

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for**

Keep

done

**Pineview Reservoir
Management and Facility
Improvements**

**USDA Forest Service, Region 4
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
Weber County, Utah**

Background

In 1992, the management plan for Pineview was adjusted to limit the boat capacity and modify the use zones on the reservoir. After six years of experience, additional adjustments are necessary to ensure a safe, quality, recreation experience. The recent planning efforts by Weber County gave us a chance to listen to the Ogden Valley residents about a vision for the valley and what was important to them, and how to integrate this vision into the long-term management of Pineview Reservoir.

The increasing amount of recreation use at Pineview Reservoir, especially during the summer weekends and holidays, is creating unacceptable congestion on the boat ramps, swim beaches, and campgrounds. The designed comfortable capacity is being exceeded too often. Families are being displaced and pushed to other areas within the Ogden Valley and to undeveloped access points of Pineview. Confrontations between visitors are increasing. Some level of facility improvements and management decisions is needed to address this volume of use and growth within the Ogden Valley and Wasatch Front. We are also expecting additional visitors to the area before, during and after the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

Pineview Reservoir is a unique and special place due to its close proximity to the urban Wasatch Front, its diversity of recreation opportunities, its size and accessible shoreline, and its location as the "backyard" of the town of Huntsville and Ogden Valley residents. Pineview Reservoir is an "island" of national forest lands within a valley that is experiencing increased development growth. Such attributes provide management challenges as we balance protection of this unique and special place with the increasing demand for recreation opportunities from an expanding urban population. We recognize that there is a limit to the kind, type, and amount of recreation development that is appropriate on national forest lands at Pineview Reservoir.

Our goal is to provide quality settings and experiences for recreation users. We are committed to providing superior customer service and ensuring that the rapid growth of recreation on the national forest does not compromise the long-term health of the land or the quality of life of the residents.

This proposal was analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared following the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

Decision

First, the decision I had to make involved a complex set of connected actions; including whether and under what configuration will the management policies and regulations for public use of Pineview Reservoir be changed; whether and to what scale will recreation development be designed, constructed or reconstructed, and managed; and whether and under what conditions will the national forest lands along the shoreline of Pineview Reservoir be managed. My decision only includes those actions located on national forest lands. A number of actions (trails, parking areas, signing) have been identified as opportunities to cooperate and coordinate with other entities (Weber County, UDOT, and Town of Huntsville), but are not within my decision-making authority.

After careful review of the Environmental Assessment, Biological Evaluation and public comments, It is my decision to select the alternative that best balances the needs of the recreation public who use the developed facilities at the reservoir, the natural plant and animal communities along the shoreline, and needs of residents within Ogden Valley. This decision is depicted best in Alternatives 2, as described and documented in the Environmental Assessment, with modifications that were made in response to public comments. I made this decision after careful review and study of the information disclosed in the EA, public comments, consultation with town, county, and state representatives, and on the ground knowledge of the area.

This decision will authorize management actions, facility improvements, trails, and vegetation management as described in the EA for improvements to operations and management of Pineview Reservoir, while designating sections of shoreline to remain in a more natural condition.

This decision involves the following specific actions:

- **Boat Capacity:** 375 to 160 boats at one time will be allowed on the surface of the reservoir, adjusted in the following manner as the water level drops in 10' increments.

Water Level	Boats	Yacht Club	Total Boats
4900	350	25	375
4890	325	25	350
4880	300	20	320
4870	250	15	265
4860	200	10	210
4850	150	10	160

The boat capacity will continue to be administered by both marinas counting boats as they launch or leave the marina. Boats in wet storage will be counted if they leave the docks. The

allocated boat capacity for the Yacht Club will be monitored through administration of the terms and conditions of the Special Use Authorization. We will also investigate developing a Reservation System for boat launches.

This action will be implemented immediately.

- **Surface Zoning:** The surface zoning restrictions have been expanded based on public comments. The wakeless zone at Middle Inlet and Bluffs Swim Beaches has been expanded, new wakeless areas have been created at Quist, Anderson Cove, and Spring Creek. The following recommendations will be made to the State Boating Advisory Board: new non-motorized zone in the small bay adjacent to Middle Inlet; new non-motorized zone where the Middle Fork enters; new non-motorized zone in extreme northern Geertsen Bay; new no boat area at Bluffs Cove; and remove the small "no boat" area in Anderson Cove (See map).

Additional buoys will be purchased to identify the zoned areas. Forest Service will work cooperatively with Utah State Parks in the buoy placement and management as the reservoir level drops. A large map of Pineview showing the zoned areas and indicating the type of zoning will be created and installed at all boat launch locations other important access points for the shoreline. A brochure will be printed that will also describe the zoning and other regulations for Pineview.

This project will be implemented immediately.

- **Shoreline Regulations:** Retain and more strictly enforce the existing shoreline restrictions to limit camping, fires, and possession of glass. The Forest Service will work cooperatively with Weber County Sheriff, and Utah Parks and Recreation to enforce the rules and regulations restricting camping, fires, and glass on the entire shoreline. Signing at each marina will be installed clearly describing boat use restriction on shorelines. Nighttime use by boats will be limited to no closer than 100 feet from the shoreline except while using the marina ramps, wet storage at Port Ramp, the Ogden Pineview Yacht Club, and the shoreline adjacent to Anderson Cove Campground. Simplify enforcement of regulations by coordinating with the State and County enforcement agencies to develop similar statutes restricting shoreline boat use.

All managed facilities, including improved roadside parking areas, will have a strict Day-Use only policy. No public use will be allowed after 10 PM. This includes the adjacent beaches accessed from these developed sites. High quality signs explaining the regulations for shoreline use, especially the fire and night use restriction, will be installed at all information bulletin boards at Pineview. This information will be explained in the brochure printed about Pineview Reservoir rules and regulations. The Forest Service will join into an agreement with Weber County Sheriff and Utah State Parks to share access to the available patrol boats to allow late patrolling of the reservoir shoreline. The Weber County Sheriff deputies will be retained by the Forest Service or the Campground Concessionaire to increase patrols of all developed facilities including highway-side parking areas to enforce shoreline regulations.

This project will begin as soon as the appropriate signs are available or no later than the beginning of 1999 season.

- **Anderson Cove Day Use Area:** Allow development of a new Day-Use area, east of the existing Anderson Cove by the campground. Development will include a mixture of group areas, single family picnic sites, and improved access to the existing beach. Development will also include a high standard walking trail connecting to Anderson Cove Campground. The new group areas will have a maximum single site capacity of 100 or a mix of group size units that total up to 300 people at one time, and parking for 100 vehicles. Parking for up to 100 vehicles will be provided for picnic and beach access. This new day use facility will have a capacity of 500 PAOT. Design of the day use area will retain existing native vegetation, utilize foot paths, concentrate parking away from the shoreline, cluster development to maintain open spaces, and integrate interpretive signing and information kiosks.

A new concession permits will be issued for operation and management of all developed facilities around Pineview and on SR. 39 for the next 5 years or more. An additional component of this permit will be permission to develop the Anderson Cove Day Use Area. Private funding will be used to build the facilities with limited financial support from the Government. The tenure of the permits will be based on the private investment.

The new permit will be awarded on January 1, 1999. Construction of the expansion will begin within five years.

- **Anderson Cove Campground Improvements:** Continue overnight camping and group use at existing Anderson Cove Campground. New facilities would include: converting the existing overflow parking lot into a boat launch parking for up to 50 truck/trailers; reconstructing the old abandoned roadway to the water into a boat launch; and designating additional family camp sites along the west edge of the parking for approximately an additional 40 people. The boat launch/marina will include courtesy docks. No wet or dry storage of boats will be permitted at this location. The existing parking lot will be surfaced and striped to control parking. The existing toilet at the north end of the overflow parking will need to be relocated. A cold water shower will be added as this area is redesigned to service the swim beach and boat ramp. Construct a high standard trail along the edge of the campground, connecting to Anderson Cove Day-Use Area. Construct accessible access trail to the beach and close/rehabilitate the existing user trails from the campground to the waters edge.

The conversion will reduce the overall crowding in Anderson Cove Campground. The overflow parking lot has typically been filled on peak weekends without the hardened camping living areas found at the other sites. The additional camp units will take advantage of the existing road system and lawn. Trees will be planted to improve the shade and landscaping throughout the overflow area. The cold water shower will be built here for easier access by the public. A launch ramp will require a small system of courtesy docks as a part of the operation.

These actions will begin in 1999 with the launch ramp proposed for construction in 2001.

- **Undeveloped Natural Shoreline Areas:** Designate approximately 17 miles of shoreline where no new facilities will be planned in the foreseeable future that will change the undeveloped natural shoreline characteristics. Designate approximately 5 miles of shoreline as Transition to buffer existing or proposed developments on National Forest from the undeveloped natural shorelines. Remaining approximately 6 miles will be designated as Developed.

The shoreline designation will be digitized and stored on the Geographical Information database used by the Forest Service as a planning and mapping system. It will be shown on the brochure for Pineview for the information of the public.

This action will occur immediately.

- **Bluff Marina/Cemetery Point:** Reduce capacity by 75 PAOT through reduction of the number of parking spaces by 30 at the paved Bluff Swim area. Designate part of the west edge of the Bluffs gravel parking lot for use by visitors to the swim beach. Construct three picnic sites with a shade cover between the parking area and the beach. No additional group areas will be constructed. Replace the system of courtesy docks with higher quality docks. Construct a new fully accessible toilet to service the marina, fishing bay, and the snack bar. Rebuild the toilet at the beach using modern standards. The parking stalls at the northern edge near the entrance and next to the small cove will be used as an accessible fishing access.

The transportation system for the complex of facilities on Cemetery Point, the Huntsville Cemetery, Bluffs Swim Beach, Picnic ground, Marina, and fishing access will be reconfigured to improve traffic flow, operation of the entry fee stations, parking, and the ability to close the facilities once they become full. This will either be by relocating the entry station for Cemetery Point and managing all access through one entry or connecting the marina and beach parking areas with a new roadway. When the parking lots are full, the area will be closed to access. The Forest Service will improve signing on Highway 39 informing visitors that the facilities are "full" before they enter the town.

Cooperate with Town of Huntsville to improve un-restricted access to the cemetery. Provide 5 designated parking spaces outside the cemetery gate for Cemetery Use Only.

Signs and barriers will be installed to control the parking in the existing gravel parking lot. Utilize a portion of the gravel marina parking lot for swim beach access. Construct a high standard accessible path from the upper parking area to the beach, and on to Cemetery point, following the existing user paths. The new courtesy docks will be high standard commercial systems designed as a long-term investment for safety and reduced maintenance.

This project will begin in 2000 and will extend into 2001.

- **Bluff Marina Cove:** Construct a system of fishing access facilities in and around the small cove. This system of docks, sidewalk, and piers will be fully accessible. Parking and toilet facilities will be shared with the marina. The facilities will be integrated with the natural vegetation. The shoreline will be cleared of vegetation only where necessary. The mouth of

the cove may need limited excavated using heavy equipment to improve the water flow. This project will be coordinated with Division of Wildlife Resources.

The cove will become a high quality accessible fishing access. It will be improved with additional fish habitat structures in the water to increase fishing success. The cove will be closed to all boats.

This project is scheduled to be initiated in 2000 and will extend into 2001.

- **Parking around the reservoir:** Recommend minor improvements to existing roadside parking areas along State Roads 166, 162, and 39 surrounding the reservoir (see map). This also includes selected access points within the town of Huntsville. Improvements will consist of designation signing, information bulletin board using high quality information and regulatory signing with universal symbols, improved drainage to reduce erosion, and improved entry and exit to improve safety. All areas are receiving use currently. Actions outside the national forest boundary will require approval from UDOT, Weber County and/or Town of Huntsville. User trails to the shoreline from each parking area will be improved for safety and to prevent soil erosion. The overlook on the south shoreline will be upgraded with high quality information and interpretive signing about the reservoir and minor landscaping improvements. Paving of this overlook may occur in the future, through coordination with UDOT. We will request the State or County create restrictions on parking alongside the road adjacent to these sites.

Designate as Day Use Only and restrict overnight camping and use after 10 P.M. The next concession permit will include maintenance of all these entry points along with the other developed facilities. The Weber County Sheriff deputies will be retained by the Forest Service or the Campground Concessionaire to increase patrols of all developed facilities including highway-side parking areas to enforce shoreline regulations.

This project will begin in 1999 and will extend into 2001.

- **Non-motorized Boat and Fishing Access:** Designate and improve existing shoreline access at the following locations: 1) Brogonje Point, 5500 East - Reconfigured the existing barriers and designate 5-10 parking spaces along the old roadway. Provide gravel surface and improved drainage. Designate existing hardened trail to the shore; 2) Browning Point, 5900 East - Reconfigured the existing barriers and designate 5-10 parking spaces along the old roadway. Provide gravel surface and improved drainage. Designate existing hardened trail to the shore. Design for snowplow turn-around at the end; 3) Quist Beach - Coordinate with Weber County to reconfigured and designate approved parking areas along SR. 166 from Middle Inlet to Spring Creek. Reconstruct the existing Quist beach parking area and toilet. Provide improved drainage and gravel surface. Provide a trail connecting the two designated parking areas. Recommend to Weber County that all other parking on SR. 166 outside of the designated parking areas near Quist be restricted. Rehabilitate and revegetate those areas that will be restricted from parking; 4) Spring Creek - Coordinate with Weber County to improve the existing parking area north of Spring Creek and provide a designated 10-15 car parking area. Provide gravel surface and improved drainage and safe entry on to SR. 166. Improve trail access to the shore; 5) Bureau of Reclamation Site - Improve the existing 20 car parking area immediately north of the Yacht Club built by the

Bureau of Reclamation; and; 6) **Geertsen Bay** - Coordinate with Weber County to improve the existing "pull-off" at Geertsen Bay to provide a small designated parking area. Coordinate with adjacent landowners on the location and design. Provide gravel surface, improved drainage, and safe entry on to the SR. 166.

All sites will be designated as "Day Use Only." Camping and use after 10 P.M. will be restricted. Consider installation of gates at some locations to control night access. All sites will also include high quality information and regulatory signing, parking barriers, improved shoreline access trails, gravel surface, and additional law enforcement patrolling by Forest Service or Weber County Sheriff's Office. We will request the State or County create restrictions on parking alongside the road adjacent to these sites. Sites will include improved drainage to reduce erosion and improved entry and exit to improve safety.

The next concession permit will include maintenance of all these locations along with the other developed facilities.

These projects will begin in 1999 and will extend into 2001.

- **Port Ramp Marina:** Widen the existing entry road to Port Ramp on the shoulders to improve traffic flow of boats with trailers in and out of the facility. Improve the entry signing. The widened paved roadway will be used for boat preparation to launch or leave. Relocate the entry station to improve traffic flow. Work with UDOT to improve the driveway entry from SR. 162 to improve safety. Upgrade the courtesy dock system to a higher standard including improved physically challenged accessibility. The new courtesy docks will be high standard commercial systems designed as a long-term investment for safety and reduced maintenance. Restrict parking alongside the State Highway outside and adjacent to the entry road.

This project will begin in 1999 with a portion scheduled for 2002.

- **Windy Point Day-use:** Expand the existing Pineview Trailhead for an additional 8-10 cars. Construct a high standard trail from the parking lot to Windy Point. Install benches and tables at the Pineview Trailhead.

This project will begin in 2001.

- **Pineview Trails:** Construct new trails designed as a higher level of service standard (compacted gravel surface, 3-8 foot wide tread, 0-5% slope) from Pineview Trailhead to the BOR parking area just north of the Yacht Club (priority 1); and from Anderson Cove Campground through Anderson Cove Day Use Area (priority 3). Recommend to UDOT that the high standard trail be extended from national forest lands next to Anderson Cove Day Use to Jefferson Hunt Campground, along the State highway right-of-way. Designate and maintain the existing old road from Jefferson Hunt Campground to the south end of 7450 East in Huntsville, as a trail. Utilize existing paths and old roads as much as possible.

Construct new trails designed as a lower level of service standard (dirt surface, 18-36 inch wide tread, 0-30% slope) from the parking area just north of the Yacht Club to North Arm

Wildlife Viewing Trail (priority 2); then, from the end of 5900 East to where SR. 166 crosses Geertsen Bay (priority 5). The trail to Geertsen Bay will focus on wildlife viewing opportunities. Construct a section of lower standard trail connecting the Spring Creek fisherman parking to Middle Inlet and Quist Beach to provide access between the two designated parking areas (priority 4). Recommend to UDOT that a walking/bike path be developed from Anderson Cove Campground west to the dam, and then east to Pineview Trailhead, along the State highway right-of-way. Utilize existing paths and old roads as much as possible with all trail construction.

All trails will be designated as non-motorized multi-user trails. Use by horses will be prohibited within developed recreation sites (Anderson Cove Campground and Day Use Area, Cemetery Point/Bluffs Marina, Middle Inlet, North Arm Wildlife Viewing Area).

Postpone improvement to the shoreline trail along the south side of Huntsville until further analysis and coordination with the adjacent residents is completed. Work closely with the town to identify trail access points and routes that compliment the towns long-term plans and vision for the community. Minor maintenance on the existing path may be completed to reduce safety hazards and correct bank erosion problems.

Continue to support efforts to develop a bike trail adjacent to SR. 166, 162, and 39 around Pineview Reservoir.

These projects will begin immediately and continue through 2001.

- **Wildlife Habitat Improvements:** Treat up to 80 acres of shoreline vegetation per year to improve wildlife and fisheries habitat along the shorelines of the reservoir. Treatments will be designed to maintain or improve the vegetation type, age, and structure. Treatments will include vegetation modification through prescribed fire or mechanical treatments (mow or cut) and plantings. Additional habitat structures such as nesting platforms or water potholes will be installed in select locations to increase and improve habitat. Actual annual accomplishment will be dependent on budget. All activities will be closely coordinated with adjacent landowners.

These projects will begin in 1999 and continue annually.

- **Noxious Weeds:** Areas of the shoreline with an unacceptable composition of over 15% of the plants identified as noxious weeds will be treated through an integrated program of chemical, biological, mechanical (cutting), and manual (hand pulling/digging) methods to encourage desired native plant growth. This will be a part of the approximately 80 acres per year of treated shoreline. Actual annual accomplishment will be dependent on budget. All activities will be coordinated with adjacent landowners.

Use volunteer groups to remove known noxious weeds by hand or handtool, as much as feasible. Concentrate on the removal of Dyer's Woad, Leafy Spurge, and St. Johns Wort. Facilitate and support the joint efforts of the Weber County Weed Board.

These actions will begin in 1999 and continue annually.

- **Bank Stabilization and Beach Maintenance:** Efforts will be made to maintain usable sandy beach at the existing Middle Inlet, Bluffs, and Anderson Cove beach areas. Maintenance will include limbing of vegetation and limited vegetation removal. Existing eroding banks will be inventoried and a strategy for stabilization developed. Site specific stabilization techniques will be identified. Stabilization may include re-contouring and re-vegetation of over-steepened slopes, and modifying and rehabilitating user trails and access points. Retaining structures may be constructed, as needed.
- **Minor activities that were common to all action Alternatives:** A number of other actions were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment. Many of the actions were determined to be in the category of routine management and maintenance of National Forest Lands or facilities. Others require coordination and cooperation with other local and state agencies, depending on who has jurisdiction and authority for taking action.

These actions include: 1) Roadside parking management in coordination with Weber County and Utah Department of Transportation; 2) Continued routine maintenance and repair of existing facilities including fences, beaches, roads, and spot weed control in campgrounds to meet local legal requirements and Forest Service standards; 3) Coordination with the Town of Huntsville for recreation access to Pineview; 4) Minor maintenance to Jefferson Hunt Campground to limit flooding damage; 5) Boundary and fence management to protect the integrity of the public lands; 6) Continue the Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement with Weber County Sheriff for patrolling; 7) Continue cooperation with Utah Division of Parks and Recreation for shared responsibility of recreation activities on the surface of Pineview; 8) Increase awareness and enforcement of shooting restrictions at the reservoir; 9) Issue new concession permits to allow a private company to operate and maintain all facilities at Pineview and on SR. 39; 10) Continue the current authorization of Ogden Pineview Yacht Club; 11) Design marina facilities to accommodate a maximum water craft size of 32' and discourage vessels that exceed this design criteria; 12) Retain the existing shoreline restrictions to limit camping and fires and possession of glass; 13) Continue prohibition of ATV use on National Forest around Pineview; 14) Increase accessibility to the water at the swim beaches, campgrounds, and marinas; and, 15) Restrict access from private land that consist of any improvements such as docks, steps, or constructed trails.

These projects will begin in 1999 and continue for the immediate future.

An annual schedule of implementation of these projects will be created with some selected projects beginning immediately. The majority of the projects will be started within the next five years. Those items that are operational changes can occur as soon as possible once the proper signing notifying the public about the regulations is in place and adequate public notice is given through the local news sources.

Monitoring and Mitigation

The following monitoring and mitigation will be included as part of the selected alternative.

Management of Pineview

- The number of boats launched will be counted on a daily basis during the peak use season from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, to determine when capacity is reached. The count will include boats, personal water craft, and boats in wet storage launching from Port Ramp, the Bluffs Marina Ramp, and the Ogden Yacht Club and, trailers in Anderson Cove and the marina parking lots.
- Sailboards, kayaks, rafts, canoes and other non-motorized vessel use, except sailboating, will not be counted in the calculations for vessel capacity. These uses typically occur in the wakeless speed areas where conflicts with motorized use are minimal. The Forest Service will monitor non-motorized use and take additional action as needed.
- When the reservoir reaches capacity, vehicles and vessels will be staged on ramp access roads. When the reservoir is at capacity, as a vessel loads and leaves the reservoir the next party will be allowed to launch. If vehicles back up to the main roads, parking barriers will be placed to close access to the ramps. These barriers will be removed when parking becomes available. Vehicles arriving after this time would need to drive to the nearest parking area to either wait for an opening or leave for a different area. Limit the congestion on the main highways.
- Marked buoys clearly defining the types of use for all zoned areas will be established.
- The Forest Service will work with Weber County and the State of Utah to create the necessary legal statutes to mimic Forest Service resource protection regulations.
- Expand the payments to Weber County Sheriff and emergency services from either Forest Service appropriated funds and/or require the Campground Concessionaire to make a payment directly to local public service agencies equal to a pre-determined percentage of the fees collected at recreation facilities at Pineview.
- Make the Forest Service power boat available to other local jurisdictions through a written agreement to be used for regulation enforcement or emergency service on the reservoir.
- Include all new and upgraded facilities to the patrolling schedule by Weber County Sheriff deputies and Forest Service Law Enforcement personnel.
- Request the fenced boundary between private and National Forest be resurveyed and marked when development plans are submitted to Weber County Planning for approval.
- Create and post signs and maps showing the designated level of protection determined for sections of shoreline. Include a description of the designation including appropriate suggestions on how people should act to protect the shoreline resources.
- Information and regulatory signing will be designed to be easily understood by the greatest number of people. This may include some Spanish translations. Universal symbols will be used where appropriate to ease understanding by international visitors.

Facility Improvements

- All improvements and operations of existing recreation facilities will meet the social setting appropriate for the types and patterns of recreation use at Pineview. This will be predisposed toward the urban level with cement pads, metal tables, and mown lawns. It will allow a high level of physically challenged access to Forest Service recreation facilities. All facility and access improvements will incorporate the concepts of universal access and design and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Facilities that in the past have been maintained by the Forest Service and are free to the public will be added to the maintenance requirements of the permitted concessionaire. These will remain free of charge unless substantial new services of a commercial nature are provided by the concessionaire.

Soil and Water Protection

- Vegetation removal and damage resulting from construction will be kept to a minimum. Soil will be replaced over disturbed areas, and a weed-free straw with netting and erosion mats will be used, as needed, to reduce erosion.
- Reseeding of disturbed areas will include native species.

Trails

- Trail construction will follow alignments that least impact existing vegetation especially any riparian types. Utilize existing paths and roads as much as possible.
- New trails will be designed to avoid existing riparian, floodplain, or designated wetland areas. Bridges, culverts or boardwalks will be used if the trail has potential to affect these areas, including below the high water mark of the reservoir. Any trail tread immediately adjacent to the high water line of the reservoir will have a buffer of some vegetation that will remain in place at all times. The appropriate permits and approvals will be obtained.
- No drainage of water from the trail will be allowed to divert directly into the reservoir. Sediment traps will be used if there is a possibility of sediment reaching the water. If imported gravel is washed off the trail tread, it will be salvaged annually as a part of the maintenance.

Vegetation Management

- Any treatments of the shoreline by chemicals weed killers will follow existing requirements for protection of nearby water sources and will not be used if these requirements cannot be met.
- Any treatment of the shoreline by fire will have requirements to minimize impact to the water including use of chemical wetting agents if used to control the fire.

Wildlife Protection

- Construction activities will be discontinued from the period of October 1st to March 15th in areas within 1/4 mile of active or potential Bald Eagle nesting trees. Known areas are east of Bluff Cove and Geertsen Bay.
- Activities that will impact natural grass and forb areas will not occur during the spring to protect bird nests.
- Cottonwood and Willows will be planted in select locations around the reservoir to increase the amount of new starts.

Reason for the Decision

Before I initiate any analysis I always contemplate whether or not the project is really needed. In this case there was little doubt in my mind that there was a need to address the current issues surrounding management of Pineview Reservoir. As described in the purpose and need, the current resource and social conditions surrounding Pineview Reservoir are not acceptable.

I am most concerned with safety of recreation visitors and Valley residents, and the quality of experience that we are providing on and around the Reservoir. As a Valley resident, I share the concerns of increased traffic, noise, congestion, and changes to the rural character of the Valley. I recognize that there is a limit to the amount, kind and type of recreation opportunities that we can support on the national forest, while still protecting the long term health of the land and maintaining the quality of life that we all enjoy in the Valley. I also recognize that demands for recreation opportunities and access to public lands will only increase as the growth on the Wasatch Front continues. Our challenge is to position our management and infrastructure to prepare for these increasing demands.

This analysis provided an opportunity to identify where, when, and how we will accommodate recreation use around the Reservoir in the future, and at what levels. I recognize that the Forest Service must take a more active role in the management of the use and address the issues of safety, experience, quality of life, and most of all resource protection. Therefore, I could not responsibly choose the no action alternative and let these problems remain unaddressed.

In making my decision I carefully weighed the trade-offs of the three development scale alternatives. I chose Alternative 2, with modifications, because I believe it best meets the purpose and need, while continue to protect the reservoir environment. Alternative 2, with modifications, provides a balance between providing quality recreation facilities and experiences and protecting the reservoir environment. Alternative 2 allows the Forest Service the ability to rehabilitate and improve the existing infrastructure, concentrate use in designated areas, and improve accessibility of facilities. Alternative 2 increases our ability to better enforce existing and proposed new regulations and management changes.

Facility improvements are focused in areas that are currently receiving uncontrolled recreation use. We are concentrating our actions in areas with existing and historical use, utilizing existing foot paths, old roads, and existing "pull offs." Due to the ready access to the shoreline from the State and County Highways, some management of the parking areas and shoreline access trails is necessary for safety of users and shoreline protection. Alternative 2 best provides for designating parking areas, restricting parking in undesignated areas, and concentrating the uncontrolled use in areas that can accommodate the use.

The decision to reduce the boats at one time capacity of the reservoir is based on the extensive experience of personnel of the Ogden Ranger District and Utah State Parks and Recreation during years of operation and management of Pineview Reservoir. Current use levels continue to be uncomfortably high on weekends during the summer. The broad variation of size and speed of the watercraft being used on the reservoir makes it critical that each vessel has the room necessary to safely maneuver. This allocation of space has to be maintained as the water level and surface acreage drops. The use of computer-aided analysis of the surface acres at different water levels was instrumental in deciding on the new capacity numbers. The reduction in boat numbers will also reduce the traffic associated with boat hauling, especially through the Town of Huntsville.

The additional wakeless, no boat, and non-motorized zoning of the surface water will provide increased protection to the shoreline from wave action, will reduce impacts on nesting waterfowl, and provide increased areas for non-motorized recreation opportunities. The additional zoning of the water surface near the congested shorelines at the improved beaches will decrease the possibility of an accident involving a swimmer and a motorized vessel, and improve the fishing opportunities. This goes to the heart of the purpose and need for these changes to the management of Pineview Reservoir. Some of these zones currently have buoys in place because of the critical need for providing for public safety and resource protection.

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1985 allowed for the expansion of Anderson Cove Campground. The 1985 Plan included a high development scale campground. After careful consideration of the analysis in the EA, I recognized that some level of expansion is warranted to address the increasing recreation demand. In the comments received from the public, many suggested that Anderson Cove should be expanded and include day use facilities and beach access to reduce the demand on the recreation facilities at Cemetery Point. The advantage of reduced traffic into Huntsville because Anderson Cove is so close to the entry roadways into the valley was apparent to those citizens, just as it was apparent in the analysis. The traffic by vehicles pulling boat trailers should proportionally reduce through Huntsville once the Anderson Cove boat ramp is constructed as part of the facilities.

Expansion of Anderson Cove in to Day Use facilities will shift use from Bluffs and Cemetery Point, and focus new use closer to access routes into the Valley. My hope is that this decision will reduce traffic into Huntsville and the east side of the Reservoir.

As a part of this analysis, the citizens comments during the recent Ogden Valley Planning efforts, and the apparent conflicts with recreation use of the facilities around the reservoir with local residents was reviewed. The decision to have a strict day-use only policy at Forest Service facilities is an attempt to reduce the effects of recreation, especially the noise after dark, to

nearby residents. It also should make the duty of law enforcement easier by reducing the number of contacts after 10 PM.

The reduction of parking spaces along the beach at Bluffs Swim area will reduce conflicts with vehicles and the beach, improve law enforcement and patrolling, and change the current use patterns.

One concern expressed by citizens was the location of sites and the amount of recreation developments planned for Pineview. It was raised by those who live near to the reservoir and wanted adjacent shoreline to remain as natural as possible as well as those who preferred the undeveloped natural shorelines and want development restricted. The designation of approximately 17 miles of the shoreline to remain for the foreseeable future as undeveloped natural areas was meant to address this concern. This designation will guide all future projects and management activities at Pineview.

Project proposals for infrastructure improvements were mostly restricted to existing facilities. These changes and upgrades were meant to provide a better recreation experience for the users, utilizing the existing areas in the best possible manner for smooth operations, and to increase recreation people at one time capacity only within facilities constructed and designed to allow the increased use. These improvements include increasing number of locations for physically challenged access to the water. Included is much needed improvements to the roadside parking areas where people are accessing the shoreline in increasing number year-round and to our system of fence lines and signing.

The idea of a trail around the shoreline of Pineview Reservoir has been discussed for many years. Citizens involved in the Ogden Valley General Plan were asked their opinion of this trail system. The number who supported the trail were over three times those who opposed it. In developing our initial plans for a high standard trail, we looked at where recreation was currently occurring and therefore a potential for higher amounts of use were probable. Linking together our existing recreation facilities was an obvious proposal. The initial trail proposal was described as a wide gravel path that resembled a roadway. This would have emphasize the urban nature of Pineview with a park-like walkway. General opinion of the public comments were that this size of trail wasn't appropriate or necessary for the reservoir. We scaled back the size and locations of our proposal to lessen the affects from this trail, especially to adjacent landowners. Our current proposed trail network will link existing developed facilities, utilize existing foot paths and old roads as much as possible, will concentrate use along a designated route, and provide an opportunity to rehabilitate and revegetate many of the random user trails that are not in desired locations. Many of these random user trails are causing bank erosion.

Our continued efforts to improve wildlife habitat will protect the reservoir environment and provide critical habitat within Ogden Valley. Improved wildlife habitat will also the increase the possibility for local residents and visiting recreationist to view wildlife on this small part of the National Forest. We need to continue efforts to reduce the intruding weed species that choke out native vegetation. This decision will allow this effort to continue into the future.

The greatest concern of mine in implementing Alternative 3, emphasis on increased recreation development, was the significant increase in PAOT capacity that would result from the increased facility development. The associated effects from this development scale were not in keeping

with maintaining the rural character of the Valley and would have increased impacts on Valley residents.

Many of the components of Alternative 4 were integrated into the modified Alternative 2, including designation of undeveloped natural shoreline areas, reduced trail development, and increased wakeless and non-motorized boat zoning. My greatest concern with implementing Alternative 4 was that it did not provide for positioning for the increased recreation demand that we are anticipating. My concern was that the use would increase and we would not be able to accommodate this use in a manner that would ensure protection of the shoreline and reservoir environment.

These trade-offs are never easy to weigh. As in most public land decisions there are always many issues to resolve and no easy answers. I want to ensure that the values of the National Forests are here in perpetuity, for the use and enjoyment of Wasatch Front and Ogden Valley residents.

Public Comment on the Environmental Assessment

A total of 45 written comments and phone calls were received in response to the pre-decisional EA. Let me highlight some of the concerns that I heard. A complete response to the comments is included as Appendix A to the final EA .

In general, respondents were concerned with maintaining a rural atmosphere and preserving the quality of life within Ogden Valley. I heard that the public lands surrounding Pineview Reservoir play a critical role in preserving these values -- values that are deeply held by Valley residents. The role and importance of these national forest lands for wildlife habitat, maintaining clean water, scenic beauty, and recreation were emphasized by respondents. Residents of the Valley felt strongly that the management of the national forest around Pineview Reservoir needed to compliment and not dominate the landscape. Concerns were also expressed that the proposed actions would only increase use and crowding and could negatively impact these values and change the character of the Valley. Residents are concerned with the increasing recreation use and the associated impacts of noise, traffic, crime, trash, and congestion. Huntsville residents were also concerned with proving unrestricted access to the Huntsville Cemetery.

Most of all, I heard that the management and protection of Pineview Reservoir and the surrounding National Forest lands is very complex, requiring collaboration among multiple entities. The Forest Service can not manage Pineview Reservoir in a vacuum. We acknowledge the effects that our management has on the surrounding area. We also recognize that there is a limit to the amount, kind and type of recreation opportunities that we can support on the national forest while still protecting the long term health of the land.

Alternatives Considered

Four alternatives were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment. Alternatives other than the decision along with the reasons we did not select them are described below.

Alternative 1: The No Action Alternative

This alternative is a standard part of all environmental analyses describing what will happen if current management continues. No change will be made to any of the existing regulations or facilities.

Alternative 2: The Modified Proposed Alternative

This alternative is described in the Decision section earlier in the document. Alternative 2 balances the mix of development and resource protection.

Alternative 3: Emphasis on Increased Recreation Development Alternative

This alternative increase the development size and number of facilities at Pineview. It was written to provide the increased recreation capacity to meet the growing demand for access to the reservoir.

Alternative 4: Emphasis on Maximum Shoreline Protection and Reduced Recreation Use

This alternative will reduce human impacts by providing less recreation facility capacity and more protection of shoreline from human developments. The overall management will be less intensive with an effort to preserve a rural setting.

Public Involvement

After development of the initial proposal with assistance of the Utah State Parks and Recreation Pineview Manager, the Forest Service began the public involvement process to solicit feedback on the proposals. On November 7, 1997 the Forest Service sent a Scoping document, which described the purpose and need for the change, the desired future condition, what the proposed projects are, preliminary alternatives, and announced the two open houses. An article appeared on November 12, 1997 in the Ogden Standard Examiner which detailed the proposals and provided information on where the public could obtain a copy of the Scoping document, the date and locations of public open houses and how to submit written comments.

The first public open house was on November 17, 1997 in the Weber County Library in downtown Ogden. Forest Service personnel with various expertise were present with graphic visual aides and displays. The forum allowed for individuals to ask direct questions to Forest Service staff on any aspect of the proposals. Comment cards were available for immediate written responses as well as copies of the Scoping Document for further review and response by the public. Various handouts were also available. A large photo of Pineview with a plastic overlay was the center display where citizens were welcome to write or draw suggestions for configuring activities on the reservoir.

The second open house was held on November 18, 1997 in the Weber County Branch Library in Huntsville. The primary attendees were local residents who wanted to find out more or had immediate comments and concerns.

Forty-two written comments were received during the public open houses, e-mail or common mail. These comments are on file in the Ogden Ranger District. A content analysis of the issues, suggestions and concerns was done on these responses and included as a chapter in the document.

At request, Forest Service personnel attended evening meetings of the Huntsville Town Council and the Ogden Pineview Yacht Club Board to clarify and discuss particular questions by these groups. An evening discussion of Pineview recreation issues with approximately 45 citizens of Huntsville occur on May 29, 1998 with Weber County Sheriff. An additional article was published on May 21, 1998 discussing the release and content of the pre-decisional document.

The pre-decisional environmental assessment was completed on June 2, 1998. Copies were sent to those who had responded in writing to the scoping as well as selected agencies or interested citizens who are on our NEPA mailing lists. The legal notice was published in the Ogden Standard-Examiner on June 5, 1998.

An additional public open house to discuss the document occurred on June 24, 1998. Approximately 80 people attended the open house, most were residents of Huntsville.

A Newspaper article about the proposed actions and how the local residents are responding to the proposals was published in the Ogden Standard-Examiner on June 10, 1998. An additional editorial was published on July 19, 1998 addressing the need for local recreation managers to plan for the future.

During the Weber County Fair, Forest Service personnel were available to discuss details and answer questions from interested citizens.

Findings Required by other laws

The Forest Plan has been reviewed and a determination made that this decision is consistent with the Forest Plan. The actions in this project comply fully with the goals of the Forest Plan, the Wasatch Front Management Area Direction pages IV-220 through IV-252, and the Forest-wide standards and guidelines (See Chapter IV of the *Wasatch-Cache Land and Resource Management Plan*).

Floodplains, wetlands, prime lands, threatened and endangered species, minerals, and cultural resource management implications have been considered and these resources will not be adversely affected.

Finding of No Significant Impact

I have determined that these actions are not a major federal action, individually or cumulatively and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination is based on the following factors:

Based on the analysis documented in the environmental assessment, the impacts of this project are not considered to be significant upon the human environment.

Public health and safety are minimally affected by the proposed action.

There are no unique characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park land, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas that are significantly affected.

Based on public participation the effects on the quality of human environment are not highly controversial.

There are no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

These actions do not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented to meet the goals and objections of the *Wasatch-Cache Land and Resource Management Plan*.

There are no significant cumulative effects between this project and other projects implemented or planned on areas near the project area of this EA.

There are no known cultural or historical resources affected.

All proposed and designated endangered or threatened species will not be affected.

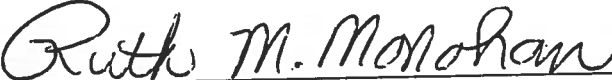
The actions do not threaten a violation of Federal, State or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Implementation Date and Appeal Opportunities

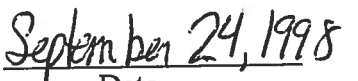
This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. A written Notice of Appeal must be postmarked within 45 days from the date of publication in the Ogden Standard-Examiner in Ogden, Utah. The Notice of Appeal should be sent to, USDA, Forest Service, Intermountain Region, ATTN: Appeals Deciding Officer, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401.

Appeals must meet content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. For further information on this decision, contact Rick Vallejos, 507 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401.

If no appeal is received, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period. If an appeal is received, implementation may not occur for 15 days following the date of the appeal disposition.

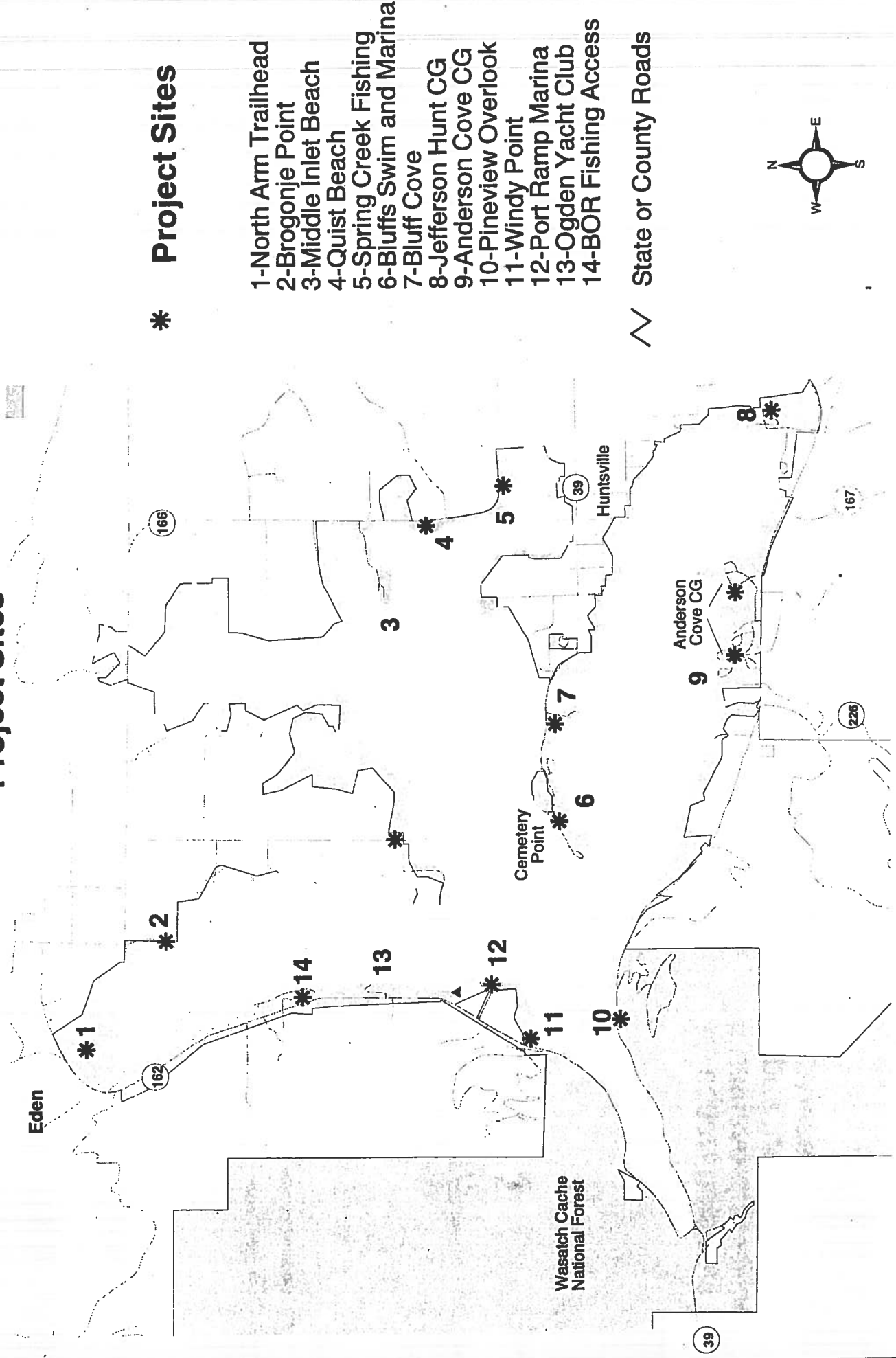


RUTH M. MONAHAN
District Ranger
Ogden Ranger District
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
507 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401


Date

Pineview Reservoir Management and Facility Improvements

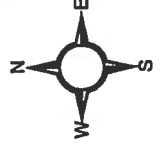
Project Sites



* Project Sites

- 1-North Arm Trailhead
- 2-Brogonje Point
- 3-Middle Inlet Beach
- 4-Quist Beach
- 5-Spring Creek Fishing
- 6-Bluffs Swim and Marina
- 7-Bluff Cove
- 8-Jefferson Hunt CG
- 9-Anderson Cove CG
- 10-Pineview Overlook
- 11-Windy Point
- 12-Port Ramp Marina
- 13-Ogden Yacht Club
- 14-BOR Fishing Access

~ State or County Roads



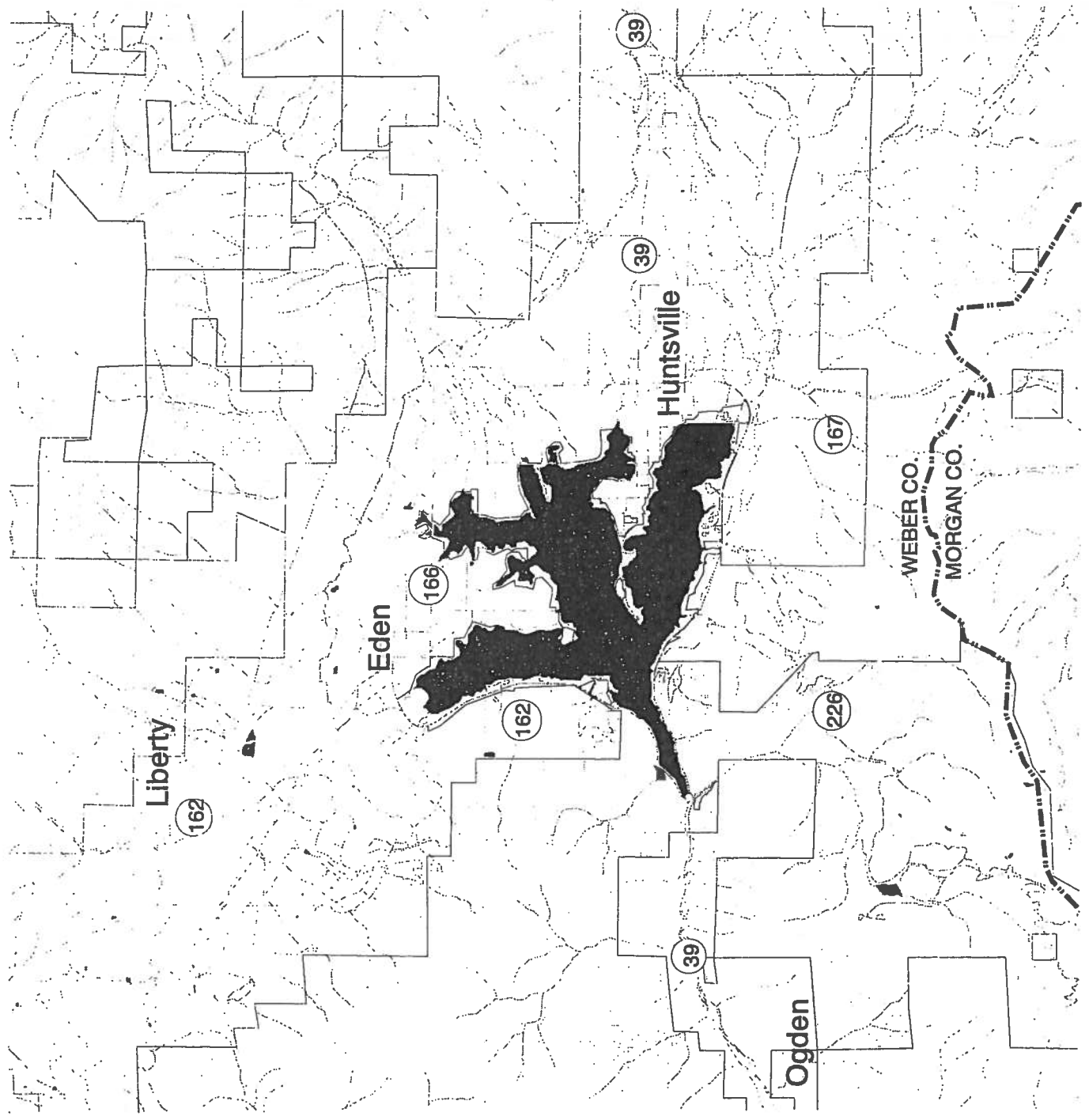
Pineview Reservoir Management and Facility Improvements Decision Notice



 County Boundaries
 Primary Roads

Land Ownership
 Private
 Wasatch Cache National Forest



Constructed 10/14/97 by
 Ogden Ranger District of
 the Wasatch-Cache National
 Forest, from Forest Service
 CFF Files, MD





September 28, 1998

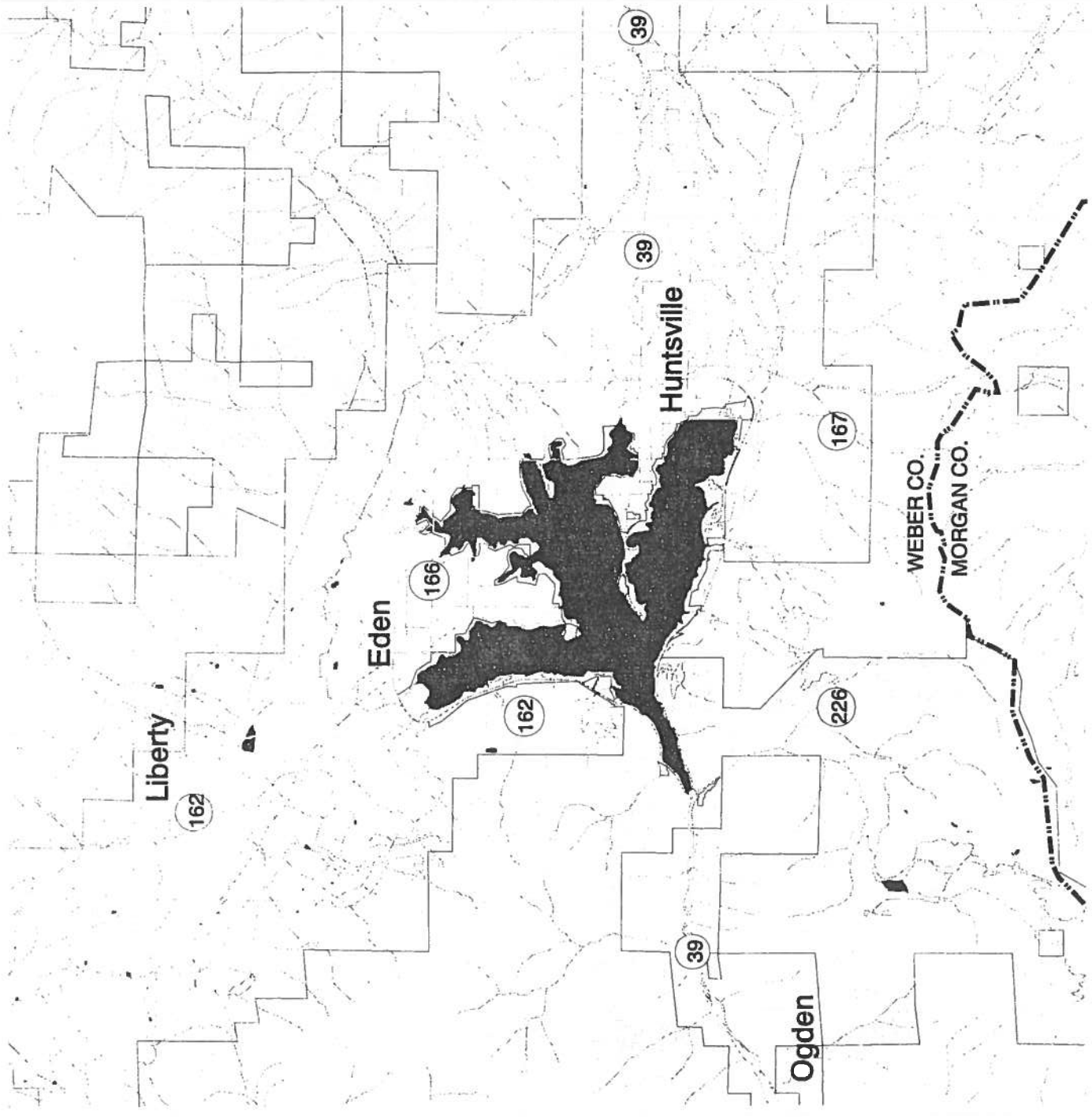
Pineview Reservoir Management and Facility Improvements Decision Notice



 County Boundaries
 Primary Roads

Land Ownership
 Private
 Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Constructed 10/14/97 by
 Ogden Ranger District of
 the Wasatch-Cache National
 Forest, from Forest Service
 CFF Files. MD



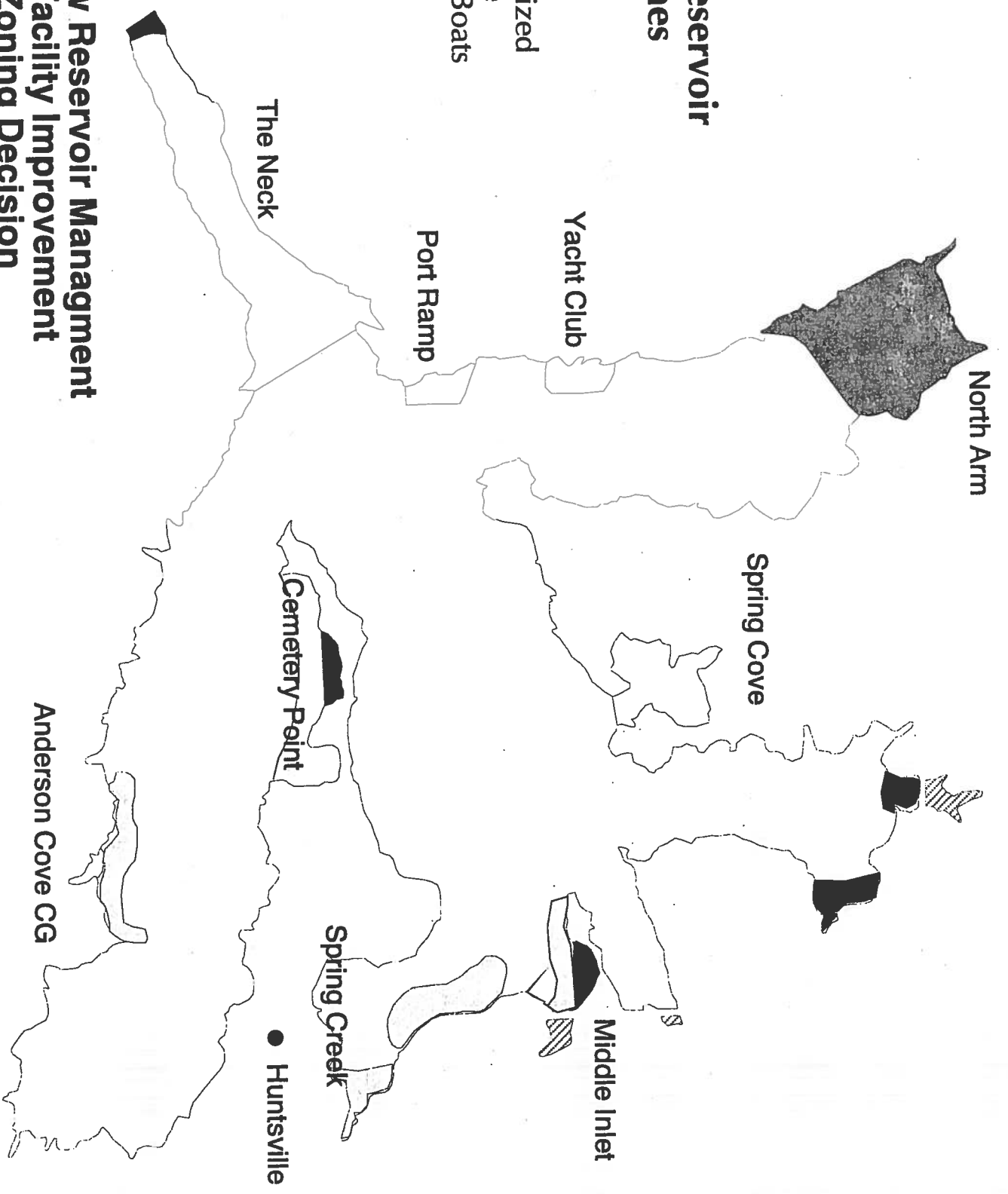
September 28, 1998

Pineview Reservoir Boating Zones

-  Wakeless
-  Motorized
-  Nonmotorized
-  Unusable
-  Closed to Boats



Pineview Reservoir Management and Facility Improvement Zoning Decision



APPENDIX A RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

A. Introduction

The pre-decisional Environmental Assessment documented the range of alternatives, affected environment, and environmental consequences of each action, and was available for public review beginning on June 5, 1998. At that time, a legal notice was published in the Ogden Standard-Examiner and copies of the document were mailed to known interested parties. Over 60 Huntsville residents participated in a public meeting at the Weber County Library in Huntsville on May 29th. An open house was held at the County library in Huntsville on the evening of June 24, 1998. Newspaper articles describing general details of the plan and select public opinion were published on June 10, 1998.

Comments were taken from this mailing as well as during the open house until July 7, 1998. These comments were in the form of written letters, phone calls, e-mail, and discussions, and included comments from other government agencies. A total of 45 written comments and phone calls were received. Let me highlight some of the concerns that I heard.

In general, respondents were concerned with maintaining a rural atmosphere and preserving the quality of life within Ogden Valley. The public lands surrounding Pineview Reservoir play a critical role in preserving these values -- values that are deeply held by Valley residents. The role and importance of these National Forest System Lands -- for wildlife habitat, maintaining clean water, scenic beauty, and recreation were emphasized. Concerns were expressed that these proposed improvements would only increase use and crowding and could negatively impact these values and change the character of the Valley. Many expressed that the management of Pineview Reservoir needs to compliment the local community vision and not dominate the landscape. Most of all, I heard that the management and protection of Pineview Reservoir and the surrounding National Forest System lands is very complex, requiring collaboration with multiple entities. The Forest Service can not solve all the growth issues of the Wasatch Front and Ogden Valley -- but must recognize the effects that its management has on the surrounding area and value the unique resource of Pineview Reservoir- protecting the area for future generations to enjoy and use.

The following, more specific public concerns, were expressed:

A.1 WATER QUALITY

Comments identified a concern that the water quality will be degraded by the increased development and the number of visitors allowed. It was noted by one response that there is little scientific information on the effects of future development to water quality in Pineview.

Water resources were identified as one of the seven original issues used to guide the development of the alternatives. The last detailed analysis of the water quality was the 1990 Clean Water Study, done by Weber Basin Water Quality Management Council. It found that the soil types and geohydrologic

characteristics of the Upper Ogden Valley drainage indicate that contaminates of the shallow groundwater aquifer surrounding the reservoir poses the greatest threat to water quality degradation in Pineview Reservoir. This likely still remains the greatest threat.

The growing number of new homes in the Ogden Valley has and will continue to increase based on the planning that Weber County is actively completing. The amount of recreation use, primarily day use, has increased annually at Pineview based on actual use records. The recreation facility developments and shoreline protections identified in the environmental assessment are designed to concentrate and contain use to specific areas that can accommodate the use. This will limit access and use of other less developed areas. Our objective is to contain the recreation use to facilities designed and built to limit and control the negative effects of the human use. All facilities will be operated to stay within the limits of the designed capacity, typically limited by available parking. Once that capacity is reached, no more people will be allowed to enter the area until the some people have left. This will lessen the affect to water quality from the Forest Service developments. All sewage created by the recreation facilities will be contained in vault toilets and removed to proper sanitation facilities. Facilities to pump sewage from boats will remain in place. This also will lessen the affect to the water resources.

Additional bank stabilization, rehabilitation, and erosion control measures will be added to the selected alternative to further protect the quality of water from shoreline use.

Through enforcement and education, the amount of trash and debris created by boats, shoreline recreation, and developed facilities such as the dock systems will be reduced. The reduction of boats at one time, including personal water craft, will reduce the overall effect from the presence of motorized vessels to water quality. There were comments about the use of Personal Water Craft (PWC) and the impact to water quality from gas and oil exhaust. At this time, we are concerned about this impact but need to continue to monitor and research the effects before a decision to limit or ban PWC occurs.

The Forest Service, in coordination with other local agencies, will continue to monitor changes to water quality of Pineview and the rivers and streams entering the reservoir.

A.2 CEMETERY POINT/BLUFF MARINA

Comments about the activities at Cemetery Point were primarily from the residents of Huntsville who want the facilities de-emphasized and replaced by other locations such as Anderson Cove. The concern was that traffic to and from these recreation areas are a constant conflict with the safety and life-style of the residents of Huntsville. Problems occur because of the heavy traffic on weekends by the recreationist, and conflict with families visiting the grave sites in the Huntsville Cemetery.

We realize that conflicts are occurring from the use of Cemetery Point and that the recreation use has a major impact on the quality of life of town residents. The Town of Huntsville has been asked to "accommodate" the increasing recreation use. During our summer operations, weekends often fill the Point to capacity and managers must turn people away. The people who are turned away are finding other parking in the Town and Reservoir access.

To address these comments, we have decided to modify our proposed action for the facility improvements to the marina and beach so as to not increase the total people at one time capacity at Cemetery Point, and instead decrease the available parking at the beach by approximately 30 vehicles. These changes will concentrate on improving the control of traffic into the sites, including providing access

and parking for the Huntsville cemetery. The entry roadways, stations, and beach parking will be reconfigured to facilitate law enforcement patrols, access and parking for the Cemetery, and decreased congestion. Also the changes will make access easier for the general public and those with special recreation access needs, such as physically challenged access to the waters edge from the beach parking. The new fishing access, in the Bluff Marina cove, will utilize existing parking and provide a much needed accessible shoreline fishing opportunity site at Pineview. The existing parking (minus 30 spaces) will determine the capacity at Cemetery Point/Bluffs Marina. Access to the area will be restricted when the parking capacity is reached. The reduction in total number of boats allowed on the Reservoir will also reduce the boating related traffic.

Our objective is to de-emphasize the use of Cemetery Point and Bluffs Marina and to relocate this use to Anderson Cove. The proposed boat launch and expanded day use facilities at Anderson Cove should draw traffic away from Cemetery Point and reduce traffic through Huntsville. The facilities at Bluffs Marina and Beach still have a substantial value and function to distribute use around the Reservoir and will remain operational for the foreseeable future, at a reduced level. Use patterns will continue to be monitored.

A.3 NO ALCOHOL

Concerns were expressed with the irresponsible use of alcohol by some recreation visitors. There is strong sentiment that the possession and use of alcohol should be restricted at the recreation facilities, especially at swim beaches. In the environmental assessment, this was an alternative that was considered but eliminated from further study. It was felt that there were existing laws for use of motor vehicles and public intoxication that are in place for controlling alcohol use.

We will continue to monitor this concern along with the Weber County Health Department and Sheriffs Office. The primary problems have been the beaches at Cemetery Point and boating under the influence of alcohol. We will work cooperatively with local Health Department and law enforcement agencies on education and awareness programs. We will continue to enforce the "No Glass" on the beach prohibition. The elimination of 30 existing parking spaces immediately adjacent to Bluffs Swim Beach will "separate" beach users from their cars, which we hope will reduce the irresponsible use of alcohol.

A.4 WILDLIFE

Comments concerning the protection of waterfowl and wildlife habitat along the shoreline of Pineview mostly centered around the conflicts with trails and shoreline use by boaters. The comments were also about protection of the riparian and wetlands areas since these areas provide a haven for animals that may not otherwise continue living in the Ogden Valley. The Reservoir and surrounding National Forest System Lands are an "island" within the larger landscape. As such, the role and function of the area for a diversity of wildlife species is especially critical. The shoreline around Pineview Reservoir is a refuge for a number of plant and animal species.

The Forest Service also has a desire to protect these natural habitats. The proposed activities include establishing a management designation of sections of the shoreline as undeveloped natural areas. These shorelines will be maintained to promote the natural vegetation with only limited improvements by the Forest Service. We will emphasize maintenance of existing improvements and user education/ethics within the undeveloped natural areas. The needs of the plants and animals will be the

priority for these designated areas for the foreseeable future. Activities like trails, noxious weed control, shoreline stabilization, and fence maintenance will be limited in scope, designed to minimize the potential impacts to wildlife, and improve habitat quality.

The conflict from boaters will be reduced by the management activities proposed. The number of boats allowed at one time on the surface will be reduced and the entire shoreline except at Anderson Cove Campground will be closed to any form of camping and will be strictly enforced. This will reduce the negative effects in the section of shore that are easily accessible to boats. Two new areas will be closed to motorized vessels and wakeless areas will be expanded for the protection of wildlife habitat. These areas are at the mouth of the Middle fork of the Ogden River, at the northern end of Geertsen Bay, and Spring Creek Cove.

Protection of riparian areas, wetlands, and floodplains is a legal requirement and will be emphasized in all projects. Any activities we do that have an effect to these areas will require strict efforts to first avoid these impacts and secondly, to minimize the impacts to the greatest extent possible. Appropriate permits and approvals will be required if any riparian or wetland area has potential to be impacted. This will be the case where proposed trails cross drainages. The extent of trail development originally proposed along the south and north shores has been reduced to protect wetlands and floodplains.

Since there are known Bald Eagles which winter at the reservoir, there will be special mitigation measures developed to maintain the number of roosting trees and monitor and manage the recreation activities that may negatively effect these birds. Conflict with winter snowmobile use on the ice surface and roosting eagles will be closely monitored, and restrictions put in place where necessary.

A.5 ROADS/TRAFFIC

Increased traffic in Ogden Valley, due to recreation visitors, is one of our greatest challenges. The traffic and congestion causes concern with safety, noise, and impacts on quality of life. As the Wasatch Front and Ogden Valley continue to expand in population, the traffic issues will only get worse. Our challenge is to manage the recreation traffic, in light of other traffic safety issues throughout the Ogden Valley. Comments received concerning the flow of traffic in and around the reservoir as well as the conflicts to the local residents identified two specific problem areas. The first is at the entrance to Port Ramp Marina. Here boat traffic turning into the ramp conflict with the normal flow on SR 162. This is the main travelway for those that live in Eden and Liberty. The second area of concern is the traffic through the Town of Huntsville to Cemetery Point and the conflict with the residential homes.

The Forest Service and Utah Department of Transportation are working cooperatively to improve the access off and on to SR 39 and SR 162, by installing acceleration and deceleration lanes. This is a high priority to both agencies. In addition to providing safe access, the Forest Service recommends that the State and County restrict roadside parking immediately adjacent to the highway access points (Port Ramp, Pineview Trailhead, Middle Inlet, Quist Beach, etc.). This roadside parking is currently the cause of much congestion and visibility limitations.

The traffic through Huntsville continues to be one of our most challenging issues. We are sensitive to the impacts on local residents and have modified proposed improvements at Cemetery Point and Bluffs Marina to address these concerns. At this time, there are three things that we can concentrate our management efforts on. First is reducing the number of vehicles. This can be done by reducing the number of parking spaces and thus reducing capacity, and by creating services in other areas outside of

Huntsville. The first row of parking spaces at the Bluffs Swim Beach will be removed (30 spaces), except for handicap parking spaces. A beach and boat launch at Anderson Cove Campground will likely attract visitors away from Cemetery Point. Anderson Cove is an easily accessible site from both Ogden Canyon and Trappers Loop. The reduction in boats at one time on the reservoir should also limit the total number of vehicles associated with boating. There are ways to let people know that the boat capacity has been reached or the parking areas are full before people drive into Huntsville, and before they drive up the canyon or over Trappers Loop. Improved signing outside of Huntsville and at the base of the canyons may be possible. Another idea is an electronic signboard at the mouth of the canyons and better use of local radio news stations.

Second, we can find ways to ensure the travel speed along 100 South is below the posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour. We are coordinating with Weber County Sheriff, who does the law enforcement for Huntsville, to find solutions to this problem. A trailer mounted radar unit which would display the oncoming vehicle speed has been suggested by the Sheriff. This trailer would be in place during high use periods.

The third emphasis management item is the issue of what people do when Cemetery Point is full and we turn people away. Typically, these people have friends and relatives they plan to meet at the beach so they park in the nearest side street and walk into Cemetery Point. Others drive the side streets looking for a public access to the reservoir and park there. We will try to reduce this impact by reducing the number of vehicles driving this direction when the capacities are reached. We will restrict the number of walk in users in order to discourage leaving their vehicles parked in Huntsville. We will increase the patrols by Forest Service and Weber County Sheriff Deputies working with the Forest Service at known reservoir access points.

Concern was also expressed that the 950 PAOT capacity increase identified for Alternative 2 deserved more attention in the analysis. It is important to recognize that much of the increase PAOT capacity projected is not necessarily "new" use. Although not well reflected in the No Action alternative, much of the displayed increased use is actually existing use that is currently occurring around the reservoir at "undeveloped" facilities and is not being managed. Because the use has been in undeveloped facilities, it was not reflected in the officially reported PAOT capacity figures. The action alternatives capture this existing use at facilities and locations that can accommodate and better manage the impacts. All the areas are receiving use currently. The greatest increase in new uses is with the group areas proposed at Anderson Cove Expansion.

A.6 TRAILS

Concerns about trails in close proximity to residential homes was the greatest topic of written responses to our proposed projects. The loss of privacy and fear that trails would attract the wrong element of society and bring them into residents backyards was in nearly all the comments from citizens of Huntsville. There were also comments about the negative affect of trails in wetlands. It should be noted that there were some comments in favor of building trails around the Reservoir.

The idea of a trail around the shoreline of Pineview Reservoir is not new. Citizens who were involved in the Ogden Valley General Plan were asked their opinion of this trail system and the number who supported the trail were over three times those who opposed it. The Forest Service continues to support development of trail networks, and links between existing trail systems. We are also committed to

working cooperatively with Weber County, Town of Huntsville, and other trail advocacy groups to develop a bike trail/lane adjacent to SR 39 and SR 162.

Nearly all the comments against the trails in this assessment specifically addressed the trail along the south shore of Huntsville, not necessarily trails along other sections of shoreline. We feel that this section of shoreline trail needs to have further review and discussion with local citizens to develop trail and access points within Huntsville that compliment the community vision and meet local needs. We will continue these discussion into the near future before substantially improving the existing paths near Huntsville. Some minor maintenance on existing paths will be done to reduce erosion and resource impacts, and protect the existing pathway from total loss.

There were comments about law enforcement and security patrols on trails. We will add these patrols to Forest Service and Weber County Sheriff patrol schedules. As these trails become more popular, it will be less likely that there will be problems with safety and security.

The initial trail proposal was described as a wide gravel path that would resemble a roadway. This would emphasize the urban nature of Pineview with a park-like walkway. General opinion was that this size of trail wasn't appropriate or necessary anywhere on the reservoir. We have scaled back the size of our proposal to lessen the affects from this trail.

Our current proposed trail will compliment the shoreline recreation activities in the undeveloped natural areas by concentrating use along a defined route that we manage, therefore eliminating many of the random people-created paths that negatively impact the shoreline. A few comments were concerned about horse use on this trail and the environmental and social affect from horses.

Where any trail comes into contact with riparian or wetlands, additional requirements must be met to comply with existing federal regulations to protect these lands. We will avoid these areas whenever possible; but if we can't, we will use designs that will cause the least amount of impact even if it means additional cost of construction and future maintenance. Proposed trail routes along the South and North shores have been modified to reduce riparian, wetland and floodplain impacts. Within undeveloped natural areas, emphasis will be placed on maintaining existing "paths" and access points.

Concerns were expressed with the parking situation at Geertsen Bay. Respondents suggested that parking should be kept to a minimum, provide safe on/off access to highway, and reduce posted speed limit on the Highway. The Forest Service will be working cooperatively with Weber County to address the parking situation at Geertsen Bay. The current "pull off" needs to be improved to provide adequate drainage and safe on/off to the highway. At a minimum, the Forest Service will be installing an informational/education sign.

A.7 ANDERSON COVE

Comments generally were in favor of building new facilities at Anderson Cove Campground especially those facilities that would draw people away from Cemetery Point and the Town of Huntsville. Many expressed that improved facilities at Anderson Cove would reduce traffic in Huntsville. This would be services such as a boat launch, swim beach access, and picnicking. Some comments did express a concern about new facilities which would add to the operational workload the concessionaire has now and increase total use and congestion at the Reservoir.

The opportunity for expansion is the best here because of the location, available land, quality of the shoreline, and adjacent utilities. Anderson Cove Campground and the adjacent expansion area has the advantage of being easier to drive to than nearly any other location on the reservoir.

The original proposal for Anderson Cove expansion, in the 1985 Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan, was for a new campground. After listening to the public comments and reviewing the recreation demands, it was decided that it would better serve the public for beach access and larger group sites. This will be presented to the next campground concessionaire as an opportunity to build these facilities with a long term permit that would allow the private investment to be amortized. If the private investor doesn't feel that this is a good investment, then this office will seek alternate public funding sources.

Concern was again expressed that the 950 PAOT capacity increase identified for Alternative 2 deserved more attention in the analysis and that there are conflicts between the purpose and need and the proposed action. It is important to recognize that much of the increase PAOT capacity projected is not necessarily "new" use. Although not well reflected in the No Action alternative, much of the displayed increased use is actually existing use that is currently occurring around the reservoir at "undeveloped" facilities and is not being managed. Because the use has been in undeveloped facilities, it was not reflected in the PAOT figures. The action alternatives capture this existing use at facilities and locations that can accommodate and better manage the impacts. All the areas are currently receiving use. The greatest increase in new uses is with the developed group areas proposed at Anderson Cove Expansion.

A.8 BOATS

The comments concerning the boat capacity were mixed. There were some that felt it was critical to reduce the numbers of boats and the boat length, while others that felt it was not necessary. A number of the comments were questions of how the capacity would be implemented and ensure fairness to all boaters including those who used the Ogden Yacht Club and the concessionaire wet storage.

The Forest Service and Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation have been working with the boat limit for a number of years. Our concern is on those peak use days when the quality of the experience is diminished, user conflicts are on the increase, and public safety is compromised. The decision to establish the "boats at one time" limits at each ten foot level was based on a combination of experience and computer-aided mapping that showed us the usable surface acres at each level. The subjective part of this analysis was determining how many acres per boat would allow for safety and a quality recreation experience. This was where experience played a role. With regards to boat length, we are proposing that the facilities be designed for maximum watercraft of 32'.

Other citizen comments were about problems with Personal Water Craft and concerns that the numbers of this type of vessel were not being restricted. We intend to continue to study and research the use of Personal Water Craft before a decision is made. We are aware of the recent actions by the US Park Service to limit these vessels.

We received very few comments about the planned changes to surface zoning. Most comments were in favor of continued and improved zoning.

A.9 SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT

A number of comments addressed the concern about Pineview Reservoir remaining a good place to bring families for water based recreation. Citizens feel that the laws and ordinances are not being enforced and should be a priority. Experience by all the agencies involved with law enforcement at Pineview shows that constant presence and active enforcement are the only ways to ensure safety and security. Pineview Reservoir has the same problems suffered by the large cities like Ogden and Salt Lake. This is because the reservoir visitors are the same citizens who live in these urban center and they bring their behavior with them.

We realize that a feeling of security is critical for citizens in all of our recreation facilities. Pineview currently has the highest Forest Service budget for patrolling in this part of the west. Weber County Sheriff Deputies are on call or actually patrolling the reservoir every day of the summer. Additional shifts are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays. During the planning and design of the project proposals, increasing security was a key goal. Many of the activities we are proposing are intended to decrease security issues and improve our ability to effectively enforce the restrictions. An example of this is changing all of the improved access points to day-use only and making it illegal to be at these sites after 10 PM. Another method will be to require the concessionaire to use some of the collected fees to increase security within the facilities. We are also coordinating with Weber County and Division of Parks and Recreation to share boating equipment and expertise.

We recognize that an increased Forest Service presence will be critical for the next 3-4 years as we implement management changes.

A.10 NOISE

Concerns were raised about the problem of excessive noise from the reservoir. These are mostly caused by loud boats and parties after dark. Sounds on the surface of the reservoir have the ability of traveling a great distance. At night, you can clearly hear normal conversations from boats hundreds of feet away. Residential homes against the reservoir have all experienced this phenomenon. When boaters are having a party and playing loud music, it often results in a call to the County Sheriff as a noise nuisance complaint. This can also occur from parties on the shoreline.

Pineview Reservoir is unique in being a "backyard" reservoir with substantial neighborhood development existing and proposed around the shoreline. This concern was one of the reasons we are structuring the management of Pineview to be mostly day-use only. This reduces the conflicts with the rural life-style of the Ogden Valley and the recreation activities on Pineview. No camping on the shoreline restriction will be strictly enforced, in addition to the closure of developed recreation facilities at 10:00 PM.

A.11 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Concerns were expressed that the effects analysis in the pre-decisional Environmental Assessment was inadequate and that all direct, indirect, secondary, and cumulative effects had not been displayed. Due to the number of agencies and their jurisdictional responsibilities within the Ogden River Watershed, the environmental study process should have been a joint interagency process.

In response to these comments, we have acknowledged that there may be effects on the National Forest from activities occurring on public and private land within Ogden Valley and the Ogden River Watershed. We have attempted to identify the past and on-going activities and to incorporate the analysis completed in the Ogden Valley Master Plan.

It is difficult to predict, without some current scientific study, what will be the social affects to the Ogden Valley from the proposed recreation at Pineview. The recent growth of population in northern Utah has overshadowed management changes we have proposed. It has been difficult factoring in the activities occurring outside of Pineview Reservoir and the local National Forest with the effects produced by our proposals to determine the overall cumulative impacts.