



File Code: 7720-1

Date: May 16, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

The Uinta National Forest is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to Relocate the existing Indian Springs Road. Wasatch County is a cooperating agency. Work would include the construction of 1.9 miles at an upland and drier location and obliteration and restoration of approximately 1.6 miles of the existing road in riparian area. The relocated road will be a 16 feet wide, single lane with turnouts, drainage structures and gravel surface. This new alignment would substantially improve water quality through reduction of sediment production, enhanced habitat for fauna and floral species, provide safe infrastructure through improved horizontal and vertical alignment and reduce short and long term operation and maintenance costs.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce adverse impacts to watershed and fisheries, provide safer driving conditions while maintaining access to Strawberry Ridge from the south. The Proposed Action is needed because currently the road is a single lane, native surface primarily located within 50 feet of Indian Creek; several sections of the road are within the stream channel.

Three preliminary alternatives are being considered: 1) No action- The existing native surface, single lane road remains at its present location, which is within a riparian zone. 2) Proposed Action - Reconstruct a single lane road with turnouts along a new alignment and obliterate the entire length of existing alignment. 3) Alternative - Reconstruct a single lane road with turnouts along a new alignment and obliterate a large portion of the existing alignment. Approximately 0.5 mile of dead-end road would remain to allow access for dispersed camping and for access to water for the livestock permittee.

Key issues and concerns identified include inventoried roadless areas, health, safety, and transportation, watershed resources, aquatic species and livestock management.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed action. Only those who submit timely comments will be accepted as appellants. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3).

The Forest service is seeking public comment on the proposed action. All comments and inquiries concerning this proposal should be addressed to: Julie King, District Ranger, Heber Ranger District, P.O. Box 190, 2460 South Highway 40, PO Box 190, Heber City, Utah 84032, or call (435) 654-0470. Comments may also be faxed to (435)654-5772 or by e-mailing comments-intermtn-uinta-heber@fs.fed.us. E-mail comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format



(* .rtf). Oral comments as well as written comments may also be submitted at the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments should be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day following publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to ensure full consideration. The draft environmental impact statement is expected August 2007 and the final environmental impact statement is expected November 2007.

Information regarding this project will be posted on the Uinta National Forest's website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta/projects/nepa>. For additional information, please contact Jim Percy at the address or phone number listed above.

Sincerely,

/s/ Julie K. King
JULIE K KING
District Ranger

Enclosure:
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