



BEAVER COUNTY COMMISSION

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Dec 11, 2024

Fishlake National Forest
Beaver Ranger District
PO Box E
575 South Main
Beaver, Utah 84713

RE: Beaver Canyon Recreation Improvements #67156

Beaver County, Utah, respectfully submits the following comments on the Beaver Canyon Recreation Improvements project.

Beaver County would like to extend our full support behind this proposed project. In coordination and cooperation with the Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District, Beaver County has been involved in numerous discussions over the issues identified within this Environmental Assessment (EA) and attest to the necessity of making these changes and improvements. Within the Beaver Canyon corridor, public participation in recreational activities, especially winter recreation, has seen a tremendous upswing in recent years. With a local ski resort that is gaining attention and popularity, with increasing demand for snowmobiling access, with broad interest in numerous other outdoor activities, and with increased traffic from the population growth at the resort and other private cabin locations within the canyon, the use of this mountain has overloaded existing infrastructure and access points.

The primary focus of this project is to increase parking areas along Hwy 153 for winter recreation. There has been a tremendous surge in snowmobile usage on the Beaver Mountains in recent years, however the parking pull-outs at access points are small and insufficient, leading to overcrowding and dangerous conditions for motorists traveling the canyon. Additionally, there have been incidents where Search and Rescue crews were called to an accident and were unable to unload their equipment because there was nowhere to park. They literally had to unload their machines in the middle of the highway! For these and many other reasons, we have attempted to itemize a list of changes and improvements that desperately need to be made. The Beaver Ranger District has gratefully stepped forward with this proposed project to remediate the issues we face.

In addition to the parking issues identified, there are a myriad of other changes and improvements that have been identified and included in this project. Each and every one of these improvements are well thought out and serve an important purpose and Beaver County supports them fully.

In the County Resource Management Plan (CRMP), outdoor recreation on our public lands is identified as an important resource for adding to “quality of life” and for the direct economic benefits from tourism. For these reasons, we seek to foster greater access to our public lands for recreational purposes, and these proposed improvements will surely accomplish this objective.

Beaver County supports the Beaver Canyon Recreation Improvements project and we affirm that it will be an enormous benefit to our county and its citizens, as well as improving traffic safety along Highway 153.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Keven Whicker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keven" and last name "Whicker" clearly distinguishable.

Keven Whicker
Beaver County Natural Resource Specialist