



Scoping Document

Weber State University Outfitting and Guide Permit

USDA Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
Box Elder and Weber County, Utah
Comments Due: February 24, 2009

The Purpose of this Scoping Document

This document is to inform you that the Ogden Ranger District is initiating an environmental analysis. Based on the preliminary assessment, this proposal falls within categories of actions listed in 36 CFR Part 220.6 that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of the category. We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this proposal.

Weber State University Wilderness Recreation Center (WRC) has submitted an application for the following guided activities on National Forest in the Ogden area. A map is attached showing these approximate locations (reference these numbers on the location map).

1. Rock Climbing on the following locations (Expanding climbing skills, safety skills, environmental stewardship)
 - a. School Room Crag above 22nd to 27th street*
 - b. Indian Trail Limestone Crag south of the mouth of Ogden Canyon
 - c. On the south side of Ogden Canyon across from the Alaska Inn.*
 - d. Jumpoff Canyon above 800 North.
2. Mountaineering / Alpine Climbing (Alpine terrain travel, equipment, route selection skills, safety skills, environmental stewardship)
 - a. North Fork Park* or North Ogden Divide to Ben Lomond Peak
 - b. Willard Spires south-east of the town of Willard in Holmes Canyon*
3. Skiing / Snowboarding (Expanding winter travel and safety skills, environmental stewardship)
 - a. Ben Lomond Peak area above North Fork Park*
 - b. Lewis Peak area along the Skyline Trail between Ogden Canyon and North Ogden Canyon.
4. Paddling, Canoeing / Kayaking (Non-motorized boating skills, safety skills, environmental stewardship)
 - a. Causey Reservoir
5. Backpacking, Hiking, Snowshoeing (Year-round mountain travel and safety skills, environmental stewardship)
 - a. Skyline Trail from Ogden Canyon, North Ogden Canyon, to Ben Lomond Peak.
 - b. Wheeler Creek Trails between Wheeler Canyon and Snowbasin parking lots.

* Permission from adjacent landowner to access National Forest will be required.

What is being proposed?

The proposed action is to issue an Outfitting and Guiding permit to Weber State University Wilderness Recreation Center (WRC) authorizing certain types of commercial outfitting and guiding on pre-approved portions of National Forest. The number of total clients will be limited annually to a maximum of 100.

An annual permit will be issued after an acceptable Operating Plan addressing the itinerary for each activity, education and safety protocols has been approved by the Ranger District. The Operating Plan includes rescue plans, pre-season coordination with local rescue groups, other necessary certification, equipment lists, and environmental protection (sanitation, ethics training, etc).

Why are we proposing this project?

Weber State University Wilderness Recreation Center (WRC) has a desire to expand the educational opportunities through guided trips, classes, and workshops in the local mountains. The WRC has engaged in leading trips for more than 20 years for a variety of outdoor activities. This approval will allow them to provide recreational trips and instructional programs without needing extended travel to other locations. The main goal of the WRC is to provide students, faculty, staff, and community members with positive outdoor recreational experiences. Education including Leave No Trace ethics will be an important component of each activity.

Decisions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment when they are within one of the categories identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 7 CFR part 1b.3 or listed in 36 CFR 220.6 (d) or (e), and there are not extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

Preliminary Issues

1. Effects to the environment at this location and the surrounding area (including water quality, sensitive plants and animals, other wildlife, vegetation, soil, cultural resources, and aquatics.)
2. Potential effects to the current recreation users

What is the Decision to be made?

The decision to be made is whether or not to issue Weber State University WRC a special use permit authorizing certain types of outfitting and guiding on pre-approved locations of National Forest.

Who will make the Decision?

District Ranger, Chip Sibbersen, is the official responsible for making the decision. The decision would be implemented immediately.

How can I comment?

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 Rick Vallejos, at (801) 625-5112; FAX (801) 625-5914, or email rvallejos@fs.fed.us. Additional information can be found on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwc/projects/wcnf/proposed/> under Ogden Ranger District projects.

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 **February 24**. Comments should be mailed to:

Chip Sibbersen, District Ranger, Ogden Ranger District, 507 25th Street, Suite 103, Ogden, UT 84401 or emailed to: comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-ogden@fs.fed.us

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).

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