



**Scoping Document
August 5, 2009**

**Sand and Gravel
Removal at Pineview
Reservoir**

USDA Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
Weber County, Utah

**Comments Due:
September 4, 2009**

The Purpose of this Letter

This document is to inform you that the Ogden Ranger District is conducting an environmental analysis on a proposed action involving the removal of sand and gravel at two sites along Pineview Reservoir. We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions regarding this proposal.

What is being proposed?

The Ogden Ranger District is proposing to remove sand and gravel from Pineview Reservoir. Sand would be excavated from a small bay adjacent to the Cemetery Point Marina located west of Huntsville Utah. The sand (approximately 500 cubic yards) would be used to line a water pipeline along the South Fork of the Ogden River. This pipeline provides water to Forest Service campgrounds within the canyon.

In addition, gravel would be extracted from an old abandoned road located in the South Arm of Pineview Reservoir. This road is located south of Huntsville Utah (Vicinity Map attached). Gravel removed from this old road would be used to improve area roads and/or trails.

The maximum area of disturbance for the project will be less than 5 acres in size, including an area of disturbance for the sand/gravel removal itself of approximately 3 acres and a loading area, approximately ½ acre in size. No vegetation will be cleared for these projects.

The following are details of the project:

- Sand will be removed from exposed an area that is seasonally inundated by Pineview Reservoir
- No vegetation will be disturbed
- Gravel removal would occur along an old road bed in Anderson Cove (South Arm) that was left in place after the reservoir was constructed
- Only portions of the road would be removed, other portions would be piled into "islands" to improve habitat for fish
- Work would not begin in either area until areas are dry (September through November)

Why are we proposing this project?

The project purpose is to provide an inexpensive and close source of sand and gravel for other Forest projects while reducing boating hazards and improving fish habitat. The road dissecting the South Arm is a boating hazard and tends to pond water as the reservoir is drawn down. We would like to remove portions of the road (to use as a gravel source for trail construction) while constructing "islands" for early season fish habitat and spawning areas. This would allow water to flow back and forth more freely and would reduce the amount of hazard buoys that need to be placed. Projects would be designed to improve fish habitat by adding habitat complexity.

Preliminary Issues

1. Effects to the environment at this location and the surrounding area (including water quality, wildlife, vegetation, soil, cultural resources, and aquatics).

Preliminary Alternatives

The following are preliminary alternatives to the proposal. There may be other alternatives developed during the analysis based on issues raised during this information-gathering period.

1. Authorize the removal of sand and gravel at two sites along Pineview Reservoir
2. No Action

What is the Decision to be made?

As a result of the analysis, a decision will be made whether or not to authorize the removal of sand and/or gravel from Pineview Reservoir. If yes, the decision will include:

- Amount and types of material to remove
- Plans for improving fish habitat by creating "islands", if gravel removal is approved

It is likely this project will meet the criteria established to categorically exclude it from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment per regulations at 36 CFR 220.6, because no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of a categorical exclusion (CE). The appropriate category is Category 3, "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land."

Who will make the Decision?

The Ogden Ranger District Acting Ranger, Rick Hopson, is the official responsible for making the decision whether or not to authorize the proposed projects, and if so, at what level. The decision would be made in the fall of 2009.

How can I comment?

This comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 days following the date of this notice.

Written comments may be submitted to District Ranger, Ogden Ranger District, 507 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, fax number 801-625-5914. The office business hours for hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

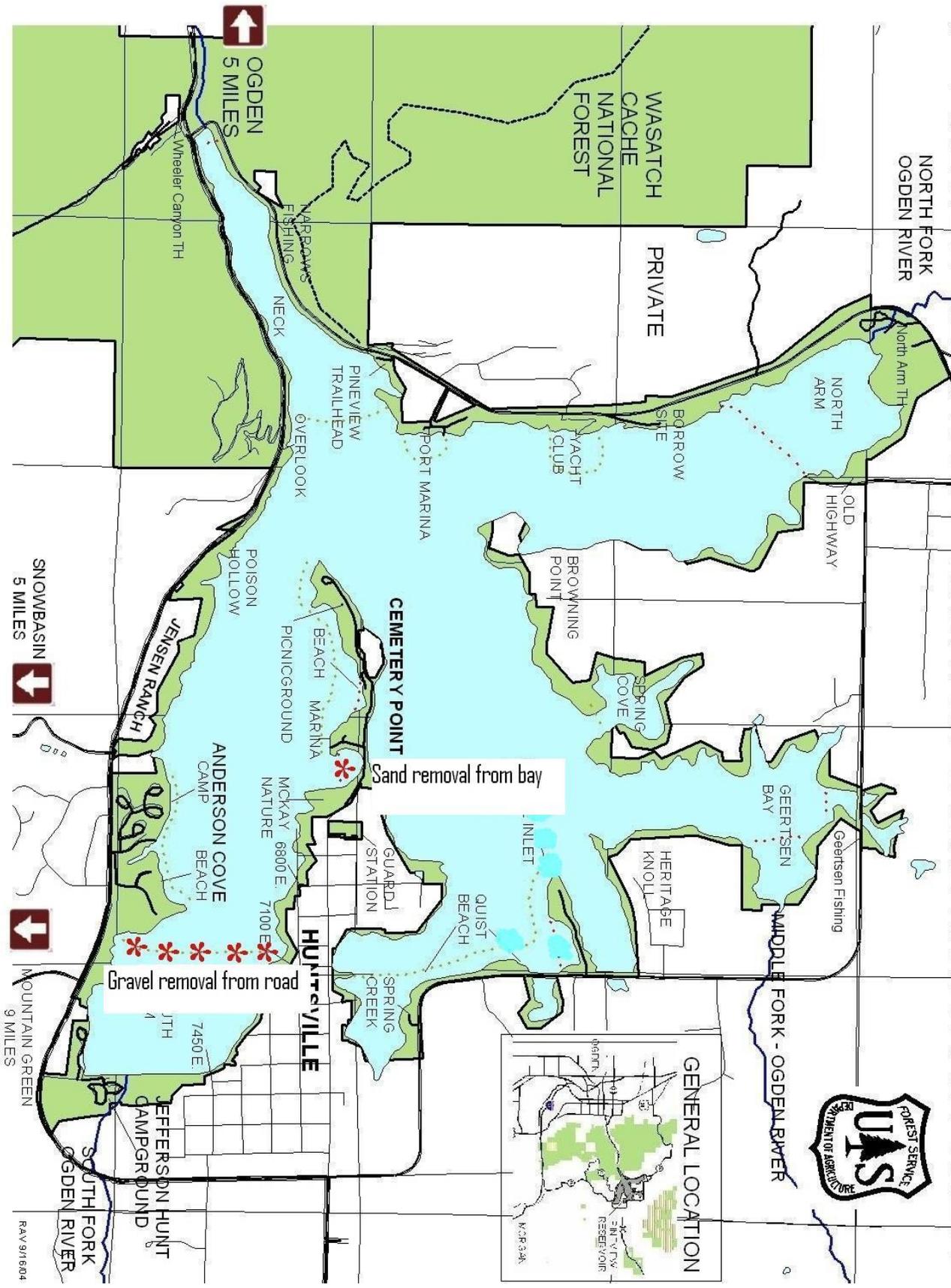
Oral comments may be provided at the Ogden Ranger District office during normal business hours via telephone (801) 625-5112 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-ogden@fs.fed.us.

/S/ RICHARD G. HOPSON
ACTING OGDEN DISTRICT RANGER

DATE: 08/04/2009

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PINEVIEW RESERVOIR - WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST



Map of Pineview Reservoir indicating locations of proposed sand and gravel removal.