

Shuler Family Response to Proposed Easement Forebay

In the 1980s, Payson City made the decision to close the 9-hole Gladstan Golf Course in lower Payson and pursue the development of a new 18-hole course near Elk Ridge, adjacent to property owned by the Shuler family. However, Payson did not own sufficient land to complete the proposed course. To move forward, city officials approached several landowners north of the Forebay area, seeking land donations to help bring the vision to life.

In response, the Shuler family generously donated approximately 40 to 50 acres to enable the completion of the course. Years later, additional land was needed to finish two new holes on the back nine. Once again, the Shuler family stepped forward—this time providing more acreage at a nominal cost to ensure the project's success. We also provided access to the golf course RV park.

Throughout the entire process, our family worked in full cooperation with Payson City, responding to every request with a spirit of goodwill. Today, nestled in the foothills above Elk Ridge and neighboring other city-owned land, stands one of Utah's most scenic and beloved 18-hole golf courses. As members of the Shuler family, we've cherished this development and always believed it would enhance the beauty, appeal, and long-term value of the surrounding community.

We are supportive of Payson City's efforts to establish a conservation easement to protect the Forebay area. For nearly a century, our family has enjoyed the open access, natural beauty, wildlife, and recreational opportunities the area offers—whether hiking, biking, or horseback riding. We hope future generations will be able to experience the same.

However, as we've reviewed the proposed Payson Four Bay Recreation Area map, we've noticed a concerning omission: there is no designated parcel or suggested route for ingress and egress access for property owners to the east of Payson City property. This would effectively leave many landowners landlocked, with significantly diminished property values—an outcome we believe was never intended by Payson City officials.

Moreover, access isn't just a landowner issue—it's a public safety concern. Emergency egress could prove vital in the event of wildfire, natural disaster, or emergencies involving the scout camp and canyon visitors.

We respectfully request a short delay in approving the proposed Conservation Easement to allow time for thoughtful discussion and exploration of viable access solutions. We are confident that a reasonable accommodation can be made—one that protects landowner rights while fully preserving the conservation goals and the vast majority of the easement area.

Sincerely,

The Shuler Family

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