



File Code: 1950/2720

Date: August 30, 2004

Dear Forest Interest:

The Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Uinta National Forest, is initiating scoping and requesting public comment on a proposal from the Utah County Public Works Department, in partnership with the Utah Communications Agency Network, to install about 1.5 miles of T1 fiber optic communications cable in American Fork Canyon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service is initiating environmental analysis of a proposal to install a communications cable that would connect to an existing telephone line near Hanging Rock (about 3 miles from the mouth of American Fork Canyon), and continue east to the South Fork Guard Station. The project area is located in Sections 24, 25 and 26 of Township 4 South, Range 2 East, Salt Lake Meridian, and lies within the American Fork Management Area of the Pleasant Grove Ranger District (See enclosed map). At the South Fork Guard Station, an 800 trunked radio system would be connected to the T1 fiber optic cable to provide better two-way communications from within American Fork Canyon to public service agencies located in Utah Valley.

As proposed, the project would use an existing copper cable extending from the mouth of American Fork Canyon to the intake - diversion dam for Utah Power's American Fork Canyon hydroelectric plant. The new T1 fiber optic cable would connect to the Utah Power's cable and be suspended on Utah Power's electric transmission lines to the South Fork Guard Station. This 7.2KV power line is authorized under a special-use permit to Utah Power.

At the South Fork Guard Station, the existing two-way radio and repeater system would be replaced by an 800 trunked system using three repeaters with battery and generator power backup. An 8-foot by 10-foot building would be installed at the South Fork Guard Station to house replacement communications equipment. Telephones would also be installed in Forest Service facilities at the Guard Station. Bringing the T1 communications options through copper and fiber optic cable would improve communications for emergency response services within American Fork Canyon for both the public and employees.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The *Purpose* of the proposed action is to provide better two-way communications from within American Fork Canyon to public service agencies located in Utah Valley. The *Need* for the proposed action is:

- The current use of microwave to carry the T1 circuit is not reliable.
- The only telephone service currently available at the South Fork Guard Station is a small hand-held satellite unit designated for emergency use, which is frequently unreliable.
- The radio base station at the South Fork Guard Station is equally unpredictable in this area of the canyon.



CONSISTENCY WITH THE 2003 UINTA NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Implementation of this project would be consistent with the American Fork Management Area desired future condition as described on page 5-22 of the 2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. As defined, “*Special uses for municipal water systems, communication and power line will continue to be permitted.*”

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF ANALYSIS

- Scoping and public review and comment on the proposed action begins with publication of a legal notice in the *Provo Daily Herald*, and ends 30 days later.
- The environmental analysis is tentatively scheduled to be completed and appropriate decisions made in the fall of 2004.
- It is anticipated that the analysis of this proposed action will be documented in a decision memo.
- Installation is expected to be initiated this year.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Send substantive comments relative to this proposal to the Responsible Official for this project, Pam Gardner, District Ranger, 390 N 100 E, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062; phone 801-342-5241; or you may hand deliver your comments during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. E-mail comments may be sent to comments-intermtn-uinta-pleasantgrove@fs.fed.us. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice for this project in the *Provo Daily Herald*. Your comments need to be as specific as possible and contain the following:

1. Your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;
2. Title of the document(s) on which comment is being submitted; and
3. Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that the person believes the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.

Thank you for your interest in management of the Uinta National Forest. For additional information about this proposal, please contact John Hendrix at 801-342-5257.

Sincerely,

/s/ Pamela J. Gardner
PAMELA J. GARDNER
Pleasant Grove District Ranger

Enclosures