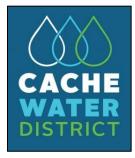


Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA — Scoping Report —

Sponsor:



Consultants:

(JUB)

CRS ENGINEERS

FRANSON

Co-Sponsors:



WELLSVILLE CITY IRRIGATION COMPANY







Wellsville-Mendon •Conservation District•



Prepared by: Franson Civil Engineers 115 Golf Course Road, Suite D Logan, UT 84321

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1.0 Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proposing improvements in the Wellsville Canyon and Threemile Creek Watersheds through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (WPFP). The Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA is sponsored by Cache Water District and co-sponsored by Cache County, Wellsville City Irrigation Company, Wellsville City, Mendon City, and Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District.

This project's planning phase has been funded through the WPFP Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), which authorizes funding to help rural and urban communities protect, improve, and develop land resources in watersheds of up to 250,000 acres. This planning phase follows this law as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and is called a Watershed Plan - Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). This Plan-EA will discover and analyze any impacts the project actions have to the environment. The Plan-EA will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations—40 CFR Parts 1500-1508—which require an evaluation of the federal project's actions and potential environmental impacts.

The Plan-EA encompasses many elements:

- Analysis of potential options (alternatives) to meet the general purposes of PL 83-566 and the defined purpose and need of the overall project.
- A study containing a detailed analysis of affected resources that each alternative—which satisfy the purpose and need for the project—may have.
- Identification of potential minimization, mitigation, and avoidance measures that would reduce or eliminate possible impacts.
- A public participation and agency consultation and coordination plan throughout the development of the Plan-EA.

1.1 Purpose of Scoping Process

NEPA requires an early and open process to determine the scope and significance of the issues to be addressed by the Plan-EA. Participation of the affected public, agencies, and organizations is a vital component of the process to identifying issues and resource concerns. This ensures that those who are interested in or potentially affected by proposed alternatives have an opportunity to share concerns and provide insight and input during the initial phases of the planning process. The objectives of scoping include:

- Identify and notify interested and affected parties
- Provide information to agencies, tribes, and the public regarding the proposed project
- Identify significant issues related to the project area

1.2 Scoping Process

A diverse group of participants—including public, stakeholder, Tribal, and government agencies at local, county, and state levels—were invited to participate in the scoping process to identify

issues and resource concerns. During the scoping process, project-related input, documents, and comments were requested. Throughout the development of the Plan-EA, ongoing communication will be maintained with interested public, stakeholders, agencies, and Tribes. Interested parties can use a form found on the project website (<u>https://www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-</u>ea/) to request inclusion on project updates. All public scoping activities, meetings, and comments will be documented to ensure NEPA, CEQ, and NRCS scoping requirements have been met. Detailed objectives are included in the Public Participation Plan, shown in Appendix A.

1.3 Organizational Involvement

Roles and responsibilities for the scoping process included:

- USDA-NRCS: Lead NEPA Agency
- Cache Water District: *Project Sponsor*
- Cache County: Project Co-Sponsor
- Wellsville City Irrigation Company: Project Co-Sponsor
- Wellsville City: Project Co-Sponsor
- Mendon City: *Project Co-Sponsor*
- Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District: Project Co-Sponsor
- Franson Civil Engineers: Third-Party Engineering Consultant
- J-U-B Engineers, Inc: Third-Party Engineering Consultant
- CRS Engineers: *Third-Party Engineering Consultant*

2.0 Scoping Process Summary

This section summarizes the scoping activities and outreach efforts coordinated for the proposed project.

2.1 Scoping Announcements and Comment Period Schedule

The project's initial scoping process with agencies and the public is outlined below. A 30-day comment period was held between April 27, 2021, and May 27, 2021, to solicit input on issues, resource concerns, and potential solutions.

2.1.1 Agency Scoping Meeting

- April 22, 2021: Scoping meeting invitations sent to agencies, including cooperating agencies, via email
- April 26, 2021: Scoping meeting invitations sent to agencies via mail
- May 6, 2021: Scoping meeting invitations sent to cooperating agencies by NRCS via mail
- May 10, 2021: Agency Scoping Meeting held virtually, recording link is in Appendix B

2.1.2 Public Scoping Meeting

- **April 22, 2021:** An example of correspondence letters can be found in Appendix D. Letters and public scoping notices were mailed to the following tribes.
 - \circ Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
 - Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation
 - Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
 - Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation
- April 23 and April 26, 2021: Public scoping notices were mailed to the public including residents of Wellsville City, Mendon City, and shareholders of Wellsville City Irrigation Company, and Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District.
- April 27 and May 4, 2021: Meeting notice published in *The Herald Journal* and *Utah Legals* (See Appendix B)
- May 11, 2021: Public Scoping Meeting held virtually. A recording of the meeting was made available on the project website within 24 hours after the public meeting.

2.1.3 *Comment Period*

- April 27, 2021 (*Comment Period Opened*): Scoping notice, presentation materials, and meeting recording available at:
 - NRCS project website: <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ut/programs/planning/wpfp/?cid</u> <u>=nrcseprd1769027</u>

- Project website: <u>https://www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-ea/</u>
- May 27, 2021 (*Comment Period Closed*): Comments from all submission options gathered

2.2 Scoping Notices

A variety of materials were produced to announce the public scoping meeting: a flyer delivered by mail, a scoping notice placed on the project and NRCS websites, and an ad placed in *The Herald Journal* and *Utah Legals* on two dates. Appendix B includes links for scoping notice, *Utah Legals*, and the newspaper ad. The list of recipients (agency, stakeholder, public) was prepared by the NRCS, sponsors/co-sponsors, and consultants.

2.2.1 Scoping Materials Content:

- Project summary
- Public Scoping Meeting details (date, time, how to attend)
- Comment period open/close details
- List of comment submission methods and instructions (online form, email, and physical letter)

2.2.2 Publishing Details:

- A scoping notice was mailed to 2,327 public/stakeholders on April 23 and 26, 2021. Shareholder lists were obtained from the Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District, Wellsville City Irrigation Company, Wellsville City, and Mendon City.
- Webpage with project, meeting, and comment period details posted on <u>https://www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-ea/</u> on April 15, 2021.
- Scoping notice and meeting details posted in legal section of *The Herald Journal* and *Utah Legals* on April 27, and May 4, 2021.
- Comment form and further comment method details posted on <u>https://www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-ea/</u> on April 27, 2021.

2.3 Meetings

Several meetings were held to present the Plan-EA/NEPA process in order to maximize coordination understanding and processes; to gather input for project concerns, opinions, and possible obstacles/opposition; and to discuss possible/proposed alternatives. The list of meetings includes ones held with the NRCS project team, project sponsors and co-sponsors, agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

2.3.1 List of Meeting Dates, Times, and Virtual Platforms:

Sponsor Kick-off Meeting:

April 14, 2021; 9:30 a.m.; virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Project kickoff meeting with NRCS, project sponsors/co-sponsors, and consultants to make introductions; discuss project purposes, and to setup project communication and outreach activities including the scoping meeting schedule.

Agency Scoping Meeting:

May 10, 2021, 9:00 a.m.; virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Meeting with agencies to present an overview of the NRCS funding, NEPA process, the project, and to solicit information/comments. A link for the PowerPoint presentation and list of those who attended is found in Appendix B. A recording of the meeting can be viewed here: https://fransoncivileng-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/mrobbins_fransoncivil_com/ Edj7PR0ew0pKv1iiVfYfNDQBDoH6PP6XFuJ8YOXWIIRegw

Public Scoping Meeting:

May 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m.; virtual meeting via WebinarJam

Meeting to present an overview of the NRCS funding, NEPA process, project issues, and to solicit information/comments. Attendees were tracked. A link for the PowerPoint presentation is found in Appendix B. A recording of the meeting was made available to the public on the project website within 24 hours of the meeting ending.

3.0 Comments

3.1 Public Scoping Meeting

The Public Scoping Meeting took place on May 11, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. There were 32 virtual attendees and eleven in-person attendees at the Wellsville City Offices at 75 E Main Street, Wellsville, Utah. A list of the individuals who attended the public scoping meeting was documented and is available upon request. Participants of the scoping meetings were invited to submit comments via online form, email, or physical letter during the period of April 27 through May 27, 2021. As previously noted, a recording of the public scoping meeting was made available on the project website within 24 hours after the meeting. A total of 11 people have watched the meeting recording as of August 13, 2021. Table 3-1 identifies the project team members in attendance for the scoping meetings.

Name	Organization	Title
Nathan Daugs	Cache Water District	Sponsor General Manager
Kirk Taylor	Mendon City	Co-Sponsor Entity
Matt Phillips	Cache County	Co-Sponsor Entity
Clint Kerr	Wellsville City Irrigation Company	Co-Sponsor Entity
Quinn Murray	Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District	Co-Sponsor Entity
Scott Wells	Wellsville City	Co-Sponsor Entity
Anthony Beals	NRCS-Utah	Watershed Coordinator
Derek Hamilton	NRCS-Utah	Water Resources Coordinator
Jonathan Bingham	NRCS-Utah	Watershed Engineer
Leslie Warta	NRCS-Utah	Environmental Compliance Specialist
Brandon Todd	NRCS-Utah	District Conservationist
Chad Brown	Franson Civil Engineers	Engineering Project Manager
Monique Robbins	Franson Civil Engineers	Environmental Lead
Eleanore Chambers	Franson Civil Engineers	Public Involvement
Zan Murray	JUB Engineers	Engineering Consultant
Mike Wilson	CRS Engineers	Engineering Consultant

Table 3-1. Project	Геат Member	Attendance
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3.2 Comments Received

There were multiple methods available for submission of comments: online form (accessible via the project website), email, or physical letter. Ten comments were received during the scoping period—seven were from members of the public, one was from a local government official, one was from the Utah Division of Emergency Management, and one was from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). See Appendix C for copies of the comments.

3.2.1 Summary of Comments:

The following is a summary of comments that are grouped by topic.

Flooding Concerns:

Comment in support of the project to prevent flooding and water seepage around personal property. Concerns about the existing canals capturing and having the necessary capacity to capture flood waters. Mendon City has flooding issues, mostly when the ground is frozen and/or snow-covered and warm temperatures and/or rain bring too much flow too quickly. Requests for construction of pipelines to capture flood flows and larger culverts to handle high flows. Request for proposed locations be discussed with Utah Department of Natural Resources, Cache County, Wellsville, and Mendon Towns. Evaluation of flood control measures and potential failures. Question about if FERC should be involved. In favor of retention pools to prevent flooding.

Water Agricultural Management:

Comment in support of the project to reduce water losses in the canal. Request for construction of pipeline to replace the canal for irrigation water. Review and consider drinking water impacts. Will project require residents to add a secondary water connection? Comment regarding a pressurized system would be nice but not necessary.

Flood Study:

Utah Division of Emergency Management is conducting a flood study in the project area with preliminary data available by end of June 2021.

Wildlife:

Commentor indicates issues with wildlife within town and requests additional projects be developed to entice wildlife to remain outside of town at a higher elevation. Another comment suggested adding landscaping/vegetation to provide additional wildlife benefits at recreation site. In favor of retention pools to add to wildlife habitat.

Recreation:

Add recreation component including a small park and reflection area. Commentor was not in favor of a boat ramp at Wellsville Dam and is concerned about the homeless population at the existing RV camp.

Water Quality:

Review and consider sedimentation and water quality impacts. Assess how will water quality be protected during project activities when identifying and monitoring best management practices (BMPs).

Groundwater and Surface Water:

Review and consider groundwater and surface water body impacts. Monitor surface water quality after construction to identify improvements or mitigation needs. Include alternatives to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S.

Wetlands:

Request to analyze impacts to total wetland area and function, including wetland vegetation, riparian habitats, and aquatic biota and provide for protection and restoration if necessary.

Air Quality:

Review and identify air quality conditions and project impacts. Project area is in an attainment area and needs to follow governmental regulations.

Mitigation and Control Measures:

Identify mitigation and control measures including what entity executes it. Document all permits necessary for the project. Clean Water Act permit can only be issued for least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA).

Financial Impacts:

Question regarding the cost to farmers and homeowners.

4.0 Resource Concerns and Cooperating Agencies

4.1 Resource Concerns

Based on the required scoping concerns outlined in the National Watershed Program Manual Section 501.24B, and from any additional concerns identified by the public, stakeholders, and or agencies during the scoping meeting process, a list of resource concerns was compiled for the project. Table 4-1 identifies a comprehensive list of the resource concerns compiled for the project.

Item/Concern	Item/Concern
SOILS	ANIMALS
Soil (Upland Erosion and Sedimentation)	Fish and Wildlife Habitat
Prime and Unique Farmland	Endangered and Threatened Species Special Status Species
Stream Bank Erosion	Invasive Animal Species
WATER	Wildlife Community
Surface Water Quality and Quantity	Migratory Birds
Ground Water Quality and Quantity	Ecologically Critical Areas
Water bodies – Waters of the U.S.	HUMANS
Regional Water Mgt. Plans	Cultural and Historic Resources
Floodplain Management	Environmental Justice
Wetlands	Public Health and Safety
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Land Use and Recreation
AIR	Scenic Beauty
Air Quality	Parklands
Clean Air Act	Ecologically Critical Areas
PLANTS	Scientific Resources
Endangered and Threatened Species Special Status Species	Transportation
Essential Fish Habitat	National Parks, Monuments and Historical Sites
Invasive Plant Species	Not Included – Do Not Occur in Utah
Natural Areas	Coral Reefs
Riparian Areas	Coastal Zone Management Areas

Table 4-1. Resource Concerns

4.2 Cooperating Agencies

The NRCS mailed letters to the following agencies along with the agency scoping notice requesting their participation as a cooperating agency on the project.

4.2.1 Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

EPA, USBR, and UDOT formally accepted the request to participate as a cooperating agency. No other agencies expressed interest in participating as a cooperating agency at the issuance of this report. A sample of the letters can be found in Appendix D.

AGENCY	ACCEPTED / DECLINED
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Accepted
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Accepted
Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)	Accepted
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	No Response Received
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	No Response Received
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	No Response Received
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	No Response Received

Table 4-2. Cooperating Agencies

5.0 Appendix

Appendix A: Public Participation Plan

A-1 : Public Participation Plan for Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA

Appendix B: Agency and Public Scoping Meeting Materials

- B-1 : Public Scoping Materials Notice, Presentation, and Meeting Recording Link
- B-1 : Agency Scoping Meeting Notice, Presentation, Meeting Recording Link
- B-1 : Agency Scoping Meeting Attendees
- B-3 : Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Stakeholder List
- B-5 : Public Scoping Meeting Newspaper and Utah Legals Ad Proofs

Appendix C: Scoping Comments Received

Appendix D: Cooperating Agency and Tribal Letter Examples

- D-1: Cooperating Agency Letter Example
- D-2: Cooperating Tribal Letter Example

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Scoping Report

Appendix A: Public Participation Plan

NRCS PL-566 WATERSHED OPERATIONS PROGRAM

Public Participation Plan For

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (EA)

OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

- 1. Ensure that the general public, including private groups, and government agencies; at local, county, and state levels are thoroughly familiarized with the proposed project.
- 2. Provide a forum for the reception and consideration of public input regarding the project. The desired input includes not only opinion, but also uncollected data. Seek input regarding the project problems and opportunities, the range of alternatives, and the potential project impacts.
- 3. Clarify the effects of the diverse alternatives under consideration.
- 4. Collect pre-existing resource data regarding the project watershed. The data will be collected from a multitude of agencies and citizens.
- 5. Incorporate written and verbal comments into the decision-making process.

TECHNIQUES TO ENSURE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1. Prepare a list of interested agencies with assistance of the NRCS.
- 2. Determine if participation by potential National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Cooperating Agencies is needed and if so, the required scope and extent of their participation.
- 3. Hold an Agency Scoping meeting to explain the issues and proposed project and request existing resource data about the watershed.
- 4. Contact local media representatives/newspapers to request their assistance with informing the public, two weeks prior to any scheduled public meeting(s) and regarding availability of documents (see below). Two meetings are envisioned, one (1) for scoping purposes and one (1) for receiving comments on the Draft PLAN-EA (DPLAN-EA). Public meetings will be held virtually but may have the option of attending locally in-person.
 - a. Notices will be published in the legal section of the newspaper(s) with copies sent to parties on the mailing lists. The Draft PLAN-EA newspaper notice will include both the notice of availability of the Draft PLAN-EA and the schedule and meeting details for the Draft PLAN-EA public meeting(s). The Final Plan Environmental Assessment (Final PLAN-EA) notice will notify the public of the availability of the FPLAN-EA.
 - b. Notices will be drafted by the Consulting Firm and submitted to the NRCS for approval prior to their release to the media. Draft news releases will be submitted in time to accommodate processing by the NRCS for publication in the news media (minimum 15 days prior to scheduled meetings or release of NEPA document).
 - c. A total of 4 news releases will be prepared by the Contractor: one (1) prior to the scoping meeting(s); one (1) concurrent with filing of the Draft PLAN-EA and prior to its public meeting(s); one (1) concurrent with filing the Final PLAN-EA; and one (1) concurrent with the completion of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
- 5. Prepare and update project website to disseminate information and collect public involvement information via a google form.
- 6. Provide opportunities to share information and obtain input from project Sponsors/Co-sponsors and the interested public.
- 7. Develop an email address list to facilitate electronic notification and updates as needed.
- 8. Mail scoping notice to Wellsville Mendon Conservation District shareholders and the public using Wellsville City and Mendon City's mailing lists.

WELLSVILLE-MENDON WATERSHED PLAN-EA NRCS PL-566 WATERSHED OPERATIONS PROGRAM

SCHEDULE

Task	Item	Notice Date (Newspaper: 14 & 7 days prior Mailing: receive 2 weeks prior)	Meeting Date
1	Agency Scoping Meeting	email mtg invite (Teams)	May 10, 2021
2	Public Scoping Meeting*	Notice in newspapers, city websites Postcards to adjacent landowners	May 11, 2021
3	Internal Alternatives Meeting	N/A	August 2021
4	Technical Review of Preliminary Draft Plan- EA	N/A	July-Aug 2022
5	Draft PLAN-EA Public Meeting (Notice of availability & date/location of meeting*)		January 2023
6	Draft Plan-EA Finalization		February 2023
7	Final PLAN-EA (Notice of availability*)		March 2023
8	FONSI completion*		March 2023

*Publish in legal section of newspaper(s) and mail to parties on mailing lists. Submit draft notices to NRCS at least 7 days prior to scheduled news release or release of NEPA document.

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Scoping Report

Appendix B: Agency and Public Scoping Materials and Records

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Scoping Report

Public Scoping Materials

Public Scoping Notice

• https://www.fransoncivil.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/W-M-Public-Scoping-Notice.pdf

Public Scoping Meeting Presentation

• <u>https://www.fransoncivil.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/W-M-Public-Scoping-Meeting-Presentation.pdf</u>

Public Scoping Meeting Recording

• <u>https://event.webinarjam.com/go/replay/20/n13vgf6ip7b8nb1</u>

Agency Scoping Materials

Agency Scoping Notice

• <u>https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:92011302-8242-4c91-8d9a-59e77f783484</u>

Agency Scoping Meeting Presentation

• <u>https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c96d8409-b2c0-4264-ba9b-eff6d3f2cc2c</u>

Agency Scoping Meeting Recording

• <u>Meeting Recording Link</u>

Agency Meeting Attendees

NAME	AGENCY / ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO							
	Sponsors & Co-Sponsors								
Nathan Daugs	Cache Water District, General Manager	ndaugs@cachewaterdistrict.com							
Matt Phillips	Cache County, Co-Sponsor Entity	matt.phillips@cachecounty.org							
Jon Hardman	Mendon City Council Member	jhardmanfarms@yahoo.com							
	Project Team								
Chad Brown	Franson Civil Engineers, Project Manager and Engineering Lead	cbrown@fransoncivil.com							
Monique Robbins	Franson Civil Engineers, Environmental Lead and NEPA Specialist	mrobbins@fransoncivil.com							

NAME	AGENCY / ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO							
	Project Team (continued)								
Eleanore Chambers	Franson Civil Engineers, Public Involvement	echambers@fransoncivil.com							
Ben Sandberg	Franson Civil Engineers, Project Engineer	bsandberg@fransoncivil.com							
Zan Murray	JUB Engineers, Engineering Consultant	zmurray@jub.com							
Quinn Dance	JUB Engineers, Project Engineer	qdance@jub.com							
Mike Wilson	CRS Engineers, Engineering Consultant	mike.wilson@crsengineers.com							
	NRCS								
Jonathan Bingham	NRCS-Utah, Watershed Engineer	jonathan.bingham@usda.gov							
Derek Hamilton	NRCS-Utah, Water Resources Coordinator	derek.hamilton@usda.gov							
Anthony Beals	NRCS-Utah, Watershed Coordinator	anthony.beals@usda.gov							
Leslie Warta	NRCS-Utah, Environmental Compliance Specialist	leslie.warta@usda.gov							
	Agencies								
Jamie Huff	Utah Division of Emergency Management	jhuff@utah.gov							
Mike Talbot	USBR	mtalbot@usbr.gov							
Laura Margason	EPA	margason.laura@epa.gov							
Paul Chase	USFWS	pchase@fs.fed.us							
Christopher Lizotte	UDOT	clizotte@utah.gov							
Will Atkin	Utah DWR	willatkin@utah.gov							
Michael Pectol	ACOE	michael.a.petctol@usace.army.mil							
Scott Walker	Utah Department of Natural Resources	scottwalker@utah.gov							
Angelia Crowther	Utah Department of Public Safety	acrowther@utah.gov							

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Stakeholder List

	Invitat	ion To:			1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Agency	Public	Email	Mail			E	Discus		0.1		-
Sponsor	Mtg X	Mtg X	Date 4/22/2021	Date 4/28/2021	Stakeholder Cache Water District	Contact Name	Email	Phone 435-999-0051	Mailing Address 199 Main St	City	State UT	ZIP 84321
Sponsor	~	X	4/22/2021	-	Cache Water District	Nathan Daugs, Manager Kirk Lindley	ndaugs@cachewaterdistrict.com kirklindley@gmail.com	435-512-6658	199 Main St	Logan	01	84321
	Х	X	4/22/2021	-	Cache Water District, Mendon City Council	Jon Hardman	jhardmanfarms@yahoo.com	433-312-0038				
Co-Sponsors	X	X	4/22/2021	-	Wellsville-Mendon Conservation District	Quinn Murray	murrayquinn@aol.com	435-232-8207				
	X	X	-	-	Wellsville City Irrigation Company	Clint Kerr	no email	435-757-3376				
	X	X	4/22/2021	4/28/2021	Wellsville City Ingation Company	Scott Wells, City Manager	swells@wellsvillecity.com	435-245-3686	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
	X		4/22/2021	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Kirk Taylor, Public Works Director	kirk@mendoncity.org	435-770-6138	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
	X	X	4/22/2021	-	Cache County	Matt Phillips	Matt.phillips@cachecounty.org	435-760-2127		Wendon		04323
Local	~	X	-	4/28/2021	Wellsville City	Thomas Bailey, Mayor	mayor@wellsvillecity.com	455-700-2127	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
Government		X	-	4/28/2021	Wellsville City	Kaylene Ames, City Council	kames@wellsvillecity.com	435-245-6950	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
		X	-	4/28/2021	Wellsville City	Bob Lindley, City Council	blindley@wellsvillecity.com	435-881-4186	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
		X	-	4/28/2021	Wellsville City	Chad Poulsen, City Council	cpoulsen@wellsvillecity.com	435-279-3670	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
-		X	-	4/28/2021	Wellsville City	Denise Lindsay, City Council	dlindsay@wellsvillecity.com	435-245-6727	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
		X	-	4/28/2021	Wellsville City	Austin Wood, City Council	awood@wellsvillecity.com	435-757-5581	75 East Main	Wellsville	UT	84339
		X	-	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Ed Buist, Mayor	ed.buist@usu.edu	435-770-9824	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
-		X	-	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Ian Nemelka, City Council	ianjinemelka@gmail.com	801-814-3811	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
		X	-	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Ron Campbell, City Council	r44.campbell@gmail.com	435-760-3150	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
		X	-	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Greg Taylor, City Council	greg.taylor@hrisupport.com	435-753-3408	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
-		X	-	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Jon Hardman, City Council	jhardmanfarms@yahoo.com	435-755-6648	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
		X	-	4/28/2021	Mendon City	Bob Jepsen, City Council	bjepsen04@gmail.com	435-466-0166	15 N Main St	Mendon	UT	84325
		X	-	4/28/2021	Cache County Commissioner, South District	Nolan Gunnell	bjepseno-@gmail.com	435-760-2902	199 North Main St.	Logan	UT	84321
		X	-	4/28/2021	Cache County	Joel Merritt, Road Superintendent		435-755-1569	525 North 100 West	Logan	UT	84321
		Х	-	4/28/2021	Cache County	Public Works Director		435-755-1640	179 North Main St., Suite 305	Logan	UT	84321
		Х	-	4/28/2021	Cache County	Water District Director		435-999-0051	199 North Main St.	Logan	UT	84321
		Х	-	4/28/2021	Cache County	Planning & Zoning Director		435-755-1640	179 North Main St., Suite 305	Logan	UT	84321
Cooperating	Х		4/22/2021	5/5/2021		· ····································				3		
Agency Letters					USACE	Jason Gipson, Branch Chief Hollis Jencks Michael Pectol	jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil Hollis.G.Jencks@usace.army.mil Michael.A.Pectol@usace.army.mil		533 West 2600 South #150	Bountiful	UT	84010-7744
	х		4/22/2021	5/6/2021	USFWS	Yvette Converse George Weekley Reyna Ritamay	yvette_converse@fws.gov george_weekley@fws.gov ritamay_reyna@fws.gov	801-975-3330	2369 Orton Circle Suite 50	West Valley City	UT	84119
	х		4/22/2021	5/6/2021	Bureau of Land Management	Jessica Wade Emily Boivin, Realty Specialist Todd Marks, Assistant Field Manager	blm_ut_so_public_room@blm.gov jwade@blm.gov eboivin@blm.gov tmarks@blm.gov	801-539-4001	440 W 200 S #500	Salt Lake City	UT	84101
	х		4/22/2021	5/6/2021	Utah Department of Transportation, Region 1	Chris Lizotte, Environmental Manager	clizotte@utah.gov	801-620-1687 O 801-786-9701 M	166 West South Well Street	Ogden	UT	84404-4194
			-	-	Utah Department of Transportation, Region 1	Darin Fristrup, North District Engineer	dfristrup@utah.gov	801-620-1650 O 801-940-2239 M	166 West South Well Street	Ogden	UT	84404-4194
	X X		4/27/2021	t sent from NR 5/6/2021	US EPA	Frank Blackett, Regional Engineer Laura Margason	frank.blackett@ferc.gov margason.laura@epa.gov	415-369-3318	100 First Street, Suite 2300 1595 Wynkoop Street	San Francisco Denver	CA CO	94105 80202-1129
	x		- 4/22/2021	5/6/2021	US Forest Service	Jennefer Parker, District Ranger	jennefer.parker@usda.gov	435-755-3620	1500 US-89	Logan	UT	84321
	X	1	5/10/2021	0,0,2021	US Forest Service	Paul Chase	pchase@fs.fed.us	.00 .00 0020			1.	5.021
	x		4/22/2021	5/6/2021		Kent Kofford Peter Crookston, Environmental Group	kkofford@usbr.gov	801-379-1152				
-					US Bureau of Reclamation	Chief/NEPA Compliance Brittany White, Fish & Wildlife Biologist	pcrookston@usbr.gov blwhite@usbr.gov	BW: 801-379-1052 O 385-224-0079 N	1 125 South State Street Room 6107	Salt Lake City	UT	84138-1102
Government	x		4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Drinking Water	Ying-Ying Macauley, Interim Director	ymacauley@utah.gov ying@utah.gov	801-536-4200	PO Box 144830/ 195 North 1950 Wes		UT	84114-4830
	X		4/22/2021 4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Emergency Management Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Land	Jamie Huff, State Flood Mapping Coordinator	jhuff@utah.gov	801-538-3752	PO Box 141775/1110 State Office Bui 1780 N Research Parkway, Suite 104		UT	84114-1775 84341-1940
	X X		4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Land Utah Division of Homeland Security	s Office Director Kathy Holder	kcholder@utah.gov	801-538-3332	N Research Parkway, Suite 104	North Logan	UI	04341-1940
	X		4/22/2021	- 4/26/2021	Utah Division of Water Rights	Will Atkin	willatkin@utah.gov	435-752-8755	1780 North Research Parkway, Ste 10	logan	UT	84341
	X		4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Water Resources	Todd Adams, Director	toddadams@utah.gov	801-725-5201	PO Box 146201	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-620
	X		4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Water Quality	Erica Gaddis, Division Director	egaddis@utah.gov	801-536-4310	PO Box 146201 PO Box 144870	Salt Lake City	UT	84114
	X		4/22/2021	-	Utah Division of Water Quality	Leanna Littler-Woolf, Environmental Scientist	Inlittler@utah.gov	801-536-4397		- ,		
	X		4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Ashley Green, Habitat Section Chief	ashleygreen@utah.gov	801-310-5578	515 E 5300 S	South Ogden	UT	84405
			-	-	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Pam Kramer, Wildlife Habitat Biologist	pamkramer@utah.gov	801-725-8537 M	515 E 5300 S	South Ogden	UT	84405
	Х		4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Kent Sorenson	kentsorenson@utah.gov	801-476-2740	PO Box 146301	Salt Lake City	UT	84114
	Х	1	4/22/2021	4/26/2021	Utah Department of Agriculture	Craig Buttars, Commissioner	craigbuttars@utah.gov	801-982-2200	PO Box 146500	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-2220

	Invitation T	D:									
	Agency Pub	lic Email	Mail								
	Mtg Mt	g Date	Date	Stakeholder	Contact Name	Email	Phone	Mailing Address	City	State	
Government	х	-	4/26/2021	Utah Department of Environmental Health	Director			PO Box 142104	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-2104
Cont.	Х	4/22/2021	4/26/2021		Scott Baird, Executive Director	scottbaird@utah.gov	801-536-0095	PO Box 144870	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-4879
	Х	4/22/2021	4/26/2021		Tyler Thompson, Watershed Director	tylerthompson@utah.gov	801-538-4876	PO Box 145610	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-5610
	Х	5/10/2021	-		Scott Walker, Regional Habitat Manager	scottwalker@utah.gov	801-476-2776	PO Box 145610	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-5610
	Х	4/22/2022	4/26/2021		Kris Hamlet, Director	krishamlet@utah.gov	801-538-9553	PO Box 141775/1110 State Office Bui	il Salt Lake City	UT	84114
	Х	4/22/2022			Angelia Crowther, Utah Floodplain Manager	acrowther@utah.gov	801-664-5861				
	Х	4/22/2022			Ken Matthews	kmatthews@utah.gov	801-538-1149				
	Х	4/22/2022	4/26/2021		Savanna Agardy	sagardy@utah.gov	801-245-7246	300 S Rio Grande St	Salt Lake City	UT	84101
	Х	4/22/2021			Sarah Lindsey	sarahlindsey@utah.gov	801-538-4759	PO Box 146301	Salt Lake City	UT	84114-6301
	Х	-	4/26/2021		Nolan Gunnell		435-760-2902	199 North Main St.	Logan	UT	84321
	х	4/22/2021	-		Chris Chambers, President	chrischambers8@hotmail.com					
	х	4/22/2021			Sindy Smith	sindysmith@utah.gov	1	P.O. Box 14114-1107	Salt Lake City	UT	84114
Other	X X		4/28/2021	Union Pacific Railroad	Nathan Anderson, Senior Director Public Affairs	nanderson@up.com	801-212-5415	650 David Rd	Salt Lake City	UT	84119
	×	-	4/28/2021	PacifiCorp	Eve Davies	Eve.davies@pacificorp.com	801-220-2245 O 801-232-1704 M	1407 West North Temple, Ste 210	Salt Lake City	UT	84116
	×	-	4/28/2021	Blacksmith Fork Soil and Conservation	JonWhite		435-753-6029	1860 N 100 E	Logan	UT	84341
Tribes	×	-	4/22/2021	Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Rese	Joshua Mann	jmann@easternshoshone.org	307-335-2081	14 N Fork Road	Fort Washakie	WY	82514
	×	-	4/22/2021	Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Rese	Ms. Lynette Bell	lbell@easternshoshone.org	307-335-2081	P.O. Box 538	Fort Washakie	WY	82514
	X	-	4/22/2021	Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation	Shane Warner	S2eagles@yahoo.com	435-734-2286	707 North Main Street	Brigham City	UT	84302
	×	-	4/22/2021		Ms. Patti Timbimboo-Madsen	ptimbimboo@nwbshoshone.com	435-734-2286 x13	707 North Main Street	Brigham City	UT	84302
	Х	-	4/22/2021	Fort Hall Business Council Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall				DO D-11 200	E. (11.1)		00000
			4/00/0004		Devon Boyer			PO Box 306	Fort Hall	ID	83203
	X	-	4/22/2021	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall	Nathan Small	nsmall@sbTribes.com	208-478-3769	PO Box 306	Fort Hall	ID	83203
	×	-	4/22/2021	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall	Carolyn Smith	csmith@sbTribes.com	208-236-1086	PO Box 306	Fort Hall	ID	83203
	×	-	4/22/2021	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall	Louise E. Dixey	ledixey@sbtribes.com	208-236-1086	PO Box 306	Fort Hall	ID	83203
	×	-	4/22/2021	Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & ouray Reservat	Mr. Luke Duncan		435-722-5141	PO Box 190	Fort Duchesne	UT	84026
	×	-	4/22/2021	Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & ouray Reservat	Ms. Betsy Chapoose	betsyc@uteTribe.com	435-725-4826	PO Box 190	Fort Duchesne	UT	84026

HERALD JOURNAL

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4486 93022 FRANSON CIVIL ENGINEERS

FRANSON CIVIL ENGINEERS 1276 SOUTH 820 EAST, SUITE 100 1276 SOUTH 820 EAST, SUITE 100 AMERICAN FORK UT 84003 Civil PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF UTAH COUNTY OF CACHE, ss

On this 4th day of May, A.D. 2021 personally appeared before me Jennifer Birch who being first being duly sworn, deposes and says that (s)he is the Principal Legal Clerk of the PNG Media LLC, publishers of The Herald Journal a daily newspaper published in Logan City, Cache County Utah, and that the Legal Notice, a copy of which is hereto attached was published in said newspaper for 2 issue(s) and that said notice also published on utahlegals.com on the same day(s) as publication in said newspaper.

Commencing on the following days: 04/27/21, 05/04/21

Buch Principal Vegal Cler

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 4th day of May, A.D.2021

ar 1110 Notary Public

Commissioned in the State of Utah My Commission expires 11 1-2021 10-11-23



WELLSVILLE-MENDON WATERSHED PLAN-EA

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance from Cache Water District as the project sponsor, and several co-sponsors including Cache County, Wellsville City Irrigation Company, Wellsville City, Mendon City, and Wellsville Mendon Conservation District, are considering proposed improvements within the Wellsville Canyon and Threemile Creek Watersheds, in Cache County, UT. Goals for this project include preventing or reducing flooding, enhancing wildlife habitat, and improving irrigation water delivery.

As part of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the public is invited to attend a virtual public scoping meeting held by NRCS, which will provide information about the proposed flood prevention and reduction and agricultural water management projects in the Wellsville and Mendon areas. At this time, NRCS is requesting comments on the project to identify issues and resource concerns.

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Written comments are requested between April 27, 2021 and May 27, 2021. They may be submitted via email, mail, or using the online comment submission form. They must be received or post-marked by May 27, 2021.

Project information including the comment form and, afterwards, a recording of the meeting, will be available at: <u>https://</u> www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-EA

MAIL:

Artn: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA 115 Golf Course Road, Suite D Logan, UT 84321

EMAIL: mrobbins@fransoncivil.com Published April 27, May 4, 2021 Ref. No. 93022

Herald Journal

Publication Logo

Publication Name: Herald Journal

Publication URL:

Publication City and State: Logan, UT

Publication County: Cache

Notice Popular Keyword Category:

Notice Keywords: wellsville-mendon

Notice Authentication Number: 202108161721075608480 1276854728

Notice URL:

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Notice Publish Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Notice Content

WELLSVILLE-MENDON WATERSHED PLAN-EA

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https://www.utahlegals.com/DetailsPrint.aspx?SID=tbferozwnjzlhcaanurmzgtp&ID=101851

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MAIL: Franson Civil Engineers Attn: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA

https://www.utahlegals.com/DetailsPrint.aspx?SID=tbferozwnjzlhcaanurmzgtp&ID=101851

115 Golf Course Road, Suite D Logan, UT 84321

EMAIL: mrobbins@fransoncivil.com Published April 27, May 4, 2021 Ref. No. 93022

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Herald Journal

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Publication Name: Herald Journal

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Notice Popular Keyword Category:

Notice Keywords: wellsville-mendon

Notice Authentication Number: 202108161720181867429 1276854728

Notice URL:

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Notice Publish Date: Tuesday, May 04, 2021

Notice Content

WELLSVILLE-MENDON WATERSHED PLAN-EA

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MAIL: Franson Civil Engineers Attn: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA

115 Golf Course Road, Suite D Logan, UT 84321

EMAIL: mrobbins@fransoncivil.com Published April 27, May 4, 2021 Ref. No. 93022

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Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Scoping Report

Appendix C: Scoping Comments Received

From:	Charles Gay <chuck.gay@usu.edu></chuck.gay@usu.edu>
Sent:	Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:02 PM
То:	Monique Robbins
Subject:	FW: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan

I received the notice for the Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan with great interest. My interests stem from my career as a professor of rangeland management and rancher. Now retired from both, I am interested in the surface water management that impacts our home and others in the Cobblestone area south of Mendon City and our neighbors below us. We have lived here for the past 34 years and have experienced numerous flooding events that have required a neighborhood brigade to sandbag homes and other structures. Our main road, 5900 West, although a Cache County road was never designed to cope with water. There are no bar ditches, culverts or control structures. Given that our homes are strung out along the road, they create the dams when heavy rains or rapid snowmelt comes off of the watershed of the Wellsville Mountains. Spring rains on snow is the worst once the snowpack becomes saturated. If a bar ditch were constructed on the uphill side of 5900 West with culverts under driveways, runoff could be captured and easily transported to natural drainage. There is a large natural channel south of us. I have wondered why this could not be used as a catchment to retain and allow water to drain slowly. A bar ditch on 5900 West would drain to this channel.

As I am sure you know, the problem for the Mendon area is the irrigation canal. All water on this huge watershed from Hyrum Lake to Petersboro is eventually trapped in the canal. There is no emergency overflow or drainage system to prevent overflow and cutting. The canal has been purposely cut twice since we have lived in our home.

I applaud this project and hope for success. It is much needed.

Sincerely,

Chuck

Charles W. Gay 2420 S Cobble Terrace Mendon, UT 84325 435-770-1992

From: Sent:	Tom Condie <tcondie@hotmail.com> Wednesday, May 5, 2021 6:23 PM</tcondie@hotmail.com>
To:	Monique Robbins
Subject:	ATTN: Chad Brown: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan: Concern Regarding Lack of Lining/Piping of Lower Canal

Dear Mr. Brown,

I'm Thomas Condie. I have a house on 14+ acres at 5650 S. 2400 W.. I own 4 shares of irrigation water. The issue I'm hoping will be addressed as part of the proposed project improvements is the need for lining of the lower canal starting, I believe, at Roy Hugie's property and ending at 2400 West 5700 South(Steve Kyriopooulos's east property line). The specific problem for me is that approximately 2 weeks after the flow in the lower canal begins, water begins flowing under my house and water seeps occur along the side of the hill, south of my outbuildings. At first the French drain and underground pipes adequately channel this water under my driveway to the wetland north of my yard. But, within a few weeks the flow increases to the point that it overwhelms the system and other seeps appear resulting in saturating my front yard and creating a shallow pool of water for the duration of the irrigation season. Just the water running under my house runs at ~5 gal/minute. Considering this and the other seeps, lost water is in excess of ~1,000,000 gals/season. I imagine there are many more additional gallons of water lost on the other properties east.

Please let me know if completing the lining/piping of the lower canal, as mentioned above, is part of the project. If not currently part of the project, what needs to be done to include it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tom Condie 5650 South 2400 West Wellsville, Utah 84339 From:Tim Cronin <tim.cronin72@gmail.com>Sent:Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:22 PMTo:Monique RobbinsSubject:Wellsville Mendon Watershed Plan

Will portions of the existing canals be put into pipes? We are along 5700 South in Wellsville, what changes are planned for that portion?

Thank you Tim Cronin

From:	Jamie Huff <jhuff@utah.gov></jhuff@utah.gov>
Sent:	Monday, May 10, 2021 9:57 AM
То:	Monique Robbins
Subject:	DEM Comments: Wellsville Mendon Watershed Plan
Attachments:	Cache_Scoped_Streams_REVISED_1-19-2016-FINAL_8x11.pdf

Greetings,

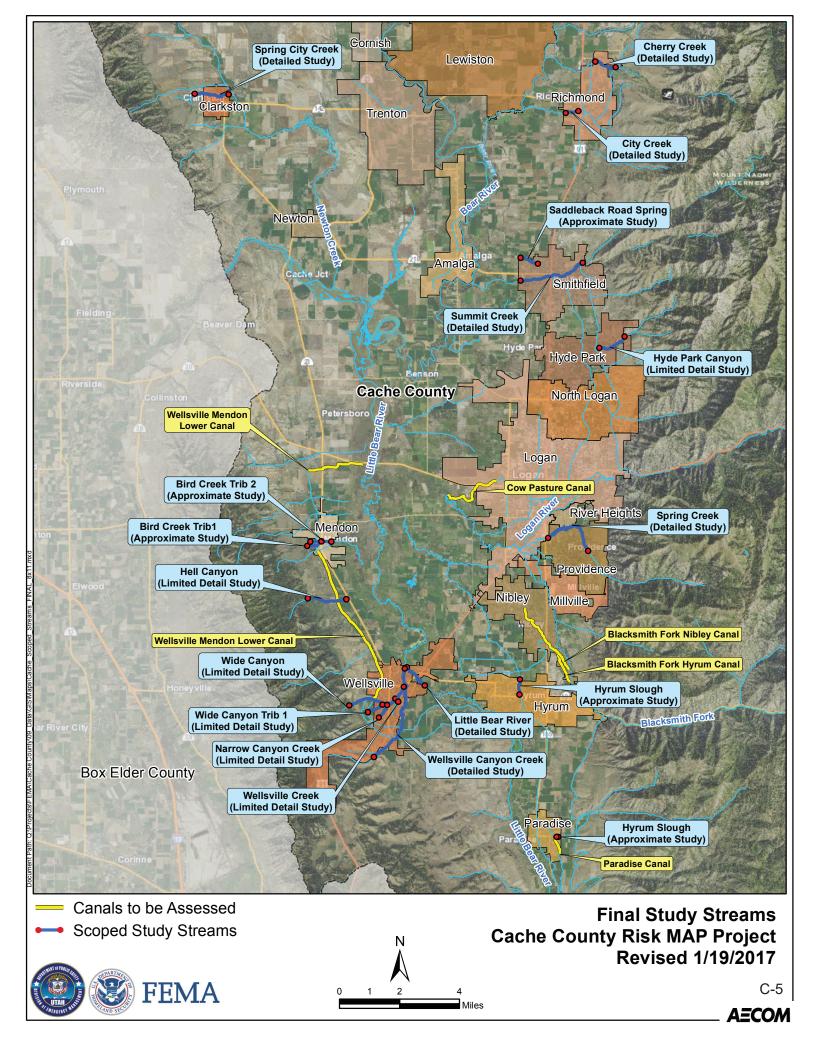
As mentioned on the State agencies call, the Utah Division of Emergency Management is currently conducting a flood study on several creeks and streams and the Wellsville Mendon Lower Canal as part of a larger Cache County Flood study. Please see the attached map for reference. Flood study data is currently being produced and the preliminary data is anticipated to be released to the public on June 30, 2021. We would be happy to share the data when it is released. Jamie Huff is your best contact for any questions on the study.

In addition to the flood study modeling data, please ensure that any work proposed or conducted in current mapped floodplains obtain floodplain development permits from the local Floodplain Administrator (FPA) in the community they are doing the work in. Any work in the floodplain needs to make sure they are in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and with the local floodplain regulations by contacting the local community's FPA. Even state and federal agencies need to obtain the local floodplain development permits as per the federal regulations 44 CFR 60.3. This may include obtaining a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) from FEMA. As well as any other federal or local permits required to develop in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). The Community FPA should know what is required in these areas. If there there are questions as to what is needed feel free to call or email Angelia Crowther, State Floodplain Manager at 801-963-2004 or acrowther@utah.gov.

Regards,

Jamie Huff, CFM

Risk MAP Program Manager Utah Division of Emergency Management Taylorsville State Office Building 4315 S 2700 W., 2nd Fl., Suite 2200 Taylorsville, UT 84129-2128 Phone: 385-549-0746 Email: jhuff@utah.gov (Please note address and phone number change)



Flooding Source	Reach Length	Reach Length Reach Description	Study Level
Bird Creek Trib 1	1.0	from confluence with Bird Canyon Creek upstream approx. 1 mi	Approximate
Bird Creek Trib 2	0.5	from confluence with Bird Creek Trib 1 upstream to Thimbleberry Ln	Approximate
Cherry Creek	1.0	from 1200 E upstream to a point approx. 750 ft downstream of 2000 E	Detailed Study
City Creek	0.6	from western Richmond corporate limits upstream to 200 W	Detailed Study
Hell Canyon	1.5	from State Highway 23 upstream approx. 1.5 mi to the mouth of Hell Canyon	Limited Detail
Hyde Park Canyon	1.2	from approx 700 E upstream approx. 1.2 mi to eastern Hyde Park corporate limits	Limited Detail
Hyrum Slough	0.7	from Main Street upstream to Hyrum corporate limits, approx. 4800 S	Approximate
Hyrum Slough	0.2	from 200 E upstream to Paradise corporate limits, approx. 360 E	Approximate
Little Bear River	1.1	from 500 N upstream approx 1.1 miles to eastern Wellsville corporate limits	Detailed Study
Narrow Canyon Creek	0.7	from confluence with Wide Canyon upstream to 800 S	Limited Detail
Saddleback Road Spring	0.8	from 800 W upstream to 250 W	Approximate
Spring City Creek	1.4	from confluence with Clarkston Creek upstream approx. 1.4 mi	Detailed Study
Spring Creek	2.5	from State Highway 165 upstream to approx. 200 S	Detailed Study
Summit Creek	2.5	from western Smithfield corporate limits at Birch Canyon Rd upstream to eastern Smithfield corporate limits at 800 E	Detailed Study
Wellsville Canyon Creek	3.9	from confluence with Little Bear River upstream to mouth of Wellsville Canyon (approx. 0.5 mi upstream of Mt Sterling Rd)	Detailed Study
Wellsville Creek	0.8	from confluence with Wellsville Canyon river upstream to Wellsville Reservoir	Limited Detail
Wide Canyon	1.9	from confluence with Wellsville Creek upstream approx. 2 mi to mouth of Wide Canyon	Limited Detail
Wide Canyon Trib 1	0.7	from confluence with Wide Canyon upstream approx. 0.75 mi	Limited Detail

From:	Margason, Laura < Margason.Laura@epa.gov>
Sent:	Thursday, May 13, 2021 2:48 PM
То:	Evenstad, Norm - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT
Cc:	Hamilton, Derek - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT; Bingham, Jonathan - FPAC-NRCS, OGDEN, UT;
	Chet.Ftzgerald@usda.gov; Todd, Brandon - NRCS, North Logan, UT; mrobbins@fransoncivil.com
Subject:	[External Email]EPA Scoping comments for Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan EA
Attachments:	NRCS Wellsville-Mendon EA - EPA Scoping Comments 5.13.2021.pdf

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**; Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments. Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Good afternoon Mr. Evenstad-

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the scoping proposal for the **Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan EA**. Attached to this message you will find an electronic transmission of our comment letter, I hope you find our comments helpful. We look forward to working with your staff as this project moves forward with the NEPA process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Regards,

Laura A Margason NEPA Branch Office of the Regional Administrator U.S. EPA, Region 8, ORA-N 1595 Wynkoop Street Denver, CO 80202-1129 (303) 312-6665



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street Denver, CO 80202-1129 Phone 800-227-8917 www.epa.gov/region8

May 13, 2021

Ref: ORA-N

Norm Evenstad–NRCS 125 S. State Street, Room 4420 Salt Lake City, UT 84138 (Transmittal by email)

Dear Mr. Evenstad:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 reviewed the Scoping Notice, PL-566 Watershed Proposal and participated in the May 10th virtual agency meeting (Meeting) for the **Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (EA) Project** (Project) prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The following scoping comments were prepared in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The NRCS Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan Project is proposing to install flood control improvements, irrigation efficiency measures and recreational opportunities within the Wellsville Canyon and Threemile Creek Watersheds, in Cache County, UT. The proposal is intended to improve flood prevention, watershed protection, wildlife habitat enhancement and agricultural water management within these areas. Several possible improvement structures were mentioned during the Meeting but none were illustrated in detail at this early stage of Project development. These proposed structures may include culvert improvements, channel stabilization, detention basins, and stormwater diversion improvements, along with the construction of secondary pressurized irrigation systems. To our knowledge, alternatives to these proposals have not been detailed.

Based on our current understanding of the Project and the area, the EPA has identified the following key topics that we recommend evaluating in the NEPA analysis so that potential impacts or benefits to public health and the environment can be fully understood: (1) surface water resources; (2) air resources; (3) construction and failure response; (4) mitigation and control measures; (5) a range of alternatives; and (6) purpose and need.

The EPA understands that the Project is in the planning stage and a preferred alternative has not been identified. Our comments are based on the scoping notice description and the sponsor's application documents provided by NRCS. Our input may need to be revised once Project planning and design has advanced.

The EPA's detailed comments are enclosed; we appreciate your consideration of our comments at this early stage of Project development and request a future notification to review the Draft EA. If further explanation of our comments is desired, please contact me at (303) 312-6665 or Margason.laura@epa.gov, or Region 8 NEPA Branch Chief Philip Strobel at (303) 312-6704 or strobel.philip@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura A Margason

Laura A. Margason NEPA Branch

Enclosure

cc: Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS-Utah Jonathan Bingham, Lead Engineer, NRCS-Utah Chet Fitzgerald, Area Conservationist, NRCS-Utah Brandon Todd, District Conservationist, NRCS-Utah Franson Civil Engineers (mrobbins@fransoncivil.com)

Enclosure - EPA Comments

Natural Resource Conservation Service: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA

(1) Surface Water Resources

A. <u>Water Quality Impacts and Mitigation</u>

The EPA recommends discussing the following resource impacts, including disclosure of which waters may be impacted or improved, the nature of these actions, and the specific relevant pollutants:

- <u>Sedimentation and Water Quality</u>: Potential impacts to water quality from runoff associated with surface disturbance. Runoff could introduce sediments as well as salts, nutrients, and other pollutants into surface waters.
- <u>Drinking Water</u>: Potential impacts to drinking water from the Project, which may include source water protection areas and other municipal or private water supplies.
- <u>Surface Water Bodies</u>: Potential impacts to historically impaired rivers and creeks in the area such as Bear River, Little Bear River, Spring Creek, and Malad River– including the extent to which regulated discharge of detention basin floodwaters to these water systems could dilute existing pollutants, introduce salts, nutrients and other pollutants from the Project catchment areas, or modify sediment loads.
- <u>Groundwater</u>: Potential impacts to groundwater recharge areas and the identification of community wells with associated shallow or sensitive aquifers that may be modified by Project activities.

The EPA recommends the NEPA analysis identify and discuss how surface water quality will be protected during Project activities. To this end, the EPA recommends the NEPA analysis include:

- A list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be required to protect surface water resources;
- A discussion of the circumstances under which the BMPs would be applied (e.g., proximity to surface water resources, presence of erosive soils, slope, floodwater discharge, etc.); and,
- An explanation of how NRCS or another government entity would ensure that the BMPs would be monitored to ensure timely and correct implementation as well as timely maintenance.

B. Protection of Wetlands and Riparian Areas

The protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas is a high priority. These resources increase landscape and species diversity, support many wildlife species, and are critical to protecting water quality and designated beneficial water uses. We recommend that NRCS analyze impacts from all potential Project alternatives to the following:

- Total wetland area and function, such as from reduced floodwater inundation and/or reduced overbank flow;
- Wetland vegetation, riparian habitats, and aquatic biota; and
- Wetland erosion or aggradation from floodwater channelization or redirection.

We also recommend that the NEPA analysis evaluate methods to protect surrounding wetlands and riparian areas including the following:

• Specific mitigation requirements and BMPs applicable for construction, maintenance and

reclamation activities to prevent adverse impacts to aquatic resources downslope of the Project site. These could include silt fences, detention ponds and other stormwater control measures; and,

• A map of seeps, springs, and wetlands delineating these resources before development to facilitate their protection and support any necessary permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

(2) Air Resources

Based on the information provided, the project is in Cache County, Utah. Cache County (in part) is included in the Logan UT-ID PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) nonattainment area; however, the Region 8 Acting Regional Administrator signed the final rule redesignating the Logan, UT-ID PM_{2.5} nonattainment area to attainment on May 11, 2021. This final rule should be published in the Federal Register within the next few weeks and will update 40 CFR 81.345 to show that the area is now in "attainment" status.

Because the project will be located in the Logan (Cache County) PM_{2.5} attainment/maintenance area, we recommend evaluating and disclosing current air quality conditions, identify any potential air quality impacts from the proposed construction and, if necessary, detail mitigation steps that will be taken to minimize associated adverse impacts. Pollutants contributing to PM_{2.5} that need to be considered include directly emitted PM_{2.5}, precursors including NO_x, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and VOC.

We recommend the Draft EA include the following: existing air quality conditions in the project vicinity, and an assessment of any impacts on NAAQS, air quality related values (AQRVs), and an assessment of any Class 1 Areas in the vicinity that may be impacted by construction emissions.

A. Existing Conditions

We recommend that design values be presented using available ambient air quality data in the vicinity of the project, especially for PM_{2.5}. For this analysis, we recommend consulting with the Utah Division of Air Quality (UDAQ) to assist in generating appropriate design values for Criteria Pollutants, such as PM_{2.5}. Any relevant information on AQRVs such as visibility would also assist in characterizing the existing environment.

B. Environmental Consequences

Dust suppression from disturbed areas is an important mitigation consideration in many areas of the West. Given the proximity of the project to residential communities, the EPA recommends the NEPA analysis include a plan for addressing dust control during construction. We suggest the plan include the level of required or anticipated dust control, control methods, inspection schedules, documentation procedures, and accountability processes. The EPA recommends reducing surface disturbance to effectively reduce fugitive dust. Impacts can also be reduced by reclaiming disturbed areas as soon as practicable.

In addition, we recommend estimating combustion emissions resulting from mobile and stationary sources necessary to support and conduct construction activities. We recommend considerations be given to using cleaner emitting equipment as well as limiting unnecessary idling through the implementation of best practices to minimize emissions.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) General Conformity provisions and requirements at CAA section 176(c) and 40 CFR §§ 93.150 to 93.165 will apply to emissions that occur within the nonattainment/maintenance area. Under these provisions, federal agencies (in this case NRCS) must ensure that actions they conduct or sponsor in nonattainment or maintenance areas are consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP), Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP), or Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), as appropriate, that are established to protect human health and the environment. This means that emissions of air pollutants from planned federal activities do not cause new violations of the NAAQS, do not increase the frequency or severity of NAAQS violations, or do not impact the continued maintenance of the NAAQS. Therefore, a general conformity analysis, and if appropriate a conformity determination, must be completed by the lead federal agency prior to authorizing the proposed action.

(2) Construction and Failure Response

A. Construction Alternatives

We recommend including specific information about flood control structure construction so that anticipated environmental impacts can be considered when selecting between alternatives. These details include a description of the following factors:

- Structural specifications and materials;
- Anticipated support facilities including structural yards, maintenance buildings and roads, construction camps and materials sites;
- Sensitive plant and animal life in the Project area; and,
- Topography, geology and surficial hydrology in the vicinity of each structure.

Based on these criteria, we recommend choosing flood control structure locations proposed in each alternative in cooperation with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Cache County, and the cities of Wellsville and Mendon, Utah.

B. Failure Response

Given the trend toward increased urbanization and the case of several severe storm events in the Project area, we recommend the EA include an evaluation of potential adverse impacts from the structural failure of the proposed flood control measures. This should include potential adverse impacts to surface waters, public or private water supplies, human health, vegetation, and wildlife. In this part of the analysis, it would be useful to discuss the probabilities and likely frequencies of different types and volumes of potential failure events over the life of each alternative.

We expect this information would be useful in evaluating the environmental impacts of potential structural failures and in determining emergency transportation corridor locations. We also recommend describing the failure detection and repair program for this Project, their associated costs for each alternative, and the margin and methods of potential error for each program.

(4) Mitigation and Control Measures

We recommend that the NRCS include a section in the NEPA analysis that details the mitigation and control measures that will be implemented for the Project, including what entity will be executing the mitigation. A list of all necessary permits for construction, transportation, water, air, or land use in the

Project vicinity may also clarify implementation and mitigation plans in the EA. Monitoring of surface water quality in the Project area following construction is also recommended for inclusion in order to identify any potential resource improvements or mitigation needs developed through Project operation.

(5) Range of Alternatives

The NRCS sponsor application document for this project mentions the need for a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit. If this permit is needed, under CWA regulations the Corps can only issue a permit for a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. if it can be demonstrated that it is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). To assure that this is achieved, the NEPA document needs to include a full range of alternatives with the goal of avoiding and minimizing impacts to waters of the U.S. while meeting the purpose of the action.

The NEPA documentation should summarize criteria used to screen reasonable alternatives, including the CWA regulatory criteria used to develop practicable alternatives. Environmental, logistical, technological and cost criteria should all be considered. The NEPA document should clearly explain the reasoning used to eliminate alternatives. This rationale must be consistent with the practicability definition and criteria outlined in the preamble language of the CWA 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR § 230.10).

(6) Purpose and Need

The purpose and need statement for purposes of complying with both the CWA and NEPA should remain broad enough to encompass an appropriate range of both reasonable and practicable alternatives for meeting the basic (i.e., underlying) project purpose, including the proposed action.

A broad purpose and need statement should allow for analysis of a multitude of options and should not eliminate alternatives that may still be considered practicable under the CWA Section 404 implementing regulations. Pursuant to the Section 404 requirements, the burden to clearly demonstrate that an alternative is not practicable (i.e., available and capable of being accomplished taking into consideration existing technology, logistics, and cost) rests on the applicant. If an alternative is a standard industry norm, then it is likely practicable unless clearly demonstrated otherwise (40 CFR 230.10). Developing an agency-coordinated purpose and need statement is critical prior to the development of screening criteria or identification of alternatives.

From:	Jon Hardman <jhardmanfarms@yahoo.com></jhardmanfarms@yahoo.com>		
Sent:	Wednesday, May 26, 2021 8:27 AM		
То:	Monique Robbins		
Subject:	Mendon City Comments		
Attachments:	PL-566 Mendon City Comments.pdf		

Monique

Please accept these comments on behalf of Mayor Ed Buist of Mendon pertaining to the PL-566 process that is on going. Since I have been more involved in the process until now he has asked that I submit these on the City's behalf. Contact information is:

Mayor Ed Buist <u>ed.buist@usu.edu</u> 435-770-9824 15 North Main St., Mendon, UT 84325 (City Admin Building) P.O. Box 70, Mendon, UT 84325 (mailing address)

We look forward to working with the planning team as the process moves forward and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss further the specific details regarding the issues, concerns and opportunities briefly outlined in the comments submitted.

Thank You.

JH

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Mendon City Corporation P.O. Box 70 Mendon, UT 84325 Phone (435) 753-3449 www.mendoncity.org

May 25, 2021

Franson Civil Engineering

To Whom It May Concern

These comments are written on behalf of Mendon City and are intended for review as part of the PL-556 Environmental review process currently underway. Mendon City has dealt with numerous flooding events over the years and is hopeful that the current PL-556 process will be able to identify solutions to avoid future flooding events. Most severe flooding occurs during periods when the ground is frozen, snow-covered, and warm temperatures and rain brings large volumes of water down from sloping ground both above and in town overwhelming small waterways and ditches used for irrigation systems in the past but since abandoned when most of the citizens in town installed private pressurized sprinkler irrigation systems connecting to the Wellsville-Mendon Canal System.

Most recently major flooding events occurred in 2012 and 2017 requiring major sandbagging and redirection of concentrated water flows away from critical infrastructure and homes. Water collecting from fields above the Wellsville-Mendon Canal as it travels through Wellsville heading North towards Mendon results in a canal that exceeds capacity and then tries to top its banks in several locations as it travels through Mendon.

Mendon is requesting consideration of several key pipelines from the Wellsville-Mendon Canal to the East to help transport water through town and below County Road 5400 West during major flooding events including a major pipe to cut-off flows before even entering the city near 2400 South. These same pipelines could serve a dual purpose for irrigation during summer irrigation season. Several culverts need to be up-sized through town to allow larger flows to pass without over-topping and flooding homes and streets.

Mendon is also requesting that the PL-566 process explore the possibility of piping the entire Wellsville-Mendon Canal system to further eliminate flooding potential and reduce water losses during the irrigation season. The canal system frequently runs short of water on drier year's and reducing water losses would potentially extend the irrigation period during drier periods.

Mendon has additional culinary water resources and needs and would like to request assistance in developing their water resources located in Maple Bench Spring originating on Forest Service land under Mendon Central Irrigation Company's water right by developing the spring and piping water to the city's Cobblestone storage tank. As a rural community Mendon has several wildlife challenges mainly involving turkeys within town. Mendon has been working with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to develop habitat above town to try and entice turkeys to remain at a higher elevation rather than in town directly. Additional projects could be developed to enhance this effort.

Mendon City would also like to include a recreation component to include a small park/reflection area along with its cemetery expansion to include pressurized secondary irrigation water and water feature. Landscaping and vegetation could provide additional wildlife benefits in the area. A second community project involving a city camping area directly West of town on city owned property should also be considered.

Mendon City appreciates the opportunity to participate in the PL-556 planning process and looks forward to working with the planning staff to look at Mendon's flood control, culinary water, irrigation, wildlife, and recreational needs more specifically.

Sincerely

Mayor Ed Buist, Mendon City

Timestamp	What is your full name?	What is your email address?	What is the best phone number to reach you?		What is your comment? (Be as detailed as you would like. We will respond to all comments!)
4/29/2021	Charles Gay	chuck.gay@usu.e du		2420 S. Cobble Terrace, Mendon	Duplicate to email sent: I received the notice for the Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan with great interest. My interests stem from my career as a professor of rangeland management and rancher. Now retired from both, I am interested in the surface water management that impacts our home and others in the Cobblestone area south of Mendon City and our neighbors below us. We have lived here for the past 34 years and have experienced numerous flooding events that have required a neighborhood brigade to sandbag homes and other structures. Our main road, 5900 West, although a Cache County road was never designed to cope with water. There are no bar ditches, culverts or control structures. Given that our homes are strung out along the road, they create the dams when heavy rains or rapid snowmelt comes off of the watershed of the Wellsville Mountains. Spring rains on snow is the worst once the snowpack becomes saturated. If a bar ditch were constructed on the uphill side of 5900 West with culverts under driveways, runoff could be captured and easily transported to natural drainage. There is a large natural channel south of us. I have wondered why this could not be used as a catchment to retain and allow water to drain slowly. A bar ditch on 5900 West would drain to this channel. As I am sure you know, the problem for the Mendon area is the irrigation canal. All water on this huge watershed from Hyrum Lake to Petersboro is eventually trapped in the canal. There is no emergency overflow or drainage system to prevent overflow and cutting. The canal has been purposely cut twice since we have lived in our home.
5/2/2021	Tim Gowens	tmgowens@msn. com	3852408038	106 W 1550 S Wellsville	I applaud this project and hope for success. It is much needed. I do not have secondary water at my residence. I've heard that this assessment includes putting my home on secondary water. Is that true? I don't want it. I'd rather pay for what I actually use. I once had secondary water when I lived in Syracuse, UT. I paid \$16 year round for secondary water I only had available to me for 6 months. I did what everybody else did which is use the heck out of itit was wasteful behavior. I'd rather stay on city water and pay for what I actually use. This forces me and everyone else to monitor their own consumption. Please let me know what the plans are to deliver secondary water to areas in Wellsville that do not currently have it and the costs that will no doubt be passed on to me and my neighbors to set it up in addition to the
5/10/2021	Jamie Huff	jhuff@utah.gov	385-549-0746	State Agency	monthly cost burden I will be forced to bare. The Utah Division of Emergency Management is currently conducting a flood on several creeks and streams and the Wellsville Mendon Lower Canal. Flood study data is currently being produced and the preliminary data is anticipated to be released to the public on June 30, 2021. In addition to the flood study modeling data, Please ensure proper floodplain development permits are obtained from the local Floodplain Administrator (FPA) in the community they are doing the work in. Any work in the floodplain needs to make sure they are in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and with the local floodplain regulations by contacting the local community's FPA. Even state and federal agencies need to obtain the local floodplain development permits as per the federal regulations 44 CFR 60.3. This may include obtaining a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) from FEMA. As well as any other federal or local permits required to develop in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). The Community FPA should know what is required in these areas. If there are questions as to what is needed feel free to call or email my office.
5/10/2021	J R Petersen	jpetersen100@co mcast.net	4352454878	Wellsville, Utah	I am a local farmer and like others have spent thousands putting in a pressurized irrigation system and will not gain much of a benefit from this project and fear the farmers are going to be saddled with burdensome costs either outright or through higher water maintenance fees which are already sky high. I currently pay nearly 100.00 an acre for water maintenance fees and add electricity costs for irrigation and other standard farm costs and consistently low farm prices most of us are lucky to break even. What is the financial impact of this project going to be for the farmer as well as home owner in Wellsville? Thanks, J R Petersen
5/13/2021	Wesley Davis	wesley.davis67@ yahoo.com	4352324398	748 s 200 e Wellsville Utah 84339	 HI, T joined the online meeting on May 11 and wanted to follow up with some comments. It looks like your project is mainly intended for flooding in the area. I think that's a good thing and we could use the help. Not so much for my area but others for sure. I NOT in favor of a boat ramp at the Wellsville Dam. The folks just move their equipment to the water now and all is good. I think that money is better spent elsewhere. Currently the small camp next to the Wellsville Dam is used by homeless RVers who stay as long as they can and move out only to return as soon as the can. I just can see any money spent in that area. At my house I am the last customer on our 2nd water line. My pressure is holding at 12 pounds and is gravity type feed. A pressured line would be nice but yet not really needed unless it could be place into a consideration pool. Like I said nice but not needed. Some retention pools would be nice to add to the wildlife habitat in the areas to prevent the flooding. Maybe some trail maintenance in the Wellsville mountains and trail accesses would be great which may be located near and around the retention dams. Just my thoughts.
5/27/2021	John Powell	jpzionrocks@gma il.com	801-725-4044	160 W 500 N, Wellsville, UT 84339	Wes I like the idea for improvements within the project boundaries for flood prevention, water management and recreational purposes. I also like the idea of a pressurized irrigation system, where it is feasible.

Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA Scoping Report

Appendix D: Cooperating Agency and Tribal Letter Examples



United States Department of Agriculture

May 5, 2021

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Utah State Office

125 South State Street Room 4010 Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Ph: 801-524-4550 Fax: 844-715-4928 www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov RE: Formal request to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of the Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for proposed improvements in Cache County, Utah.

Dear

:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.8, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that the Bureau of Land Management become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA. The enclosed agency scoping notice includes project information and details on an **agency scoping meeting scheduled for May 10, 2021 at 9 am**.

This request is made since your agency is identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. The Plan-EA is being prepared to fulfill our NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as authorized through Public Law 83-566. Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or a memorandum of understanding. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency, please return a written explanation indicating that your agency cannot participate.

Please send notification confirming your decision to: Emily Fife, State Conservationist, NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

Thank you for your timely response and assistance with these efforts. If you have any questions, please contact Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, at derek.hamilton@usda.gov or 801/524-4560.

Sincerely,

NORM EVENSTAD Asst. State Conservationist - Water Resources

Enclosure

cc:



April 26, 2021

Re: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA

:

Dear

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Cache Water District as the project sponsor and co-sponsors including Cache County, Wellsville City Irrigation Company, Wellsville City, Mendon City, and Wellsville Mendon Conservation District, as project co-sponsors, is proposing to fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566) improvements within the Wellsville Canyon and Threemile Creek Watersheds, Cache County, UT. Improvements are being proposed to improve flood prevention, watershed protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, agricultural water management, and recreation.

Per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, an evaluation of potential alternatives and associated environmental impacts is required. Environmental impacts will be documented in the form of a Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). For the purposes of compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the NRCS is the designated lead 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 are inviting agency, organization, Tribal, and public input on the project during the scoping phase. Participation is a vital component of the project providing those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed project an opportunity to share their comments, ideas, and concerns regarding actions during the initial scoping stage of the NEPA process. You are encouraged to attend the public scoping meeting where the project will be presented and the attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, and express ideas and concerns.

April 26, 2021 Page 2

Public Scoping Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 Time: 6:00 p.m. Virtual meeting link: https://www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-EA

Written comments may be submitted anytime during the open comment period from April 27, 2021 to May 27, 2021 via email, mail, or using the online comment submission form. To be considered and become part of the public record for the project, they must be received or post-marked by **May 27, 2021**.

- The comment submission form and additional information may be found at <u>https://www.fransoncivil.com/wellsville-mendon-plan-EA/</u>
- Comments may be emailed or mailed to the following address

Franson Civil Engineers Attn: Wellsville-Mendon Watershed Plan-EA 115 Golf Course Road, Suite D Logan, UT 84321 mrobbins@fransoncivil.com Phone (435) 754-7661

We look forward to hearing from and working with you on this important project. We welcome your call if you have questions on the proposed project or if you wish to arrange a meeting or initiate government-to-government consultation regarding this project.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Shelley Szeghi, North Area Cultural Resources Specialist, at 385-405-7244 or email at <u>shelley.szeghi@usda.gov</u>. We look forward to receiving your comments and discussing this project further.

Sincerely,

EMILY FIFE State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (without enclosure)