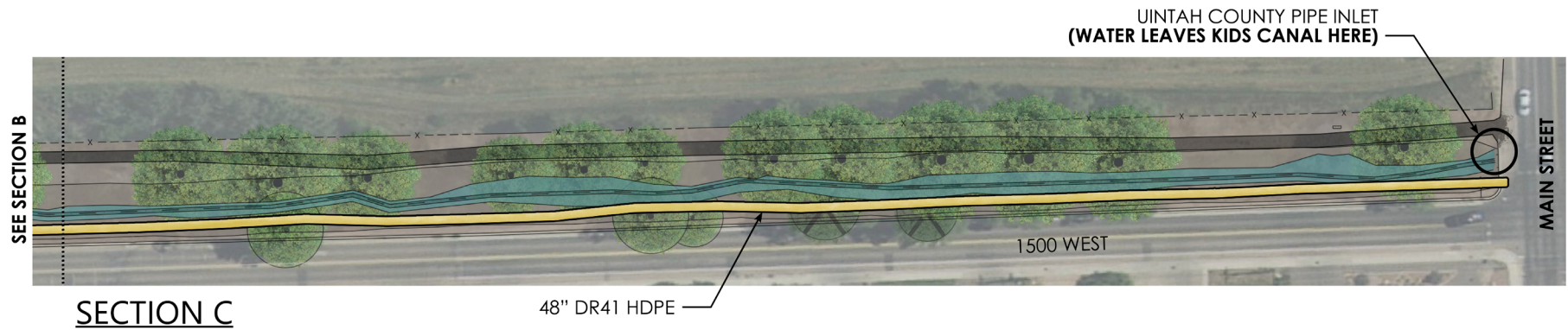






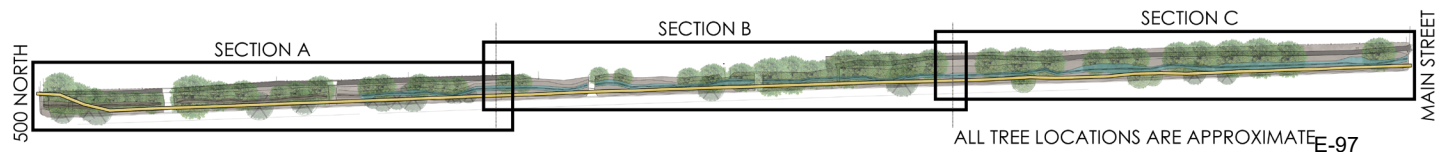


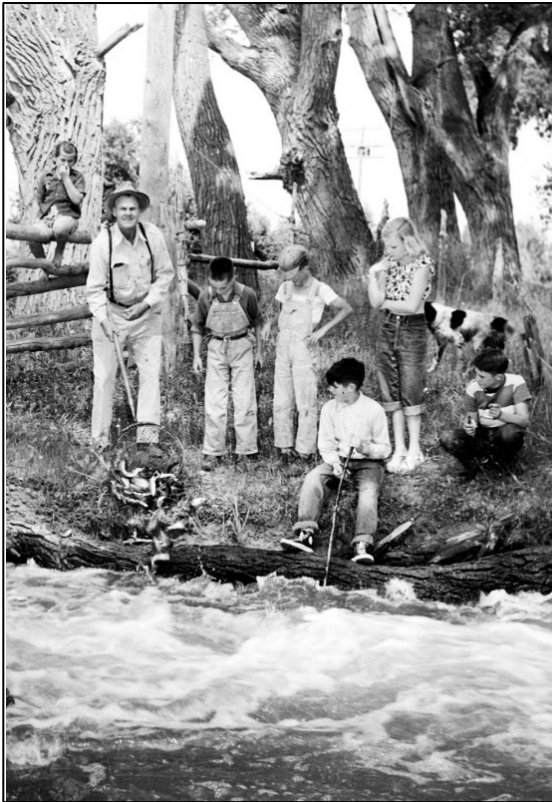
Kids Canal Design Alternative



- LEGEND**
-  PROPOSED PIPE
 -  EXISTING PATH
 -  CANAL
 -  TREES TO REMAIN
 -  TREES TO REMOVE
 -  TREES EAST OF CANAL
(ALL TO REMAIN)



Cultural Resources



Fred Reynolds, the game warden, releases fish into the canal at Merkley corner, 1957.

Resolving Adverse Effects

- **NRCS is developing a Memorandum of Agreement with:**
 - Friends of Kids Canal
 - Uintah County Historic Preservation Commission
 - Uintah County's Regional History Center, Library, and Heritage Museum
 - Utah State Historic Preservation Office
 - Uintah County Special Service District #1 (Recreation District)
- **Mitigation options include:**
 - Kiosk at Kids Canal
 - Museum display
 - Drone flyover of entire length of Ashely Central Canal
 - Incorporate kidscanalstories.org

NEPA Process



ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

WE ARE HERE



Resource Evaluation/
Prepare Draft EA

2019 - 2021

Agency Review/Public
Comment Period

Summer/Fall 2022

Decision
Document

Spring 2023

Begin Project
Construction*

Fall 2023/Winter 2024

*(pending environmental approval and funding)

Public Comment Categories

- **Environmental Impacts**
- **Canal is Historical Resource**
- **Design**
- **Public Recreation**
- **Socio-Economic**
- **Private Property Impacts**
- **Purpose and Need**
- **Draft EA**
- **NEPA Process**
- **Easements**
- **Flooding**
- **Public Safety**

Open Mic Comment Submission

- **Line Up at Microphone**
- **Provide Name to Facilitator**
- **Two-minute limit for comment out of respect for others who wish to make a comment**
- **If a written response to a comment or question is desired, a written comment card must be submitted**
- **Comment cards must be submitted into the comment card boxes, emailed, or mailed to the Project Contact, Andy Neff**
- **Public Comment Period runs from November 7, 2022 to December 9, 2022**

How to Submit a Comment

Public Comment Period Runs November 7 to December 9, 2022

Comments can be submitted tonight by written comment card, by postal mail or by email to the project contact:

* email@ashleywatershed.com

* **Ashley Valley Watershed Plan Project Team**

466 North 900 West

Kaysville, Utah 84037

Attachment 2 – November 15, 2022 Public Meeting Comments

Comment Cards

Ashley Valley Watershed Environmental Assessment
Public comments received for comment period: Nov. 7, 2022 - Dec. 9, 2022

Verbal comments received on Nov. 15, 2022 at the Kids Canal public meeting:

Comment 1:

I am [REDACTED]. I was one of the original creators of this PL566 grant, when I was public lands director for Uintah County. So there's a long history of it and I know I we're discussing the NEPA process and everything like that. But part of one of the aspects to this grant was the recreation aspect. Where we talked about the water being part of that recreation aspect. But, in our minds when it started, it was a trail. It was, we called it the Steineker Service Canal Trail which is this system. So as time progressed and then there was a lot of talk about the water, and the trees and everything like that. The people then came forward and said, hey, we can mitigate that. We can use water as the recreation aspect, because of course, recreation use, you can swim in that water. So, as we were, there's a lot of different sides to this. And today we actually had a very, very important informative meeting with a lot of the stakeholders that are represented that was laid out on this program and we have found a way. NRCS has been able to accommodate those desires to mitigate with water through the historical part. But then also then that frees up the recreation aspect well which will allow us to do a phase of the trail which is the Parkway itself right now. So we can make that better like [REDACTED] said, make that better and still create and have the water. So as I know as frustrating as this very long governmental process can be and has been it truly does take, you know some very heartfelt comments and some very actual comments and these people and Ashley Central Canal and NCRS they are here to listen and the government agencies are engaged. And I'm not saying they wouldn't be as engaged if it wasn't for the public support. So I think that's a great aspect to just know that we are all trying to work together to deliver a really good project. So I just feel that you know, moving forward and we can all kind of understand that and not everybody is going to be happy but hopefully we'll do some good work. And now as Transportation was taking on the trail aspect, I am assistant executive director of the Special Service District number one so that just kind of how it ties in transportation and Recreation Special Service District along with impact mitigation Special Service District are combining into one super district. So that is where this all kind of ties in, so there's a lot of agencies partnering up and are on the same page. So, I appreciate the meeting that we had today that was very good and very informative. Thank you.

Comment 2:

When [REDACTED] and I first heard that they were going to pipe Ashley Central Canal, we were kind of wondering because does that mean Kids Canal. We weren't sure. We had to do our own research, we had to pull up papers. We had to verify that Kids Canal really is Ashley Central Canal, and that Kids Canal was going to be piped. So, when we first heard about it, that was our primary objective was just to help people be aware of the fact that they're talking about Kids Canal. You guys, this is important, and we need to speak up. So, the next thing we did was we formed the Friends of Kid's Canal, and there's a lot of faces here I see tonight that are a part of that. Thank you for coming out tonight. And I want to thank them for all the times that they have helped in the past. But through that we looked at what the items are in the environmental assessment that are considered with the historical impact, with the cultural, the community with the wildlife. There's like seven or eight different specific bullets that were on the document when we first received it in the mail. And so, our committee addressed every single one of

those. We did a lot of research to find out the history... I'm going to take someone else's two minutes too. Anyway, we addressed every one of those issues. [REDACTED] and I drove out to JUB. And we sat down with these good folks, and we thought, well we're going to show you; you can't pipe Kids Canal because look, we've refuted every one of these. You know what they told us. They said if there was a raptor in the tree you can move the nest and if its historical you can put up a kiosk and they refuted every single one of the things that we had brought up. And I went home with my tail between my legs, and I was pretty disappointed. But there's a few people in this room that said don't give up, I got a call from [REDACTED] and she's like "We can't give up!". And so, through the public working together, and with these folks listening to what we had to say. That passion that started out as just a vision years ago with the conservation issues committee. When they first thought, maybe there should be a place for the kids to actually go and not have to lay on the road to get warm. When they saw that as a Parkway in 1992 or 93, when it became Asher Markley Memorial Parkway from that time on that vision that's carried over. And because of that, passion of those people that started with that. And because of those of you who commented we're getting it; we're getting it done. We're going to be able to keep that Parkway and because it's been, like, dancing work through the process, they're working with us. And I think it could be even better. It'll end up better than what we started with. We're going to have the trail repaved. Hopefully, we'll have picnic tables, there won't be as much water, but you know what, kids can make a mud puddle into a full day's play, and it will be flowing water. And there will be enough water to keep the trees growing. So, because of those early visions, because of your passion, because of these people listening to what we have to say, I printed off all seven hundred pages of the environmental assessment. Your comments are in there. And it's worth the read. So, you took time to educate yourself. You took time to be here tonight and have your voices heard and it is making a difference. We're going to have trees, we're going to have running water, there's a place for the kids to play. Now, it's going to be a busy summer next summer, and who knows how long it'll take for it to be finished. But thank you. Thank you all of you. I appreciate it.

Comment 3:

I'd like to thank everyone, particularly the folks at NRCS for putting this together so that we that we could have public comment and that public comment has been received. And I thank them for that. I'd like to read a quote here by Frank Church those of you who do not know who Frank Church was, he was a United States senator and was very instrumental in preserving public lands for us. The quote reads: "In a country where nature has been so lavish. And we have been so spendthrift of indigenous beauty, to set aside a few rivers in their natural state should be considered an obligation." This guy set rivers aside for us to enjoy, so I think that what we're trying to do here is a small section of a man-made canal. But it is part of our culture and history, and part of the fabric of our own town. I'd like to thank everyone involved here and the people have come to support our desire to save that. For people to come and enjoy for the future. If not for government who, who else would have that ability, set, something aside for perpetuity, it has to be the government. We all know who Larry H. Miller was. Larry H. Miller built a racetrack between Tooele and Grantsville and now it is owned by the Chinese. Even with the money that he had; he was not able to that. So, it has to be the government. I appreciate the process that we have worked through together. And have come to what I think will be a favorable outcome for us all. Thank you.

Comment 4:

I live up on Kids Canal on 1000 North. Did you know there was two concrete structures, one was built in 1907 the other just in 1934? I was wondering what the impact of private property would affect your decision. Would it have any impact at all private property concerns.

Written comments:

Comment 5:

USDA United States Department of Agriculture		Ashley Valley Watershed Project		Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Draft Plan-EA Comment Card					
Name			City		Zip
Address					
Email			Phone		
Comments <u>Sadly I regret the piping of open canals in the Uinta basin. I think the the biggest waste of water due to evaporation is watering fields of alfalfa in the heat of the days and windy weather. What we stand to lose in wildlife habitat, Recreation, and the experience of walking along the canals, can't be measured. I hope if there is a chance of saving any of these values, the project should go ahead gently and generously knowing how much the canals have ment to generations of residents</u> thanks. [redacted]					

Comment 6:

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 2:23 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Kids canal comments

My comments and concerns regarding Kids Canal:

1. Preserve running water, allowing access for children of all ages.
2. Preserve as many mature trees on the East side of the canal, along the walking path, as possible.
3. Repair the pavement on the walking path.
4. Designate parking spaces on Main Street.
5. Signage or kiosk that includes information about history of Kid's Canal and names of common trees, plants and animals found along the walking path.
6. Picnic tables and trash cans at the two primary swimming holes.

Thank you for working with our community to find a compromise to the piping of Ashley Central Canal.

Comment 7:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 6:21 PM
To: Ashley Watershed Plan <email@ashleywatershed.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on final plan

Thank you for your efforts. After joining your Nov 15 meeting, these are my comments.

1. When the pathway is rebuilt, it should not be any wider than it currently is. The advantage of additional width so that more people can walk side by side is far outweighed by the loss of green space.
2. The amount of margin beyond the pathway that is maintained as grass should be minimized. Not only is it an ongoing maintenance issue, but again, this green space is mostly for walking and enjoying the nature, not throwing frisbees or playing on a lawn.
3. Benches with firm backs are good; picnic tables would take up too much space, and would encourage people to eat there. While that is not currently prohibited, I don't think it should be encouraged. I foresee a trash problem.
4. A brief survey of the native species that "volunteered" to grow there should be maintained, and those species, if possible, be retained or replanted after construction. There are people in the community that would be glad of the opportunity to help.
5. While a native mix of pollinator plants is a good idea, again, the naturally occurring pollinator plants should be retained and encouraged. There are people in the community that would be glad of the opportunity to help.
6. Invasive Russian olive should be cut back. There are people in the community that would be glad of the opportunity to help.
7. It is possible that the amounts of water discussed will be insufficient for the cottonwood trees, but I do not know. We will find out. But the smaller trees and larger shrubs could, I think, maintain themselves, and the shade they throw is a critical element to Kids Canal.
8. The special service district could give ownership to these interested parties, who have long been involved with the canal. For example, Uintah High School natural resources students can easily walk down to the canal from the school, and could help devise management strategies, and help with maintenance. USU and Terra Academy could be approached about the same possibilities.

Comment Summary

- 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.

ADDENDUM 3: 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 comments and questions 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 June 2022 Public Open House and July 2022 Public Meeting are addressed in Addendum 1.

Following the July 2022 Public Meeting and public comment period, the Draft Plan-EA was updated to reflect the new design variation, revised alternatives and to address the substantive public comments received during the comment period. A third Public Meeting was held on November 15, 2022 following the update to the Draft Plan-EA. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, NRCS published the updated Draft Plan-EA for public comment on November 7, 2022. Details for the third Public Meeting are addressed in Addendum 2.

The Draft Plan-EA was updated following the November 2022 Public Meeting to reflect recreation and cultural mitigation updates. NRCS published the Draft Plan-EA for a fourth public comment period on January 4, 2023. The public comment period was held January 18, 2023 through February 17, 2023. A mailer was sent to stakeholders on January 11, 2023. The notice of availability and mailer are included in Attachment 1.

Draft Plan-EA Public Involvement Process

Comments Received

Participants were invited to submit comments in writing by mail or email during the public comment period. The public comment period for the Draft Plan-EA officially opened on January



18, 2023 and ended on February 17, 2023. A total of two comments were received during the comment period. A copy of the comments 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 during the fourth public comment period.

- Construction timing recommendations for wildlife
- Appreciation for the collaborative efforts between all parties
- Integration and authorization of private landowners, particularly along Kids Canal

Summary

The Draft Plan-EA was updated following the November 2022 Public Meeting to reflect recreation and cultural mitigation updates. The Draft-Plan EA was issued for a 30-day public comment period to provide stakeholders an opportunity to review the recreation and cultural mitigation updates from January 18, 2023 to February 17, 2023. Two comments were received. The Final Plan-EA and Finding of No Significant Impact was issued after the comment period closed.

HELPING EACH OTHER
CREATE BETTER COMMUNITIES



**THE
LANGDON
GROUP**



**GATEWAY
MAPPING
INC.**

J-U-B FAMILY OF COMPANIES

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Draft Plan-EA Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

Attachment 2 – January 18, 2023 - February 17, 2023 Public Comment Period Comments

Comment Summary

Attachment 1 – Draft Plan-EA Materials

Public Notice of Availability

Mailer

ASHLEY WATERSHED

DRAFT PLAN-EA AVAILABLE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Uintah County notify the public of the availability of the DRAFT Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project in Vernal. Recent design modifications for the Kids Canal section of the project and other proposed improvements are included in the document.

No public meeting will be held in conjunction with this action; however, public comments can be submitted on the updated DRAFT Plan-EA during the comment period starting **January 18, 2023** and ending on **February 17, 2023**. **Comments must be postmarked by February 17, 2023.**

On January 18, 2023, 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 can be accessed on the NRCS Project webpage: www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/utah/ashley-valley-watershed-sponsoruintah-county-utah

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the below address. All comments should be directed to The Langdon Group:

Email: email@ashleywatershed.com

Phone: (435) 213-2872

Mail: 466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ashley Valley Watershed Project Uintah County, Utah

Draft Plan-EA Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Uintah County **notify the public of the availability of the DRAFT Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project in Vernal.** Recent design modifications for the Kids Canal section of the project and other proposed improvements are included in the document.

No public meeting will be held in conjunction with this action; however, public comments can be submitted on the updated DRAFT Plan-EA during the **comment period starting January 18, 2023 and ending on February 17, 2023. Comments must be postmarked by February 17, 2023.**

Review the Draft Plan-EA

On January 18, 2023, 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 can be accessed on the NRCS Project webpage: www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/utah/ashley-valley-watershed-sponsoruintah-county-utah

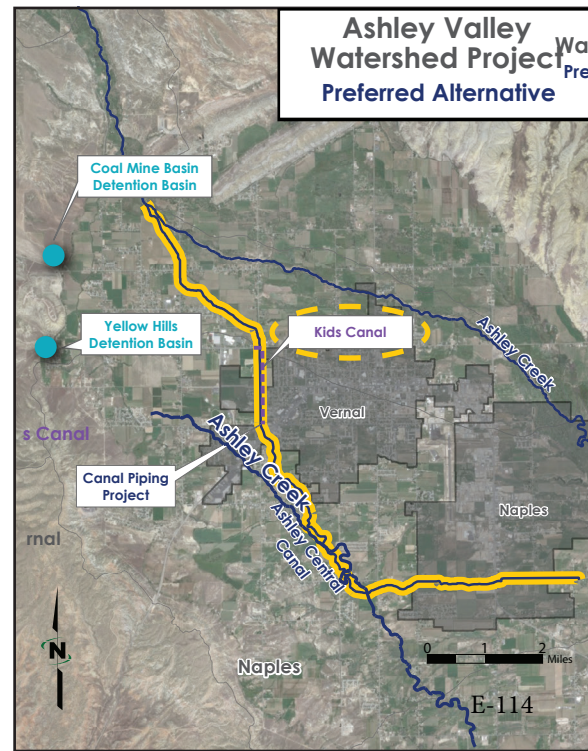
Submit a Comment

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the below address. All comments should be directed to The Langdon Group:

Email: email@ashleywatershed.com

Phone: (435) 213-2872

Mail: 466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037






NRCS invites you to submit comments on the updated DRAFT Plan-EA during the **comment period starting January 18, 2023 and ending on February 17, 2023.**

Comments must be postmarked by February 17, 2023.

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 by calling the project hotline.



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**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

Attachment 2 – January 18, 2023 - February 17, 2023 Public Comment Period Comments
Comment Summary

Ashley Valley Watershed Project
DRAFT PLAN-EA Public Comment Period: January 18, 2023 – February 17, 2023

Two (2) comments were received:

From: Cindy Smith <sindysmith@utah.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 11:39 AM

To: Ashley Watershed Plan <email@ashleywatershed.com>; Evenstad, Norm - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <norm.evenstad@usda.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments: Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Norm,

Please see attached comments (below) concerning the Ashley Valley Watershed Project.

Thank you,

Sindy

--



Sindy Smith
RDCC Coordinator

M: (385) 522-0007

E: sindysmith@utah.gov

Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
1594 W N Temple St, STE 320, Salt Lake City, UT 84116



publiclands.utah.gov



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

REDGE B. JOHNSON
Director

February 17, 2023

Submitted electronically at: email@ashleywatershed.com and norm.evenstad@usda.gov

Norm Evenstad
USDA-NRCS
125 South State Street – Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

RE: **Ashley Valley Watershed Project**
RDCC Project No. 85194

Dear Mr. Evenstad:

The state of Utah (State) through Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) supports the Ashley Valley Watershed Project sponsored by Uintah County to prevent flood damages, further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of irrigation and flood waters and further the conservation and proper utilization of agriculture land. PLPCO, in collaboration with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), submits the following comments for your consideration.

The Coal Hill detention basin's proposed location would be within crucial mule deer winter habitat. DWR recommends construction on the detention basin occur outside of the crucial winter period for mule deer, December 1 - April 15, to minimize disturbance. If you have questions contact Tom Platero, Impact Analysis Biologist, tdplatero@utah.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments. Call to discuss any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Redge B. Johnson
Director

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:19 PM
To: Ashley Watershed Plan <email@ashleywatershed.com>; norm.evenstad@usda.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ashley Valley Watershed Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

The private landowners impacted by this proposal and alternatives need to be consulted and their authorization obtained, in particular the landowners along the section called Kids Canal. That said, I would like to express my appreciation for all of the work that has been put into this project and the numerous drafts that have been submitted based on feedback from the community. I'm pleased to see that these open comment periods have been both beneficial and productive towards improving the plan set for this proposal and alternatives.

However, the lack of integration and authorization of the private landowners on the portion of this plan called Kids Canal needs to be addressed. Kids Canal is private land that landowners have allowed the public to access, however, decisions about improvements or modifications to infrastructure on this land in the plan need to include the landowners input and authorization. The plan now includes things like improvement and widening of the walking path, shade structures, an information kiosk, and more, which is all going to be placed on private land. Decisions that impact or modify the private land along Kids Canal need to be discussed and approved by the landowners and not simply assumed.

To go along with integration and authorization of the landowners along Kids Canal, an updated MOU needs to be put into place to reflect the changes that are being proposed by this new plan and proposal. The original MOU from 1992 was created to ensure transparency between the private landowners and the government entities that would be maintaining and adding to these greenways. The 1992 MOU has been a vital source document for this current proposal and has helped to give guidance and direction based on the original intent of this greenway. The understanding that was created with the original MOU needs to continue and be updated as this plan moves forward, this includes updating the landowners on changes this plan will have on their land and the landowners approval of modifications that will be made, which an updated MOU will reflect.

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]

Comment Summary

- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) noted that since the proposed location of the Coal Hill detention basin is within crucial mule deer winter habitat, the agency recommends that construction of the basin occur outside of crucial winter period for mule deer, December 1 – April 16, to minimize disturbance.
- Appreciation was expressed for the collaborative efforts between all parties that have been both beneficial and productive towards improving the overall watershed plan and proposed alternatives.
- Noted that integration and authorization of private landowners, especially along Kids Canal, is needed moving forward. Decisions about improvements or modifications to infrastructure on this land needs to include landowner input and authorization and an updated MOU should be created to reflect the changes.