



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Moon Lake Boat Ramp Decision Notice

Duchesne Ranger District, Ashley National Forest, Duchesne County, Utah
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For More Information Contact:

Ron Brunson, Interdisciplinary Team Leader and Fisheries Biologist
Duchesne Ranger District
P.O Box 981
Duchesne, Utah 84021
Phone:(435) 781-5202
Email: rbrunson@fs.fed.us
Fax:(435) 781-5215

Kristy Groves, Responsible Official and Duchesne District Ranger
Duchesne Ranger District
P.O Box 981
Duchesne, Utah 84021
Phone: (425) 781-5203
Email: kgroves@fs.fed.us

Photo of Moon Lake taken by Ron Brunson – Duchesne Ranger District.

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Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Decision

I have decided to implement Alternative 2 (as modified) – the proposed action, as analyzed in the July 2014 Moon Lake Boat Ramp environmental assessment (EA). The action is described below. See maps in the EA for a spatial depiction of planned project location. ***The project design criteria and mitigation measures listed on page 5 of the EA will be implemented as part of this decision.*** They are not repeated here; however, they are required and are part of this decision.

Boat Ramp

We will construct a hardened boat ramp on the west shoreline of Moon Lake. Depending on available funding, the boat ramp may be constructed in phases and may include a combination of materials including concrete to construct the hardened surface.

Parking Area

We will construct an asphalt paved parking area in the same location currently used for parking and adjacent to the constructed boat ramp.

Materials

The needed fill and riprap will be acquired from a borrow pit as well as from existing sources located within and close to the project area. During construction, it is expected that there will be up to four pieces of heavy equipment on site including a track hoe, backhoe, and two dump trucks. During the construction of the boat ramp, concrete trucks will be hauling loads to the construction site. During the construction of the parking area, trucks will be hauling asphalt to the construction site. Fuel trucks, maintenance vehicles, and personal vehicles will also frequent the site during working hours. Access to the project area will be via SR 87 County Road 134 and FSR 131 (see EA map page 2).

Area Closures

The construction areas for the boat ramp and parking area, including the road to the boat ramp, will be closed to the public during the construction period. This will likely occur during the months of August – October, in the year it is implemented.

Maintenance

Following the construction of the boat ramp and parking areas, there will be a need for regular maintenance to remove accumulated sand.

Lake Travel Restrictions

The improved access for boaters at Moon Lake is expected to result in an increase in the number and size of boats launching and traveling on the lake. A lake travel restriction of “wakeless speed only” will be implemented in an area designated around the boat ramp and beach area in front of the Moon Lake Resort. This will aid in the maintenance of the boat ramp, minimize noise levels

and provide safety for the public using the beach area. The “wakeless speed only” area would extend out in the lake approximately 150 feet from the shoreline beginning 500 feet west of the boat ramp and extending 1,500 feet southeast along the beach shoreline. This area will be marked in the lake with buoys.

Other Alternatives Considered

No unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources were identified, therefore no additional alternatives are analyzed in this document (36 CFR 220.7[b][2][i]). Also, the no action alternative, although it aided the analysis, would not help to achieve the purpose of and need for the project.

Public Involvement

The proposal has been listed in the Forest’s quarterly schedule of proposed actions (SOPA) since September of 2012. We provided the proposal to the public and other agencies for comment during a 30-day scoping period ending May 24th, 2013. We received two letters in response to scoping. These letters were in support of the proposed project. We gave all comments careful consideration and many of these comments helped to shape the proposed action as well as project design criteria. The EA was made available to the public and copies were sent to those who provided input on the initial scoping document for review and comment during the official 30-day review period ending October 23, 2014. We received one comment letter during this official comment period. It was in support of the proposed project. A draft decision was made available to the public and copies were sent to those who provided comments during scoping. A legal notice of the availability of the draft decision and opportunity to object to the Boat Ramp Project was published in the Uinta Basin Standard on December 16, 2014. This initiated a 45-day objection period which ended January 30, 2015. No objections to the decision were received.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision to implement the construction of a boat ramp and parking area at Moon Lake is consistent with the intent of the Forest Plan's long term goals and objectives. The proposed action is allowable in the project area which is located within Management Area n (Ashley LRMP FEIS B-24) and meets the following Forest-wide standard and guideline:

Recreation - Page IV- 17 - 18 of the Ashley LRMP Objective 6. Provide areas and opportunities for all types of recreation user experience.

Applicable laws include section 404 of the Clean Water Act; Wetlands (Executive Order 11990); Floodplains (Executive Order 11988; EA pages 11 – 12); Endangered Species Act (EA pages 14, 17 and 29); Migratory Birds (Executive Order 13186; EA page 27) and the National Historic Preservation Act (EA page 29 – 30).

Implementation Date

No objections were filed. This final decision notice, issued after the fifth business day following the end of the objection filing period, approves project implementation.

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision, you may contact Ron Brunson, Fisheries Biologist, located at the Duchesne Ranger District Office, 85 West Main, Duchesne, Utah 84021 (telephone: (435) 781-5202; email: rbrunson@fs.fed.us).

/s/ Kristy L. Groves

KRISTY L. GROVES
District Ranger
Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District
Ashley National Forest

2/12/15

Date