

Appendix E. Other Supporting Information

Table of Contents

Scoping Report	E-1
Water Resources Assessment	E-244
Biological Assessment	E-378
Technical Memorandum 001 – Ashley Central Canal Agricultural Water and Hydrology	E-473
Uintah County Special Services District #1 Meeting Minutes	E-492
Kids Canal Water Shares Purchase	E-499
Flood Control Projects Explanatory Memorandum	E-500
Ashley Central Canal Water Loss Study Memorandum	E-505
Ashley Central Canal Flow Measurement: Steinaker Service Canal Inlet to Main Street (Kid's Canal) Memorandum	E-510
Ashley Valley Flood Control Study Cost Benefit Analysis	E-518
Cultural Resources Mitigation Memorandum of Agreement and Treatment Plan	E-599

ADDENDUM 1: SCOPING REPORT

Introduction

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, NRCS published the Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project (Proposed Project) for public comment on June 1, 2022.

Draft Plan-EA Public Involvement Process

Public Open House - June 14, 2022

NRCS published the public notice of availability of the Draft Plan-EA on NRCS' project website. The notice provided the public open house details, the location of the Draft Plan-EA, and information regarding the comment process. The primary purpose of the public meeting was to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan-EA. The Draft Plan-EA Open House was held on June 14, 2022 at the Uintah County Western Park in Vernal, with 66 public attendees signing in at the meeting. Three project team members from J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. (J-U-B) and The Langdon Group (TLG), two NRCS representatives, and one project sponsor representative attended the meeting. A copy of the notice of availability, mailer, flyer, and displays are included as Attachment 1.

Comments Received

Participants were invited to submit comments in writing either at the meeting or by mail or email during the public comment period. The public comment period for the Draft Plan-EA officially opened on June 1, 2022 and ended on July 1, 2022. A total of 44 comments were received during the comment period. A copy of the comment cards from the public meeting is included in Attachment 2.

Comment Categories

The methodology for categorizing and addressing public comments is to identify the nature of the comment and then to separate each of the comments into comment categories. The following categories were primary themes observed in the Draft Plan-EA comments.

- Purpose and Need
- Canal is a Historical Resource

- Flooding
- Public Safety
- Design
- Environmental Impacts
- Public Recreation
- Socio-Economic
- Private Property Impacts
- Draft EA
- NEPA Process
- Easements
- Debris Basins
- Water Share Donation

Public Meeting – July 27, 2022

Given the comments received during the June 14, 2022 meeting, NRCS held a second Public Meeting on July 27, 2022. A public notice of availability was posted on the NRCS' project website on July 13, 2022. The notice provided the public meeting details, the location of the Draft Plan-EA, and information regarding the comment process. The second Public Meeting was held on July 27, 2022 at the Uintah County Western Park in Vernal, with 47 attendees signing in at the meeting. Five project team members from J-U-B and TLG, three NRCS representatives, and three project sponsor representatives attended the meeting. A copy of the notice of availability, mailer, and displays are included as Attachment 3.

The purpose of the Public Meeting was to follow up on the public comments that were received regarding the Kids Canal, to present the Kids Canal design variation in response to public concerns, and to provide an opportunity for public comment on the design variation and overall project. The goal of the meeting was to provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about the Proposed Project, to collect public comments and questions about the Proposed Project and respond to any comments either during the meeting or afterward.

Comments Received

Participants were invited to submit an open mic submission during the Public Meeting, and/or submit comments in writing either at the meeting or by mail or email during the public comment period. The public comment period for the Draft Plan-EA officially opened on July 13, 2022 and ended on August 12, 2022. Eighteen open mic submissions were received during the Public Meeting, and a total of 3 written comments were received during the comment period. A copy of the written comments and transcription of the open mic submissions are attached to this memorandum.

Comment Categories

The methodology for categorizing and addressing public comments is to identify the nature of the comment and then to separate each of the comments into comment categories. The following categories were primary themes observed in the Draft Plan-EA comments.

- Purpose and Need
- Canal is a Historical Resource
- Flooding
- Public Safety
- Design
- Environmental Impacts
- Public Recreation
- Socio-Economic
- Private Property Impacts
- Draft EA
- NEPA Process
- Easements
- Debris Basins
- Water Share Donation

Summary

The Draft Plan-EA for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project was released for public comment, beginning June 1, 2022. A Public Open House was held on June 14, 2022 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan-EA. Given the public comments received during the comment period, a second Public Meeting was held on July 27, 2022 to follow up on the public comments that were received regarding the Kids Canal, to present the Kids Canal design variation in response to public concerns, and to provide an opportunity for public comment on the design variation and overall project.

A third Public Meeting will be held following the update to the Draft Plan-EA. Addendum 2 will discuss the results of the third Public Meeting.



THE
LANGDON
GROUP



GATEWAY
MAPPING
INC.

J-U-B FAMILY OF COMPANIES

Attachments

Attachment 1 – June 14, 2022 Public Open House Meeting Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

Flyer

Open House Displays

Attachment 2 – June 14, 2022 Public Open House Comments

Comment Cards

Attachment 3 – July 27, 2022 Public Meeting Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

Open House Displays

Attachment 4 – July 27, 2022 Public Meeting Comments

Comment Cards

Transcription of Open Mic Comments

Attachment 1 – June 14, 2022 Public Open House Meeting Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

Flyer

Open House Displays

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Uintah County announce the availability of the Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project (Project).

You are invited to attend a Public Open House where Project information will be provided and comments solicited for the Project Draft Plan-EA. Interested parties may voice their comments, ideas, and concerns to NRCS and Uintah County during this meeting.

Draft Plan-EA Public Open House

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South, Vernal, UT



A hard copy of the Draft Plan-EA is also available for review at the Uintah County Library at 204 E 100 N, Vernal. An electronic copy of the Draft Plan-EA and video presentation can be accessed on the NRCS Project webpage: bit.ly/AshleyValleyWatershed

Comments can be submitted during the comment period starting **June 1, 2022** and ending on **July 1, 2022**. **Comments must be postmarked by July 1, 2022.**

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the below address or submitted during the public open house. All comments should be directed to Andy Neff with The Langdon Group:

Phone: (435) 213-2872
Email: email@ashleywatershed.com
Mail: 466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037

*Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Scott Morton, Disability SEPM, at scott.morton@usda.gov or [801/524-4596], or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services. *Las personas con discapacidad que requieran acomodo para participar en esta reunión deben comunicarse con [NOMBRE], Disability SEPM, a scott.morton@usda.gov o al [801/524-4596], o marcar el 7-1-1 para acceder a los servicios de retransmisión de telecomunicaciones.*

Ashley Valley Watershed Project Uintah County, Utah

Draft Plan-EA Public Open House

Project Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with assistance from Uintah County as the project sponsor, announce the availability of the Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project (Project) within the Ashley Valley Watershed in Uintah County, Utah.

You are invited to attend a Public Open House where Project information will be provided and comments solicited for the Project Draft Plan-EA. Interested parties may voice their comments, ideas, and concerns to NRCS and Uintah County during this meeting.

Draft Plan-EA Public Open House

You are invited to attend, discuss, and submit a comment at the public open house:

Tuesday, June 14, 2022
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

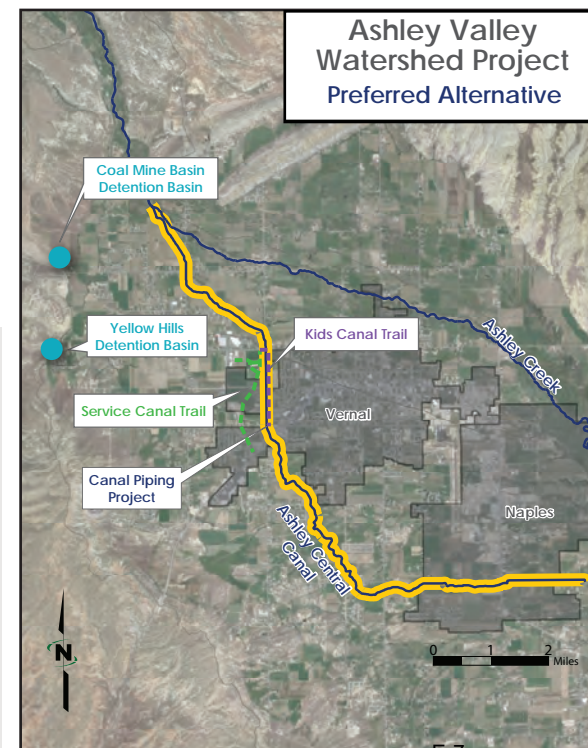
*Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South, Vernal, UT*

Review the Draft Plan-EA and Submit a Comment

An electronic copy of the Draft Plan-EA and video presentation can be accessed on the NRCS Project webpage: bit.ly/AshleyValleyWatershed.

A hard copy of the Draft Plan-EA is also available for review at the Uintah County Library at 204 E 100 N, Vernal, Utah.

NRCS invites you to submit comments anytime during the open comment period starting **June 1, 2022** and ending on **July 1, 2022**.





Ashley Valley Watershed Project

NRCS invites you to submit comments anytime during the open comment period starting June 1, 2022 and ending on July 1, 2022.

Comments must be postmarked by July 1, 2022.

How to Submit a Comment

All comments should be directed to Andy Neff - The Langdon Group:



(435) 213-2872



email@ashleywatershed.com



466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the above address or submitted during the public open house.

*Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Scott Morton, Disability SEPM, at scott.morton@usda.gov or [801/524-4596], or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services.

Las personas con discapacidad que requieran acomodo para participar en esta reunión deben comunicarse con [NOMBRE], Disability SEPM, a scott.morton@usda.gov o al [801/524-4596], o marcar el 7-1-1 para acceder a los servicios de retransmisión de telecomunicaciones.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Utah State Office
125 State St #4010
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Ashley Valley Watershed Project Uintah County, Utah

Draft Plan-EA Notice of Availability & Public Open House



Project Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with assistance from Uintah County as the project sponsor, announce the availability of the Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project (Project) within the Ashley Valley Watershed in Uintah County, Utah.

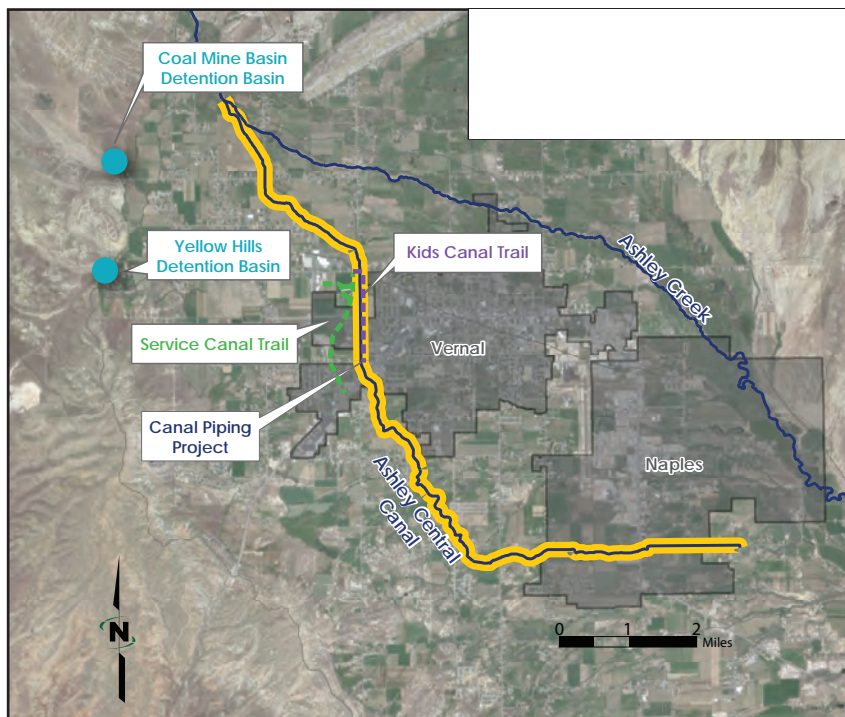
The Project proposes the following improvements within the Ashley Valley Watershed in Uintah County, Utah:

1. Piping and pressurizing approximately 9.6 miles of Ashley Central Canal.
2. Reconstructing the Thornburg Diversion, backfilling and reshaping Ashley Central Canal, replacing turnouts, and installing screening and control structures.
3. Constructing two detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub-basins.
4. Constructing three miles of a multi-use recreation trail and installing recreational amenities.

An evaluation of potential project alternatives and associated environmental impacts has been documented in the form of a Draft Plan-EA. NRCS (lead federal agency) and Uintah County (Project sponsor) will hold a public open house to provide information about the proposed Project and to collect comments on the Draft Plan-EA.

An electronic copy of the Draft Plan-EA and open house video presentation can be accessed on the NRCS Project webpage: bit.ly/AshleyValleyWatershed.

A hard copy of the Draft Plan-EA is also available for review at the Uintah County Library at 204 E 100 N, Vernal.



Draft Plan-EA Public Open House

You are invited to attend, discuss, and submit a comment during the public open house:

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Uintah County Western Park, 302 East 200 South, Vernal, UT

How to Submit a Comment

Written or emailed comments can be submitted during the comment period starting **June 1, 2022** and ending on **July 1, 2022**. Comments must be postmarked by **July 1, 2022**.

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the address below or submitted during the public open house. All comments should be directed to Andy Neff - The Langdon Group:



email@ashleywatershed.com



(435) 213-2872



466 North 900 West,
Kaysville, Utah 84037

*Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact Scott Morton, Disability SEPM, at scott.morton@usda.gov or [801/524-4596], or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services. Las personas con discapacidad que requieran acomodo para participar en esta reunión deben comunicarse con [NOMBRE], Disability SEPM, a scott.morton@usda.gov o al [801/524-4596], o marcar el 7-1-1 para acceder a los servicios de retransmisión de telecomunicaciones.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Open House



WELCOME

Draft Watershed Plan & Environmental
Assessment for the Ashley Valley
Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project

Public Open House

June 14, 2022
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Open House



WHAT IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

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.

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Uintah County received funding from NRCS's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) which would evaluate improvements that include:

1. Piping and pressurizing approximately 9.6 miles of Ashley Central Canal.
2. Reconstructing the Thornburg Diversion, backfilling and reshaping Ashley Central Canal, replacing turnouts, and installing screening and control structures.
3. Constructing two detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub-basins.
4. Constructing three miles of a multi-use recreation trail and installing recreational amenities.

Project measures under consideration address flood protection, watershed protection, agricultural water management, and public recreation development.

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Open House



CURRENT RESOURCE CONCERNS



Ashley Central Canal Irrigation Water

- Significant water loss due to seepage
- Safety concerns with open canal adjacent to residential neighborhoods
- Water quality impacts on Ashley Creek with irrigation tailwater from flood irrigation



Flood Protection

- Residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, businesses, and other infrastructure are at risk during large storm events in Coal Mine Basin and Yellow Hills Basin



Recreation

- Lack of recreational trails and connectivity

PROJECT GOALS

- Address water loss and safety in Ashley Central Canal
- Improve water quality in Ashley Creek
- Provide flood protection for Vernal residents, businesses and infrastructure
- Create additional trails



United States
Department of
Agriculture

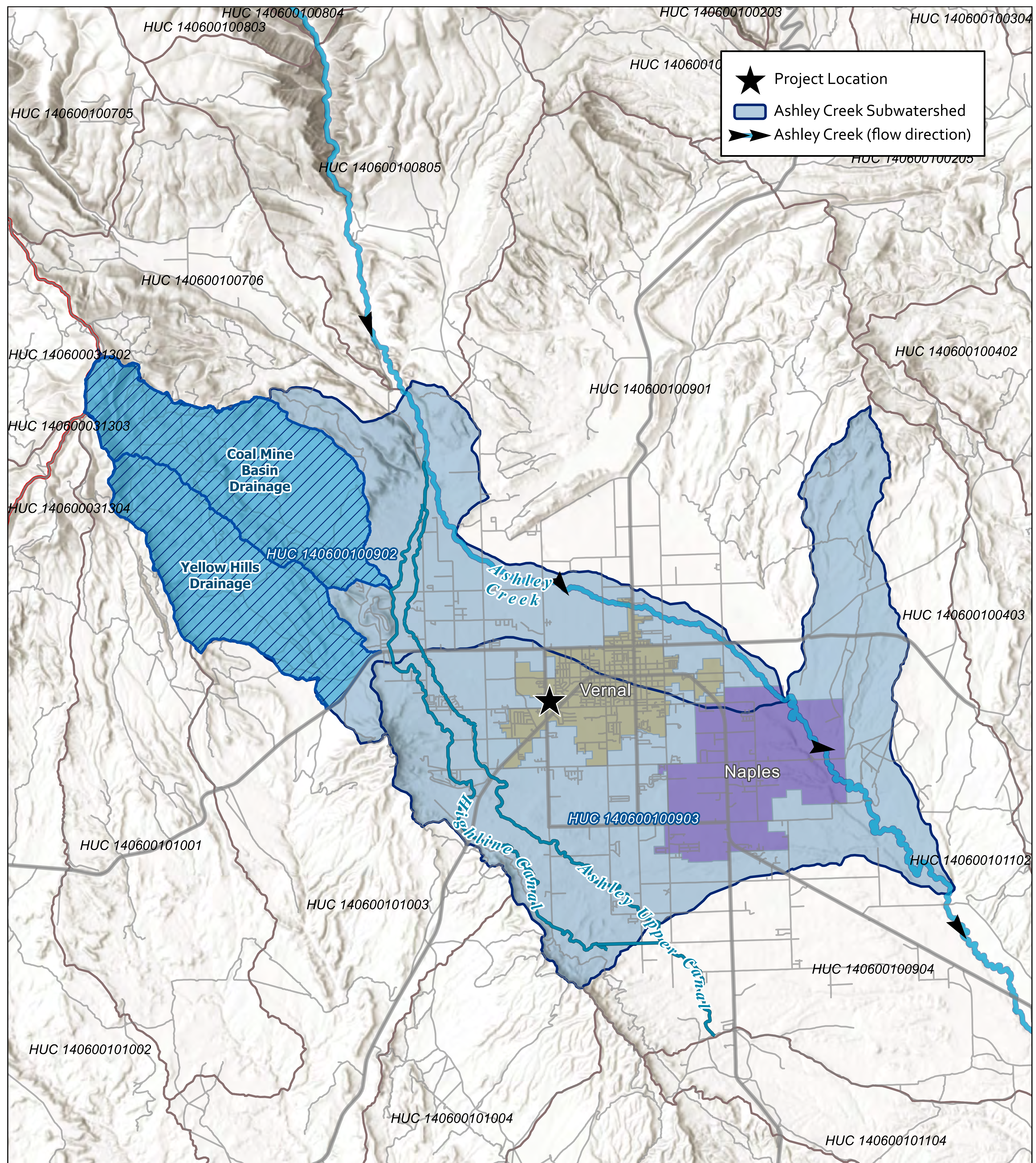
Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Open House



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

WATERSHED MAP



ASHLEY VALLEY WATERSHED

Ashley Valley Watershed Plan EA

0 0.5 1 Miles



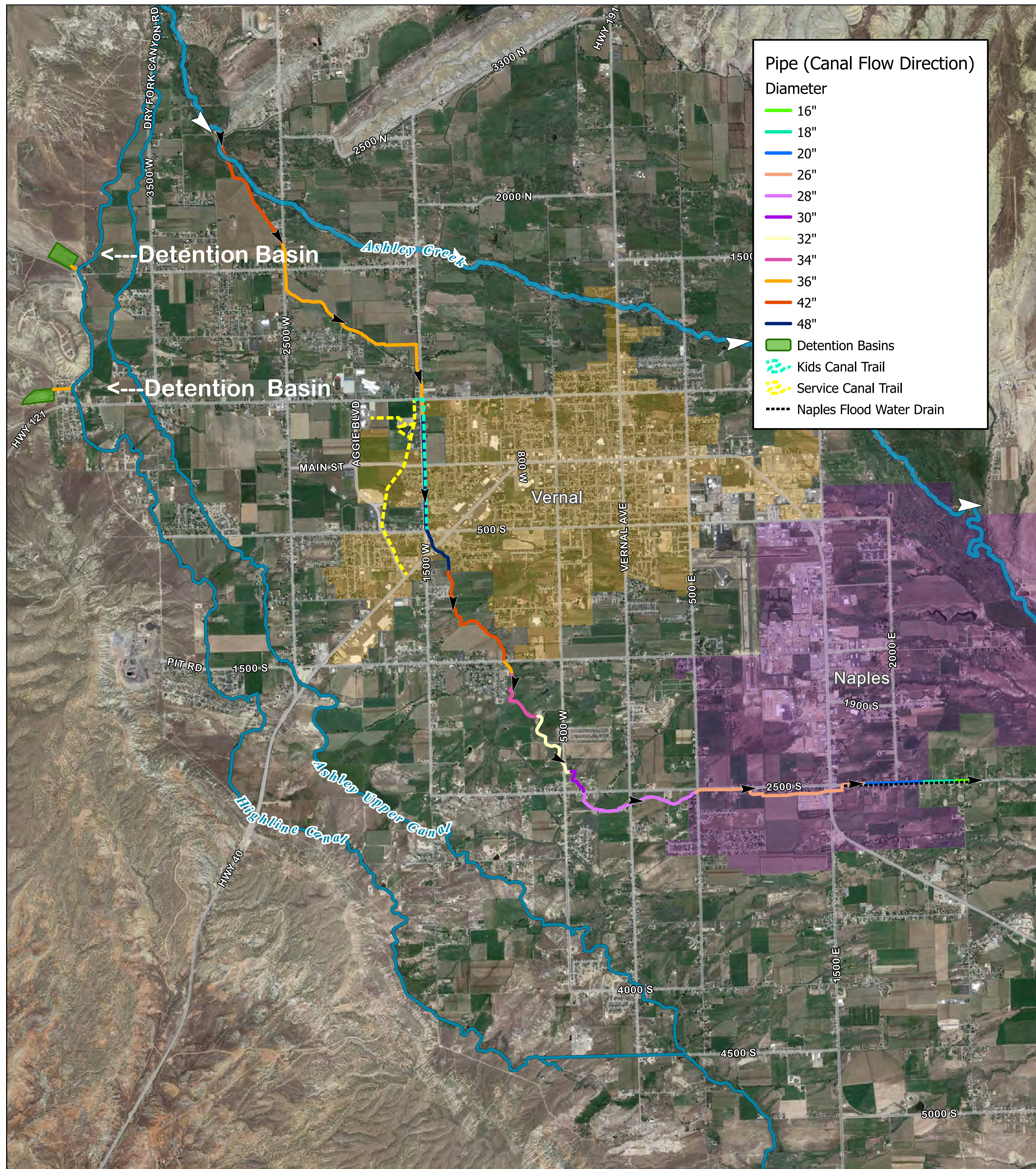
Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Open House



Natural
 Resources
 Conservation
 Service

PROJECT AREA



ASHLEY VALLEY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Ashley Valley Watershed Plan EA

0 0.5 1 Miles

