



File Code: 1900

Date: February 19, 2013

Weber County Planning
Attn: Jim Gentry
2380 Washington Blvd
Suite 240
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear Jim:

The USDA Forest Service, Ogden Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest has completed the preliminary review of the first phase of the Summit Eden/Powder Mountain Master Plan application to your office. Our review assumes that this entire proposal only applies to the privately owned properties adjacent to the National Forest.

We are coordinating with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Pam Kramer, to develop further comments concerning developments directly adjacent to the Middle Fork Wildlife Management area, jointly owned and managed by the two agencies. At this time, those comments are being developed.

We have the following comments or suggestions for your consideration.

1. This proposal is generally restricted to developments on the private lands adjacent to the National Forest. These developments will have an effect to the National Forest System lands just by the nature of increased numbers of recreation visitors in this currently undeveloped area. No approval for changes to National Forest can be approved through your planning efforts. We would expect Powder Mountain to contact us directly to propose projects for consideration on Forest Service property.
2. The developers and their representatives have begun the process with Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. A daily concern to the Forest Service is the risk assessment and planning for uncontrolled wildland forest fires. The vegetation throughout this private development as well as the adjacent National Forest lands is oak which has a close connected history with wildland fires. We would assume that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan will include some effort to strategically place water sources and an overview of how the roadways could aid or prevent the access by fire-fighting equipment. In addition, the Forest Service has nationally and locally contracted helicopters currently located in Mountain Green specifically for fire control.
3. There are numerous streams and drainages in the area. A primary mission of the Forest Service is maintaining or improving water quality. Currently, Pineview Reservoir is listed as an impaired because of phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. We encourage you to minimize potential impact on drainages, wetlands and ponds.



4. We have concerns with public safety for the skiers who leave your lift-served area to ski down to pick up points on State Road 158 either in Lefty's Canyon below your cat skiing area or near Bald Mountain, south of the top terminal of the Sundown lift. This use of the National Forest is not illegal but has been identified as a potential problem with great public risk. We would like to coordinate with the Ski Area to mark the boundaries in both areas and discuss the possibility of signs similar to the standard "Back Country access gates" used at permitted resorts such as Snowbasin.
5. In your trail plan, it shows a trail in Lefty's canyon trail classified as an "existing Downhill Biking (Extreme Difficult, one-way)". This trail is not a legal Forest Service system trail. You are welcome to propose new trails on National Forest lands but, we should discuss this as soon as possible because we will likely schedule the decommissioning of the route this summer. We are currently working with a group of local kids to remove the trail features they built without permission in Lefty's Canyon accessed by SR158.

Geertsen Canyon trail (6322) is an existing Forest Service system trail that begins in the valley near Pineview. It would be a shame not to connect this route to the proposed trail system on Powder Mountain. Also shown on the 2002 Ogden Valley Pathway Master Plan, jointly prepared by the Ogden Valley chapter of Weber Pathways and the National Park Service River and Trails program, are other routes such as the La Plata Ridge road and trails that connect into the Ogden Valley. Your new proposed trails would be a valuable addition to the trail system developing in the area.

6. We would suggest that creative ideas be encouraged to make this development exceptionally green. As an example, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications highlight the tactics other well-known resorts have used to reduce their impacts to the environment. In an effort to improve the air quality in this development and the adjacent communities in the Ogden Valley, the exclusive use of Natural Gas or propane in fireplaces rather than typical wood burning fires would make significant impact to the adjacent properties including the National Forest lands.

The USDA Forest Service is actively engaging and enlisting collaborator support in climate change discussions, responses, adaptation and mitigation. We encourage you to participate to build local public awareness and support for a climate change response.

7. Recreation activities in the Ogden Valley have grown and evolved especially since the 2002 Winter Olympic Games with Snowbasin as a venue. In the past, Powder Mountain has served an important local niche for winter and summer activities. The Ogden Ranger District is the local office of the USDA Forest Service which includes Snowbasin Resort and lands adjacent to Wolf Mountain. As you consider new outdoor recreational activities, feel free to contact this office both for our information as well as any ideas we can offer you.

These are our initial points after reviewing the Master Plan proposals. As the public meetings occur and typical general discussions take place, we may add to these points to improve the Forest Service response. Please feel free to contact Rick Vallejos in this office or myself if you would like to discuss these points more.

Sincerely,

Rene Vallejo

for RENE E F. FLANAGAN
Ogden District Ranger