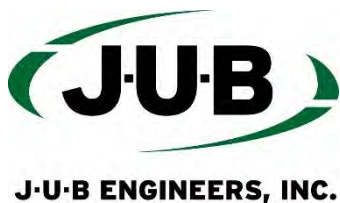


Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project

Scoping Report Final

Prepared by: J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.

Prepared for: NRCS Utah



January 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Project Purpose and Need	2
1.2 Scoping Goals and Objectives	2
SECTION 2 SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY	3
2.0 Scoping Overview.....	3
2.1 Scoping Terms	3
2.2 Scoping Schedule.....	3
2.3 Scoping Notice.....	3
2.4 Scoping Meeting	4
2.5 Mailing Lists	4
SECTION 3 COMMENTS	5
3.0 Public Open House	5
3.1 Comments Received	5
3.1.1 Comment Categories.....	5
3.2 Stakeholder Meetings.....	6
3.2.1 Friends of the Kids Canal.....	6
3.2.2 McNaughten Gulch Water Users	7

Appendices

Appendix A	Scoping Notices
	Scoping Letter
	Scoping Flyer
	Newspaper Notice
	Scoping Notice Mailing List
Appendix B	Scoping Meeting Materials
	Scoping Meeting Display Boards
	Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
	Scoping Comments
Appendix C	Post-Scoping Comments and Stakeholder Meetings
	Post-Scoping Comments
	Stakeholder Meeting Summaries

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), in cooperation with Uintah County as the project sponsor, is proposing to construct two detention basins, pipe and pressurize 9.6 miles of Ashley Central Canal, replace 38 existing turnout meters, install two screening structures, and construct a new inlet control structure at the McNaughten tie-in to turnout #13. The canal would be regraded and would then function as a floodwater conveyance facility. The lower 1,500 feet of the canal would be piped to convey floodwater. This project would also construct three miles of a 10-foot-wide, paved recreation trail along a portion of the Steinaker Service Canal and Ashley Central Canal.

The Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project (Proposed Project) is being partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566) with matching funding coming from the Ashley Central Irrigation Company. NRCS, as the lead federal agency, has initiated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis in the form of a Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) to analyze impacts to the natural and human environment that could result from this project. The Plan-EA will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The Plan-EA will be comprised of the following elements:

- Alternatives analysis of potential design options that would meet current NRCS engineering performance criteria which may include the following:
 - No Action: The Coal Mine and Yellow Hills detention basins would not be constructed and the Ashley Central Canal would not be piped and pressurized. Pedestrian and bicycle trails also would not be installed along Ashley Central Canal or Steinaker Service Canal. The existing infrastructure would remain the same. This alternative would not result in any additional costs.
 - Alternative 1: Construct two detention basins, pipe and pressurize 9.6 miles of Ashley Central Canal, replace 38 existing turnout meters, install two screening structures, construct a new inlet control structure at the McNaughten tie-in to turnout #13, and construct three miles of a 10-foot-wide, paved recreation trail along a portion of the Steinaker Service Canal and Ashley Central Canal.
 - Alternative 2: Construct two detention basins, pipe 9.6 miles of Ashley Central Canal and partially pressurize Ashley Central Canal, replace 38 existing turnout meters, install two screening structures, and construct three miles of a 10-foot-wide, paved recreation trail along a portion of the Steinaker Service Canal and Ashley Central Canal.
- Detailed analysis of resources with the potential to be impacted by the alternatives that would satisfy the purpose and need for the project.
- Identification of potential mitigation measures that would minimize or eliminate environmental impacts.

- Public participation and government agency coordination through scoping and the development of the Plan-EA.

Public participation is a key component of this project. Those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed alternatives were provided with an opportunity to share concerns and provide input regarding the Plan-EA during the initial stages of the process. This Scoping Report outlines the work performed to involve the local communities through a public information meeting and comment period, and discusses the comments received from interested agencies and the general public during the comment period.

1.1 Project Purpose and Need

USDA-NRCS evaluated the Ashley Valley Watershed Flood & Irrigation Project to receive funding under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO). Under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, WFPO provides for cooperation between the Federal government and the states, or their political subdivisions, for preventing erosion, floodwater and sediment damage, and to further conservation development. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to provide flood damage prevention and reduction, agricultural water management (i.e., irrigation modernization), and recreational facilities for Vernal City, Naples, and surrounding portions of Uintah County immediately outside those incorporated towns. The Proposed Project is needed to prevent runoff, erosion, and sediment damage in the areas downstream of the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub-basins, as well as address water loss in Ashley Central Canal by conserving water lost to seepage, evaporation, and inefficient irrigation delivery systems. The Proposed Project is also essential to address recreational facility needs in the project area.

1.2 Scoping Goals and Objectives

The goal of public participation and involvement is to initiate communication between a diverse group of public and government agency participants in order to gather input and provide timely information throughout the NEPA process. The primary tasks that accomplish this communication are: 1) establishing ongoing communication with stakeholders, agencies, and the general public, 2) providing information to the public about the environmental review process and each participant's role, and 3) documenting all public and government agency input.

SECTION 2

SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY

2.0 Scoping Overview

Scoping questions, comments, and concerns about the Proposed Project were requested during the scoping period. The following summarizes the scoping process and efforts made to engage the public, regulatory agencies and other interested parties.

2.1 Scoping Terms

The following terms can be generally used during the scoping process to identify specific actions, when necessary:

- Comment: a distinct statement or question about a topic or issue relating to the project.
- Comment Category: a topic to which a comment is addressed.
- Comment Document: a written version of comment(s) submitted by a commenter. One comment document may contain multiple comments.
- Commenter: an individual, organization or agency providing one or more comments.

2.2 Scoping Schedule

The following dates outline the milestones for the scoping process:

- April 4, 2019: Preliminary Kick-off Meeting
- May 3, 2019: Scoping Notice Posted to NRCS Project Website
- May 7, 2019: Public Notice Published in the Vernal Express and Uintah Basin Standard Newspapers
- May 7, 2019: Scoping Mailings sent to Public and Agencies
- May 23, 2019: Public Scoping Open House
- June 7, 2019: Scoping Period Closed

2.3 Scoping Notice

Scoping notices were prepared and sent to interested parties and regulatory agencies on May 7, 2019. The list of recipients was prepared by NRCS, Ashley Central Irrigation Company, Uintah County, and J-U-B Engineers, Inc (J-U-B). The scoping notice gave a description of the Proposed Project, location and overview, and requested public participation and input. The scoping notice also provided details of the scoping meeting, contact information to submit written comments, and the scoping period open and closure dates. The scoping notice also was posted to the NRCS Project Website. Copies of the scoping notices are included within Appendix A.

Public meeting announcements were also published May 7, 2019 and May 14, 2019 in the Vernal Express and Uintah Basin Standard newspapers announcing the Proposed Project and scoping meeting. Copies of the newspaper legal notices are included within Appendix A.

The legal notice was also posted to the State Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) website listed as Project Number 68923.

2.4 Scoping Meeting

The primary purpose of the scoping meeting was to gather input and feedback on the Proposed Project while providing a description of the potential Proposed Project alternatives and an overview of the NEPA process. The scoping meeting set up the development of the project purpose and need statement, potential alternatives for consideration, environmental resources to be addressed in the EA, methodologies to be used to evaluate impacts, and the overarching public participation process per NEPA regulations. A combined government agency and public scoping open house was held on May 23, 2019 from 6 to 8 PM to gather as broad an audience as possible at the Uintah County Western Park Event Center in Vernal, Utah. The meeting was an open house-style meeting with display boards describing the Proposed Project, the Plan-EA schedule, and how to submit comments with project team representatives there to answer questions. Scoping meeting materials and display boards that were on display at the meeting can be found in Appendix B.

2.5 Mailing Lists

The mailing list was prepared by NRCS, Ashley Central Irrigation Company, Uintah County, and J-U-B to inform the government agencies and general public about the scoping process for the project. A total of 24 mailings were sent to government agencies. In total, 2,200 mailings were sent to the public, which represents the Ashley Central Irrigation Company shareholders, property owners with property adjacent to the Ashley Central Canal, and property owners near the proposed Yellow Hills and Coal Mine Basins. A copy of the mailing list is included in Appendix A.

SECTION 3 COMMENTS

3.0 Public Open House

The public scoping open house was conducted on May 23, 2019. Thirty-eight (38) public attendees, four (4) project team members from J-U-B, two (2) NRCS representatives, one (1) U.S. Bureau of Reclamation representative, and several project sponsor representatives signed in at the scoping meeting. Attendance at the meeting was counted using a sign-in sheet that is located in Appendix B.

3.1 Comments Received

Participants were invited to submit comments in writing either at the meeting or subsequently by mail or e-mail during the scoping comment period. Comment cards were handed out at the meeting, which provided a blank space to submit written comments.

The scoping period officially opened on May 9, 2019 and ended on June 7, 2019, a total of 30 days. Written comments were accepted via mail, e-mail, or comment card. There were twenty-four (24) scoping comments received for the Proposed Project. Comments can be found in Appendix B.

3.1.1 Comment Categories

The methodology for categorizing and addressing public and agency comments is to identify the nature of the comment and then to separate each of the comments into comment categories. The following categories were created for scoping purposes and are listed below.

- Decision Making Authority
- Environmental Resource Concerns
 - Wildlife & Plant Impacts
 - Fishing and Recreation Impacts
 - Impacts to Property Owner Enhancements (Bridges, Pond, Rope Swings, Waterfalls, etc.)
 - Impacts to Trees
 - Visual Impacts
 - Impacts to Private Wells
 - Pollution Impacts
 - Potential Property Impacts
 - Long-Term Maintenance Impacts
- Design
 - Pipe Canal in Existing Canal Prism – Not in The Bank of the Canal
 - Using Existing Canal for Stormwater Is Not Necessary
- Socio-Economic Impacts
- Historic Open Water Source Impacts
- Safety
- Reduce Erosion and Runoff
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Dredge and Fill Permit
 - 401 Water Quality Certificate and/or General Construction UPDES Permit

- Floodplain Development Permit
 - Compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Treatments Including Contour Furrowing, Reseeding, Grazing Management, Fencing, and Road Management Should Be Considered at Detention Basins
- NEPA Process

3.2 Stakeholder Meetings

Following the public open house, the project team met with several groups to receive comments and discuss various aspects of the proposed improvements.

3.2.1 Friends of the Kids Canal

During the public scoping period, a group known as the Friends of the Kids Canal expressed opposition to the Proposed Project, specifically between 500 North and Main Street, on the premise that the canal's open water feature is an important community recreational resource that should be preserved.

The group hosted a public information booth on the canal trail on August 17, 2019. Representatives from the Ashley Central Irrigation Company, the consultant engineering company, and approximately fifteen (15) residents attended the booth. Members of the public visited with the irrigation company representatives and consultants at the event about the scope of proposed improvements and expected impacts to the canal.

The group requested a meeting with the project team to discuss the group's concerns. Three (3) members of the consultant team met with two (2) group representatives on October 20, 2019. A meeting summary is included in Appendix B.

An additional six (6) e-mailed comments and a document with two-hundred forty-seven (247) signatures and comments were received from the group after the official scoping comment period closed. Comments are included in Appendix C. Major comment themes are summarized below:

- Maintaining running water
 - Provides an oasis in a busy world - retreat
 - Ponds and fishing, wading, swimming
 - Maintain riparian habitat and local aquifers and water table
- Maintaining trees
 - Trees will die without water from the open canal
 - Trees function as a natural wind break and privacy barrier from the road
 - Trees enhance the area by providing valuable shade, natural beauty and vegetation
 - Protect and enhance environmental quality and improve aesthetics
- Maintaining wildlife
 - Deer, waterfowl, frogs, fish, ducks, geese, birds, nesting birds can be found in the area
 - Put in "guzzlers" for animals that rely on open water
- Provides a recreational and educational resource for all ages
 - Provides educational opportunities - fun/safe place to teach kids the value of historic natural places
 - Encourage adventure/imagination
 - In the past, the area was used to host class projects, youth conferences, scout camps, cub scout nature walks (requirements for nature merit badge)

- Terra Academy School is planning to create a native plant area for those utilizing the walking path behind the school
- Promotes healthy living
 - Maintain activities for a healthy lifestyle
 - Walking, jogging, biking, walking dogs
 - Keep canal bed clean and free of trash
 - Green space is good for mental health
- Provides a place for recreation
 - Place to attract tourists and visitors
 - Bridges, zip lines
- The canal is a community feature
 - Maintains familial ties and cultural/historical value
 - Peaceful/serene place to sit/think
 - Community park feature that provides a place to take family photographs, place for painters
 - Socialization hub, easy access
 - Has been a place for Vernal Youth Council beautification project, amongst other volunteer projects
- Do not build a “road”
 - Maintains rural way of life
 - Keeps property owners from building and fencing too close to canal and encroaching on easement
 - When project is complete, construction areas should be scarified, leveled and vegetated with an appropriate species of grass or other vegetation
- Minimize encroachment on private property
 - All existing private structures and improvements damaged or removed should be replaced by the project
 - Add rock rip-rap to banks of canal bed to ease maintenance

3.2.2 McNaughten Gulch Water Users

Representatives from the Ashley Central Irrigation Company, Utah Division of Water Rights and consultant team met with McNaughten Gulch water users on January 8, 2020 to discuss any impacts on their water access from the proposed piping of the Ashley Central Canal. There were ten (10) stakeholders in attendance representing McNaughten water users. A meeting sign-in sheet and summary are included in Appendix C.

APPENDIX A

SCOPING NOTICES

Scoping Letter

Scoping Flyer

Newspaper Scoping Notices

Scoping Notice Mailing List



United States Department of Agriculture

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

To: Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Ashley Valley Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment, Uintah County, Utah

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proposing a project sponsored by Uintah County to use Federal funds to construct two large debris/detention basins to receive and detain runoff and debris from the Coal Mine and the Yellow Hills subbasins which are located east of the city of Vernal in Uintah County, Utah. Funds would also be used to pipe the entire length of the Ashley Central Canal to gain irrigation efficiency and pressurize portions of the pipe to improve downstream water quality.

The Ashley Central Canal is part of a larger network of open canals that convey irrigation water throughout the area and also serve as storm water diversion and flood protection infrastructure during heavy precipitation events. During exceptional storm events, the canals can become overwhelmed causing water to overtop the canal banks and impact populated areas with water, sediment, and debris. These large storm events have caused widespread flooding and significant damage to downstream residents and agricultural lands. Construction of two debris detention basins capable of accommodating a 50 to 100-year flood event upstream of affected areas would reduce flooding risk to the local community, particularly during periods of heavy precipitation and flash flood events.

In addition to flood protection, this project would pipe the Ashley Central Canal to prevent seepage loss and improve irrigation efficiency for agricultural users in the area. The Ashley Central Canal is approximately 9.6 miles long and delivers irrigation water to 38 turnouts servicing over 4,000 acres of agricultural land. A seepage loss study conducted in 2017 determined an annual loss of approximately 6,000 acre-feet occurs along the length of the canal. Additionally, agricultural producers that receive irrigation from the Ashley Central Canal opt to flood irrigate due to lack of a pressurized system precluding the use of sprinkler irrigation. Runoff from this irrigation practice is directly impacting water quality in Ashley Creek, the downstream receiving water body and a tributary of the Green River which ultimately drains to the Colorado River.

Piping the Ashley Central Canal would improve irrigation efficiency by eliminating seepage loss from the canal. Upper and lower portions of the piped system measuring approximately 3.7 and 2.6 miles, respectively, would be pressurized allowing agricultural users along those sections to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This conversion would improve water quality in Ashley Creek and downstream water bodies. Upon piping and backfilling the canal, a public walking and biking path would be constructed on top of the canal to provide additional recreation opportunities and travel corridors for community members.

The proposed project would be located in Vernal City and Naples City, Utah (see attached project location exhibit). Construction is estimated for a two-year period from October 2020 to April 2022, pending environmental approval. Construction activities associated with the irrigation system would occur each year from October 1 to April 30, outside of the typical irrigation season.

NRCS will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) NEPA implementing regulations. This EA will analyze the potential impacts of the Proposed Project. As required by the NEPA implementing regulations, if potentially

significant impacts to the human environment are identified, an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared. If no significant impacts are identified, the NRCS will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

This letter begins the process of preparing the aforementioned EA. Its purpose is to give notice of the proposed action, and to invite interested parties to comment on the EA's scope of analysis, or raise specific issues that they feel should be analyzed in the EA. This letter is being sent to municipalities, organizations, and agencies, which might have interest in the Proposed Project.

/S/

BRONSON SMART, P.E.

State Conservation Engineer, Program Manager

Ashley Valley Project Location Map



Coal Mine Basin
Detention / Debris Basin

Yellow Hills
Detention / Debris Basin

Canal Piping
Project

Vernal

Naples

Ashley Creek

Ashley Central
Canal

The public is invited to attend, discuss, and submit a comment during the public open house, which will be held on:

May 23, 2019 • Thursday, 6 - 8 p.m.

*Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South
Vernal, UT 84078*

Ashley Valley Watershed Project Uintah County, Utah

Public Scoping Notice

Project Information

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with assistance of Uintah County and Ashley Central Irrigation Company as the project sponsors, is proposing improvements within the Ashley Valley Watershed.

Several improvements are being proposed:

1. The construction of two large debris/detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub basins to provide storage for debris and stormwater during large storm and flash flood events protecting residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, and businesses.
2. Piping 9.6 miles of the Ashley Central Canal including the pressurization of 6.3 miles of the canal.
3. The construction of three miles of recreation trails for bike and pedestrian use, giving access to educational, recreational, and business facilities nearby.

Improvements under consideration will address flood protection, watershed protection, agricultural water management, and public recreation development. An evaluation of potential alternatives and associated environmental impacts is required and will be documented in the form of an Environmental Assessment. NRCS and Uintah County are holding a public meeting to provide information about the proposed project and to collect comments.




At this time, NRCS is requesting comments on the project to identify issues and resource sensitivities. Written or emailed comments can be submitted during the open comment period starting May 9, 2019 and ending on June 7, 2019.


Comments must be postmarked by June 7, 2019.

How to Submit a Comment

All comments should be directed to:

Marcus Murdock
The Langdon Group

 466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037

 (435) 213-2872

 email@ashleywatershed.com

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the above address or submitted during the public scoping meeting.

Por favor
contáctenos al
(435) 213-2872 ó
email@ashleywatershed.com
para información en
Español.

Utah State Office
**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

nrcs.usda.gov/



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

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

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



COURTESY - TRICOUNTY HEALTH

Basin teens carry lumber to be used to build garden boxes at TriCounty Health Department office on Saturday, May 4.

Proposed Ashley Valley Watershed Plan, Uintah County, Utah Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, May 23, 6 – 8 p.m.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Uintah County and Ashley Central Irrigation Company as the project sponsors, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], the Ashley Valley Watershed Plan in Uintah County, Utah. The proposed improvements include 1) the construction of two large debris/detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub basins to provide storage for debris and stormwater during large storm and flash flood events protecting residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, and businesses; 2) piping 9.6 miles of the Ashley Central Canal including the pressurization of 6.3 miles of the canal; 3) construction of three miles of recreation trails for bike and pedestrian use, giving access to educational, recreational, and business facilities nearby. Improvements under consideration will address flood protection, watershed protection, agricultural water management, and public recreation development.

NRCS will hold an open house to provide information about the proposed project and to collect comments.* The public is invited to attend, discuss the project and submit comments during the open house on:

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Location: Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South
Vernal, UT 84078

Written comments can be submitted during the public scoping period starting May 9, 2019 and ending on June 7, 2019. All questions and comments should be directed to:

Marcus Murdock, The Langdon Group
466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037
435-213-2872 phone
email@ashleywatershed.com

Comments must be postmarked by June 7, 2019. Additional information may be found at the NRCS project website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ut/programs/planning/wpfp/>

***Por favor contactenos al 435.213.2872 ó email@ashleywatershed.com para información en Español.**

COURT FELONY FILINGS

HARLAN, Harley,
20, three counts second-
degree felony distribute/
offer/arrange distribution
of controlled substance;
three counts class A mis-
demeanor manufacture/
deliver drug parapherna-
lia.

THULLEN, Nicole,
35, three counts second-
degree felony distribute/
offer/arrange distribution

PARKS, Jared, 27,
third-degree felony pos-
session or use of a con-

trolled substance; class A misdemeanor possession of controlled substance marijuana/spice; class B misdemeanor use or possession of drug paraphernalia.

CLARK, Toby (Toby William), 53, second-degree felony poss w/ intent to dist c/substance; class A misdemeanor possession or use of a controlled

substance; class B misdemeanor use or possession of drug paraphernalia.

DUCHESNE COUNTY

ELDRIDGE, Adam Burr,
37, third-degree felony
criminal nonsupport.

KELSEY, Tyler W, 18, third-degree felony forgery; class B misdemeanor theft.

Source: Utah Courts

**Proposed Ashley Valley Watershed Plan, Uintah County, Utah
Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, May 23, 6 – 8 p.m.**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Uintah County and Ashley Central Irrigation Company as the project sponsors, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], the Ashley Valley Watershed Plan in Uintah County, Utah. The proposed improvements include 1) the construction of two large debris/detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub basins to provide storage for debris and stormwater during large storm and flash flood events protecting residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, and businesses; 2) piping 9.6 miles of the Ashley Central Canal including the pressurization of 6.3 miles of the canal; 3) construction of three miles of recreation trails for bike and pedestrian use, giving access to educational, recreational, and business facilities nearby. Improvements under consideration will address flood protection, watershed protection, agricultural water management, and public recreation development.

NRCS will hold an open house to provide information about the proposed project and to collect comments.* The public is invited to attend, discuss the project and submit comments during the open house on:

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: Uintah County Western Park

302 East 200 South

Vernal, UT 84078

Written comments can be submitted during the public scoping period starting May 9, 2019 and ending on June 7, 2019. All questions and comments should be directed to:

Marcus Murdock, The Langdon Group

466 North 900 West

Kaysville, Utah 84037

435-213-2872 phone

email@ashlevwatershed.com

Comments must be postmarked by June 7, 2019. Additional information may be found at the NRCS project website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ut/programs/planning/wpfp/>

*Por favor contactenos al 435.213.2872 ó email@ashleywatershed.com para información en Español.

wasted on expensive care for patients slowly dying as hope fades. A market price would emerge and people

with good organs would respond to the incentive -- probably mostly in the form of prospective post-mortem

donors looking to ease their families' losses. Of course, there would be a place for ethical con-

siderations in that process. Hopefully better considerations than the currently prevailing ones.

COURT FELONY FILINGS

(Bryan Ray), 49, first-degree felony distribute/offer/arrange distribution of controlled substance; class A misdemeanor manufacture/deliver drug paraphernalia.

LARSEN, Sean Raymond, 31, third-degree

felony endangerment of child or elder adult; class A misdemeanor possession or use of a controlled substance; class B misdemeanor or possession of controlled substance marijuana/spice; class B misdemeanor use or possession of drug para-

phernalia.

DUCHESNE COUNTY GARDNER, Anthony Arlen, 31, third-degree felony possession of a dangerous weapon by restricted; class A misdemeanor threat/use of dangerous weapon in fight.

WYASKET, Telly Maurice, 33, two counts second-degree felony forgery; two counts class A misdemeanor or theft.

POOWEGUP, Casper Fightshard, 23, second-degree felony kidnapping. **Source: Utah Courts**

Proposed Ashley Valley Watershed Plan, Uintah County, Utah Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, May 23, 6 - 8 p.m.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Uintah County and Ashley Central Irrigation Company as the project sponsors, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act [Public Law (PL) 83-566], the Ashley Valley Watershed Plan in Uintah County, Utah. The proposed improvements include 1) the construction of two large debris/detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub basins to provide storage for debris and stormwater during large storm and flash flood events protecting residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, and businesses; 2) piping 9.6 miles of the Ashley Central Canal including the pressurization of 6.3 miles of the canal; 3) construction of three miles of recreation trails for bike and pedestrian use, giving access to educational, recreational, and business facilities nearby. Improvements under consideration will address flood protection, watershed protection, agricultural water management, and public recreation development.

NRCS will hold an open house to provide information about the proposed project and to collect comments. * The public is invited to attend, discuss the project and submit comments during the open house on:

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Location: Uintah County Western Park
302 East 200 South
Vernal, UT 84078

Written comments can be submitted during the public scoping period starting May 9, 2019 and ending on June 7, 2019. All questions and comments should be directed to:

Marcus Murdock, The Langdon Group
466 North 900 West
Kaysville, Utah 84037
435-213-2872 phone
email@ashleywatershed.com

Comments must be postmarked by June 7, 2019. Additional information may be found at the NRCS project website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ut/programs/planning/wpfp/>

*Por favor contactenos al 435.213.2872 ó email@ashleywatershed.com para información en Español.

Langdon Group

First Name	Last Name	Position	Agency	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip Code
Federal Agencies								
Amy	Defreese	Supervisory Fish & Wildlife Biologist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2369 Orton Circle	Ste. 50	West Valley City	Utah	84119
Dana	Allen	NEPA Compliance Sector Lead	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8	1595 Wynkoop Street		Denver	CO	80202-1129
Mike	Pectol	Project Manager	U.S. Army Corps, Bountiful Regulatory Office	533 West 2600 South	Ste. 150	Bountiful	Utah	84010-7744
Jason	Gipson	Chief	U.S. Army Corps, Bountiful Regulatory Office	533 West 2600 South	Ste. 150	Bountiful	Utah	84010-7744
Roger	Bankert	Field Manager	Bureau of Land Management, Green River District, Vernal Field Office	170 South 500 East		Vernal	Utah	84078
John	Erickson	Forest Supervisor	U.S. Forest Service, Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District	355 North Vernal Avenue		Vernal	Utah	84078
State & Local Agencies								
Ashley	Green	Habitat Section Chief	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	PO Box 146301		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114-6301
Erica	Gaddis	Division Director	Utah Division of Water Quality	PO Box 144870		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114-4870
James	Harris	Assistant Director	Utah Division of Water Quality	PO Box 144870		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114-4870
Leanna	Littler	Environmental Scientist	Utah Division of Water Quality	PO Box 144870		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114-4870
Chris	Merritt	Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	Utah Division of State History	300 S. Rio Grande Street		Salt Lake City	Utah	84101
Rich	Crosland	Environmental Manager	UDOT Region Three	658 North 1500 West		Orem	Utah	84057
Bill	Stringer	Uintah County Chairman	Uintah County	152 East 100 North		Vernal	Utah	84078
Ken	Matthews	Financial Operations Specialist	Utah State Clearinghouse	PO Box 132210		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114
Kris	Hamlet	Director	Utah Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management	1110 State Office Building		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114
Randy	Crozier	Green River District	Board of Water Resources	9509 North 3500 West		Neola	Utah	84053
Luann	Adams	Commissioner	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	PO Box 146500		Salt Lake City	Utah	84114-6500
Bob	Leake	Regional Engineer	Eastern Regional Office, Division of Water Rights	318 North Vernal Avenue		Vernal	Utah	84078
Sindy	Smith	RDCC Coordinator	Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office	350 North State Street	Ste. 5110	Salt Lake City	Utah	84103
Laura	Ault	Sovereign Lands Program Coordinator	Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands	1594 West North Temple	Ste. 3520	Salt Lake City	Utah	84114
Doug	Hammond	City Mayor	Vernal City	374 East Main Street		Vernal	Utah	84078
Dean	Baker	City Mayor	Naples City	1420 East 2850 South		Naples	Utah	84078
Travis	Bacon	City Mayor	Green River City	PO Box 620		Green River	Utah	84525
Tribes								
Darren	Parry	Chairman	Northwestern Band of Shoshone	707 North Main Street		Brigham City	Utah	84302
Candace	Bear	Chairwoman	Skull Valley Goshutes	407 Skull Valley Road		Skull Valley	Utah	84029
Luke	Duncan	Chairman	Ute Indian Tribe of the Unitah and Ouray Reservation	PO Box 190		Fort Duchesne	Utah	84026-0190
Tamra	Borchardt-Slayton	Chairwoman	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	440 North Paiute Drive		Cedar City	Utah	84702
Other								
Zachary	Frankel	Executive Director	Utah Rivers Council	1055 East 2100 South	Ste 201	Salt Lake City	Utah	84106

APPENDIX B

SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS

Scoping Meeting Display Boards

Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheets

Scoping Comments



United States Department of Agriculture

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Scoping Meeting



Utah State Office
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

WELCOME

to the Ashley Valley Watershed
Environmental Assessment
Public Scoping Meeting

May 23, 2019
6 - 8 p.m.

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Scoping Meeting



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 and Ashley Central Canal Company have received funding from NRCS's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program to evaluate improvements that include:

1. The construction of two large debris/detention basins for the Coal Mine and Yellow Hills sub basins to provide storage for debris and stormwater during large storm and flash flood events protecting residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, and businesses.
2. Piping 9.6 miles of the Ashley Central Canal including the pressurization of 6.3 miles of the canal.
3. The construction of three miles of recreation trails for bike and pedestrian use, giving access to educational, recreational, and business facilities nearby.

Improvements under consideration will address flood protection, watershed protection, agricultural water management, and public recreation development.

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Scoping Meeting



Utah State Office
**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

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 because there isn't flood control associated with the Coal Mine Basin and Yellow Hills Basin
- Mingling irrigation water and stormwater in existing canal

Recreation

- Lack of recreational trails and connectivity

PROJECT GOALS

- Pipe Ashley Central Canal
- Provide flood protection for residents, homes, properties, roadways, buildings, businesses, and other infrastructure.
- Create additional trails

Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Scoping Meeting



Utah State Office
**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

PROJECT AREA



Public Scoping Meeting



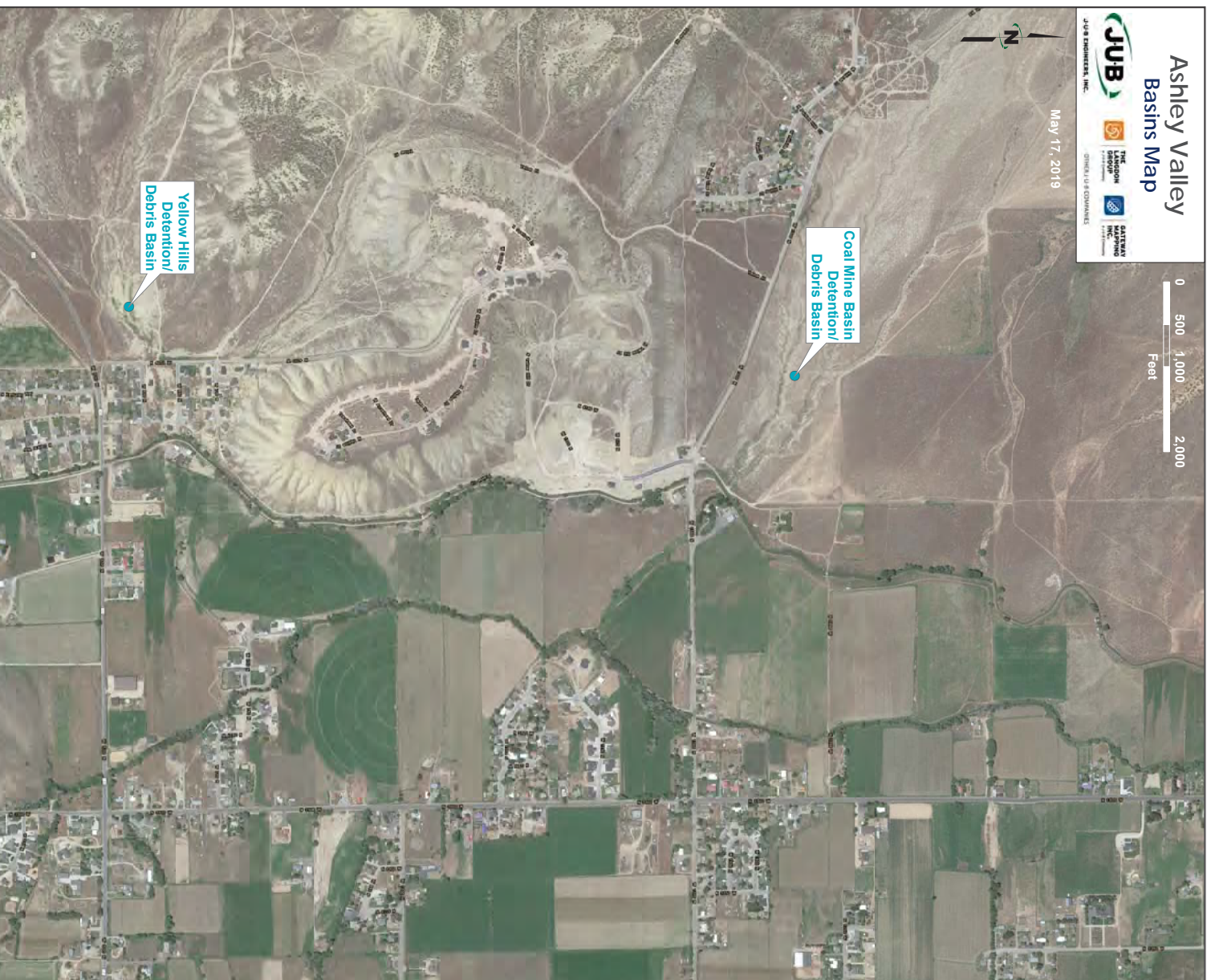
OF RECREATIONAL TRAILS



Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Scoping Meeting

PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF DEBRIS BASINS



Ashley Valley Watershed Project

Public Scoping Meeting



Utah State Office
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

NEPA PROCESS

Initiate Environmental Assessment

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

Collect Data

- Analyze existing conditions
- Identify needed resource surveys
- Agency consultation & coordination

Analyze Alternatives

- Analyze alternatives
- Evaluate potential impacts to environmental resources

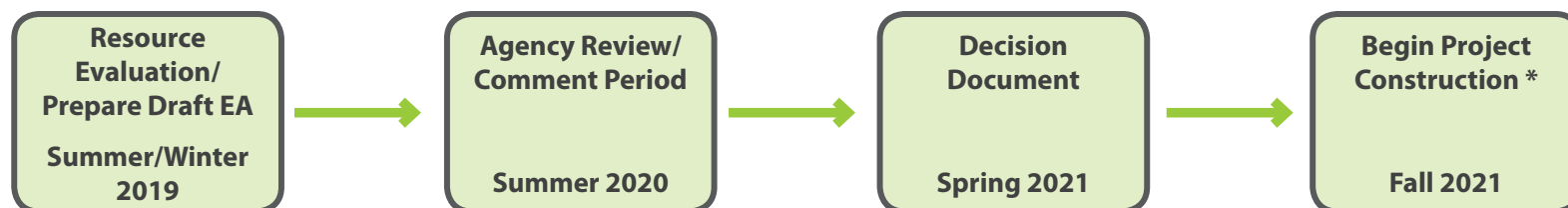
Draft Environmental Assessment

- Release Draft EA to public for review and comment
- Review all public and agency comments
- Prepare Final EA

Decision Document

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

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE



*(pending environmental approval)