



File Code: 2630

Date: September 20, 2004

Dear Friend of the Ashley National Forest:

We are starting the environmental assessment process to evaluate a water system pipeline proposal to replace a portion of the Oaks Park Canal located on the Vernal Ranger District. The purpose of this pipeline project is to reduce water losses and to reduce maintenance efforts that are required for the canal.

Ashley Valley Reservoir Co. is proposing to install approximately 5 ¼ miles of 36" pipeline to replace the existing canal. Approximately 5 miles of the pipeline would be installed within the limits of the canal and its banks, and the remaining ¼ mile would be new alignment below Government Park. The new alignment would allow approximately ¾ mile of the existing canal to be abandoned. The proposed alignment of the pipeline is shown on the attached map.

Excavation for the pipeline and backfill materials would be within the existing canal limits (except for the new alignment below Government Park) so that no additional ground disturbance would occur. Existing access roads between the main road and the canal would be used, and no new accesses would be required. Bedding material for the pipe would be obtained by screening the soils within the canal limits. If additional bedding is required, it would be obtained from proposed borrow areas or imported from commercial sources and delivered by 10-wheel dump trucks. The surface of the completed trench would be rocky, because fine material would be removed for pipe bedding.

Proposed staging areas for the work would be in Davis Hollow and in Twin Parks, where equipment and materials would be stored. Pipe would be delivered to these points by semi-trailer truck, and then strung along the project with a pickup and trailer.

The project location is located approximately 10 miles west of Highway 191 via the East Park Highway (Forest Road 10020) then turn on to Red Cloud Loop FS road 018, across the Oaks Park reservoir turn off. This project is planned for implementation in Spring and Fall of 2005.

Comments on this project will be accepted until October 22, 2004. Written comments are most helpful and should be submitted to Scott Steinberg, Vernal District Ranger, at the above address. If you do not respond, additional information about the project will not be forwarded to you. Public comments become part of the project record and become releasable under the Freedom of Information Act. For additional information on this project, contact Consuelo Zamora 435-781-5190.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott Steinberg

SCOTT STEINBERG
District Ranger

Enclosure

