

Hamilton, Jason D -FS

From: Brittany Phelps <baphelps1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Hamilton, Jason D -FS
Subject: Fwd: Title II Project Application: Aquarius Trail Infrastructure and Promotion

Hi Jason!

I hope this email finds you well! Please see Terry's response below!

Kindly,

Brittany Phelp

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "DeLay, Terry -FS" <tdelay@fs.fed.us>
Date: February 8, 2016 at 12:01:28 PM MST
To: Brittany Phelps <baphelps1@hotmail.com>
Cc: "DeLay, Terry -FS" <tdelay@fs.fed.us>
Subject: **RE: Title II Project Application: Aquarius Trail Infrastructure and Promotion**

Hi Brittany, it is my understanding your request for the \$48,000 for the first tier of funding is not dependent on the Forest Service completing any NEPA or environmental analysis. The first tier of funding is associated with items that do not require NEPA (e.g. promotion, designation of existing routes for trail, etc.)

The next two tiers of future funding requests (e.g. hut locations, etc.) would require some environmental analysis.
Hope this helps--Terry



Terry De Lay
District Ranger
Forest Service
Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Brittany Phelps [<mailto:baphelps1@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 4:45 PM
To: DeLay, Terry -FS <tdelay@fs.fed.us>
Subject: FW: Title II Project Application: Aquarius Trail Infrastructure and Promotion

Please See below!

From: jdhamilton@fs.fed.us
To: baphelps1@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: Title II Project Application: Aquarius Trail Infrastructure and Promotion
Date: Fri, 5 Feb 2016 22:55:10 +0000

Brittany-

I received your submission, with 5 PDF's attached. The Title 2 form, section 29, did not show that the project is NEPA ready. I see that Terry Delay is your person on the forest that is familiar with the project. Please run it by him to see if the project is NEPA ready.

Per the attached the projects need to have environmental clearance. Please update me to let me know the status of the environmental clearance.

Thanks,



Jason D. Hamilton
Acting Administrative Operations Specialist

Forest Service
Dixie National Forest

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Brittany Phelps [<mailto:baphelps1@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 3:26 PM
To: Hamilton, Jason D -FS <jdhamilton@fs.fed.us>
Cc: jared@escapeadventures.com; steve@escalanteoutfitters.com; Drew Parkin <drew_parkin@msn.com>
Subject: Title II Project Application: Aquarius Trail Infrastructure and Promotion

Greetings Jason,

CC'ed are my fellow project pioneers and leaders; Jared Fisher, Drew Parkin and Steve Roberts

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Brittany Phelps, I am working with the town of Escalante on a handful of cycling-destination oriented projects. I wanted to provide you with a summary of the trail project we are working on before you reviewed our Title II Project Application.

We have recently submitted a proposal to the Dixie National Forest for the immediate incorporation of a new long-distance, multi-purpose recreation trail featuring 4 eco-huts that we are calling the Aquarius Trail and Hut to Hut System. At this point in time, it has been conceptually agreed upon and the Forest Service District rangers are working on a strategy to get this trail on the ground in a timely manner, aka before the Tour of Utah comes to town!

I recently spent time in Escalante as a cycling destination development consultant and was immersed in an environment of enthusiasm and excitement around this new trail project. I assumedly believe that the other towns involved have a paralleled enthusiasm for the new recreation-based project. In my professional opinion, they are at a very critical junction in determining the future of recreational opportunities in the region. I believe that the Aquarius Trail and Hut to Hut System, in addition to the Tour de Utah and the new National Road Cycling Route, see attached, paralleling the Aquarius Trail could help lay the foundation for a world-renowned trails-based destination. With the proper advocacy, planning, promotion and implementation we can establish this region of Utah as the nation's next most desirable outdoor recreation destination.

In addition to the "Call for Projects," I have also attached our initial proposal that we sent to the Forest Service, the newly finalized National Road Cycling route, and a letter of endorsement from Garfield Country Tourism Council.

After I left Escalante I said that I would prepare a "document of my findings," *you know, do the things consultants do after they finish 'consulting' ;-*) but instead I prepared a more poignant document that I believe will help us prepare to take the next steps if the Forest Service gives us the "go ahead." I have attached these "Project Implementation Guidelines" document to this email. Please keep in mind that it is a working document/wireframe (nothing has been formally agreed upon) outlining the following; Project Scope, Budget Requirements, Project Staging and Implementation Suggestions. The primary objective of sending you this document is to show you what kind of information has been organized/provided to the communities thus far to help identify the direction and timeframe of this mega-project, as well as to help everyone involved, or those who want to be involved have a clear picture of where their energy and efforts might best be utilized. There are a lot of moving pieces and we will need to work together unanimously in order to make this project an international success.

We firmly believe that these funds would be the catalyst for making this project a reality. We are working as hard as we can to find the necessary resources (time, energy, money and promotional channels) to make this a success and bring a new light to the region. It would be our pleasure to partner with you and we look forward to any chance align our efforts with yours.

I am available anytime for questions and look forward to hearing your feedback at your earliest convenience.

Gratefully and Enthusiastically,

Brittany Phelps
Destination Development Consultant
518.524.2141