



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Scoping Report

Utah County Watershed Plan- Environmental Assessment

Utah County, Utah



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1. Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), the Utah County Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) in Utah County. Co-sponsors include Salem City, Spanish Fork City, Payson City, Elk Ridge City, and Woodland Hills City.

NRCS, as the lead federal agency, is initiating National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis in the form of the Watershed Plan-EA to analyze impacts to the natural and human environment from this project.

The Plan-EA will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The purpose of the Plan-EA is to develop a watershed operation plan so that NRCS can decide whether to provide technical and financial assistance to Utah County for implementation of the alternative selected by Utah County.

The proposed project measures are intended to address flooding issues due to the 2018 Pole Creek and Bald Mountain fires. Over 120,851 acres were burned, which has resulted in stripped vegetation and exposed soils. These wildfires caused extensive watershed damage to mountainous terrains in southern Utah County, resulting in flooding and hazards to public safety and natural and built resources relative to storm run-off from burn scars.

Improvements are being proposed to 1) Protect communities from high water flows; 2) Reduce the frequency of flood damage to residents and critical infrastructure and roads; 3) Reduce erosion and catch sediment and debris; 4) Protect water quality; 5) Protect wildlife habitats.

The project-specific purpose and need will be developed from scoping results and preliminary engineering; however, agriculture water management was identified as the main purpose in the funding application.

1.1. Scoping Goals and Objectives

Scoping is the first step of and an integral part of the NEPA process. It is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action (40 CFR Part 1501.7). The objectives of the scoping process are to:

- Engage interested parties and the general public in the early identification of concerns, potential impacts, and possible alternative actions;
- Determine the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the Plan-EA;
- Identify potentially significant issues related to the proposed action, as well as identifying and eliminating issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review;
- Identify the scope of issues to be addressed and integrate analyses required by other environmental laws (e.g., Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act); and

- Identify technical studies needed to adequately address potential impacts of the project.

2. Scoping Process

2.1. Schedule

The following dates outline the milestones for the scoping announcement and activities that occurred in preparation for the formal scoping comment period. The scoping comment period opened on March 11, 2021 and closed on April 9, 2021 (30 days).

- November 5, 2020: Kick-off meeting with the NRCS and sponsor project team (held with in person and virtual Zoom options)
- March 10, 2021: Scoping letters were sent to tribal contacts **March 11, 2021: Opening of formal public comment period**; scoping notice and public meeting details were published to the NRCS project and Utah RDCC websites, flyers were mailed to agencies and stakeholders, and notice was published in *The Provo Daily Herald*
- March 17, 2021: Agency scoping meeting with relevant federal, state, and local agencies (held virtually via Zoom video conference)
- March 18, 2021: Notice was published in *The Provo Daily Herald*
- March 18, 2021: Stakeholder scoping meeting (held virtually via Zoom video conference)
- March 25, 2021: Public scoping meeting (held virtually via Zoom video conference)
- **April 9, 2021: Closure of formal public comment period**

2.2. Kick-off Meeting

A kick-off meeting with the project team, including representatives of NRCS, Utah County, Co-Sponsors, Jones and DeMille Engineering and J-U-B Engineers was held in Spanish Fork on November 5, 2020. The meeting included discussions of the scope of the project and potential projects, identified additional stakeholders, and reviewed data collection strategies.

2.3. Agency scoping meeting

An agency scoping meeting was conducted on March 17, 2021, held virtually via Zoom video conference. The meeting included discussions of the scope of the project, the agency's needs as a cooperating and permitting agency, and potential resources of concern.

A total of 40 people attended, with three (3) representatives from NRCS, three (3) from Jones and DeMille Engineering, three (3) from J-U-B Engineers, and eight (8) from project sponsors. A meeting summary, including a list of attendees, is located in Appendix B.

2.4. Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder scoping meeting was conducted on March 18, 2021, held via Zoom video conference. The meeting included discussions of the scope of the analysis and potential additional project measures.

A total of 19 people attended, including three (3) representatives from NRCS, three (3) from Jones and DeMille Engineering, three (3) from J-U-B Engineers, and three (3) from project sponsors. A meeting summary, including a list of attendees, is located in Appendix B.

2.5. Mailing List

A project mailing list was compiled by the NRCS, Jones & DeMille Engineering, and J-U-B Engineers to identify the entities that would receive scoping materials directly. A total of 28 agencies, four cooperating agencies, 23 key stakeholders and 267 property owners were mailed the scoping notices. A tribal mailing list was prepared by the NRCS, and letters were sent to five tribal members with three tribes. Agency, tribal and stakeholder mailing lists are available in Appendix A, but property owner list is not included for privacy reasons.

2.6. Notice

Public notice of the project and scoping meeting was distributed widely prior to a March 25, 2021 public scoping meeting. The official scoping comment period opened on March 11, 2021 and closed on April 9, 2021. The public notice was published in *The Provo Daily Herald* on March 11. The public notice was also posted to the NRCS website, and mailed to each designated entity on the project mailing list on March 11. The notice invited all interested members of the relevant agencies and general public to participate in the March 25 public meeting, and provided details for submitting comments by email, mail, fax, or phone. The scoping notice materials are attached as Appendix A.

2.7. State Clearinghouse Notification

Notice of the project was published to the State of Utah's Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) Project Management System website on March 11, 2021.

2.8. Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting was conducted on March 25, 2021, virtually via Zoom video conference. The meeting began with a presentation of the PL 83-566 program and proposed watershed area, as well as an introduction to the NEPA process; presenters included staff from the NRCS (Derek Hamilton), J-U-B Engineers (Ahmad Salah and Dianne Olson) and Jones and DeMille Engineering (Jenna Jorgensen and Ted Mickelsen). The presentation was followed by an open question session where attendees were encouraged to review maps and discuss specific concerns with the project team.

A total of 29 people were in attendance, including two (2) from representatives from NRCS, three (3) from Jones and DeMille Engineering, three (3) from J-U-B Engineers, and two (2) from project sponsors. A meeting summary, including a list of attendees, is located in Appendix B.

3. Comments

The formal open public comment period was from March 11 to April 9, 2021.

Comments could be submitted by email, letter, through the online comment portal or on the phone. Five comments were received from three commenters during the scoping period. The comment report and copies of all comments are included as Appendix C.

4. Summary of Identified Issues

The following list summarizes the comments and concerns that were expressed during the scoping process:

- Importance of addressing issues of erosion
- Floodplain management
 - To increase the capacity of culverts beneath roadways
 - Interest to share specific experiences with localized water flows and emergency management
- Property concerns
- Design clarifications regarding prior, related planning and design efforts
 - As related to existing defined waterways
 - Clarification on relationship to prior Emergency Watershed Protection planning
 - To understand the limitations and opportunities of different funding sources

All comments submitted will be given full consideration; however, not all of the comments and concerns expressed are relevant to the analysis of the Proposed Action. Those comments that are relevant will be carried forward in the environmental analysis.

Appendix A. Scoping Notice Materials

- 1) Agency Scoping Email
 - 2) Agency Scoping Mailer
 - 3) Stakeholder Scoping Email
 - 4) Stakeholder Scoping Mailer
 - 5) Public Scoping Newspaper Notice
 - 6) Proof of Public Scoping Notice Publication
 - 7) Public Scoping Mailer
 - 8) Public Scoping Social Media Notice
 - 9) Tribal Scoping Notice
 - 10) Agency Scoping Notice Mailing List
 - 11) Stakeholder Scoping Notice Mailing List
 - 12) Public Scoping Notice Mailing List
-

Subject: Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA Agency Scoping Meeting

Attachment: Agency Scoping Notice

Dear Agency Representative,

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, and co-sponsors: cities of Payson, Elk Ridge, Salem, Spanish Fork and Woodland Hills are proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], improvements within the Payson and Spanish Fork Watersheds. This plan will address flooding issues in the watersheds.

The NRCS will hold an online agency scoping meeting as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to provide information about the conceptual design of the projects. At this time, NRCS is requesting comments on the project to identify issues and resource concerns.

Agency Scoping Meeting

Agencies who may have interest or involvement in the project are invited to attend a virtual meeting:

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: **Zoom:** <https://jubengineers.zoom.us/j/95130048789>
Meeting ID: 951 3004 8789
Call-in number: 253.215.8782

A calendar invite will follow with this meeting information.

Proposed project information can be found at:

Utah County WSO 2020

Username: UtahCountyWSO

Password: WSO2020!!

Questions and comments can be directed to:

Email: email@utahcountywatershed.com

Mail: Attn: The Langdon Group

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA

392 E Winchester Street #300

Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Phone: (801) 946-6750

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan Environmental Assessment



Utah State Office
**Natural
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Virtual Agency Scoping Meeting

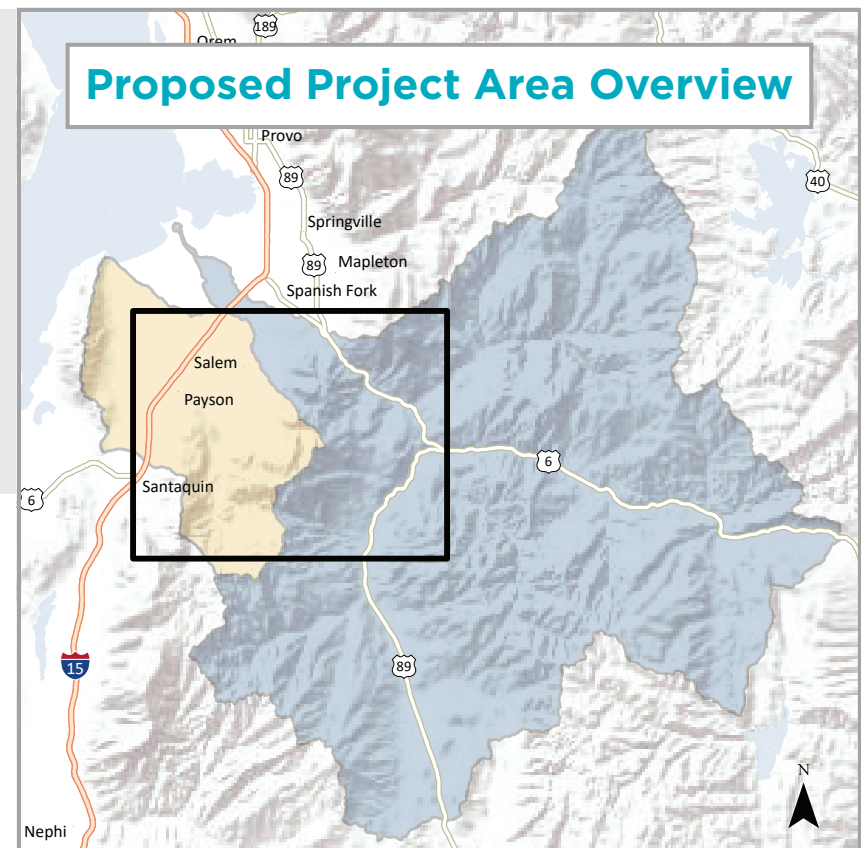
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Questions and comment can be directed to:

Web: www.UCwatershed.com
Email: email@utahcountywatershed.com
Phone: (801) 946-6750
Mail: Attn: The Langdon Group
 Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA
 392 E Winchester Street #300
 Salt Lake City, UT 84107

**Por favor contactenos al email@utahcountywatershed.com para información en Español.*



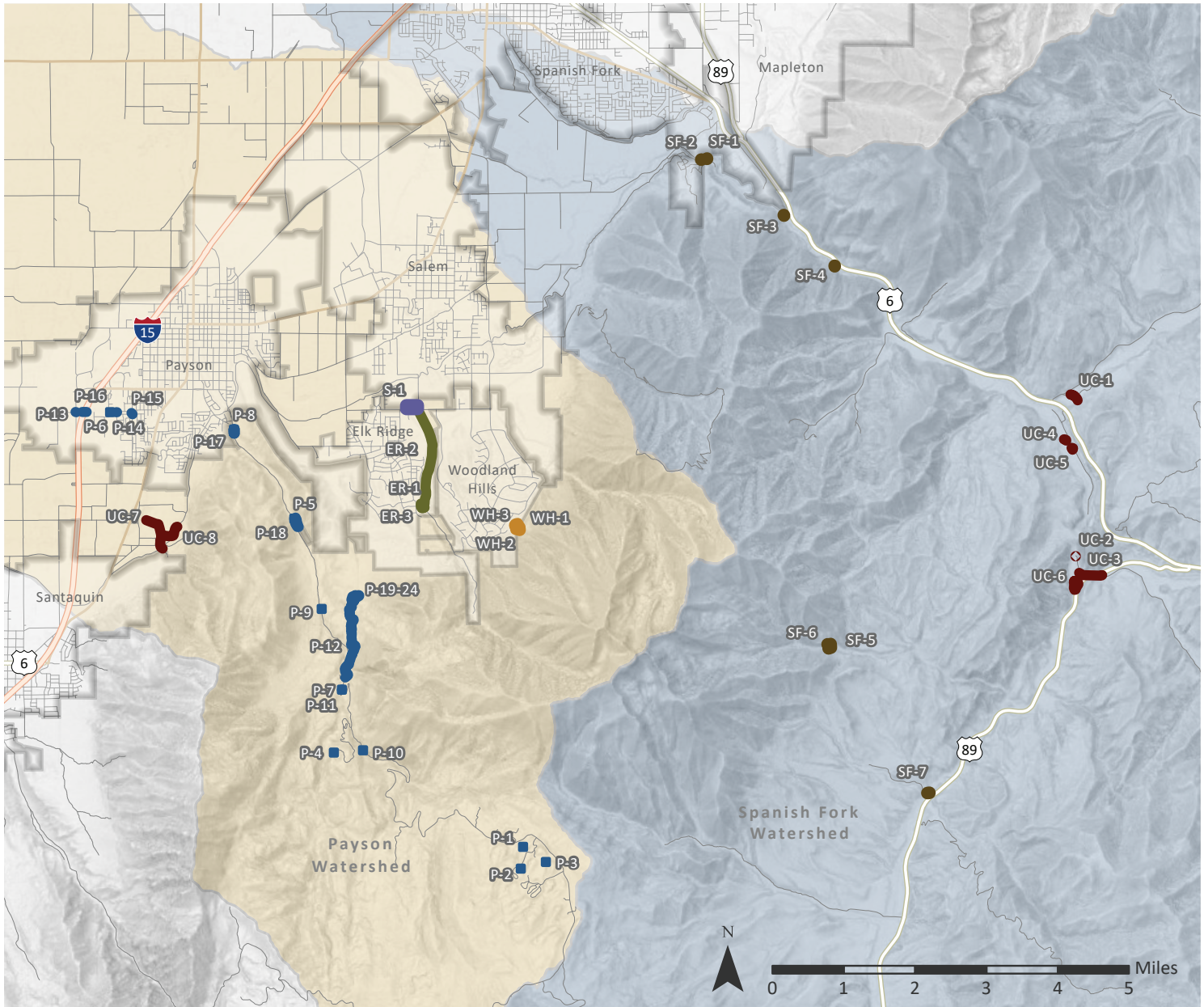
Proposed Project Area Overview



Utah State Office
Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

View proposed project information online at: www.ucwatershed.com



Project ID	City/County	Proposed Project Description	Project ID	City/County	Proposed Project Description	Project ID	City/County	Proposed Project Description
ER-1	Elk Ridge	Inlet Structure	P-11	Payson	Telemetry/Automated Gates	SF-7	Spanish Fork	Potential Bridge Replacement
ER-2	Elk Ridge	Basin Outlet Pipe	P-12	Payson	Concrete Lined Channel	UC-1	Utah County	Water Spreading
P-1	Payson	McClellan Outlet, Riprap, Spillway	P-13	Payson	Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-2	Utah County	Control Structure Rehabilitation
P-2	Payson	Box Lake Outlet Drainage, Cleaning, Dredging	P-14	Payson	Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-3	Utah County	Channel Rehabilitation / Roadway Elevation
P-3	Payson	Big East Spillway	P-15	Payson	Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-4	Utah County	Riprap 1
P-4	Payson	Maple Lake Outlet, Spillway, Seep	P-16	Payson	UDOT Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-5	Utah County	Riprap 2
P-5	Payson	Debris Basin	SF-1	Spanish Fork	Automated Control Gate 1	UC-6	Utah County	Channel Rehabilitation
P-6	Payson	Channel Rehabilitation	SF-2	Spanish Fork	Automated Control Gate 2	UC-7	Utah County	Channelization of Floodway
P-7	Payson	Irrigation Diversion	SF-3	Spanish Fork	Automated Control Gate 3	UC-8	Utah County	Channelization of Floodway
P-8	Payson	Dry Creek Diversion	SF-4	Spanish Fork	Sediment and Debris Management	WH-1	Woodland Hills	Basin Inlet Channel Armoring/Cleaning
P-9	Payson	Gabion Repair	SF-5	Spanish Fork	Debris Flow Barrier (Opt 1)	WH-2	Woodland Hills	Detention Basin Alt 2
P-10	Payson	Seep Road Repair	SF-6	Spanish Fork	Dike or Diversion Berm (Opt 2)	WH-3	Woodland Hills	Detention Basin

Subject: Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA Stakeholder Scoping Meeting
Attachment: Stakeholder Scoping Notice

Dear Stakeholder,

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, and co-sponsors: cities of Payson, Elk Ridge, Salem, Spanish Fork and Woodland Hills are proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], improvements within the Payson and Spanish Fork Watersheds. This plan will address flooding issues in the watersheds.

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Virtual Stakeholder Scoping Meeting

You are invited to attend a brief presentation and question and answer session during the virtual meeting.

Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom: <https://jubengineers.zoom.us/j/95509754092>
Meeting ID: 955 0975 4092
Call-in number: 253.215.8782

A calendar invite will follow.

Written comments may be submitted starting March 11, 2021 and ending on April 9, 2021. Comments must be postmarked by April 9, 2021.

Questions and comments can be directed to the Utah County Watershed Operations Information Team:

Email: email@utahcountywatershed.com
Mail: Attn: The Langdon Group
Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA
392 E Winchester Street #300
Salt Lake City, UT 84107
Phone: (801) 946-6750

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan Environmental Assessment



Utah State Office
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Stakeholder Scoping Meeting

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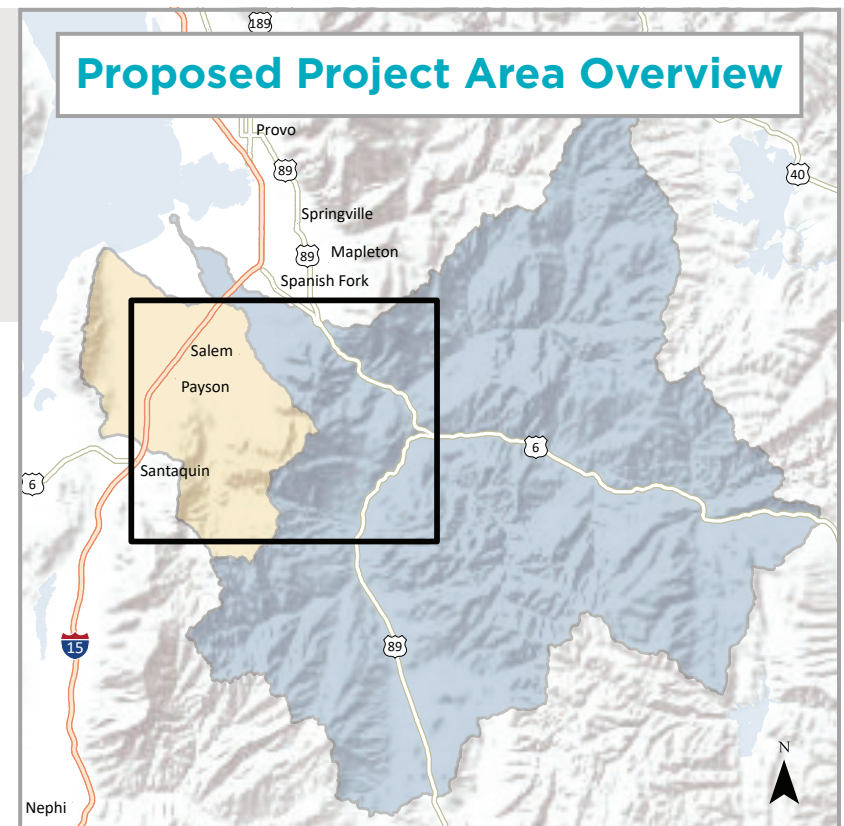
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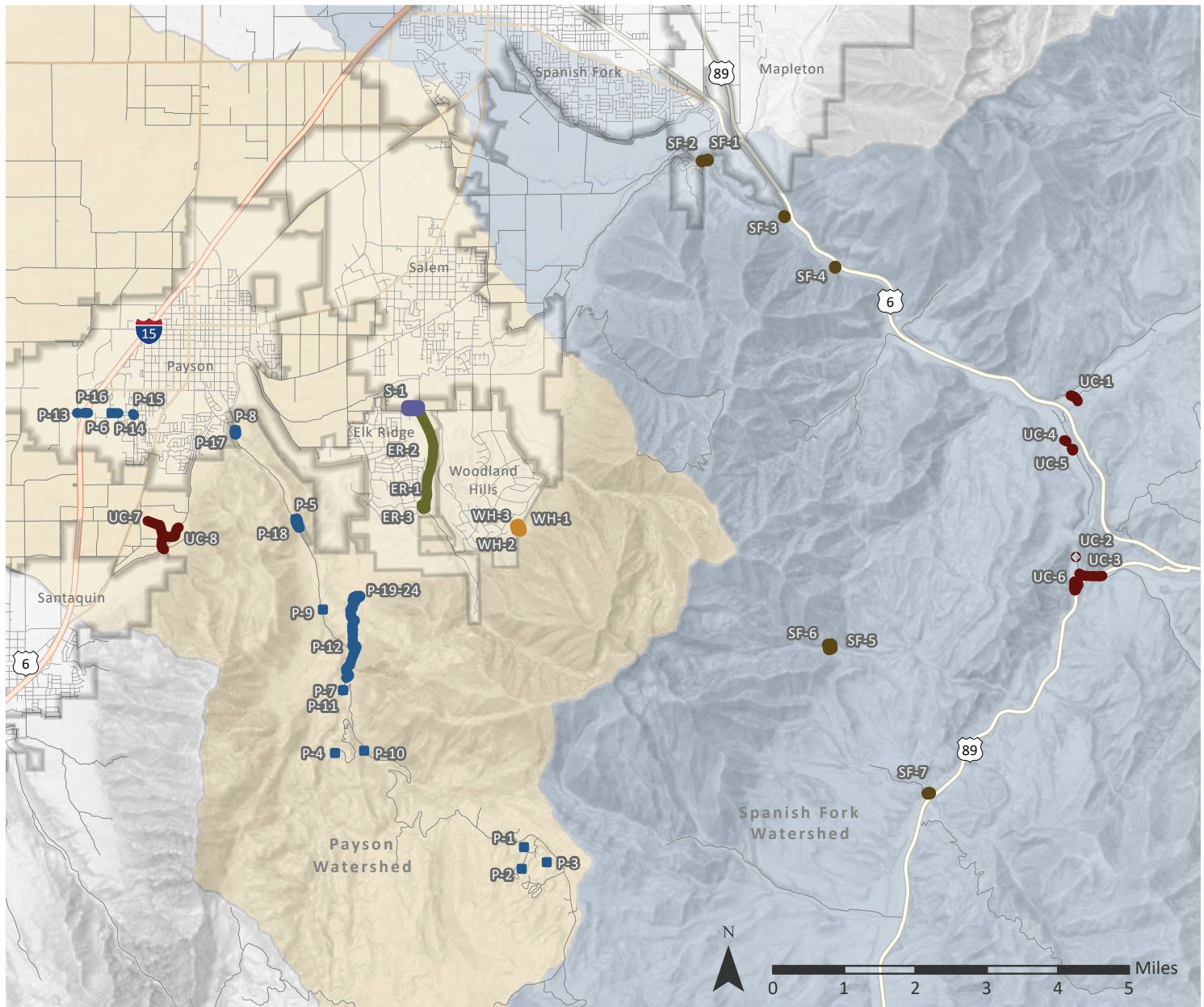
Proposed Project Overview



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**Utah County Watershed Operations Plan Environmental Assessment, Utah County, Utah
Public Scoping Meeting Notice, March 25, 2021, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

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Public Scoping Meeting

The public is invited to attend a brief presentation and question and answer session during the virtual public meeting.

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom: <https://jubengineers.zoom.us/j/94599526666>
Meeting ID: 945 9952 6666
Call-in number: 253.215.8782

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 Customer Name: AVA PECORA Company: THE LANGDON GROUP
 Address: 392 E WINCHESTER STR
 City/St/Zip: SALT LAKE CITY ,UT 84107
 Phone: (208) 363-0282 Solicitor: JR
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 Lines: 70 Inches: 7.29 Words: 277

Credit Card: Expire:
 Order Number:
 Cost: 161.70 Extra Charges: .00 Adjustments: .00
 Payments: .00 Discount: .00
 Balance: 161.70

Utah County Watershed Operations
Plan Environmental Assessment,
Utah County, Utah
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Legal Notice 7158 Published in Daily
Herald on March 11, 2021

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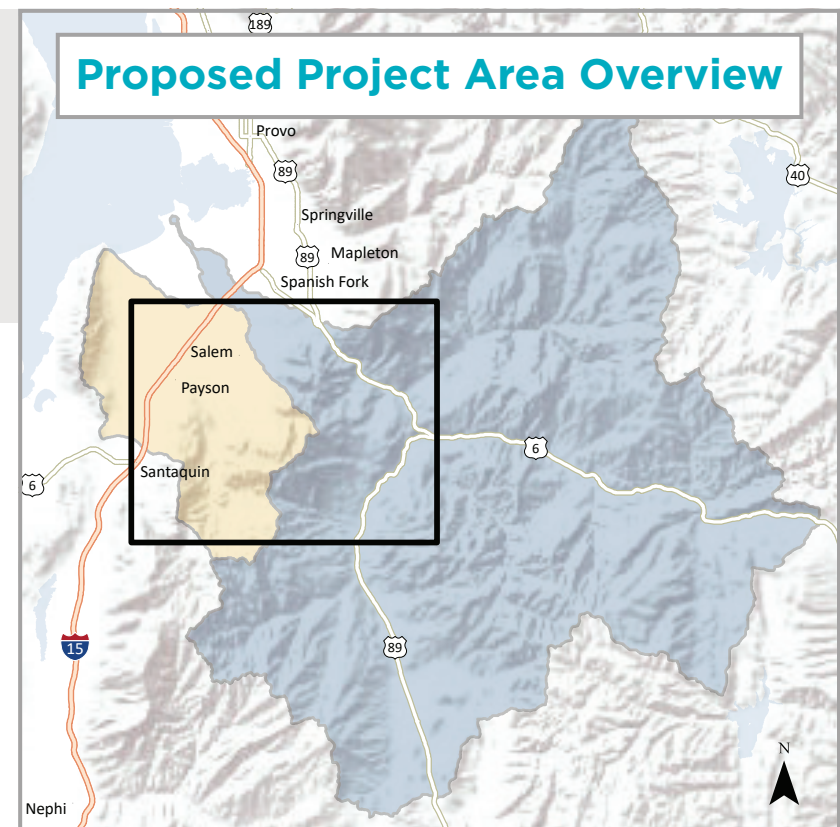
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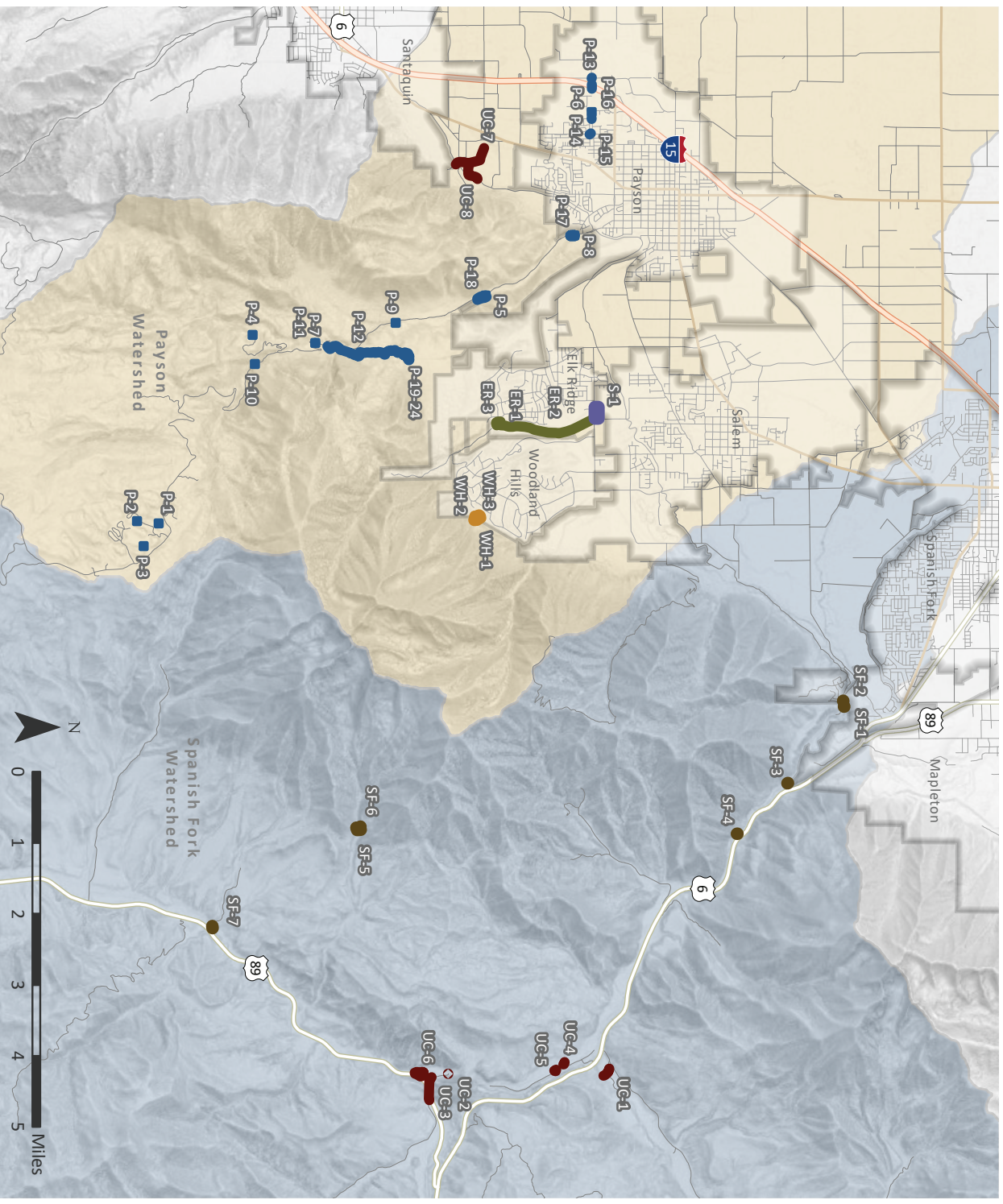
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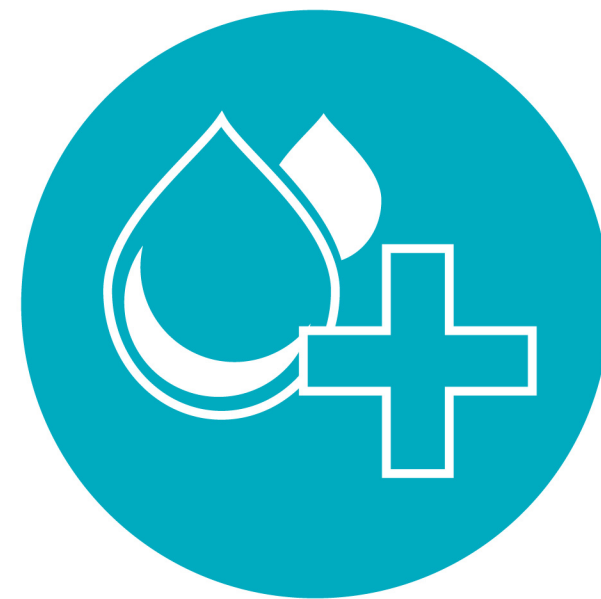
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ER-2	Elk Ridge	Basin Outlet Pipe	P-12	Payson	Concrete Lined Channel	UC-1	Utah County	Water Spreading
P-1	Payson	McClellan Outlet, Riprap, Spillway	P-13	Payson	Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-2	Utah County	Control Structure Rehabilitation
P-2	Payson	Box Lake Outlet Drainage, Cleaning, Dredging	P-14	Payson	Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-3	Utah County	Channel Rehabilitation / Roadway Elevation
P-3	Payson	Big East Spillway	P-15	Payson	Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-4	Utah County	Riprap 1
P-4	Payson	Maple Lake Outlet, Spillway, Seep	P-16	Payson	UDOT Culvert Replacement/Enlargement	UC-5	Utah County	Riprap 2
P-5	Payson	Debris Basin	SF-1	Spanish Fork	Automated Control Gate 1	UC-6	Utah County	Channel Rehabilitation
P-6	Payson	Channel Rehabilitation	SF-2	Spanish Fork	Automated Control Gate 2	UC-7	Utah County	Channelization of Floodway
P-7	Payson	Irrigation Diversion	SF-3	Spanish Fork	Automated Control Gate 3	UC-8	Utah County	Channelization of Floodway
P-8	Payson	Dry Creek Diversion	SF-4	Spanish Fork	Sediment and Debris Management	WH-1	Woodland Hills	Basin Inlet Channel Armoring/Cleaning
P-9	Payson	Gabion Repair	SF-5	Spanish Fork	Debris Flow Barrier (Opt 1)	WH-2	Woodland Hills	Detention Basin Alt 2
P-10	Payson	Seep Road Repair	SF-6	Spanish Fork	Dike or Diversion Barr (Opt 2)	WH-3	Woodland Hills	Detention Basin



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan Environmental Assessment

Public Scoping Meeting



Public Scoping Meeting

The public is invited to attend a brief presentation and question and answer session during the virtual public meeting:

• **Thursday, March 25, 2021** •

• **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** •

• **Online at www.zoom.us/join** •

• **Meeting ID: 945 9952 6666** •

Contact the team at (801) 946-6750 or email@utahcountywatershed.com.



March 10, 2021

Ms. Candace Bear
Chairwoman
Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians
Skull Valley Goshute General Council
407 Skull Valley Road
Skull Valley Reservation, Utah 84029

Reference: NRCS Utah County Watershed Operations Plan

Dear Ms. Bear:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, and co-sponsors including cities of Payson, Elk Ridge, Salem, Spanish Fork and Woodland Hills are proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], improvements within the Payson and Spanish Fork Watersheds. This plan will address flooding issues in the watersheds.

In cooperation with Utah County, NRCS is in the very early planning stages of preparing a Supplemental Watershed Plan and an Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider and analyze potential impacts from the proposed action. For the purposes of compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the NRCS is the designated lead Federal Agency. Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, Executive Order 13007, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, we write to you at this time regarding the project and we welcome any information you would like to share with us regarding historic properties or places of traditional religious and cultural importance near the proposed project area that we should consider as part of our analysis. We would also appreciate your assistance in identifying any other Tribes with whom we should consult on this project. In addition to your Tribe, we have contacted the following:

- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation

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Ms. Candace Bear

March 10, 2021

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If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Shelley A. Szeghi, Area Cultural Resources Specialist, at 801-597-4552 or email at shelley.szeghi@usda.gov. We look forward to receiving your comments and discussing this project further.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

cc:

Shelley A. Szeghi, NRCS, North Area Cultural Resources Specialist, Ogden, UT
Chet Fitzgerald, NRCS, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, Ogden, Utah
Norm Evenstad, NRCS, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, Salt Lake City, UT
Derek Hamilton, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
Leslie Warta, NRCS, NEPA Environmental Compliance Specialist, Salt Lake City, UT



March 10, 2021

Ms. Betsy Chapoose
Director
Cultural Rights Protection Department
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reference: NRCS Utah County Watershed Operations Plan

Dear Ms. Chapoose:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, and co-sponsors including cities of Payson, Elk Ridge, Salem, Spanish Fork and Woodland Hills are proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], improvements within the Payson and Spanish Fork Watersheds. This plan will address flooding issues in the watersheds.

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Ms. Betsy Chapoose

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Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

cc:

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Chet Fitzgerald, NRCS, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, Ogden, Utah
Norm Evenstad, NRCS, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, Salt Lake City, UT
Derek Hamilton, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
Leslie Warta, NRCS, NEPA Environmental Compliance Specialist, Salt Lake City, UT



March 10, 2021

Mr. Luke Duncan
Chairman
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reference: NRCS Utah County Watershed Operations Plan

Dear Mr. Duncan:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, and co-sponsors including cities of Payson, Elk Ridge, Salem, Spanish Fork and Woodland Hills are proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], improvements within the Payson and Spanish Fork Watersheds. This plan will address flooding issues in the watersheds.

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Derek Hamilton, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
Leslie Warta, NRCS, NEPA Environmental Compliance Specialist, Salt Lake City, UT



March 10, 2021

Mr. Clell Pete
Environmental Protection Department
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
HC61 Box 6104
195 Tribal Center Road
Ibapah, Utah 84034

Reference: NRCS Utah County Watershed Operations Plan

Dear Mr. Pete:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Utah County as the project sponsor, and co-sponsors including cities of Payson, Elk Ridge, Salem, Spanish Fork and Woodland Hills are proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], improvements within the Payson and Spanish Fork Watersheds. This plan will address flooding issues in the watersheds.

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Derek Hamilton, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
Leslie Warta, NRCS, NEPA Environmental Compliance Specialist, Salt Lake City, UT



March 10, 2021

Mr. Rupert Steele
Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
HC61 Box 6104
195 Tribal Center Road
Ibapah, Utah 84034

Reference: NRCS Utah County Watershed Operations Plan

Dear Mr. Steele:

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Mr. Rupert Steele

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Derek Hamilton, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
Leslie Warta, NRCS, NEPA Environmental Compliance Specialist, Salt Lake City, UT

Agency and Tribal Contact List - Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA

First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email Address	Phone Number	Responsibility	Type	Additional Info	WSO	Relevant Project Sites
Jessica	Wade	Acting Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management West Desert District	2370 South Deseret	West Valley City	UT	84119	utslmail@blm.gov	801-977-4300		Agency	Federal	-	-
Wayne	Pullan	Regional Director	Bureau of Reclamation	302 East Lakeview	Provo	UT	84606	UCPAO@USBR.GOV	801-379-1101		Agency	Federal	7	Diamond Fork Trash Rack
Luke	Decker	Spanish Fork Ranger	United States Forest Service	44 W 400 N	Spanish Fork	UT	84660	luke.decker@usda.gov	307-674-2681		Agency	Federal	2	SWUA Payson Creek Concrete Channel
Sarah	Flinders		United States Forest Service, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest					sarah.flinders@usda.gov	801-787-8736		Agency	Federal		
Wayne	Andersen	Board Member over	Utah Board of Water Resources	957 South 1700	Spanish Fork	UT	84066	flyinga8@sfcn.org	801-368-3584		Agency	State	-	-
Scott	Baird	Executive Director	Utah Department of Environmental Quality	PO Box 144870	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-4879	scottbaird@utah.gov	801-536-0095					
Tyler	Thompson	Watershed Director	Utah Department of Natural Resources	PO Box 145610	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-5610	tylertthompson@utah.gov	801-538-4876					
Kris	Hamlet	Director	Utah Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management	1110 State Office	Salt Lake City	UT	84114	khamlet@utah.gov	801-538-3400		Agency	State	-	-
Robert	Clayton	Region 3 Director	Utah Department of Transportation, Region 3	658 North 1500	Orem	UT	84057	robertclayton@utah.gov						
Tim	Davis	Director	Utah Division of Drinking Water	PO Box 144830	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-4830	timdavis@utah.gov	(801) 536-4207					
Kris	Hamlet	Director	Utah Division of Emergency Management	PO Box 141775	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-1775	krishamlet@utah.gov	801-538-9553					
Brian	Cottam	Director	Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands	PO Box 145703	Salt Lake City	UT	84114	briancottam@utah.gov	801-538-5504					
Kathy	Holder	State National Flood	Utah Division of Homeland Security	1110 State Office	Salt Lake City	UT	84114	kholder@utah.gov	801-538-3332		Agency	State	-	-
Erica	Gaddis	Division Director	Utah Division of Water Quality	PO Box 144870	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-6301	egaddis@utah.gov	801-536-4300		Agency	State	-	-
Candice	Hasenyaeger	Deputy Director	Utah Division of Water Resources	1594 W. North	Salt Lake City	UT	84116	candicehasenyager@utah.gov	801-538-7278		Agency	State	-	-
Todd	Adams	Director	Utah Division of Water Resources	PO Box 146201	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-6201	toddadams@utah.gov	801-725-5201					
Teresa	Wilhelmson	State Engineer	Utah Division of Water Rights	PO Box 146300	Salt Lake City	UT	84114	teresawilhelmsen@utah.gov						
Ross	Hansen	Regional Engineer	Utah Division of Water Rights, Utah Lake/Jordan River	1594 W North	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-6300	rosshansen@utah.gov	801-538-7240		Agency	State	-	-
Jason	Vernon	Regional Supervisor	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	1115 North Main	Springville	UT	84663	jasonvernon@utah.gov	801-491-5678		Agency	State	-	-
Mike	Slater		Utah Division of Wildlife Resources					michaelslater@utah.gov	801-367-5941					
Sarah	Lindsey		Utah Natural Heritage Program	PO Box 146301	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-6301	sarahlindsey@utah.gov	801-538-4759					
Dave	Marble	Assistant State Engineer	Utah Office of Dam Safety	PO Box 146300	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-6300	davemarble@utah.gov	801-538-7240		Agency	State	-	-
Sindy	Smith	RDCC Coordinator	Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	350 North State	Salt Lake City	UT	84103	sindysmith@utah.gov	801-537-9193		Agency	State	-	-
Mark	Holden	Executive Director	Utah Reclamation Mitigation & Conservation District	230 South 500	Salt Lake City	UT	84102	urmcc@usbr.gov						
Ken	Matthews	Budget, Revenue & Finance	Utah State Clearinghouse	PO Box 142210	Salt Lake City	UT	84114	kmatthews@utah.gov	801-538-1149		Agency	State	-	-
Christopher	Merritt	State Historic Preservation	Utah State Historic Preservation Office	300 S. Rio Grande	Salt Lake City	UT	84101	cmerritt@utah.gov	801-245-7225		Agency	State	-	-
Angelia	Crowther	Utah Floodplain Manager						acrowther@utah.gov						
Everett W	Taylor	Dam Safety	Utah Division of water Rights and Dam Safety					everetttaylor@utah.gov						
					Chuck	Williams	Streams	Utah Division of water Rights and Dam Safety					charleswilliamson@utah.gov	
Cooperating Agency - Derek Hamilton to send out														
X				NRCS - DH	Jason	Gipson	Chief	U.S. Army Corps, Bountiful Regulator	533 West 2600	Bountiful	UT	84010-774	jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil	801-295-8380
X				NRCS - DH	Dana	Allen	NEPA Compliance Specialist	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	1595 Wynkoop	Denver	CO	80202-112	allen.dana@epa.gov	303-312-6870
X				NRCS - DH	Yvette	Converse	Field Office Supervisor	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2369 Orton Circle	West Valley	UT	84119	Yvette_Converse@fws.gov	406-600-5142
X				NRCS - DH	Dave	Whittenkiend	Forest Supervisor	United States Forest Service, Uinta National Forest	858 West South	South Jordan	UT	84096	dwhittenkiend@fs.fed.us	(801) 999-2103
Tribal - Team prep tribal letter and NRCS sends out														
Tribes		X		NRCS	Candace Bear		Chairwoman	Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians	407 Skull Valley	Skull Valley	UT	84029		
		X		NRCS	Ruper Steele		Chairman	Confederated Tribes of the Goshute	195 Tribal	Ibapah	UT	84034		
		X		NRCS	Clell Pete		Environmental Protection	Confederated Tribes of the Goshute	195 Tribal	Ibapah	UT	84034		
		X		NRCS	Luke Duncan		Chairman	Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray	P.O. Box 190	Fort Duchene	UT	84026		
		X		NRCS	Betsy Chapoose		Director Cultural Resources	Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray	P.O. Box 190	Fort Duchene	UT	84026		

UTC Co WSO Stakeholder List					
First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization	Email Address	Phone Number
Glen	Tanner	Public Works Director	Utah County	GLENT@utahcounty.gov	801-420-7619
Norm	Beagley	Assistant City Manager / City Engineer	Santaquin City	nbeagley@santaquin.org	801-636-6899
Travis	Jockumsen	Public Works Director / City Engineer	Payson City	travisj@payson.org	801-953-5284
Royce	Swenson	Planner	Elk Ridge City	royce@elkridgecity.org	801-423-1555
Bruce	Ward	City Engineer	Salem City	brucew@salemcity.org	801-360-6297
Paul	Taylor	Assistant Water Division Manager	Spanish Fork City	ptaylor@spanishfork.org	801-804-4458
Corbett	Stephens	Public Works Director	Woodland Hills City	works@woodlandhills-ut.gov	801-857-0788
Kari	Malkovich	Councilperson	Woodland Hills City	kari@woodlandhills-ut.gov	
Chad	Knapp	Operations Manager	Strawberry Water Users	chad@strawberrywater.com	C: 801-885-7451
Sterling	Brown	General Manager	Strawberry Water Users	sterling@strawberrywater.com	O: 801-465-9273
Jay	Staley	Maintenance Foreman	Strawberry Highline Canal Company	stoneagej@gmail.com	
Martin	Larson	Representative	Strawberry Highline Canal Company (Payson city)	mlarson@shlcco.com	801-319-3740
Steve	Moon	President	Spring Lake Water Company	moonrider169@netzero.com	801-465-8556
Eric	Ellis	Executive Director	Utah Lake Commission	eric@utahlakecommission.org	(801) 851-2900
Jordan	Neilson		Trout Unlimited	jordan.neilson@tu.org	801.850.1221
John	Mills	Region 8 Silver Sage Field Director	Boy Scouts of America	john.mills@scouting.org	808-225-7958
Rick	Harris	Utah Union Pacific Property Manager	Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company	online form	402-544-8588
Keith	Denos	General Manager	Provo River Water Users Association (PRWUA)	gkd@prwua.org	801-796-8770
Richard	Nielsen	Director	Utah County Public Works	richardjn@utahcounty.gov	
Bill	Lee	Commissioner	Utah County Commission	utahcnty@utahcounty.gov	
Bryce	Armstrong	Director	Utah County Community Development	brycea@utahcounty.gov	
Tyler	Plewe	Division Director	Utah County Health Department	tylerp@utahcounty.gov	
Norm Beagley			Santaquin City	nbeagley@santaquin.org	801-636-6899

Appendix B. Scoping Meeting Materials

- 1) Scoping Meeting Presentation
- 2) Agency Scoping Meeting Summary
- 3) Stakeholder Scoping Meeting Summary
- 4) Public Scoping Meeting Summary



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service



Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA Scoping Meeting

March 25, 2021



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Zoom Meeting

You're sharing slides

Stop Share



ZOOM ORIENTATION

- Switch to Phone Audio
- Rename
- Reactions
- Participant Panel
- Chat
- Recording

Right click your video to rename yourself

Mute button

Participants (1)

LG Langdon Group/J-U-B (Host, me)

"Raise hand" button for participants

Lower your "raised hand" with clear all

yes no go slower go faster more clear all

Invite Mute All

Chat

To: Everyone

Type message here...



< > 1 of 23 ...

Welcome and Introductions

Sponsor: Utah County



J-U-B Engineers



Co-Sponsors:

- Payson City
- Elk Ridge City
- Salem City
- Spanish Fork City
- Woodland Hills City
- Santaquin

**Jones & DeMille
Engineering**



NRCS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



CRS Engineers



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PL-566 Program Overview

Public Law 83-566; the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended

General Purposes

- Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment
- Furthering conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water
- Furthering conservation and proper utilization of land



PL-566 Program Overview

Authorized Purposes

Flood prevention (flood damage reduction)

Watershed protection

Public recreation

Public fish and wildlife

Agricultural water management

Municipal and industrial water supply

Water quality management

Watershed structure rehabilitation



Proposed Project Measures

Address flooding issues due to the 2018 Pole Creek and Bald Mountain fires



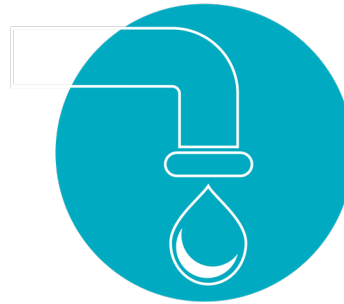


Remaining Concerns

Erosion and sediment risk to:



Infrastructure & Roads



Water Supply



Homes & Structures



Wildlife



Irrigation Canals

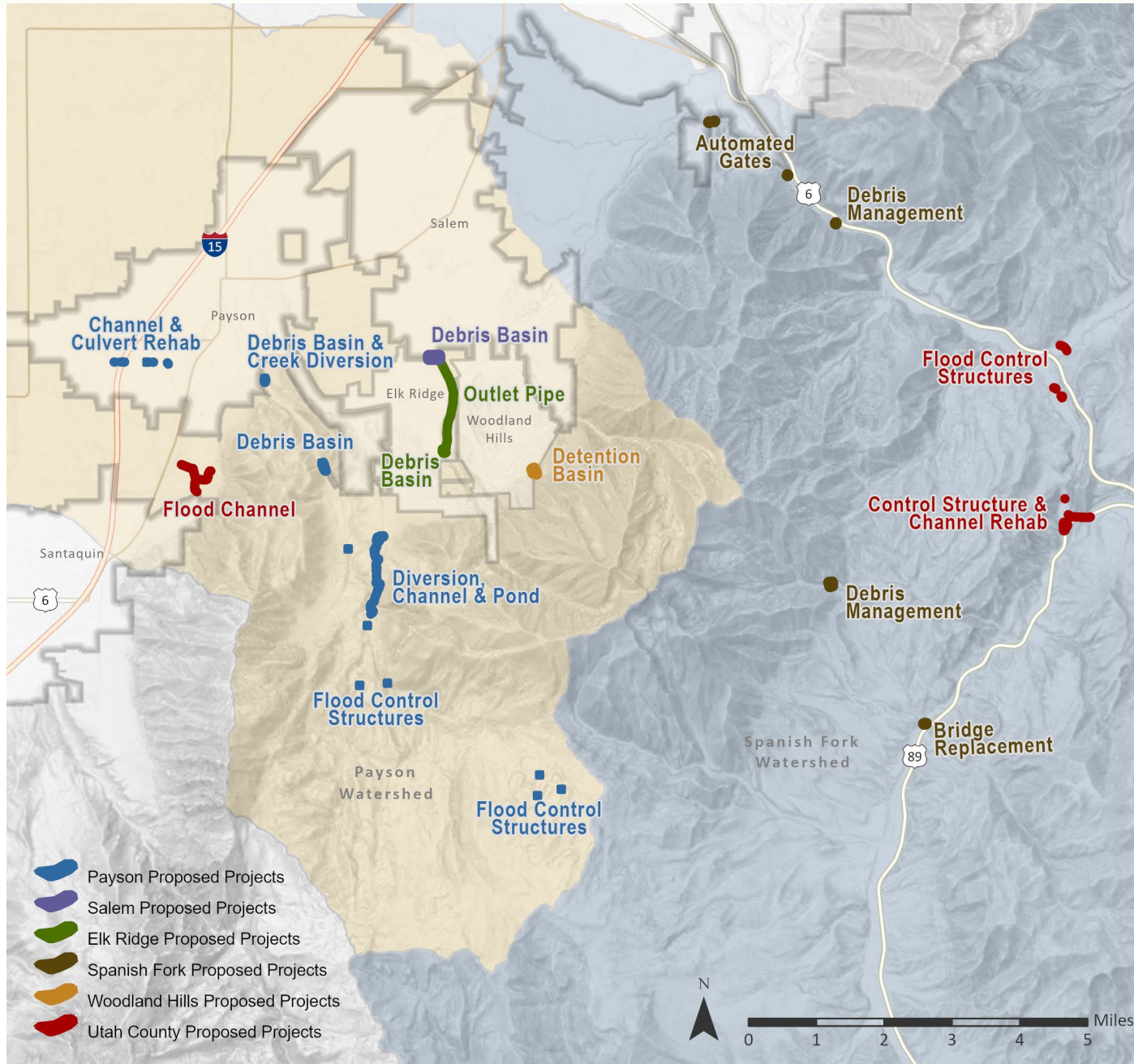




Project Goals

- 1 **Protect communities from high water flows**
- 2 **Reduce the frequency of flood damage to residents and critical infrastructure and roads**
- 3 **Reduce erosion and catch sediment and debris**
- 4 **Protect water quality**
- 5 **Protect wildlife habitats**





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Purpose of the Planning Phase

Federal funds = NEPA

(National Environmental Policy Act)

***Federal lands and federal permits also invoke NEPA requirements**





NEPA aims to:

- 1. Consider environmental consequences**
- 2. Inform the public**





40 CFR 1501.7 - Scoping

“There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process shall be termed scoping.”



Issues to Consider



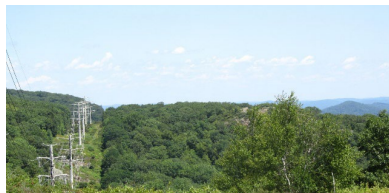
Air Quality



Policy and Regulation



Recreation



Visual Resources



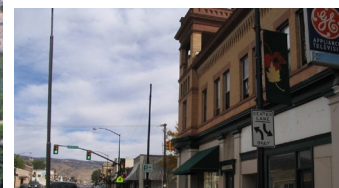
Land Uses



Water Resources



Cultural Resources



Economics



Wildlife





Initiate Plan Environmental Assessment

Develop project purpose and need
Conduct agency and public scoping
Collect baseline data
Alternative development

Collect Data

Analyze existing conditions
Identify needed resource surveys
Agency consultation and coordination

Analyze Alternatives

Analyze alternatives
Evaluate potential impacts to environmental resources

Draft Plan Environmental Assessment

Release Plan EA to public for review and comment
Review all public and agency comments
Prepare Plan EA

Decision Document

NRCS will prepare a Finding-of-No Significant Impact or recommend an Environmental Impact Statement

WE ARE HERE



Resource Evaluation/Prepare Plan EA

Spring 2021 – Spring 2022

Agency Review/Public Comment Period/Decision Document

Spring 2022 – Fall 2022

Final Design*

Spring 2022 – Spring 2023

*(pending environmental approval and funding)

Begin Project Construction*

Spring 2023 – Fall 2024

*(pending environmental approval and funding)



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Schedule

Public scoping comment period: 30 days
March 11 – April 9, 2021

Draft Plan-EA: 45 days Spring 2022

Final Plan-EA & Decision: Fall 2022



Questions to identify the scope:

- Are there concerns with the possible locations and associated conceptual designs?
- What are the most important environmental concerns?
- What are some options to reduce impacts?
- Is there any controversy?
- What other environmental laws apply?
- When does the decision need to be made?
- What other issues within the watershed could potentially be addressed with this project?



Comments

Comment Period March 11 – April 9, 2021



email@utahcountywatershed.com



www.ucwatershed.com



801-946-6750



**C/O The Langdon Group
392 E Winchester Street #300
Salt Lake City, UT 84107**

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**Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA
Agency Scoping Meeting
Meeting Summary
March 17, 2021**

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA Contact Info

Hotline (801) 946-6750

email@utahcountywatershed.com

Public Comment Portal www.UCwatershed.com

Attendees: 40 (including project team members and sponsors)

- Glen Tanner, Utah County
- Richard Nielson, Utah County
- Travis Jockumsen, Payson City
- Paul Taylor, Spanish Fork City
- Royce Swenson, Elk Ridge City
- Bruce Ward, Salem City
- Corbett Stephens, Woodland Hills City
- Kari Malkovich, Woodland Hills City
- Leslie Warta, NRCS
- Derek Hamilton, NRCS
- Norm Evenstad, NRCS
- Ted Mickelsen, Jones & DeMille Engineering
- Jenna Jorgensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering
- Parker Vercimak, Jones and DeMille Engineering
- Ahmad Salah, J-U-B Engineers
- Dianne Olson, Public Involvement
- Caroline Mellor, Public Involvement
- Norm Beagley, Santaquin City
- Justin Robinson, USFS
- Royce Swensen
- Moriah
- Zan Murray, J-U-B
- Jason Vernon
- Shane Hill, UDWR
- Luke Decker, USFS
- Lottie
- Everett W. Taylor
- Tim Davis, DDW
- Aimee
- Rob Clayton
- Byron
- Rachel Struhs, State of Utah
- Joshua Prettyman
- Kathy Holder
- Jamie Huff, Utah DEM, Risk MAP
- Chad Knapp
- Angelia Crowther-UT NFIP

NRCS Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Program - The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program helps units of federal, state, local, and tribal governments protect and restore watersheds. The program provides financial and technical assistance for erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, flood prevention, water quality improvement, water management, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and hydropower.

Lead Agency – USDA- National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Project Sponsor – Utah County

Co-Sponsors – Payson City, Ridge City, Salem City, Spanish Fork City, Woodland Hills City

Meeting Summary

Introduction

Facilitator Dianne Olson, Langdon Group, started the meeting with a Zoom orientation and thanked participants for joining virtually. Dianne explained the goal of the meeting to inform agencies of the project and provide an opportunity for agency staff to ask questions. She also clarified that all comments must be submitted in writing to be considered part of the official record.

Glen Tanner, Utah County, explained the project process, purpose and goals of the project centered on the mitigation of flooding issues related to fire burned areas. He also provided an overview of the meeting agenda and explained the concept of scoping as a one-hour meeting to provide context on the proposed projects and the public to provide informed comments.

Dianne introduced the project team and reviewed the roles of the consultants, lead agency and sponsor agencies.

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Derek Hamilton, NRCS, provided an overview of the PL-556 Program, as part of the US Department of Agriculture. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program helps units of federal, state, local, and tribal governments protect and restore watersheds. The program provides financial and technical assistance for erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, flood prevention, water quality improvement, water management, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and hydropower. The program has been around since the mid-1950's and thousands of projects have occurred since then, 35 in Utah.

Derek elaborated that this meeting is to follow-up with communities about the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program they opted to have initiated back in 2018. The project is currently in the planning phase of the effort – after approximately a year of receiving public input and analysis, a preferred alignment and plan will be proposed. Funding has not been approved yet – funding for design and construction will take a few years to obtain. If necessary, partners and sponsors can help with Right of way acquisition and cost.

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Ahmad elaborated on remaining concerns upon the completion of the Emergency Watershed Protection effort. The remaining concerns related to erosions, sediment risk and subsequent risks to infrastructure and roads, water supply, homes and structures, wildlife and irrigation canals

Project Goals

Ahmad walked through the following initial project goals:

- Protect communities from high water flows
- Reduce the frequency of flood damage to resident and critical infrastructure and roads
- Reduce erosion and catch sediment and debris
- Protect water quality
- Protect wildlife habitats

Project Area and Types of Projects Under Consideration

Ahmad shared with participants the online dynamic map to learn more and see more detail:

<http://utahcountywso2020.com/Default.aspx> or ucwatershed.com

Ahmad described concerns and the type of projects under consideration to accomplish the initial project goals. He discussed conceptual ideas for projects in Salem City, Spanish Fork City and areas unincorporated in the County. The Salem City concept involved a debris basin Concepts for the unincorporated County involve channel rehab work near Thistle and flood control through Diamond Fork and Strawberry.

Ted Mickelsen, Jones & DeMille Engineering, elaborated on addition initial conceptual ideas for projects in Payson City, Elk Ridge City and Woodland Hills City. He shared that these proposed concepts for Payson City involve an irrigation channel with Strawberry Users as a measure to improve the effectiveness of the channel, looking at increased capacity to capture more flood waters in Dry Creek, and repair for dams near mountain lakes that have reached the end of their life. For Elk Ridge City he noted that proposed concepts include the continuation of flood waters from a nearby canyon, indicating that more measures still need to be implemented to capture more high-waters through the canyon and down to a debris basin in Salem.

Ted emphasized that the project team is interested in ideas, concerns and thoughts submitted from the public. He highlighted that the project is still just in the planning phase and input could shift the mitigation options and approaches.

Project Phases

Jenna Jorgensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering, walked through the required processes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to public involvement and technical analysis. She stated that

any involved of federal money (such as from NRCS) or federal land requires a NEPA process. Jenna explained that NEPA requires the consideration of environmental consequences and to communicate consequences to public.

Jenna elaborated on the definition of scoping, in reference to the meeting as a scoping meeting. She shared that under federal law 40 CFR 1501.7, scoping provides opportunities to identify issues, ensure thorough analysis and refinement of the alternatives that will be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. Scoping is defined as “There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process shall be termed scoping.”

She expressed that NEPA requires the evaluation of various environmental and human resources and the potential impacts of each proposed alternative. Some of those resources that are evaluated in the EA include Air Quality, Recreation, Visual Resources, Policy and Regulation, Land Uses, Water Resources, Cultural Resources, Economics (That your public tax dollars are being spent wisely) and wildlife.

Jenna explained the NEPA timeline and anticipated process going forward. She emphasized that the NEPA Process is currently at the beginning. After the current Planning phase, subsequent phases are design and then construction. There will be a 2nd public commenting opportunity when the Draft EA is available, which will show 30% design on projects. Next steps are to collect data, finalize the alternatives and analyze the alternatives. A draft Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) is anticipated for Spring 2022. There will be a public meeting at this point to propose alternatives to the public and opportunity for the public to submit provide comment and feedback. A review process will happen before the Decision Document is signed. Design of the project could start while the Decision Document is in process.

Schedule

Jenna reviewed the following project schedule for the Planning phase:

- Public Scoping Period – 30 days (March 11 – April 9, 2021)
- Draft Plan – EA: 45 days for comment in Spring 2022
- Final Plan – EZ and Decision: Fall 2022
- Comment on 2-year study timeline
- Additional public comment opportunities

Scoping Input

Dianne reviewed opportunities for public involvement and comments during the March 11 – April 9, 2021 scoping comment period. She clarified that questions in the meeting are not considered formal comments. Formal comments are to be submitted by email, the online comment portal, letter of phone. Comments need to be submitted formally and by the deadline to be formally addressed in the Plan-EA.

Discussion

Dianne facilitated a discussion of several questions and comments from agency members. Jaime Huff, Utah Division of Emergency Management, shared that typical comments from the Division are based on if any project is impacting the mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), as identified on a Flood Insurance Rate Map. She also asked for the project team to remind any impacted community that they will need to require a floodplain development permit and may require a FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR), pre-project, and a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), post project. The project team affirmed understanding of these issues and procedures.

Justin Robinson, USFS, noted that the prior Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) work was done to stabilize the road and felt it was done well. He acknowledged limitations of this funding focused on immediate stabilization needs only and not long-term considerations. Justin referenced previous discussions that the channel shifted by the road and that prior EWP funds could not be applied to moving the road. Justin elaborated that channel reconstruction would be useful. He shared interest to continue to explore further opportunities to partner. Ahmad emphasized that the project team will continue to coordinate with the USFS. Zan Murray, J-U-B Engineers, agreed on the importance of opportunities to look at significant areas for joint focus and to achieve more with the funding. Justin shared that keeping sentiment in the creek would be useful.

Kathy Holder, State Floodplain Manager added to Jaime's comment related to flood procedures. She asked everyone to note executive orders 11988 and 1369, flood plain management orders. These orders require permits for anyone working in flood hazard areas, including federal, state or municipal entities. All entities must go through rules and regulations in the National Flood Insurance Program. She noticed changes since the change in presidential administration. Derek highlighted the importance of documenting these concerns in the Plan-EA and laying clear expectations for all in the planning team.

Dianne concluded with a reminder to participants that the project team is available to speak one-on-one about areas of concerns and help answer questions, including on site.

**Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA
Stakeholder Scoping Meeting
Meeting Summary
March 18, 2021**

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA Contact Info

Hotline (801) 946-6750

email@utahcountywatershed.com

Public Comment Portal www.UCwatershed.com

Attendees: 19 (including project team members and sponsors)

- Glen Tanner, Utah County
- Travis Jockumsen, Payson City
- Royce Swenson, Elk Ridge City
- Leslie Warta, NRCS
- Derek Hamilton, NRCS
- Norm Evenstad, NRCS
- Ted Mickelsen, Jones & DeMille Engineering
- Jenna Jorgensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering
- Parker Vercimak, Jones and DeMille Engineering
- Ahmad Salah, J-U-B Engineers
- Dianne Olson, Public Involvement
- Caroline Mellor, Public Involvement
- Norm Beagley, Santaquin City
- Joshua Prettyman
- Aimee
- Sterling Brown, Strawberry Water Users Association
- Marty Larson, Strawberry Highline

NRCS Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Program - The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program helps units of federal, state, local, and tribal governments protect and restore watersheds. The program provides financial and technical assistance for erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, flood prevention, water quality improvement, water management, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and hydropower.

Lead Agency – USDA- National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Project Sponsor – Utah County

Co-Sponsors – Payson City, Ridge City, Salem City, Spanish Fork City, Woodland Hills City

Meeting Summary

Introduction

Facilitator Dianne Olson, Langdon Group, started the meeting with a Zoom orientation and thanked participants for joining virtually. Olson explained the goal of the meeting to inform stakeholders of the project and provide an opportunity for stakeholders staff to ask questions. Dianne also clarified that all comments must be submitted in writing to be considered part of the official record.

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Ahmad described the debris basin in Salem City and goals for debris management on Spanish Fork Canyon. He illustrated these issues with by turning the national flood hazard layer on/ off while demonstrating the GIS-based map. He showed the ways that in analysis, the design team can turn on the hydrology layer and see the flows, currents, peak flows and post fire peak flows.

Ahmad described concerns and the type of projects under consideration to accomplish the initial project goals. He discussed conceptual ideas for projects in Salem City, Spanish Fork City and areas unincorporated in the County. The Salem City concept involved a debris basin Concepts for the unincorporated County involve channel rehab work near Thistle and flood control through Diamond Fork and Strawberry.

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Discussion

Dianne facilitated a discussion of several questions and comments from stakeholders. Sterling Brown, Strawberry Water Users Association, inquired if construction costs in Phase three are covered or shared amongst entities. Derek clarified that NRCS funds all conceptual measures associated with flood protection at 100%. If additional project measures are associated with other purposes, there may be a match required. That will be decided in future stages.

Joshua Prettyman commented on the high reservoir areas and the need to look at reparation to address flooding. Jenna elaborated that that these questions would be addressed in the environmental analysis of each alternative against different environmental and social topic areas.

Sterling followed-up if final design is expected to be completed by Spring 2023. The planning team clarified affirmatively. He asked for the best guess on levels of optimism that construction could start in late Spring 2023, pending funding or if construction would go into 2024. Upon follow-up questions from Dianne, Sterling clarified that he sees an imperative need for these projects to be implemented to address erosion, however is concerned about the time involved in NEPA processes. The planning team acknowledged the time involved for NEPA and elaborated that the team would be apply for design funding at the end of the Phase 1, but that immediate funding is not guaranteed.

Marty Larson, Strawberry Highline, emphasized future support for a project over the canal due to issues of debris backing up the canal. The planning team stated this issue is resolved.

Dianne concluded with a reminder to participants that the project team is available to speak one-on-one about areas of concerns and help answer questions, including on site.

**Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA
Public Scoping Meeting
Meeting Summary
March 25, 2021**

Utah County Watershed Operations Plan EA Contact Info

Hotline (801) 946-6750

email@utahcountywatershed.com

Public Comment Portal www.UCwatershed.com

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- Dianne Olson, Public Involvement
- Jennifer Fowler, Public Involvement
- Norm Beagley, Santaquin City
- Billie B
- David Tanner
- Dee DeHart
- Eileen Wyckhuyse
- Jana Saunders
- Jeff R
- Jeneal
- Larry Lee
- Paul Ashton
- Richard Nielson, Utah County
- Terry Montague
- Tracy Lofthouse
- Jed Schuler
- Kenyon Farley
- Brandon Fry
- Ambre

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Lead Agency – USDA- National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

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Meeting Summary

Introduction

Facilitator Dianne Olson, Langdon Group, started the meeting with a Zoom orientation and thanked participants for joining virtually. Dianne explained that the goal of the meeting is to inform the public of

the project, provide an opportunity for member of the public to ask questions and learn about the process to submit ideas, concerns, and suggestions. She also clarified that all comments must be submitted in writing to be considered part of the official record.

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- Protect communities from high water flows
- Reduce the frequency of flood damage to resident and critical infrastructure and roads
- Reduce erosion and catch sediment and debris
- Protect water quality
- Protect wildlife habitats

Project Area and Types of Projects Under Consideration

Ahmad shared with participants the online dynamic map to learn more and see more detail:

<http://utahcountywso2020.com/Default.aspx> or ucwatershed.com

Ahmad described concerns and the type of projects under consideration to accomplish the initial project goals. He discussed conceptual ideas for projects in Salem City, Spanish Fork City and areas unincorporated in the County. The Salem City concept involved a debris basin. Concepts for the unincorporated County involve channel rehab work near Thistle and flood control through Diamond Fork and Strawberry.

Ted Mickelsen, Jones & DeMille Engineering, elaborated on additional initial conceptual ideas for projects in Payson City, Elk Ridge City and Woodland Hills City. He shared that these proposed concepts for Payson City involve an irrigation channel with Strawberry Users as a measure to improve the effectiveness of the channel, looking at increased capacity to capture more flood waters in Dry Creek, and repair for dams near mountain lakes that have reached the end of their life. For Elk Ridge City he noted that proposed concepts include the continuation of flood waters from Loafer Canyon, indicating that more measures still need to be implemented to capture more high-waters through the canyon and down to a debris basin in Salem.

Ted emphasized that the project team is interested in ideas, concerns and thoughts submitted from the public. He highlighted that the project is still just in the planning phase and input could shift the mitigation options and approaches.

Project Phases

Jenna Jorgensen, Jones & DeMille Engineering, walked through the required processes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to public involvement and technical analysis. She stated that any involved of federal money (such as from NRCS) or federal land requires a NEPA process. Jenna explained that NEPA requires the consideration of environmental consequences and to communicate consequences to public.

Jenna elaborated on the definition of scoping, in reference to the meeting as a scoping meeting. She shared that under federal law 40 CFR 1501.7, scoping provides opportunities to identify issues, ensure thorough analysis and refinement of the alternatives that will be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. Scoping is defined as “There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process shall be termed scoping.”

She expressed that NEPA requires the evaluation of various environmental and human resources and the potential impacts of each proposed alternative. Some of those resources that are evaluated in the EA include Air Quality, Recreation, Visual Resources, Policy and Regulation, Land Uses, Water Resources, Cultural Resources, Economics (That your public tax dollars are being spent wisely) and wildlife.

Jenna explained the NEPA timeline and anticipated process going forward. She emphasized that the NEPA Process is currently at the beginning. After the current Planning phase, subsequent phases are design and then construction. There will be a 2nd public commenting opportunity when the Draft EA is available, which will show 30% design on projects. Next steps are to collect data, finalize the alternatives and analyze the alternatives. A draft Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) is anticipated for Spring 2022. There will be a public meeting at this point to propose alternatives to the public and opportunity for the public to submit provide comment and feedback. A review process will happen before the Decision Document is signed. Design of the project could start while the Decision Document is in process.

Schedule

Jenna reviewed the following project schedule for the Planning phase:

- Public Scoping Period – 30 days (March 11 – April 9, 2021)
- Draft Plan – EA: 45 days for comment in Spring 2022
- Final Plan – EZ and Decision: Fall 2022
- Comment on 2-year study timeline
- Additional public comment opportunities

Scoping Input

Jenna reiterated that although the project team has a lot of experience, they do not know everything and the public could help them be made aware of things to consider and address during the EA and Design phase. She brainstormed example questions to help stimulate comments.

Dianne reviewed opportunities for public involvement and comments during the March 11 – April 9, 2021 scoping comment period. She clarified that questions in the meeting are not considered formal

comments. Formal comments are to be submitted by email, the online comment portal, letter of phone. Comments need to be submitted formally and by the deadline to be formally addressed in the Plan-EA.

Discussion

Dianne facilitated a discussion of several questions and comments from members of the public. A participant inquired about the timing to see more specific information on the website. The project team reiterated that scoping is the phase of the project where research and data is collected, and specific areas and projects may not be known yet. Preliminary design of the project will eventually be made available in the draft Plan-EA document. At this time, an additional public meeting will be held. Jenna highlighted that when official comments are submitted, the team is required to respond and that the public should not wait until the draft EA to submit specific feedback. Feedback early in the process is welcomed and needed.

A participant asked for Ted Mickelsen to expound on where the drainage might flow through Loafer Canyon and for any additional detail on the public land on Loafer Canyon. He shared that currently there is not more detail but as the project moves forward, more detail will become available and known. The team is not aware of any federal lands in the canyon.

Dianne concluded with a reminder to participants that the project team is available to speak one-on-one about areas of concerns and help answer questions.

Appendix C. Comments

- 1) Scoping Comment Report
- 2) Copy of Comment: Submitted to the project email
- 3) Copy of Comments: Submitted to the online comment portal

Utah County Watershed Operations Scoping Comment Report

Comment	Comment Category	Team Comments	Response	Response Date
Does the retention basin North of 11200 include increasing the capacity of the culvert beneath the roadway?	Property	The full drainage system will be evaluated as part of the project analysis; if necessary for proper funtion, conveyance upgrades will be included in the proposed action.	Dear Mr. Robinson, Thank you for your comment on the Utah County Watershed Plan - Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). We have received your comments regarding the retention basin and flow near 11200 South. The full drainage system will be evaluated as part of the project analysis. Upon evaluation and if necessary for proper function, conveyance upgrades will be included in the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be disclosed in the Draft Plan-EA, which is anticipated to be published for public review and comment in the spring of 2022. Regarding the flood mitigation from 2019, the NRCS approved funding under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program to design and construct some of the emergency measures, which have recently been completed. Additional measures that could not be constructed with the EWP funding are being considered under this Plan-EA, which is funded by the NRCS Flood Prevention and Protection program. We appreciate your comments and you can stay informed on the Plan-EA by visiting https://bit.ly/ucwatershed . Regards, The Utah County Watershed Plan-EA Team. Hotline (801) 946-6750	2-Jul-21
What is the plan for the already defined waterway east of the Premier Point development, and south to the first homes in Loafer Canyon? When will the design proposals be complete and presented to the public?	Design	The full drainage system will be evaluated as part of the project analysis; if necessary for proper funtion, conveyance upgrades will be included in the proposed action. The proposed action will be disclosed in the Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment, which is anticipated to be published for public review and comment in the spring of 2022.		
Comment: My understanding was nearly 2 years ago that funding was approved for study, design and some construction of flood mitigation structures. Your meeting requested public comment on projects, for which there has been no design work completed. Please provide a timeline for project design, even if it is preliminary and conceptual. At that point public comment will be relevant.	Design	The NRCS approved funding under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program in 2019 to design and construct some of the emergency measures, which have recently been completed. Additional measures that could not be constructed with the EWP funding are being considered under the Watershed Operations Program; funding for planning was recently authorized and we are soliciting comments as part of this planning phase to develop the proposed action. The proposed action will be disclosed in the Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment, which is anticipated to be published for public review and comment in the spring of 2022. The NRCS approved funding under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program in 2019 to design and construct some of the emergency measures, which have recently been completed. Additional measures that could not be constructed with the EWP funding are being considered under the Watershed Operations Program; funding for planning was recently authorized and we are soliciting comments as part of this planning phase to develop the proposed action. The proposed action will be disclosed in the Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment, which is anticipated to be published for public review and comment in the spring of 2022.		

The flow beneath 11200 South is restricted by a small diameter culvert. The wash could continue through the road area into an enlarged catchment basin. That small segment of road could be replaced with a suspended strip supported by pillars similar to a freeway viaduct making a bridge. The proposed catchment basin could be made deeper. For aesthetics, topsoil could be placed in the basin and grass planted with trees along the margin becoming a park.	Design	The full drainage system will be evaluated as part of the project analysis; if necessary for proper funtion, conveyance upgrades will be included in the proposed action.	Dear Terry, Thank you for your comment on the Utah County Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). We have received your comments regarding the retention basin and flow near 11200 South. The full drainage system will be evaluated as part of the project analysis. Upon evaluation and if necessary for proper function, conveyance upgrades will be included in the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be disclosed in the Draft Plan-EA, which is anticipated to be published for public review and comment in the spring of 2022. We appreciate your comments and you can stay informed on the Plan-EA by visiting https://bit.ly/ucwatershed . Regards, The Utah County Watershed Plan-EA team. Hotline (801) 946-6750 email@utahcountywatershed.com
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2-Jul-21

<p>Comment Items for the Utah County Environmental Assessment</p> <p>1. At the intersection of Loafer Canyon Road and Park Drive, Park Drive slopes east away from the intersection. Floodwaters down Loafer Canyon Road splits at the intersection and sends half the water down the canyon road and half of the water down Park Drive which then crosses the road flowing behind the houses flooding the back yards. Floodwaters over the 5-year floods flood into the houses down the canyon from the back. Smaller floods cover the back yards with mud and approach the back of the houses.</p> <p>2. The hill on the east side of the Loafer Canyon Road is right against the road opposite of properties 40S down to 403N. If a car stalls along this road during an evacuation, it would block one of two evacuation roads out of the city because it would be hard to get the car out of the way.</p> <p>3. Opposite of property 235N a dirt ravine comes down the hill on the east side of the road that flows into a covert under the road. The covert clogs often and spills water onto the road and across the street flooding the garage at 235N.</p> <p>4. The canyon road at property 403N covers the easement and some of this property on the west side of the road.</p> <p>5. The drain and covert under the road at 657N has another underground covert joining on the east side of the road. Large runoff water often exceeds the capacity of the covert under the road and pops the drain grill up and flows water down the road.</p> <p>6. The gutters along the canyon road are 2” gutters and do not handle any significant water flow.</p> <p>7. The driveways on the east side of the road join the road at a slope such that cars in the winter often have a hard time stopping and can slip on the road in front of other traffic.</p> <p>8. At property 191N the road turns a little east and the water continues over the curbing flooding 191N.</p> <p>9. There is a temporary dirt ditch dug about 3 years ago on the City property behind Properties 46S and 18S, that funnels water quickly from small rains behind the houses flooding the back of the properties 15N, 43N, and 61N. Before the small ditch the water would sink into the ground on City property.</p>		<p>Thank you for providing this information. We will consider these details in the project analysis.</p>	<p>Dear Laurence, Thank you for providing this information concerning flooding issues on and in surrounding areas of Loafer Canyon Road. The Utah County Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) will consider these details in the project analysis. The preferred alternative will be disclosed in the Draft Plan-EA, which is anticipated to be published for public review and comment in the spring of 2022. We appreciate your comments and you can stay informed on the Plan-EA by visiting https://bit.ly/ucwatershed. Regards, The Utah County Watershed Plan-EA team. Hotline (801) 946-6750</p>
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2-Jul-21

From: [Jacque Lee](#)
To: [Utah County Watershed Email](#)
Subject: Comments on Utah County Watershed Operations Plan Environmental Assessment
Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 10:25:32 AM

External Email

The following are 10 comments to help in evaluating the flood protection for Loafer Canyon Road.

I hope this helps in you in your assessment.

Thanks, Laurence Lee

Comment Items for the Utah County Environmental Assessment

1. At the intersection of Loafer Canyon Road and Park Drive, Park Drive slopes east away from the intersection. Floodwaters down Loafer Canyon Road splits at the intersection and sends half the water down the canyon road and half of the water down Park Drive which then crosses the road flowing behind the houses flooding the back yards. Floodwaters over the 5-year floods flood into the houses down the canyon from the back. Smaller floods cover the back yards with mud and approach the back of the houses.
2. The hill on the east side of the Loafer Canyon Road is right against the road opposite of properties 40S down to 403N. If a car stalls along this road during an evacuation, it would block one of two evacuation roads out of the city because it would be hard to get the car out of the way.
3. Opposite of property 235N a dirt ravine comes down the hill on the east side of the road that flows into a covert under the road. The covert clogs often and spills water onto the road and across the street flooding the garage at 235N.
4. The canyon road at property 403N covers the easement and some of this property on the west side of the road.
5. The drain and covert under the road at 657N has another underground covert joining on the east side of the road. Large runoff water often exceeds the capacity of the covert under the road and pops the drain grill up and flows water down the road.
6. The gutters along the canyon road are 2" gutters and do not handle any significant water flow.
7. The driveways on the east side of the road join the road at a slope such that cars in the winter often have a hard time stopping and can slip on the road in front of other traffic.
8. At property 191N the road turns a little east and the water continues over the curbing flooding 191N.
9. There is a temporary dirt ditch dug about 3 years ago on the City property behind Properties 46S and 18S, that funnels water quickly from small rains behind the houses flooding the back of the properties 15N, 43N, and 61N. Before the small ditch the water would sink into the ground on City property.
10. When Loafer Canyon Road was developed and asphalted, the road was raised about 2 feet putting the existing houses at that time along the road at risk of flooding. The houses built later also are at risk.

WSO Comments submitted via online comment portal (exported from project website)

Text of Comment	Date of comment	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email
Does the retention basin North of 11200 include increasing the capacity of the culvert beneath the roadway?	3/25/21 6:25 PM	Jeff Robinson	1315 N Washougal	Elk Ridge	UT	84651	jandprobinson@gmail.com
What is the plan for the already defined waterway east of the Premier Point development, and south to the first homes in Loafer Canyon? When will the design proposals be complete and presented to the public?	3/25/21 6:29 PM	Jeff Robinson	1315 N Washougal	Elk Ridge	UT	84651	jandprobinson@gmail.com
Comment: My understanding was nearly 2 years ago that funding was approved for study, design and some construction of flood mitigation structures. Your meeting requested public comment on projects, for which there has been no design work completed. Please provide a timeline for project design, even if it is preliminary and conceptual. At that point public comment will be relevant.	3/25/21 6:48 PM	Jeff Robinson	1315 N Washougal	Elk Ridge	UT	84651	jandprobinson@gmail.com
The flow beneath 11200 South is restricted by a small diameter culvert. The wash could continue through the road area into an enlarged catchment basin. That small segment of road could be replaced with a suspended strip supported by pillars similar to a freeway viaduct making a bridge. The proposed catchment basin could be made deeper. For aesthetics, topsoil could be placed in the basin and grass planted with trees along the margin becoming a park.	3/25/21 7:36 PM	Terry	1361 N Washougal	Elk Ridge	UT	84651	trrmont@gmail.com