



**Scoping Document
August 6, 2008**

Small Project Proposals

**USDA Forest Service
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Logan Ranger District
Cache and Rich Counties, Utah**

**Comments Due:
September 5, 2008**

The Purpose of this Scoping Document

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of four individual small projects we are proposing for the Logan Ranger District. You received similar letters in the past, discussing projects we proposed at that time. This letter discusses four new small project proposals for the Logan District. The environmental effects of the proposed projects are being analyzed by Forest resource specialists (including water, soils, wildlife, cultural resources, visuals, recreation, and fisheries) individually and cumulatively in relation to one another. However, there will be a separate decision made on each individual proposal. We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding these proposals.

The Logan Ranger District has made a preliminary assessment that these proposals fall within categories of actions listed in 36 CFR Part 220 (and Forest Service NEPA Handbook 1909.15) that can be excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of the categories. The following list provides brief project descriptions and contact information. Additional information on these projects is available from the Logan Ranger District.

What projects are being proposed?

The following projects are proposed for implementation on the Logan Ranger District. The information below gives you the **general** location and provides a **brief** summary of the project. **If you have questions or want more information please contact the project manager listed, at the Logan Ranger District Office.**

1. Green Canyon – Mt. Naomi Trail Realignment

Project Manager: Connie McCaughey

Location: Green Canyon

Legal Description: T 12 N, R 2 E, Sections 2 and 3

Proposed Category: Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 - Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Section 31.2 Category 1

A short section (approximately 1,800 feet in length) of the Green Canyon-Mt. Naomi hiking trail needs some drainage (dips and water bars) and minor realignment. A SWECO trail machine would be used to re-work this section of hiking trail which is not in the Wilderness area.

A 2,000-foot section of the Green Canyon-Mt. Naomi hiking trail (located within the Mt. Naomi Wilderness) is excessively steep and rocky and has eroded and degraded to the point of being nearly impassable. It presents an extreme hazard to hikers and horse riders alike. The proposal would result in the hand construction of approximately 3,500 feet of re-routed trail containing 1 switchback and 2

climbing turns. The new section would be constructed to use grade reversals for drainage and would completely avoid the area that currently poses the hazard. Because this section is located within the Mt. Naomi Wilderness only hand tools would be used in construction. The new alignment will remain in character with the rest of this historic trail.

2. NRCS Snow Course to Sno-tel Site Conversion (3 sites)

Project Manager: Ron Vance

Location: Near Tony Grove Guard Station, Garden City Summit, Steep Hollow (Franklin Basin)

Legal Description: (TG) T13N, R3E, Sec 11; (GC) T14N, R4E, Sec 35; (SH) T14N, R3E, Sec 10

Proposed Category: Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 - Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Section 31.2 Category 3

Snow courses are used by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to gather climatic data such as snow, precipitation, temperature, soil moisture, wind, and humidity at various locations. This project proposes to convert 3 existing “snow course” sites into “sno-tel” sites (snow telemetry). The two differ in the way the data is collected, recorded, and transferred. The conversion would involve clearing vegetation in a 50-foot diameter fenced area, installation of a 10 to 20-foot tower with weather sensing equipment, and installation of telemetry equipment to allow remote sensor readings. The affected area would be less than 1 acre at each site.

3. UCANN Communication Site

Project Manager: Jennefer Parker

Location: Beaver Mountain

Legal Description: T14N, R3E, Section 12

Proposed Category: Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 - Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Section 31.2 Category 3

The proposal is for a communication tower to be constructed at the top of Beaver Mountain, for use by city and county emergency services. The site would be located on the National Forest, immediately adjacent to the Beaver Mountain ski area. The project would consist of installation of a small building, a solar panel, and a 15 to 20-foot tower. The affected area would be less than 1 acre.

4. Elk Valley Sheep Allotment Water Improvement

Project Manager: Ann Robins

Location: Elk Valley

Legal Description: T12N, R3E, Section 28

Proposed Category: Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 - Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Section 31.2 Category 9

This project would install a solar pump, collection box, and new water pipeline at Sidehill Spring to provide water to adjacent areas for sheep and wildlife. The headbox and pipe at the spring are no longer functional and do not provide water to adjacent areas. The pump and pipeline would use less than half of the available water; the rest would flow into existing ponds. Water would be pumped about ¾ mile uphill to a storage tank buried below ground on an existing motorized trail.

Preliminary Issues

1. Effects to the human environment (including water quality, wildlife, vegetation, soil, cultural resources, fisheries, air quality, scenery, and recreation)

2. Effects on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species, including plants, fish, and wildlife

What is the Decision to be made?

The decision to be made is whether or not to implement the proposed project(s) and if so, to what specifications, level or degree.

Who will make the Decision?

The District Ranger is the official responsible for making the decision. The projects would be implemented beginning in fall 2008.

When do we need your Response?

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments on any of the above projects should be received by **September 5, 2008**. Written comments should be submitted to: Jennefer Parker, District Ranger, 1500 East Highway 89, Logan, Utah 84321. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone (435) 755-3620 or in person. Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-logan@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennefer Parker

August 6, 2008

JENNEFER PARKER
Logan District Ranger

Date

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