels Trail Project**	USDA Forest Service Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Ogden Ranger District Weber County, Utah Comments Due: April 18, 2008

The Purpose of this Scoping Document

The Ogden Ranger District is proposing to construct a non-motorized fuelbreak trail above the communities of Nordic Valley, Radford Hills, and Moose Mountain in the Ogden Valley. (See Map). This project was initiated by the Nordic Valley Community Fire Counsel as part of their community fire plan development. Much of the proposed 4.5-mile trail is on private lands, but about 0.34 of a mile crosses National Forest lands. The trail is envisioned as having multiple non-motorized purposes: hiking, cross-country skiing, and fire break.

Our NEPA analysis and decision cover only the National Forest portion of trail construction. The portions of the trail on private lands are not under National Forest jurisdiction. The proposed trail construction is located in T.6N, R.1E, Section 5, NE ¼, SLM, in Weber County.

This document is to inform you that the Ogden Ranger District is initiating an environmental review to assess the impact of the firebreak trail construction. We invite you to let us hear of any comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding this proposed project on the Ogden Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

What is Being Proposed?

The proposal is to authorize construction of approximately 0.34 mile of non-motorized trail within an oakbrush stand. The trail will tie in with a trail on private lands at either end. Trail construction may be done with light equipment (such as a trailcat) or by hand.

In addition, clearing of vegetation on either or both sides of the trail will create a shaded fuelbreak. Clearing will be done using chainsaws to reduce fuel loading adjacent to the trail, up to about 20 feet wide. Cleared material will be either piled and burned, or dragged to a chipper and chipped. Maintenance activities (such as hand-cutting oak/maple sprouts on an approximately 5 year interval) will also be part of the proposed action.

Why are we proposing this project?

The purpose of this project is to produce a fuel break to reduce fire spread between the National Forest and the communities of Nordic Valley, Radford Hills, and Moose Mountain, and to increase access for firefighting.

These communities sit within a dense and continuous stand of oakbrush which has not burned for many years. Recent fires in oakbrush elsewhere on the Wasatch Front illustrate the great threat to residents, firefighters, and homes when a wildfire occurs. The prevailing wind patterns (from the west and southwest) in this area indicate a high potential for wildfire to spread from National Forest into Nordic Valley houses.

Preliminary Issues

- Soil and vegetation disturbance associated with trail construction and clearing could increase erosion and impact species of concern, if present in this small project area.

- Unauthorized motorized travel on the trail could contribute to soil erosion.

- Recreation opportunities on this section of trail are limited unless easements through the private land sections of trail are granted.

What is the Decision to be made?

The decision to be made is whether or not to construct approximately 0.34 mile of fuelbreak trail in the Radford Hills/Nordic Valley area, and if so, with what required mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on the environment.

Who will make the Decision?

The District Ranger, Chip Sibbernsen, is the official responsible for making the decision. The decision would be implemented in the summer of 2008.

We want to hear from you.

We welcome your comments, whether you have additional issues you believe need to be addressed or specific concerns with the proposal.

Specific questions regarding the proposal should be directed to Beth Corbin, at (801) 625-5112; FAX (801) 625-5914, or email ecorbin@fs.fed.us. Additional information can be found on the web at http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/projects/proposed/.

Submittals you make and identifiers therein will be available for public review and may be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

When do we need your Response?

To be most useful, we would appreciate receiving your written comments by **April 14, 2008**. Comments should be mailed to:

Chip Sibbernsen, District Ranger, Ogden Ranger District, 507 25th Street, Suite 103, Ogden, UT 84401 or emailed to: ecorbin@fs.fed.us

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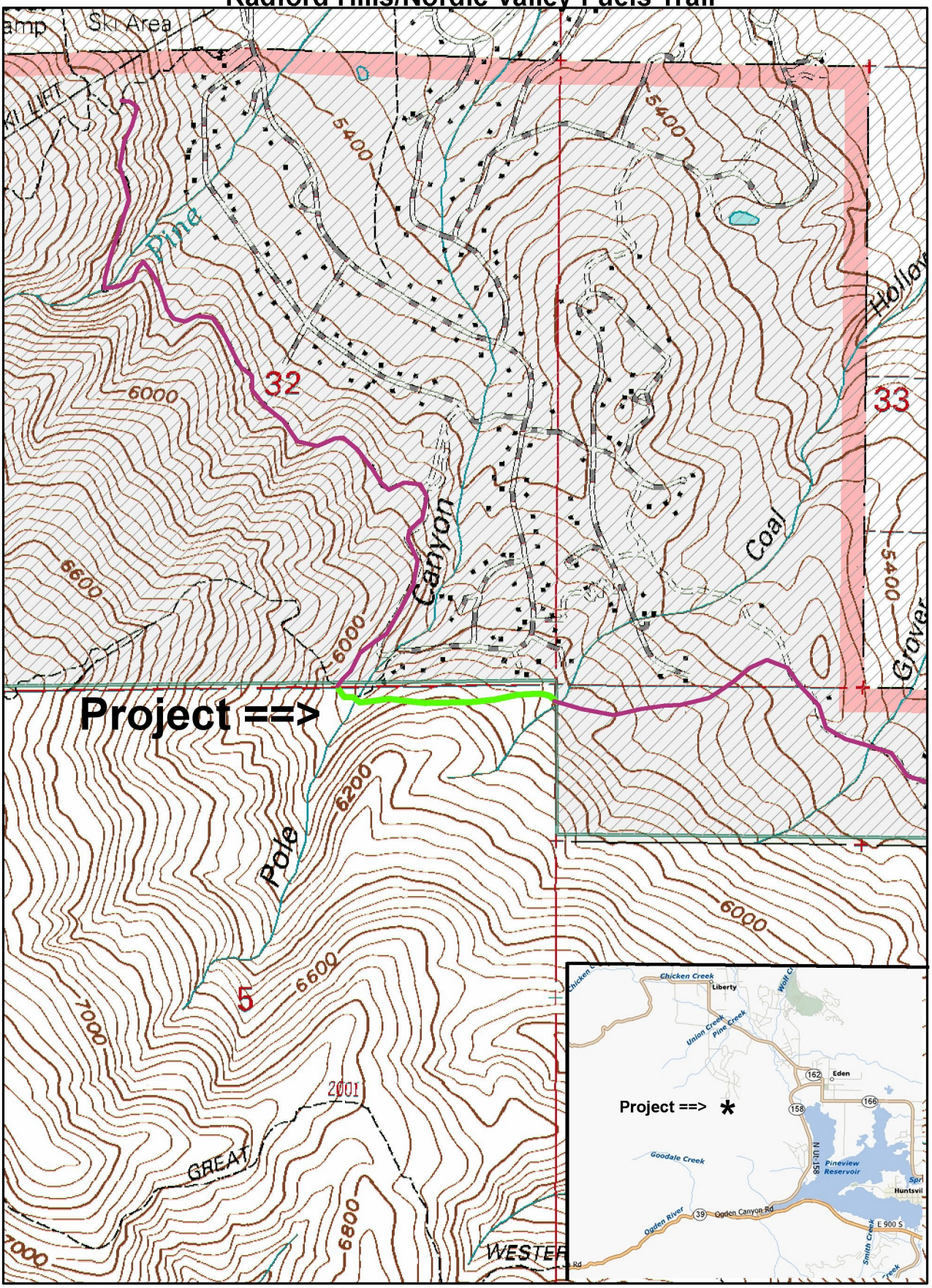
Radford Hills/Nordic Valley Fuels Trail



T.6N, R.1E, Sec 5

Rad_Nordic_trail
Owner
FS
pvt

BLC 1/23/08