



Dear Forest Interest:

In May 2006, you received a request for comments on a proposal to construct a new two-lane vehicle bridge across the American Fork River to connect North Mill Campground to Little Mill Campground on the Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Uinta National Forest. The bridge was proposed as part of reconstruction plans for Little Mill Campground.

Further design work and an associated cost analysis have resulted in a change to the proposal. We are asking for your comments on the new proposed action. Comments previously received will be considered, as well as any additional comments received in response to this modified proposal.

We are still proposing a new entrance bridge coming from the North Mill Campground; however, the bridge would be a one-way, single-lane vehicle bridge with enough additional width to provide a pedestrian walkway. The Little Mill Campground reconstruction plans have always included replacement of the exit bridge at the east end of the campground. Campground designers have suggested replacing the bridge at a new location much closer to the campsites in the reconstructed campground. The abandoned sections of road both above and below the campground would be used as a trail. This would eliminate the reconstruction of about one-half mile of campground road and associated future maintenance. The current east bridge would be removed after construction of the new exit bridge.

Little Mill Campground is located in the SE ¼ Section 24, SW ¼ Section 24, NW ¼ Section 25, NE ¼ Section 26 of Township 4 South, Range 2 East, Salt Lake Meridian.

BACKGROUND

In 1998, the Pleasant Grove District Ranger signed a Decision Memo that approved the maintenance and repair of existing facilities, in-kind replacement of existing facilities, and other measures to control damage to soil and vegetation and address safety concerns. This Decision Memo covered several developed recreation sites within the Pleasant Grove Ranger District. Many of the planned improvements have occurred. Little Mill Campground was among the sites identified for improvements.

Little Mill Campground is a very popular campground because it is close to the urban Utah Valley, opens earlier than higher elevation campgrounds, and is close to the American Fork River.

In 2004, the Uinta National Forest presented a proposal to the Intermountain Region for securing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) dollars for the reconstruction of Little Mill Campground. Because of the age of the environmental analysis, the Uinta National Forest completed a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review to determine whether there was a need to correct, supplement or revise the environmental documents or decision. Specialists' reports were prepared to update the previous analysis and conclusions.

Based on the information gathered through that review, the Pleasant Grove District Ranger determined that the Decision Memo and associated analysis, with appropriate specialists' updates, were sufficient to proceed with reconstruction within the current disturbed area and footprint of the



existing improved site. New disturbance not covered by the 1998 Decision Memo would be outside that decision and supporting analysis and would require further analysis.

This NEPA review was done before concept design plans for Little Mill Campground reconstruction were drawn. Two key issues were significant to the design plans for the campground reconstruction: 1) public safety concerns associated with rock-fall hazards; and 2) riparian and river improvements and protection because of the proximity of the campground to the river.

In the current situation, Little Mill Campground is about 1 mile long with a one-lane entrance bridge on the west end and a one-lane vehicle exit bridge on the east end. The reconstructed Little Mill Campground will have substantially fewer campsites because of design features to reduce impacts on the American Fork River, to provide some sites large enough to accommodate recreational vehicles, and to address risks from rock-fall hazards.

The reconstructed campsites will be located in about the middle section of the current campground where the rock-fall hazard is lower and/or there is adequate room to place rock-fall hazard protection. The current campground road is much longer than will be needed in the reconstructed campground design.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The campground reconstruction design would install a new bridge to connect North Mill Campground on the north side of American Fork River to Little Mill Campground on the south side of the river. This would serve as the entrance to Little Mill Campground. A new exit bridge constructed close to the reconstructed campsites. The exit/east bridge was planned to be replaced with the reconstruction because of condition issues and restrictions the narrow bridge places on the flow of the river. If the exit bridge is constructed in the new location, the current exit/east bridge would be removed and not replaced.

Both bridges would be one-way, single-lane vehicle bridges with enough additional width to provide a pedestrian walkway. The bridge span would handle peak river flows, and abutments would be positioned out of the natural stream course. The bridge surface and approaches would be hot bituminous plantmix.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The *Purpose and Need* is to provide modern bridge designs for the entrance and exit to the reconstructed Little Mill Campground. The new bridges would help concentrate impacts within a smaller area, facilitate more efficient campground management, reduce public exposure to rock-fall hazards, reduce impacts to the American Fork River, and reduce future road maintenance costs.

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF ANALYSIS

- Public review and comment on the proposed action begins with publication of a legal notice in the *Provo Daily Herald* and ends 30 days later.
- Your input will help determine the appropriate level of environmental analysis for this project. At this time, we anticipate that an Environmental Assessment will be completed to

disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed installation of a new bridge to serve as the exit to the reconstructed Little Mill Campground.

- The environmental analysis is tentatively scheduled to be completed and appropriate decisions made the winter of 2006.
- Construction is expected to be initiated in 2007.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Please send substantive comments relative to this proposal to the Responsible Official for this project, Pamela J. Gardner, District Ranger, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, 390 N 100 E, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062; phone: 801-785-3563; fax: 801-785-6932.; or you may hand deliver your comments during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. E-mail comments may be sent to comments-intermtn-uinta-pleasantgrove@fs.fed.us. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice for this project in the *Provo Daily Herald*. Your comments need to be as specific as possible and contain the following:

1. Your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;
2. Title of the document(s) on which comment is being submitted; and
3. Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that the person believes the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.

Thank you for your interest in management of the Uinta National Forest. For additional information about this proposal, please contact Larry Velarde at 801-342-5245.

Sincerely,

PAMELA J. GARDNER
Pleasant Grove District Ranger

Enclosure: Campground and Bridge Location Map