

Big Flat Dispersed Camping Management

Fishlake National Forest

Beaver County, Utah



Project
Location



Project Description

Improve existing roads and dispersed campsites and protect sensitive areas from unauthorized vehicle use.



Why?

- Due to its topography and scenery, this area is a popular destination for dispersed camping and OHV use.
- There is a need to effectively manage the recreational use of the area while minimizing resource damage.
- This project will improve visitor experience by better defining campsite locations and protecting sensitive natural resources.

Project Planning & Timeline



What's Been Done

- A cultural inventory of the project area has been conducted and consultation with SHPO has been completed.
- The Forest Service rotomilled approximately 2 miles of one of the area's major roads (Buck Ridge Road) in 2022.
- In 2023, the Forest Service excavated and placed boulders in key locations to designate dispersed camping areas and protect sensitive resources.

What Still Needs to Be Completed

- Some minor road realignment needs to be performed and road base material needs to be imported and placed to improve road conditions.
- Additional strategic boulder placement is needed to discourage unauthorized vehicle use and designate appropriate camping areas.
- Engineered plans, specifications, and contract package are needed, and will be completed by Forest Service engineers in 2024.
- Construction could occur as early as 2025.

Stakeholder Contributions

- The Forest Service and multiple partners including Utah Forestry Fire & State Lands have partnered through Shared Stewardship to implement forest health projects in the surrounding area.
- Over \$8 million has been invested in recent years to improve forest conditions and reduce wildfire risk in the surrounding Beaver Canyon area, with an additional \$4-6 million planned.
- \$70,000 of Shared Stewardship funding was spent to rotomill the area's Buck Ridge Road in 2022.
- \$135,000 of Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funding was spent on strategic boulder placement in 2023.



Requested Support

This proposal requests **\$700,000** in funding for a construction contract to import road base material, perform minor road realignment, and perform strategic boulder placement work. The Forest Service will provide contract administration and oversight.