

**DECISION MEMO**  
**Utah Department of Transportation**  
**Brighton Ammunition Cache Relocation**

Salt Lake County  
Uinta -Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
Salt Lake Ranger District

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

I have reviewed the environmental analysis and have decided to approve Utah Department of Transportation's (UDOT) proposal to relocate its ammunition cache at Brighton Ski Area to a new site, approximately 100 feet off the Millicent lift access road. My decision will allow the installation of a new prefabricated ammunition cache (approx. 7'L x 8'W x 7'H), its associated concrete pad, and removal and rehabilitation of the old cache and site.

UDOT has stored 105 mm howitzer ammunition in the Brighton Cache as part of its permitted Highway Avalanche Safety Program for many years. The existing facility is approximately 40 years old and has number of problems associated with it. Ground water seepage into the structure creates icing on the magazine floor and presents a hazard to workers. In addition, these moist conditions are not a suitable environment for the storage of ammunition. Finally, the re-alignment of the Millicent lift during the summer of 2007 shifted the lift so that cache no longer met the setback distance from facilities that is required by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE). Moving the cache to new location and in into a new storage facility will ensure compliance with BATFE standards and enable ammunition in a safer and more acceptable environment.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

Mitigation measures, which are part of my decision, include the following:

1. If any excavation or concrete equipment other than that owned by the Brighton Resort is used to install the facility, it must be washed prior to coming on the Forest to help prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
2. Do not wash concrete truck onsite. They must be washed only in Forest Service approved location.
3. Promptly revegetate disturbed areas using Best Management Practices (BMPs). Coordinate with Brighton Ski Resort for seed mix and other BMP items.
4. The Forest Landscape Architect must review the exterior color prior to installation.

**SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

A scoping notice detailing UDOT's proposal to relocate their Brighton ammunition cache was distributed to the Salt Lake Ranger District's mailing list on May 9, 2008. A number of individuals, organizations, government agencies and businesses received copies by direct mailings or email. Also, the notice and permit area maps were posted on the USFS website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wcnf/projects/index.html> and were included in the Summer 2008 Schedule of Proposed Actions. There were no responses to the scoping notice.

## **REASON FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Upon reviewing the analysis I have determined that all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts have been incorporated into this decision.

There were no significant issues raised during scoping and no extraordinary circumstances to resource conditions were identified. The following resource conditions found at 36 CFR 220.6 (b) were considered:

- a. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species. Forest resource specialists visited the proposed site and determined that there were no effects/no impact to federally listed species or Forest Service sensitive species and their habitat.
- b. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds. The proposed construction activities will occur within a municipal watershed; however, these activities should have no adverse affects to any water source or wetland. Proposed mitigation will prevent any potential affect to the watershed.
- c. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas. (n/a)
- d. Inventoried roadless areas. (n/a)
- e. Research natural areas. (n/a)
- f. American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites. The Forest Heritage Program Manager visited the site and felt that there would be no effect on cultural resources and documentation is included in the project file.
- g. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas. The Forest Archeologist visited the site and found no historical sites, properties or areas.

Based upon the findings described herein, I have determined that this project is consistent with the types of actions described under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) - Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.

Based on past experience with management activities similar to this and upon the environmental analysis that has been conducted of this project, the effects of implementing this action will be of limited context and intensity. As such, this decision has been categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

## **FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS**

I have reviewed the Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache (W-C) National Forest. The actions in this project comply fully with the goals of the Forest Plan, the "Management Area Direction" and the "Forest-Wide Standards and Guidelines" (See Chapter IV, pg. 45-46 & pg. 160-161 of the W-C Forest Plan).

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

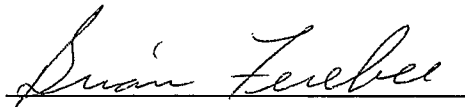
Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f), this decision is not subject to appeal. This decision is not an authorization to proceed. Once all conditions and mitigation measures have been met, a written authorization to begin work will be issued. This project does not involve any of the 10 activities subject to notice and comment under

Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215, as clarified on October 19, 2005, by the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of California in Earth Island Institute v. Ruthenbeck.

**CONTACT PERSON**

For further information contact Steve Scheid at:

Salt Lake Ranger District  
6944 South 3000 East  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121  
(801) 733-2688  
[sscheid@fs.fed.us](mailto:sscheid@fs.fed.us)



BRIAN FEREBEE  
Forest Supervisor,  
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

8/6/08  
Date

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.