

# DECISION MEMO

## Pole Heaven Trailhead Relocation

**USDA Forest Service**  
**Spanish Fork Ranger District, Uinta National Forest**  
**Utah County, UT**  
Township 7 South, Range 4 East, Section 20, Salt Lake Meridian

### **Background**

The Pole Heaven Trailhead is a popular site on the Spanish Fork Ranger District, Uinta National Forest. The Trailhead is located at the intersection of the Left Fork of Hobble Creek (FSR 132) and the Pole Heaven (FSR 027) roads. Frequent visitor use has resulted in traffic congestion and unsafe parking conditions at the current Trailhead location. The Forest Service has proposed relocation of the Trailhead 1.3 miles up the Pole Heaven road in order to improve public safety and the quality of the recreation experience.

### **Decision**

I have decided to implement the relocation of the Pole Heaven Trailhead. Improvement of existing recreation and transportation facilities will include a new cattleguard, gate, fencing, barriers, turnaround, parking, and signing.

Work will be accomplished by the Forest Service or a private contractor, under the guidance of a Forest Service Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). The COR will approve areas suitable for staging equipment and supplies. The contractor will be required to pressure wash all construction equipment prior to entering Forest Service land in order to reduce the risk of spreading noxious weeds

### **Reason for Categorical Exclusion**

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment because it falls under Section 31.1b, Item 5, of Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15 on Environmental Policies and Procedures. This category includes the repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

The categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. A biological analysis was conducted for the project and it has been determined that no proposed, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species would be adversely affected by the proposal. Additionally, the project area has been surveyed for the presence of cultural resources and it has been determined that the project would not affect these resources.

Neither a project file nor decision memo is required to document the decision. However, I have decided that this is the most appropriate manner in which to document my decision.

**Public Involvement**

Scoping efforts for this project consisted of a legal notice published in The Daily Herald on July 2, 2004 and letters were sent to interested individuals or groups. The mailing list for those receiving scoping letters is available for review in the project file at the Spanish Fork Ranger District office. The Forest Service received one response in favor of this project.

**Findings Required by Other Laws**

This decision is consistent with the revised Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as required by the National Forest Management Act. The project was designed in conformance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines. It is also consistent with other federal environmental laws, most notably, the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Implementation Date**

This project may be implemented immediately and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2004.

**Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is not subject to administrative appeal.

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Duane Resare at our Spanish Fork office at (801) 798-3571.

*/s/ William A.R. Ott*

*August 31, 2004*

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**WILLIAM A. R. OTT**  
**Responsible Official**  
**Spanish Fork District Ranger**

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**Date**

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