



Comments

I am very against the piping of Kids Canal - It is a historical site which benefits many many people in the Basin -

I hate watching trees die all over the Basin. Hate the detriment done to wildlife.

I do not believe that this is because the farmers requested it. I have personally talked with many of them who were never contacted on this subject. I feel this is because Const Co's + local + State Politicians are Benifitting greatly.

Our once Beautiful Valley is dying - Please Stop



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Draft Plan-EA Comment Card



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Comments

My understanding is that the people that own the water have put this project in motion. Right now, the engineers point out that $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ of the water is being lost to seepage. ~~They~~ Right now that water is a loss. Why not have the water owners donate ~~the~~ the water for Kids canal. The engineers said that the amount of water needed for Kids canal is significantly less than the water that will be recovered from piping the canal. Their profits from the water would still be substantial even with the donation. Destroying Kids canal will irreversibly change the face of the most beautiful area in Vernal. It would be a travesty to ~~to~~ not preserve this historic area. The ~~Vernal~~ City of Vernal built that giant snow hill that is ~~perfect~~ for \$1 million dollars.

* Not as essential *

Preserving an area that is used all year long!
How could that be spent on that and not



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Draft Plan-EA Comment Card



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Comments No resolution to Adverse Effects!!

- Wildlife
- Birds, Ducks
- Trees

A plak or a historic sign is not resolution

Hi. Hello everyone. I'm [REDACTED]. I'm 20 years old and I wanted to share my perspective on this. As someone who's grown up in rural Utah. Kids canal has been a safe Haven for the people of this community for so many years. Families with numerous children can't always afford to take the kids to the rec center or make the trip out to one of the reservoirs. It is the only option for some families to combat the summer heat. It is the only shaded pathway in town with running water alongside it. It's also one of the only areas in this community where you are allowed to exist without the obligation of spending money. Kids canal is a staple in our community and not one day goes by during the summer that I don't see someone making use of it. Whether that be someone walking in the area, swimming in the canal, or even having a picnic. It's disappointing to see so much talk on the county, you about making our city better when we can't even seem to maintain the few things that make Vernal; Vernal in the first. In aiding, one group of individuals who are taking something precious from this current and future generations to come. Thank you.

My name is [REDACTED]. I had not pretended being in a meeting at the technology center the other day, and they had a beautiful oil painting that Dean Milham had done. And the lady said, "oh my gosh, where is that?" And I said, "oh, it's about half a mile down there." And she said, "are you serious? That's in Vernal?" And I said, "yes, that's the greatest thing in our town. That's the thing called kids canal." And it is a beautiful painting. If you haven't seen it, it's kids canal in the fall and all this. And she was just so excited that we had that in our town. Maybe they can put that picture on the kiosk, cause it's gonna be gone. I have walked up and down that for years and years in the winter and the fall in the morning in the evenings, there are always people there. There are children there all summer long. There are families there. It is such a critical thing in our community. And I get that; that's cultural, but you can't replace that with a kiosk and you can't replace it with a poster and you can't replace it with things in a historical thing. It's part of our community. And it's part of our town. I'm not really smart about engineering things, but I just do not understand. Why that canal cannot be left open for a half a mile. And I don't understand the whole thing about the pressure thing, cause the water looks to me like it runs pretty good, but I don't understand that. But I think that you would, you do a real disservice to destroy that cultural, beautiful place in our community. I think putting a trail up there with a couple of trees, which are all gonna die without water is not gonna solve the problem. I hope you can find a way to do that. Thank you.

Hi, I'm [REDACTED] I live at the center of that picture. So right across the street. So, it's all a matter of perspective. The people who thought that they were making a good decision by piping, the canals were only trying to satisfy the water needs of those in agriculture. They would be those at the top of the hypothetical pyramid, from their great height. They cannot see that the majority of the people, the population holding up their position also need the water by wearing blinders. The people who decided to help one segment of the population are depriving the 95% of the remaining population. The solution though, not a hundred percent fair would be to leave one for the community. Leave one canal for the parents to teach their kids and dogs to swim, to love water. Leave one as a sanctuary where those seeking a walk with nature that doesn't involve driving 30 minutes may enjoy it in the heart of the city. The systems of piping, head gates and holding basins that have been installed would totally work here.

Use the kids' canal as a holding at basin that links the two different sets of pipes. Build a gated head gate at the end of this canal to catch all the debris that falls and blows into the canal. Preserving an empty canal is defeating the purpose. It needs the canal, not an empty channel to catch what runs off the roads. Preserve all aspects of the small slice of heaven, this little oasis in the desert for all to use freely. It's the right/decent thing for all people in the community. And as you guys were talking, you have a why up here on fifth. Why not move it down here to main street? So keep one of 'em piped. Keep your existing system. So just leave one so that it runs down kids canal, and then they join at the Wyatt main street. That's my solution.

My name is [REDACTED], and I really wanna thank the project team for listening to the community and considering the alternate plan to keep that section of the canal open. But I really urge you to consider extending it. And I know that it can't go on for ever and ever, but. From 500 north main street is really only part of what I consider the continuous kids canal section. And I'm coming from a place of self interest because I live on the other side of main street. So I really consider. The main street to 500 south section worth keeping too. I walk in every day. I know most of my neighbors along the canal. I live on 1500 west where my family's actually been for six generations now. And I know my neighbor's dogs, even if I don't know their name, like, Johns dog mute, but between, main street and 500 south, I walk that section almost every day and the number of trees that line, that section as well. I think are worth keeping. And I think keeping the water open in that section is really important. Also on the section where I live between 400 south and 500 south, there's a slew that comes through my property that has to have between 50 and hundred trees in it that are fed from the McNaughton water Gulch. Water that comes from the other side of 1500 west, which I own and flows under the road, into kids canal into my property to create that slew. The slew is full of deer. It's full of raccoon skunks, red wing black birds. I wouldn't know if it, it was spring and summer if I didn't hear the birds out in the slew. There are cattails that are at least eight feet tall out there. So, I don't know what's going to happen to that section. And I think it's important to the community, but like I said, I'm self-interested because I own property on both sides of 1500 west. And I really don't understand how my property will be affected.

My name's [REDACTED], self-interest wise, aesthetically. It's beautiful. It's amazing. I also look down on the canals from yellow hill out in Maeser, where they cut down the trees and they look horrible and I watch the deer across the field, and they don't know where to go. They're like, there's no water here. Where do I go? This is my normal water source. Bigger interest wise, I teach science. It is my classroom to go there. I've taken kids out there. We've used the nets to get, we get crawdads and other critters in there, all sorts of bugs and things that just get kids involved and interested in science and the life that's there. We've identified so many of the plants there and used that as our classroom and not having that there for me is taking away part of my classroom and part of the education of kids. Watching my kids, tell me stories. They're like, oh, Heberar. I was at the kids can help this weekend. I was doing this, that, and the other thing it's accessible to all of them. They don't have to have money. They don't have to have transportation. They can just go there. As far as a resource for kids in the community, it is huge, both for education purposes and just for fun and a place to explore. I'm a firm believer that kids need a space outside, and this makes a really good one for them.

My name's [REDACTED] and I want to, first of all, thank you for coming out tonight. It was those of you who participated in the June meeting on the 14th of June that facilitated the beginning of some changes here. I wanna punctuate something that was said tonight, and I think is it Tara? Can you please repeat what the ultimate decision was of regarding the history of kids' canal? There was a, a term that you used for that. I'm kind of putting you on the spot, but basically it's not. Can we go back? I don't know if we can find that slide, go back to the history. Let's see. Adverse effect. Kids canal is part of the fabric of the history of the Uintah basin of Vernal. It's a part of how many generations and so the power of history standing behind it. We need to support that. And right now, who I wanna speak to are those of you who are commissioners and those of you who will be commissioners. Because we may not be able to stop the piping that's gonna happen, but we can make a difference as to what happens after the pipe is in. We have seen some total destruction on the upper and the Highline and up in dry fork. I used to live in dry fork. I watched trees die. I can see that you're trying. To help placate us with leaving trees. And that's a good start, but if there's no water, like Joanne said, the trees will die. So commissioners, we're gonna talk to the city, city council as well. We need your support now to hear these voices and to help make this a park, not a parkway. And, and to support our, our heart's desire of keeping that green with running water, a place for kids for the next few generations. Thank you.

My name is [REDACTED]. I live on [REDACTED]. I've lived there for 33 years and not one person from your group come and talk to me. And every single day I see hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. And, Families with their kids. And I remember when they used to stock the thing and that's a whole other issue with vegetation and moss and all that. But, I keep hearing that the kiosk, to me, it sounds like a tombstone. That young lady that was a biologist She said, Nope, we're gonna lose trees, we're gonna lose birds. I hear this defeatist attitude. We're gonna pipe it and we're gonna dry out kids canal no matter what the public says. It was talked about water shares someone's gonna have to buy water shares to replace the water that we want to flow down for the kids. what happens to that water when it goes past the end of kids canal? Anybody wanna tell me that works with the canal company. Do you want us to rent shares? We'll sell 'em back to you down at the other end and you can sell em again with reservation? I mean, I'm serious. There can be a way to get this accomplished. We want to have running water. We want have trees. The public, I talk to people everyday and they're like, "what!?" I understand piping. I understand conservating water. There's nobody even come to my house in my backyard. I have a water well. You're welcome to come and put your tape in at 62 inches of standing water. Why do when you turn off the water it puddleds up and stays there for months. Okay. My two minutes is up, but I hope y'all understand. I'm sorry, last time I was here I gotta apologize. I lost my temper because I was just told how it's be done. And there can be a way. Like I said, there way we can rent shares for a couple blocks. but the community obviously wants to keep it. We've gotta work together to find some way that we can get a little bit of water go down that canal through nine to 10 blocks. I mean, the four is essential. That is the cultural center for the kids in Vernal. But yeah, I would like to see it go down to 7th. That is a area the whole community walking paths in the county intersect right there also.

My name is [REDACTED]. I made a few notes during the presentation, but I have some comments that I've made him twice to the EA team. I'm wondering, when you can't, it's my understanding environmental policy act. If you can't mitigate an impact, you do the EIS, I think that is correct? And

maybe it could be mitigated by leaving some water some way in the canal. The impact, you know we live on, I always thought we live on the kids canal, central canal, but I guess I don't live on the kids now. I just live on central canal side, north of five hundred north. And, my concern is large concern I have is having to have a stormwater drain. I've lived there 43 years. Maybe, I just haven't been there long enough to see a hundred year storm, but we had some pretty big storms, did a lot of damage that make where it's necessary to do a storm water drain. But, uh, it just doesn't occur. You got two canals there. It didn't intercept them. It's just not gonna occur. It's a way. And I'll say frankly, it's way of getting money for the project. If you're going have strong water also up in where those, uh, where you're doing on degree basins and taking care of some of the watershed that's above there. So you don't need those degree basins quite as much. Uh, I am glad to hear that it's now conceived that you'll put the pipeline in the prism of the existing disturbance. One time there was talk of all on the east side. And that then would take more disturbance from our property. We have roughly 45, 50 feet of disturbance that's there now. And I like to see the, the tree stay but they won't, but if some way you could. I don't have enough water to give, to donate any even to the cause. I would like also to hear from a county commissioner. If they're here, that you have requested that this storm water drain occur. I don't know that that's for you. The case that the county commission has and the county people certainly haven't.

My name's [REDACTED]. I am on city council. Any of you that would like to visit with me most, a lot of you probably know how you can find me, but. You can catch me after the meeting. I'm glad to visit with any of you. We do have a scheduled meeting with the county and Vernal city coming up. And I'd like to hear from more of you outside of this meeting to, uh, find out some of your concerns. I've talked to some of you here. Um, I am a Vernal resident and have been my whole life. Grew up here. I've swam in kids canal. Now I went on the rope swing. I fished, I've caught my first fish in kids canal. I have good memories there. I'd love to see my kids have those same memory. I'm not engineer, I'm actually a carpet salesman. And I don't understand why we couldn't put the pressure, pressurized that at main street lane. That's my question. I don't know what it costs. I really don't care what it costs. I think the city of Venal there's so many things in our world, in our nation that divide everything. The last thing we need is one more thing to divide this flipping community. I'm sorry. We have so many things that divide us. Let's come together, make this a positive experience, put a liner in the canal, put an outlet for some trees, do something. Let's keep kids canal. I'm with John Baker in the aspect that putting the Memorial there as, you know, is kind of putting the tombstone on the whole deal. I think Deanna Milton's picture would be great, but I'd love to have my kids live to see what kids canal is, not what it was. But reach out to me if you'd like to visit with me. I will say that at this point, Vernal city has anything they can do. I'd love to see their water run down the canal if nothing else. I don't know that I can make any promises, but I'd love to see that the case. But, uh, look me up. If you have a question or concern, love to help.

My name's [REDACTED]. I've been around for a day or two you can tell by looking at me. I have some major concerns. You're telling me that, uh, this, uh, historic site yet we're gonna disturb it. I have questions on that. I think there's some real issues on that. What Wetlands are we not gonna have because of the piping?

I think there's some mitigation that has to be done on that. According to the federal government, we went and we did all these interpretations and everything doing the EA's and, and watching for our wildlife and stuff. I didn't hear anything about doing it during the winter. And that's, this is their winter range. How many animals are we gonna disturb? And even if you put a drinking fountain in the pipeline, I don't think all the deer are gonna go to it. They don't know how to run it. I think it's gonna affect not only our community, but also the wildlife that we have here. And we cherish the kids canal. Now I can tell you right now, after as long years as I did as a cop, the kids canal is one of the best things I've ever seen in my entire. It's just like everybody says, kids grew up in that canal. Several of 'em had the very first water fight in that canal and it hurts to even think about it going away. So my concern is, and again, like everybody else, what can we do to save it? And how are we gonna save it? But there's gotta be a way that we can keep that in there. There's no reason to pipe everything and kill all the vegetation. Or John Baker's well, Michael dry, you never can tell, but it's gonna affect a lot more than just right beside the canal. Those beautiful trees are gonna be gone. We're gonna see a lot of farmland that should be there. Not because the canal, it needs to be looked at a lot different than it is. Thank you.

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I just moved here a couple years ago and I didn't really know what kids canal was but I was always like, what's that beautiful place everyone's walking. All the kids are always there and families and people walking past there. And I just learned on Facebook, what it was. And so I live up at, um, near upper, I think it's upper Ashley Creek and they just piped that that's right next to my house. And it's completely changed. Like the ecosystem. Let's call that there by my house, there used to be box seller bugs and the beautiful trees and birds there constantly. And the deer running by, and now all of that is gone. It is dry. I have a garden, um, that I water and I have to water it significantly more than I did before, because it's drying up the water table. Like it's all going away and that I'm sure that will increase and get worse and worse as the years go. these people on the panel. I don't wish you, I, you know, I don't know if any of you live here. Um, I'm guessing, I think one of you does. Um, but this is a decision for the people that live here, right? Like we should have a say in what happens to our land, especially something that's so historic. Um, and for all these kids, especially like kids just went through something really difficult with COVID and the things happened with school and don't, we want them to be outside, enjoying something like kids canal. Um, and I'm just worried. I mean, I see the differences in, um, the bugs and different things near my house. How will that change? all of Vernal in the ecosystem of Vernal to have, um, no more water kids. Canal is like the Oasis in the desert and we need it, um, for our wildlife. Um, there's got to be a way for us to be able to work this out where we can keep this waterway and, um, I'm willing to do whatever I can do. There's got to be some sort of compromise for the people that live here. , uh, we deserve it. The kids deserve it.

Hello my name is [REDACTED], I'm a mechanic. So I fix things. So the reason that, uh, they haven't figure out a way to do this is they don't have the desire to, we would like them to have that desire. We would like to work with them and hopefully we can come to a conclusion, something that's favorable to everyone. This is a landmark of Vernal. It is one of the things that makes Vernal; Vernal. So I encourage everyone here to reach out to our elected officials and let, to know how important this is to us. We don't need to be like salt lake and 50 years from now trying to make kids canal again, just like we're

doing in salt lake with, with city creeks. If I was doing it and I wanted to do it, I'd get 'er done. I challenge you guys to get it done. Thank you.

My name's [REDACTED]. And I'm a crier. I'm sorry. And when you talked about, you talked about things on the canal that are there, that you haven't seen, or you don't know what kind of bugs are there or have you seen the dragon flies that fly there? They're blue. They're purple. They're green. And they won't be there if you take the water away. I there, I live on 288 N 1500 W. My house is right in the middle of that canal I've lived there for 30 years. This is a picture of my house. Is the canal in right in front of my house. These are my grandkids that float in that canal every summer, they swim in that canal. My kids grew up swimming in that canal. Do you know how important this canal is? To me, to my family, to this town, this is a picture I took today. I walk up that path and it's beautiful. It's important to the soul. And so quiet. It brings peace. It brings peace to everybody that walks up that path that walks in front of my house every day. I look out my front window and there's someone walking, their dog, walking their kids. Walking babies in strollers. It is so important in this community. We need to fight, we need to fight to keep this canal. It's very very important to us. I cry every day when I go out there and think that they're gonna take this canal the away, and I told my kids this, I told my husband this, when they come to take. Bridge outta my front yard then I'm gonna chain myself to that bridge. And they're not gonna take it away.

My name's [REDACTED], and I wasn't gonna get up here, but, um, We have a townhouse near kids canal road. We own a house now on the upper highline. Y'all have no idea what it's gonna look like when those trees are gone. You're right. It's nasty looking. I don't have pretty trees anymore. You know what grows now? Weeds. We have nothing but weeds on a piece of property. We can't do anything on, we have a fence up now, just so I don't have to look at that piece of property anymore. We see deer in our neighbor's field, our neighbor's driveway. They don't know where to go to get a drink. They don't know what to do. We used to have raccoons that lived in our yard. They never once touched our chickens but we had to get rid of our chickens because now we don't even have. An area where the chicken could run. Never once did those raccoons touch our chickens? But now we don't have raccons, We don't have the deer. They don't know where to go. And we have weeds instead of trees. So I have pictures and I live off of 700 3,500, uh, west 700 north. If you wanna come take a look at my backyard. You can see what kids canal's gonna look like. It's gonna look like junk.

Hi, I'm [REDACTED]. And I'm excited to talk to you not the time so much, but, um, I too am concerned, but I come here and I say, we're at your mercy. Take it back, go vote again with the waterboard and have them do it after the kids canal. Say tonight, Hey, you, you earn this much money. I'll start a go fund me page all the way. So you just named the price. Okay. You take it back and say, can we start it after? And everyone would be happy. Right? Right. Yes. We would all be so happy and we would all be so much more content. And, and it's a win-win. Do you know what I mean? Because the history and the environment that the environmental impact that I am worried. Personally, because I've lived by it my

whole life. I've seen, I'm a biologist as well. And I've seen so many endangered species that use that waterway. They use it for so many things. They come here, they, they bathe in it. They're birds, they're wildlife, they're everything. And we're not gonna have that anymore. Not only that, but I'm terribly concerned about the erosion. That's going to be caused when the trees are all gone and that will fill with silt. And then where's our runoff. Where's the runoff for. If we have a flood, the flood is the streets. So as soon as that is all filled and it's all past that capacity, you know, we're saying like the impact of it, but you're not saying like the full impact of what could happen here. So it's super scary. And I just say, Hey, give me a number. I'll make the number happen, or go to the board and say, let's save this much of the pipe. Let's decide to not pipe that first half, and then let's pipe it after and we'll pressurize it after. And if you need the extra funds, we'll run the extra funds you tell us or whatever you're gonna save on the engineering up upstream. You use that money and, and sell us the shares. Like, I will help you and we will do a solution so that everyone can be happy and that we don't have to think about what was thanks.

My name is [REDACTED] and, uh, the canal companies got a right-of-way. and, uh, as far I know it has been quite a while since there was any fish in it, and I think everybody's got a pet tree or a pet Bush. They can't go around them all. And if they're gonna build a pipe line, build it that they're not, they don't need to build it.

Hello, my name's [REDACTED]. I'm a small business owner here in Vernal. Um, I've lived in Vernal, um, for, um, here almost 12 years now. And, um, I wanted to share with you an article that I read recently in the Denver post, um, the article is titled, uh, let me get it here. As development eats away at Denver's green space. The city within a park is becoming a concrete metropolis. Um, the article was published on January 13th, 2019. So it's a little dated now, but I think it's appropriate for, um, the, for this, this meeting and for this topic, um, the, the city of Denver is basically dealing with a situation where they can't take back poor city planning decisions that they've made in 1974. There was 19% of the city that was basically impervious paved over due to, um, concrete or structures in 2018. That number is 48%. Um, I, um, I like a lot of things about Denver, but when I go there and I see the cityscape, I don't wish that for Vernal. Now I know that that's a long way coming from what we have now. Right. But, um, the reason that Denver doesn't have the green space that they want is because they didn't make decisions early on that affected, that affected the outcome of, of the future. And I think it's important that, um, Uh, the decision makers for this project consider the big picture of what happens, uh, 25 years from now, when we do this with all of the canals and all of our green space is gone. there's no easy way to go back and create it. Thank you.

hello everyone. My name is [REDACTED]. Um, I'm an archeologist. I work for the federal government. So. I kind of know the process that's going on here and I appreciate you guys doing your job. And I know you're not the bad guys. Um, it's just one, one of those sensitive situations. And as an archeologist, I understand.

Well, for me, the history is very important without canals there would be no Vernal, right? I mean, really that's the only reason why there's even farming and agriculture and people that are living here when they first came here. People, they, they thought I was like the worst place in the world. They like, they left and because of human ingenuity, we're able to create a beautiful place to live. And I, I don't live close to the, the kids canal. I live across town, but my, my wife, my kids go there several times every summer and they enjoy it. And so I'm getting a plug for, for the kids too, but. I think it's important to have a space, right? To show the history, to keep at least a section of a historic canal. That's bringing this life water to not only the humans, but the animals and the plants and everything that live here in this valley. And I think it's a great idea to, to have that open space. And as I, when I was a kid, I loved outdoors. I loved being able to go and explore and what a great opportunity. There's not much of that. Uh, around anymore for kids. And so I think just keeping that as it is, is, is a great opportunity. So I say, you know, let's have a space for open for kids open for the canal. Keep that historic aspect of at least that section of it. Thank you.

Thanks for offering this comment time and your time and your expertise and what you've shared. And I don't really have much anything better to say than like many of you have like very pointed and specific, like you've spoken everything, but I just didn't want to just sit back there and not let everybody think that, like, I didn't agree with what was so like heartfelt shared, because a lot of those same, um, experiences while I don't live on the canal, like so many of you, but I do like.

It's a vital place. And if we think we have struggles now finding things for kids to do, then, I mean, it's only gonna get worse. Like it's only get worse. And I go there frequently, because I'm just a kid at heart but anyhow, I can get kids. I'll take 'em there and it's just it's yeah, it's just there. It's there.

It's and it's easy to get to and it's not like that. You have to drag. You have to, you can just walk there. You can bike there. It's so convenient. And I think where we already have seen the impacts of having other canal spaces been piped. Like we can see, okay, well, is this what we want? Is this really what we want?

So I, I think I, I appreciate the efforts that are being made to try to come together and make some sort of a solution that will help us get what we need on all sides. So, thank you. [REDACTED]. Thank you.

ADDENDUM 2: SCOPING REPORT

Introduction

The Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project (Proposed Project) was first issued for public comment on 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 follow-up Public Meeting was held on July 27, 2022 to address 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. Details for the Public Open House and Public Meeting are addressed in Addendum 1.

Following the Public Open House and Public Meeting, the Draft Plan-EA was updated to reflect the new design variation and alternative and address substantive public comments. A third Public Meeting was held following the update to the Draft Plan-EA. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, NRCS published the Draft Plan-EA for the Proposed Project for public comment on November 7, 2022. This addendum discusses the third Public Meeting and comments received.

Draft Plan-EA Public Involvement Process

Public Meeting - November 15, 2022

NRCS published the public notice of availability of the Draft Plan-EA on NRCS' project website on November 7, 2022. The notice provided the public meeting 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 Meeting was held on November 15, 2022 at the Uintah County Western Park in Vernal, with 37 public attendees signing in at the meeting. Five project team members from J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. (J-U-B) and The Langdon Group (TLG), three NRCS representatives, and one project sponsor representative attended the meeting. A copy of the notice of availability, mailer, 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 November 7, 2022 and ended on December 9, 2022. A total of 7 comments were received during the comment period. A copy of the comments 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.

- Gratitude expressed for the collaboration that has taken place between the public and all parties to arrive at a mutually beneficial solution
- Suggestions offered on trail design, amenities, vegetation, and maintenance.
- Maintenance of wildlife habitat, recreation, trees/vegetation, running water in the canal are important to the community and these features should be preserved.
- Requesting more information on impacts to private property.

Summary

The Draft Plan-EA for the Proposed Project was released for public comment, beginning November 7, 2022. A Public Meeting was held on November 15, 2022 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan-EA. The Final Draft-Plan EA will be issued for a 30-day public comment period on January 18, 2023. The comment period will run until February 17, 2023. Addendum 3 will discuss the results of the Final Draft-Plan EA public comment period.



THE
LANGDON
GROUP



GATEWAY
MAPPING
INC.

J-U-B FAMILY OF COMPANIES

Attachments

Attachment 1 – November 15, 2022 Public Meeting Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

Public Meeting Displays

Attachment 2 – November 15, 2022 Public Meeting Comments

Comment Cards

Attachment 1 – November 15, 2022 Public Meeting Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

Public Meeting Displays

ASHLEY WATERSHED PUBLIC MEETING

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Uintah County will hold a public meeting to present design modifications for the proposed piping of the Ashley Central Canal in Vernal, specifically to the section known as the Kids Canal. Proposed improvements are included in the Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project.

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

Draft Plan-EA Public Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South, Vernal, UT



On November 7, 2022 a hard copy of the Draft Plan-EA will be available for review at the Uintah County Library at 204 East 100 North, Vernal, UT. An electronic copy of the Draft Plan-EA and an illustration of proposed Kids Canal design modifications can be accessed on the NRCS Project webpage: www.bit.ly/utwatersheds

Comments can be submitted during the comment period starting **November 7, 2022**, and ending on **December 9, 2022**. **Comments must be postmarked by December 9, 2022.**

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the below address or submitted during the public open house. All comments should be directed to 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 reunion deben comunicarse con Scott Morton, Disability SEPM, a scott.morton@usda.gov o al [801/524-4596], o marcar el 7-1-1 para acceder a los servicios de retransmisi6n de telecomunicacione*

Ashley Valley Watershed Project Uintah County, Utah

Draft Plan-EA Public Meeting

Meeting Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Uintah County will hold a **public meeting to present design modifications for the proposed piping of the Ashley Central Canal in Vernal, specifically to the section known as the Kids Canal**. Proposed improvements are included in the Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project.

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

Draft Plan-EA Public Meeting

You are invited to attend and submit a comment at the public meeting:

Tuesday, November 15, 2022
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (formal presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.)

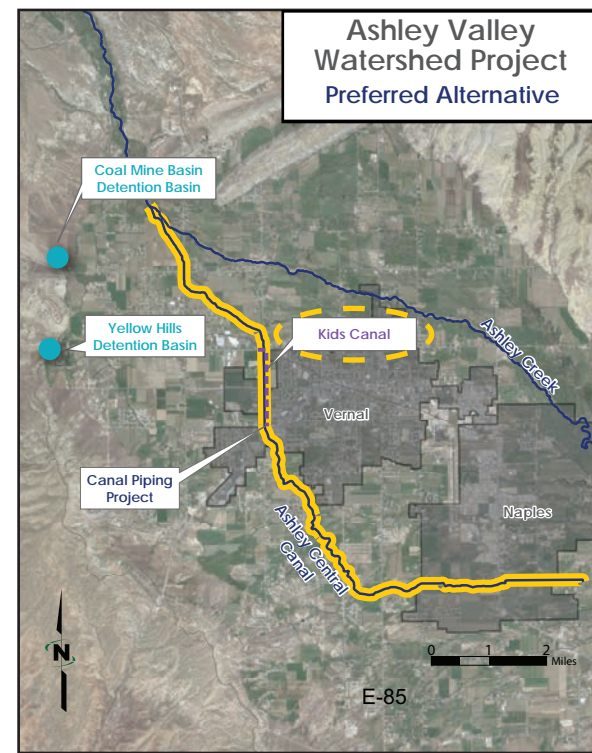
*Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South, Vernal, UT*

Review the Draft Plan-EA and Submit a Comment

On November 7, a hard copy of the Draft Plan-EA will be available for review at the Uintah County Library at 204 East 100 North, Vernal, UT.

An electronic copy of the Draft Plan-EA and an illustration of proposed Kids Canal design modifications will also be available on the NRCS Project webpage: www.bit.ly/utwatersheds.

NRCS invites you to submit comments anytime during the open comment period starting **November 7, 2022** and ending on **December 9, 2022**.



NRCS invites you to submit comments anytime during the open comment period starting November 7, 2022 and ending on December 9, 2022.

Comments must be postmarked by December 9, 2022.

How to Submit a Comment

All comments should be directed to c/o 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 meeting.

*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 Scott Morton, 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



Ashley Valley Watershed Plan-EA Public Meeting
November 15
6 – 8 PM

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Introductions

- **Andy Neff, Sydney Fairclough, Hollee Wood: Public Involvement Facilitators – Langdon Group**
- **Wayne Simper: President – Ashley Central Canal Irrigation Company**
- **Norm Evenstad: NRCS Asst. State Conservationist**
- **Derek Hamilton: NRCS Water Resources Coordinator**
- **Tara Hoffmann: NRCS State Cultural Resource Specialist**
- **Brian Deeter: Project Manager – J-U-B Engineers**
- **Autumn Davies: Environmental Lead – J-U-B Engineers**

Meeting Purpose

- **Follow up to public comments regarding Kids Canal received at Plan-EA Meetings (June 14, 2022 and July 27, 2022)**
- **Present additional information about Kids Canal design variation and water shares**
- **Provide opportunity for public comment on draft Plan-EA**

Meeting Schedule

6:15 PM – Formal Presentation

- Welcome and Introductions: Andy Neff
- Project Overview and Purpose: Andy Neff
- Kids Canal Design: Brian Deeter
- Cultural Resources: Tara Hoffmann
- NEPA Process: Autumn Foushee Davies

6:45 PM – Open Mic for Public Comment (2-minute limit for each commenter)

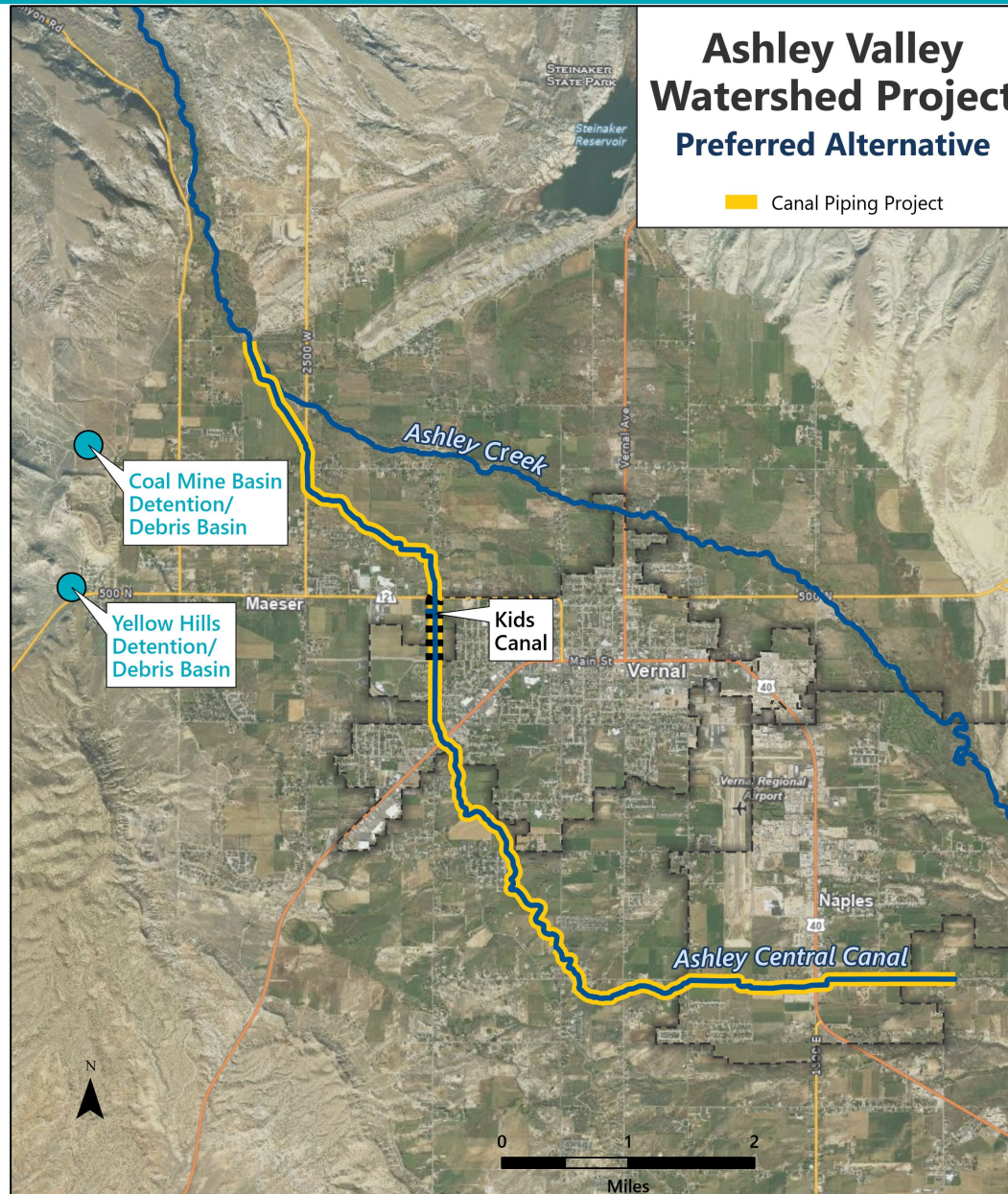
7:45 PM – Close Open Mic Commenting

7:45 – 8 PM – Public Opportunity to Submit Written Comments in Comment Boxes

8 PM – Meeting Closed

Project Purpose

- **Provide flood damage prevention and reduction**
- **Improve ag water management**
- **Maintain existing recreational facilities**



Kids Canal Design Update

- Kids Canal design alternative for pipe placement
- Water for Kids Canal Section

Kids Canal Design Alternative

