



Scoping Document

South Fork Recreation Complex Waterline addition

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

Comments Due: April 18, 2008

The Purpose of this Scoping Document

This document is to inform you that the Ogden Ranger District is initiating an environmental review to assess the impact of a waterline installation along the South Fork River. You are invited to comment regarding this proposed use on the Ogden Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The Forest Service is proposing to install approximately one mile of new buried waterline to replace the existing line connecting Lower Meadows Campground to South Fork Campground. This waterline is the only water supply to three Forest Service campgrounds. The project area is in Sections 6, T. 6 N, R. 3 E, Salt Lake BM, in Weber County, Utah (See Map)

What is Being Proposed?

The proposal is to authorize construction of:

- A 4" diameter waterline buried 24" to 60" deep. The waterline will cross the South Fork of the Ogden River immediately adjacent to the Lower Meadows Campground. This crossing will either be bored 60" deep below the riverbed or a trench if the bore is not possible. The waterline will be buried adjacent to UDOT State Road 39 and will require permission from UDOT.
- The existing metal waterline will be removed where it is visible above the ground. The goal will be to remove any evidence of the abandoned waterline. Normal restoration and mitigation will be required where the waterline is buried. Special mitigation will be required to protect riparian vegetation where it will be impacted.
- A Stream Alteration Permit from the State of Utah will be required to install the line across the South Fork of the Ogden River.

Why are we proposing this project?

The South Fork Recreation Complex consists of seven campgrounds along State Road 39 east of Huntsville, Utah. These sites are heavily utilized campgrounds. Over the last eight years, the interior waterlines inside the campgrounds have been replaced. This new addition is outside the campground crossing private property along the UDOT right-of-way. This will finish the waterline replacement.

Last summer, a leak developed in the existing old line. This postponed our spring opening until repairs were made to the metal waterline. This causes great concern because if the line failed, we would lose our only source of culinary water to South Fork, Botts, and Magpie campgrounds.

Preliminary Issues

1. Effects on the environment especially to water quality, wildlife, riparian vegetation, soil, fisheries, air quality, and recreation.

2. Negotiating approval from Utah Department of Transportation to install the line alongside the State Highway.

What is the Decision to be made?

The decision to be made is whether or not to construct approximately one mile of buried waterline between Lower Meadows and South Fork Campgrounds. This decision includes aggressive protection of riparian vegetation and limiting the impacts caused by excavating in and around the river. The decision will include acquisition of the right-of-way through private property.

Who will make the Decision?

The District Ranger, Chip Sibbersen, is the official responsible for making the decision. The decision would be implemented in the summer of 2008 or 2009.

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 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/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?

We would appreciate receiving your written comments by **April 18, 2008**. 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

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SOUTH FORK WATER LINE

