



**Scoping Document
and Opportunity for
Comment**

**Access Road
For the Ogden City
Water Storage
Reservoir**

USDA Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
Weber County, Utah

**Comments Due:
30 days after publication of the
Legal Notice in the Salt Lake
Tribune**

The Purpose of this Letter

This document is to inform you that the Ogden Ranger District is conducting an environmental analysis on a proposed action involving a special use permit authorization for the City of Ogden. The public scoping period is being held concurrently with a 30 day formal notice and comment period. We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this proposal.

What is being proposed?

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 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 east of the Ogden City limit at approximately 28th Street in Section 35, T6N, R1W (see attached Figure 1).

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 attached Figure 2). 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.

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 restoring aquatic/watershed and terrestrial habitat integrity, 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.

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. This project will provide an opportunity to reclaim these disturbed areas with native vegetation.

The road will 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.

Motorized use of the new road will be restricted to Ogden City personnel and their contractors.

The alignment of the new road bisects a segment of the Bonneville Shoreline trail just south of the mouth of Taylor Canyon.

The proposed action includes the following mitigating measures to eliminate or reduce environmental effects:

1. Bitterbrush will be planted in the project area vicinity to reclaim a portion of previously disturbed areas.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Why are we proposing this project?

Currently, homes on the eastern edge of Ogden City between Lake Street and 29th Street are experiencing inadequate water pressure. This is particularly acute during periods of peak demand. The need to maintain adequate pressure to provide fire protection for homes in this area further compounds the problem. The existing water system provides neither adequate flow nor pressure for fire fighting as required by the International Fire Code. To address these concerns Ogden City has determined that a new reservoir is needed. Although the new reservoir will be sited on private land, road access across NFS land is needed to provide for its construction and maintenance.

Preliminary Issues

1. Effects to the environment at this location and the surrounding area (including water quality, wildlife, vegetation, soil, cultural resources, and aquatics).
2. Potential effects to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (during and after construction of the road).
3. Effects to hikers and bikers using the Bonneville Shoreline Trail during construction of the road.
4. Potential impacts from the establishment of noxious weeds in disturbed areas.
5. Impacts to forest values from a road constructed entirely across private land.

Preliminary Alternatives

The following are preliminary alternatives to the proposal. There may be other alternatives developed during the analysis based on issues raised during this information-gathering period.

1. Construct the road entirely on private land
2. No Action

What is the Decision to be made?

The decision to be made is whether or not to issue a special use permit authorizing the construction and use of approximately 629 feet of road (approximately 0.24 acres) on NFS land for access to a new water storage reservoir to be constructed on private land.

Who will make the Decision?

Forest Supervisor, Brian Ferebee, is the official responsible for making the decision. The decision would be implemented beginning in June, 2009.

How can I comment?

This comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the notice in the Salt Lake Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments may be submitted to District Ranger, Ogden Ranger District, 507 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, fax number 801-625-5914. The office business hours for hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

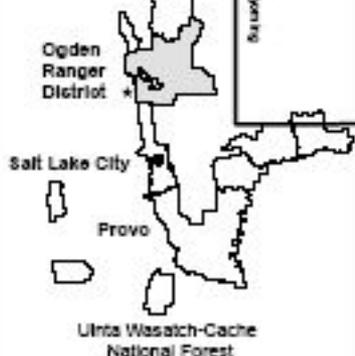
Oral comments may be provided at the Ogden Ranger District office during normal business hours via telephone (801) 625-5112 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-ogden@fs.fed.us.

CHIP SIBBERNSEN
OGDEN DISTRICT RANGER

Date __January 23, 2009_____

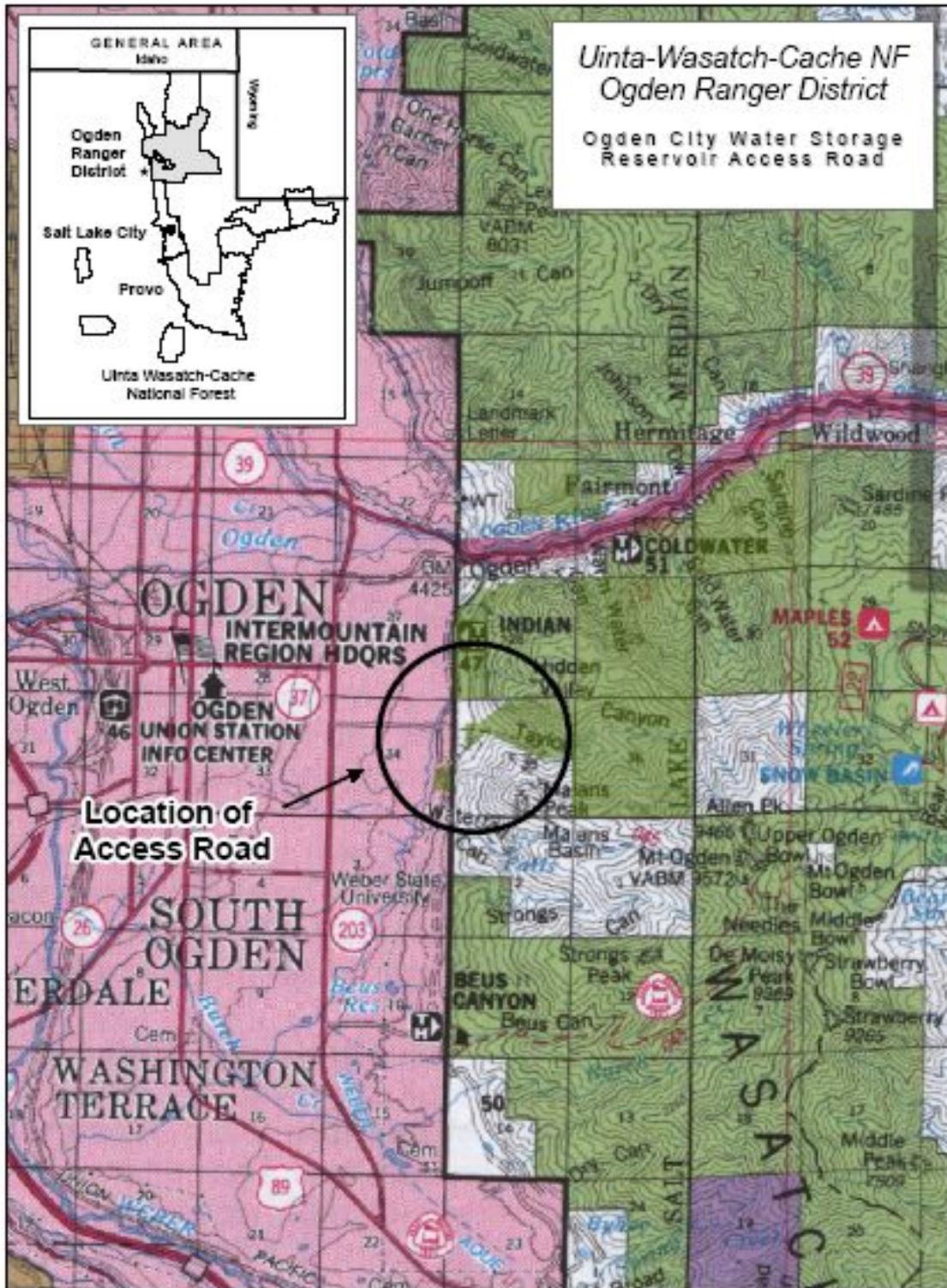
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GENERAL AREA
Idaho



Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF
Ogden Ranger District

Ogden City Water Storage
Reservoir Access Road



Ogden City Water Reservoir Access Road

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF
Ogden Ranger District
Jan., 2009

