



File Code: 2300
Date: March 20, 2020

RE: Peak One and Pine Cove Campground Improvement Project Decision

This letter is to document the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis completed for the Peak One and Pine Cove Campground Improvement Project. This project involves repair and maintenance to the campgrounds and associated infrastructure as follows:

Peak One Campground

At Peak One Campground, replacing the old water lines, a retrofit of the sewer system, and replacement of the restroom buildings is needed to maintain flush toilets at this highly-developed facility. Replacing the aging sewer line and sewer and lift station system as well as the deteriorating restroom buildings will modernize the infrastructure and allow for a safer and more attractive campground.

The main access roads to the campground will be resurfaced with asphalt. Campground spurs will, in many cases, be lengthened to accommodate modern, larger RVs, and resurfaced with gravel. "B" Loop at Peak One Campground would be reconfigured for more natural traffic flow. To provide for a modern camping experience and meet visitor demand, electric hookups will be added to "A" Loop at Peak One, which will also be expanded outward to accommodate an estimated 20 additional campsites. In all campsites, the main living areas would be enhanced with gravel pads to reduce resource impacts and better protect vegetation. The current picnic tables and fire rings will be replaced to provide an improved camping experience.

Parking barriers will be replaced with a natural material such as boulders, to allow for a maintenance-free and more natural appearance within the campground. The entrance area, which includes informational bulletin boards and the fee station, will be reconfigured and expanded to allow for a larger pull-through area.

Pine Cove Campground and Day-Use Area

At Pine Cove Campground, the day-use area will be separated from the campground to improve the experience for both user groups. Chiefly, an additional vault toilet would be added to the campground along with approximately 8 additional campsites along the east side of what is currently the day-use area. The existing day-use CXT toilet would be relocated closer to the former boat ramp, and additional picnic tables and grills would be added to the day-use area with gravel pads in high-traffic areas. All toilets would have a concrete apron added to improve accessibility. Also, the day-use parking would be moved closer to the water within the existing site footprint to reduce day-users walking through the camping area.

Additionally, the gate at the boat-launch area is proposed to be modified. A traffic circle for visitors to pull through and drop off hand-powered watercraft closer to the water will be constructed approximately in the gate's current location. A portion of the former boat ramp will be left to allow



for continued operations by Summit County Sheriff's Office, which partners with the Forest Service and Denver Water to provide infrastructure in support of patrol and search and rescue operations. Lastly, the campground would receive gravel pads in the living areas to improve aesthetics and reduce erosion. Existing campsites would be upgraded by adding new picnic tables and fire rings. In both Peak One and Pine Cove Campgrounds, an existing system trail that passes through and connects the two campgrounds would be more clearly marked and partially rerouted closer to the perimeter to meet up with peninsula recreation area trails. Additionally, a designated trail would lead from each loop to the lakeshore, and multiple, braided social trails reclaimed.

The U.S. Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations allow agencies to identify categories of action which do not normally have significant effects and which do not need to be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA). These categories of actions are called "categorical exclusions"¹. The Secretary of Agriculture has established a list of categorical exclusions at 7 CFR part 1b.3. The Chief of the Forest Service has established a list of categorical exclusions at 36 CFR 220.6(d) and (e). For a project to be approved under NEPA as a categorical exclusion, it must fall within one of the categories established by the Secretary or by the Chief, and only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action (36 CFR 220.6(b)).

This specific project falls under the categorical exclusion listed at 36 CFR 220.6(d)(5) – *Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities*. Site specific analysis of this proposed project indicates there are no extraordinary circumstances related to a proposed action that warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS. This determination was made considering the direction in Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 220.6. I have also considered and found this proposed project to be consistent with the direction contained in the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Since this proposed action falls in an identified categorical exclusion, there are no extraordinary circumstances, and it is consistent with the Forest Plan, I am approving the implementation of this project. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215, this decision is not subject to appeal and may be implemented immediately.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM JACKSON
District Ranger

¹ "Categorical exclusion" means a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations (Sec. 1507.3) and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required. An agency may decide in its procedures or otherwise, to prepare environmental assessments for the reasons stated in Sec. 1508.9 even though it is not required to do so. Any procedures under this section shall provide for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect. (40 CFR 1509.4)