

# **Battle Creek Culinary Water Pipeline Project**

*USDA Forest Service  
Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
Utah County, Utah*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This document details my decision regarding the Battle Creek culinary water pipeline replacement. Activities associated with pipeline replacement include; capping and abandoning portions of the existing pipeline; replacing those portions with pipeline installed on a new alignment; re-establishing maintenance access routes for the spring collection system pipeline within the project area.

The environmental assessment was prepared by the City of Pleasant Grove and a third party contractor under the direction of the Forest Service. The Forest Service worked with both entities during the development of alternatives and the preparation of the environmental assessment.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

The City of Pleasant Grove (Pleasant Grove) is the holder of a special use permit (Permit #PG100901A) issued by the United States Forest Service for the operation and maintenance of several spring collection sites and an associated culinary water pipeline within Battle Creek Canyon.

The existing spring collection system in Battle Creek Canyon is a gravitational system that does not require pumps or other mechanical devices for operation, and consists of approximately eight spring collection areas and associated pipelines. The system is approximately 80 years old and in the project area, it is leaking in multiple locations and has completely failed in at least four locations. This presents a risk to public health as continued corrosion of the pipeline will increase the potential for contamination of the culinary water supply. Pleasant Grove proposes to replace portions of the existing culinary water collection system pipelines.

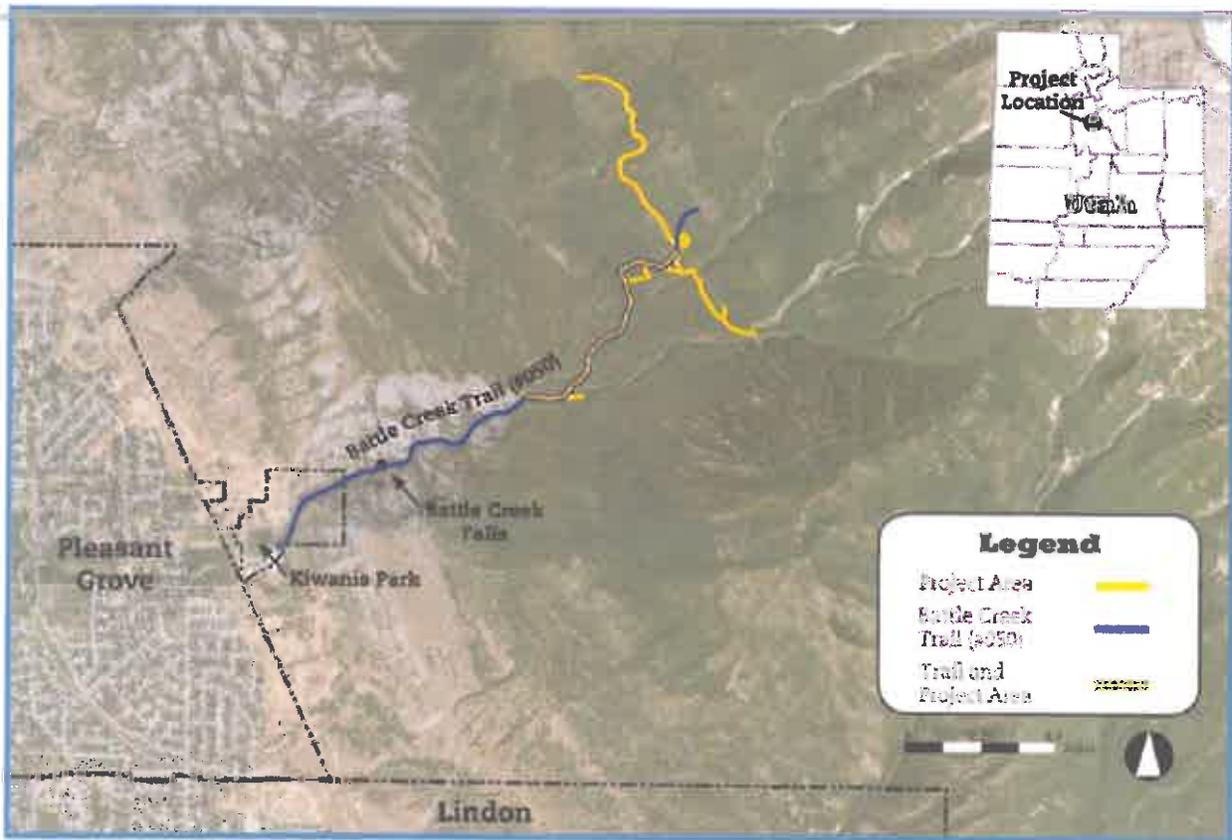


Figure 1: Vicinity map for the Battle Creek culinary water pipeline project.

### **3. DECISION**

My decision is to authorize the preferred alternative to replace the aging water pipelines as described in section 3.1 below. The activities proposed in the selected alternative are designed to eliminate the risk of contamination to the culinary water supply, thereby protecting public health to the residents of Pleasant Grove. Alternatives that were considered in detail are described in chapter 2 of the environmental assessment.

My conclusions are based on the scientific analysis provided in the environmental assessment and project record. The scientific analysis that was utilized is derived from the best available science, considers responsible opposing views, and acknowledges incomplete or unavailable information. The analysis identifies the techniques and methodology used, considers current and accurate science, and references the scientific resources that were employed. The analysis includes a summary of scientific evidence relevant to evaluating reasonable foreseeable impacts.

#### **3.1 Preferred Alternative**

Replacing the aging water pipelines would include:

1. Capping and abandoning portions of the existing pipeline;
2. Replacing those portions with pipeline installed on a new alignment; and,
3. Eliminating the risk of contamination to the culinary water supply in a manner that would reduce the amount of vegetation manipulation and soil disturbance required for implementation.

4. Abandoning portions of the existing steel pipeline where aged and failing;
5. Installing approximately 5,600 feet of 6, 8, and 16-inch high density polyethylene pipeline (including associated air vents) on a new alignment; and
6. Re-establish maintenance access routes for the spring collection system pipeline within the project area, including a new access route along a small section of the new pipeline alignment.

#### **4. DECISION RATIONALE**

In making my decision, I have reviewed the existing environmental conditions and the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects for all of the alternatives analyzed in detail. I have also considered comments from the public. I have given careful consideration to how well the alternatives met the purpose and need for the project and how well each addressed public comments and the issues they raised.

##### **4.1 Meeting the Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed culinary water pipeline project is to maintain the delivery of high quality culinary drinking water to the residents of Pleasant Grove without having to implement extensive water treatment or additional pumping; and to improve access to the water delivery system to allow for future maintenance needs.

The selected alternative is both the environmentally preferred alternative and will best meet the purpose and need of the project. The selected alternative will reasonably maximize the net public health benefit.

##### **4.2 Addressing Public Comments**

One comment was received during the scoping period regarding ATV access. In making my decision, I considered how the proposed action would mitigate this concern. Section 3.7.2 of the environmental assessment describes the mitigation that would be implemented to prevent unauthorized vehicle use of the construction access route.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVES**

##### **5.1 Alternatives Analyzed in Detail**

Alternatives analyzed in detail in the environmental assessment include:

1. The no action alternative assumes that ongoing maintenance activities would continue as needed but the culinary pipeline would not be replaced.
2. The proposed action alternative described above in section 3.1.

Detailed analysis of each alternative considered can be found in chapter 2 of the environmental assessment.

##### **5.2 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to explore rigorously and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives and to discuss briefly the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that were not analyzed in detail. Some alternatives may be outside the scope of the project or

may not meet the purpose and need. In the Battle Creek culinary water pipeline replacement project, an alternative to repair and/or replace the pipeline using the existing alignment was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis.

A description of this alternative and why it was eliminated can be found in section 2.3 of the environmental assessment.

## **6. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

A scoping notice was prepared and sent to interested parties and regulatory agencies on July 31, 2014. The scoping notice gave a description of the project, location and overview, purpose and need, identified preliminary scoping issues, and requested public participation. The scoping notice also included contact information to submit written comments. A subsequent legal notice was published in the *Provo Daily Herald* on Thursday, August 6, 2015 notifying the public that the project was proposed in the Mount Timpanogos Inventoried Roadless Area. One comment was received.

A legal notice was also published in the *Provo Daily Herald* on February 8, 2016, initiating a 30-day comment period on the draft environmental assessment. No comments were received.

In addition to the outreach outlined above, a notice was also posted on the Forest Service website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46240>).

## **7. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

After careful consideration of the environmental effects described in the final environmental assessment, I have determined my decision will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). I base my findings on:

1. The beneficial effects of the action do not bias my finding of no significant environmental effects.
2. There will be no significant negative effects on public health and safety. The selected alternative will provide positive effects on public health and safety.
3. There will be no significant effects on the unique characteristics of the geographic area. There will be no significant impact on biological resources, historic or cultural features.
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not highly controversial. There is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of this project.
5. The environmental analysis shows the effects are not uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risk.
6. This decision will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects.
7. The cumulative impacts are not significant.
8. This decision will have no significant adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, buildings, structures, or objects listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historical Places. This action will not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. This decision will not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
10. This decision will not violate federal, state, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

## 8. FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

My decision to authorize the selected alternative is consistent with the intent of the 2003 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Uinta National Forest. The project was designed in conformance with plan standards and incorporates appropriate land use and resource management plan guidelines.

My decision is consistent with the following key laws, regulations, and requirements:

**Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management.** My decision will have no adverse effects to floodplains and therefore complies with this executive order.

**Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.** My decision will have no adverse effects to wetlands and therefore complies with this executive order.

**Executive Order 12898, Economic Justice.** No minorities or low-income populations were identified during public involvement activities that would be affected by this decision.

**Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species.** This executive order directs federal agencies not to authorize any activities that will increase the spread of invasive species. My decision includes noxious weed management to effectively reduce the spread of existing and new infestations of noxious weeds and invasive plant species. Therefore, my decision is consistent with this order and will not increase the spread of invasive plant species.

**Executive Order 13186, Protection of Migratory Birds.** Section 4.5.4 of the environmental assessment discloses the effects of type of treatments on migratory birds, primarily as related to the effects on their habitats. Based on this information and information in the project file concerning migratory birds, my decision is in compliance with this executive order.

**National Environmental Policy Act.** This act requires public involvement and consideration of potential environmental effects. This decision notice complies with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500 to 1508) for implementing NEPA. The effects of the alternatives were analyzed and disclosed in the environmental assessment, which was available for public review.

**Clean Water Act of 1977.** My decision will not affect the existing high quality water flowing through the area.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973.** This act directs that all federal departments and agencies need to conserve endangered and threatened (and proposed) species of fish, wildlife, and plants. This obligation is further clarified in a National Interagency Memorandum of Agreement (dated August 30, 2000) that states our shared mission to “enhance conservation of imperiled species while delivering appropriate goods and services provided by the lands and resources.”

Based on information disclosed in the final environmental assessment and the biological assessment, I have determined that my decision will have no adverse effects to populations of endangered, threatened, and candidate species of fish, wildlife, and plants.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.** The Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System lands in Utah and forest plan amendments did not recommend any rivers or segments within the analysis area as suitable for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system. Therefore, there will be no effect and my decision is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

**American Antiquities Act of 1906 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.** A survey was conducted and it was determined that no known cultural resources exist in the project area. The NRCS consulted with the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer, who concurred with this finding. Therefore, my decision is in compliance with these acts.

**Prime Farmland, Rangeland and Forest Land.** There is no prime farmland or grazing allotments affected by the project.

**Civil Rights Act of 1964.** There will be no adverse effects to groups or individuals protected under the federal Civil Rights Act.

My decision does not violate any federal, state or local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

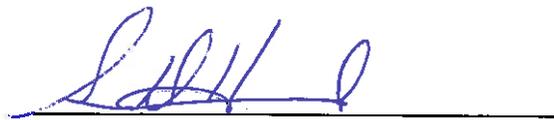
## **9. OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT**

This project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B. A legal notice was published in the *Provo Daily Herald* on March 18, 2016 notifying the public of the opportunity to review and object to the final environmental assessment and draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact. Since no objections were received, implementation may begin immediately after the decision is signed.

## 10. CONTACT

For additional information about this decision, contact Acting Pleasant Grove District Ranger, Sean Harwood, (801) 796-4881, [sharwood@fs.fed.us](mailto:sharwood@fs.fed.us).

For information about the National Environmental Policy Act process, contact Elisha Hornung, (801) 733-2679, [ehornung@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehornung@fs.fed.us).



**Sean Harwood**  
**Acting District Ranger**  
**Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest**

5-12-2016

**Date**

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