



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Provo Reservoir Canal Trail Project

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah

Recommended by:

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11/12/08

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Date

Concur:

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Approved by:

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Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) finds that the Proposed Action Alternative as set forth in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Provo Reservoir Canal Trail Project (UDOT Project F-LC49(106); PIN 6527) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of the EA and of the public comments received on the EA. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-90), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to authorize the Proposed Action Alternative as described in the EA. This authorizes Utah County along with several cities (Orem, Lindon, Pleasant Grove, Lehi, American Fork, Cedar Hills, and Highland) to construct a trail in the Provo Reservoir Canal (PRC) right-of-way (ROW) on federal lands or easements once the PRC has been enclosed. The trail will not affect normal water conveyance, while protecting such environmental resources described in Chapter 3 of the EA as visual, transportation, and air quality. Final trail design must be reviewed and approved by Reclamation in coordination with the Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and the Provo River Water Users Association to ensure that trail construction and use does not interfere with Federal lands or easements, or Provo River Project or Central Utah Project facilities.

As stated in Chapter 1 of the EA, the purpose of constructing a trail on top of the enclosed PRC is to provide non-motorized recreation area for activities including, but not limited to, pedestrian, bicycling, and equestrian use. The trail is needed to provide recreational facilities for members of the community surrounding the canal and for other members who would travel to the area to use the trail. The trail would create links between other existing and proposed trail systems.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

1. The proposed action will have no significant effect on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, and riparian areas.
2. The environmental effects of the proposed action are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The proposed action will have no significant effect on species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered or threatened species, and will have no effect on designated critical habitat for these species.
4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate Federal, State or local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the alternatives in detail and believes that the Proposed Action Alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The project team (Reclamation, Federal Highway Administration, and UDOT) has carried out public involvement activities for this proposed action over the past year. An open house was held on April 10, 2008 and a public meeting was held on September 18, 2008. Press releases were issued to print and electronic media announcing the proposed project. The project team coordinated with numerous state and federal resource agencies including the project cooperating agencies. To contact people most affected by the project, the project team mailed 13 Draft EAs, and made the Draft EA available at the following locations in September 2008: the Provo City Library, Orem City Library, Pleasant Grove City Library, American Fork City Library, Lehi City Library, and the Draper City Library. The project team received 50 written responses.

The following is a list of agencies consulted during scoping for and preparation of the EA.

- Central Utah Water Conservancy District
- Utah County Public Works Department
- Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
- North Utah County Water Conservancy

A number of other agencies were notified of project scoping or availability of the EA but did not respond to requests for comment. These included:

- Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy
- State Historic Preservation Office
- USEPA Region 8
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Utah State Parks and Recreation
- US Department of the Interior CUP
- Uinta National Forest
- North Utah County Water Conservancy
- Orem Metro Water District
- Lehi Metro Water District
- State of Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget RDCC

- Mountainland Association of Governments

After evaluating the public comments, the project determined that minor revisions to the Draft EA were needed. All pertinent comments are addressed in the final EA. The project file in the Provo Area Office contains a copy of the comment letters as well as a complete description of all public involvement activities.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

This EA determined that the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect the following environmental resources: cultural resources, Section 4(f) resources, Indian Trust assets, geology, soils, topography, hazardous waste, paleontology, water rights or delivery systems, fisheries, threatened and endangered species, water quality, environmental justice and wetlands. Therefore, no mitigation is proposed for these resources. In addition, the EA concluded that the Selected Alternative would not have cumulative or secondary impacts to these resources.

The following table summarizes the expected project impacts and mitigation. The EA determined that the Selected Alternative would affect the following environmental resources: land use and land ownership, air quality, safety and noise, transportation, socioeconomics (including recreation), visual resources, and wildlife.

Impacts	Mitigation
Land Use and Land Ownership	
The operation and maintenance of the PRC and other facilities within the ROW are the primary use of the land; these activities must be allowed to continue during trail construction and operation.	Trail construction will temporarily stop, if needed, when activities need to occur on the enclosed PRC or other authorized facilities within the ROW. Trail use will temporarily be detoured, or closed, when activities need to occur on the enclosed PRC or other authorized facilities within the ROW.
Air Quality	
The construction of the trail would involve excavation and earthmoving activities. During these activities the soil disturbance could temporarily increase fugitive dust particles adjacent to the construction area.	The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be followed during construction of the trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetting stockpiles as needed to decrease fugitive dust • Minimizing the amount of disturbed surface • Using street sweepers and water spray in areas where the trail and roadways intersect

Impacts

Mitigation

- Ensure all construction equipment is in proper working order
- Ensure construction zones are closed to the general public

Safety and Noise

During construction of the trail, there would be a temporary increase in the general noise levels in the area from construction equipment.

There could be an increase in the general ambient noise along the trail corridor.

The public is concerned that their property may be flooded during large storm events because the water would not go in to an open canal.

Trail/roadway intersection crossing areas could be a safety hazard to pedestrians, cyclists, and others when crossing roadways.

Bollards or gates, and some fencing would be placed at all street crossings to deter motorized vehicles from entering the trail. No private fences will be constructed as part of this project.

All construction activities would be in accordance with any noise ordinances along the trail corridor. Trail work will be done during the day only. Construction equipment will be shut down when it is not in use.

Noise from the general public using the trail would be mitigated by constructing trail facilities as far from adjacent property owners as possible.

Drainage has been designed into the PRC enclosure, which will provide protection to property owners. Drainage will also be part of the trail design, and down gradient owners will be protected from any runoff from the trail.

There will be signs placed on the roadway and on the trail alerting the public to the trail crossing of the roadway, and there will be crosswalks painted on the roadway. In some areas the trail will go under the roadway, thus eliminating the issue of crossing a roadway.

Safety concerns of adjacent property owners who do not have fences could be mitigated by the home owner constructing their own fence. The project will not pay for the construction of private fences.

Transportation

During construction activities, construction vehicles would need to use the roadways to access the trail areas. While construction vehicles are accessing the construction zones, there could be short delays for vehicle traffic. There are no anticipated road closures during the

During construction of the trail, signs notifying the public of the construction will be placed near trail/roadway intersections. If there are going to be any traffic delays associated with trail construction, there would be appropriate signage for the delays and detour routes

Impacts

Mitigation

construction.

identified.

Socioeconomics (Including Recreation)

The trail and access to the trail could be temporarily closed for other maintenance and operation needs of PRC and other authorized facilities with the ROW. This would impact recreational use on the trail.

The public will be adequately notified of any impact (including temporary closures) to recreation or other facilities during construction and operation of the trail.

Visual Resources

There is currently no trail constructed within the PRC ROW. The construction of a trail will impact the visual resources of the area by changing the undeveloped PRC ROW into a developed trail with some landscaping.

Principles of Context Sensitive Solutions have been examined to determine if special design considerations need to be evaluated to avoid visual impacts. The trail will be designed and constructed in a manner that allows the trail to become part of the surrounding area and does not stand out negatively, but provides a valued open space in the community.

Other mitigation measures will include:

- Proper maintenance to avoid landscapes or trail structures becoming “eyesores” resulting from neglect
- Architectural treatment considerations for the trail facilities so they fit within the communities
- Proper maintenance of signs along the trail and at trail/road crossings

Wildlife

Small foraging species may be attracted to the area because the vegetation would provide some additional habitat.

To help prevent the introduction of unwanted wildlife to the area, proper maintenance of trail and trail facilities will be conducted. This would include trail cleanup activities and trash removal from the trailhead facilities.