



File Code: 1950
Date: 6/24/2025

Dear Stakeholder:

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), Manti-La Sal National Forest and the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Monticello Field Office are seeking public input as cooperating agencies on the Monticello City Culinary Water Improvement Project. The proposed project is located on the Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, and the BLM Monticello Field Office, in San Juan County, UT.

The purpose of this project is to improve the existing culinary water system and develop the city's water rights on Spring Creek to provide sufficient water for the current and projected population of Monticello City. The city is seeking financial assistance through the USDA Rural Development's Water and Waste Program. USDA Rural Development would consider whether to fund the project. The USFS would consider whether to authorize an amendment to permit MON13001 to develop the water rights as proposed.

The USDA Rural Development has been identified as the lead agency and has primary responsibility for preparation of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as provided by 42 USC 4336 Sec. 107 (a)(1)(2). The USFS and BLM as cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise for, Federal land management, threatened and endangered species, botany, forest resource management, and USFS access road management or BLM resources; and will provide comments, review, or analyses as appropriate, as described in 42 USC 4336 Sec. 107(a)(3). Upon issuance of the final EA and any resulting FONSI by USDA Rural Development, the Cooperating Agencies would adopt the USDA Rural Developments analysis for the EA and issue their own decision documents. The USFS would issue their own FONSI and Decision Notice (DN) in compliance with Forest Service regulations 36 CFR 220.7(c), and the BLM would issue their own FONSI and Decision Record in compliance with DOI regulations (43 CFR 46.320).

The project documents are available online at the Monticello City Culinary Water Improvement Project website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/manti-lasal/projects/68390>

NOTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT. This comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. While comments on this project will be accepted at any time, only those who provide timely comments will be eligible to submit a pre-decisional objection to the project pursuant to 36 CFR part 218 regulations. Individuals, organizations, Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies interested in or affected by the proposed action are invited to participate in the scoping process. Comments received will be used in the analysis of environmental effects. To aid in this process, please ensure that comments are as detailed as possible and specific to the project.

HOW TO COMMENT AND TIMEFRAME. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in *ETV News* on June 25, 2025. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Moreover, the regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. The preferred method for submitting comments is through the public participation portal on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/manti-lasal/projects/68390>. Written comments must be submitted to Orlando Cortez, Deputy District Ranger, 397 North Main Street, PO Box 820, Monticello, UT 84535.

OBJECTION ELIGIBILITY. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the 30-day comment period. Those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to object to the project

under the regulations. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following information:

1. Name and postal address;
2. Title of the proposed action;
3. Specific written comments as defined in § 218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity, along with supporting reasons;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request and identification of the individual or entity who authored the comment(s). For comments listing multiple entities or multiple individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each entity and for each individual in the case of multiple names. A scanned signature or other means of verifying the identity of the individual or entity representative may be used for electronically submitted comments;
5. Individual members of an entity must submit their own comments to establish personal eligibility; comments received on behalf of an entity are considered as those of the entity only.

SCOPING. The thirty-day comment period described above will also serve as the "scoping" period for this proposal. During this scoping process the public may raise issues or provide site-specific information relevant to the proposed action. The analysis team will consider all issues and information. Issues that the analysis shows to be significant will be resolved through project mitigation measures or through the development of alternatives that address those particular issues.

Comments received in response to scoping, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, without an associated name and address, receiving further correspondence concerning this project will not be possible. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality; where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

For more information about this project, please contact Marie Berglund, District NEPA Planner, at marie.berglund@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

**ORLANDO
CORTEZ**

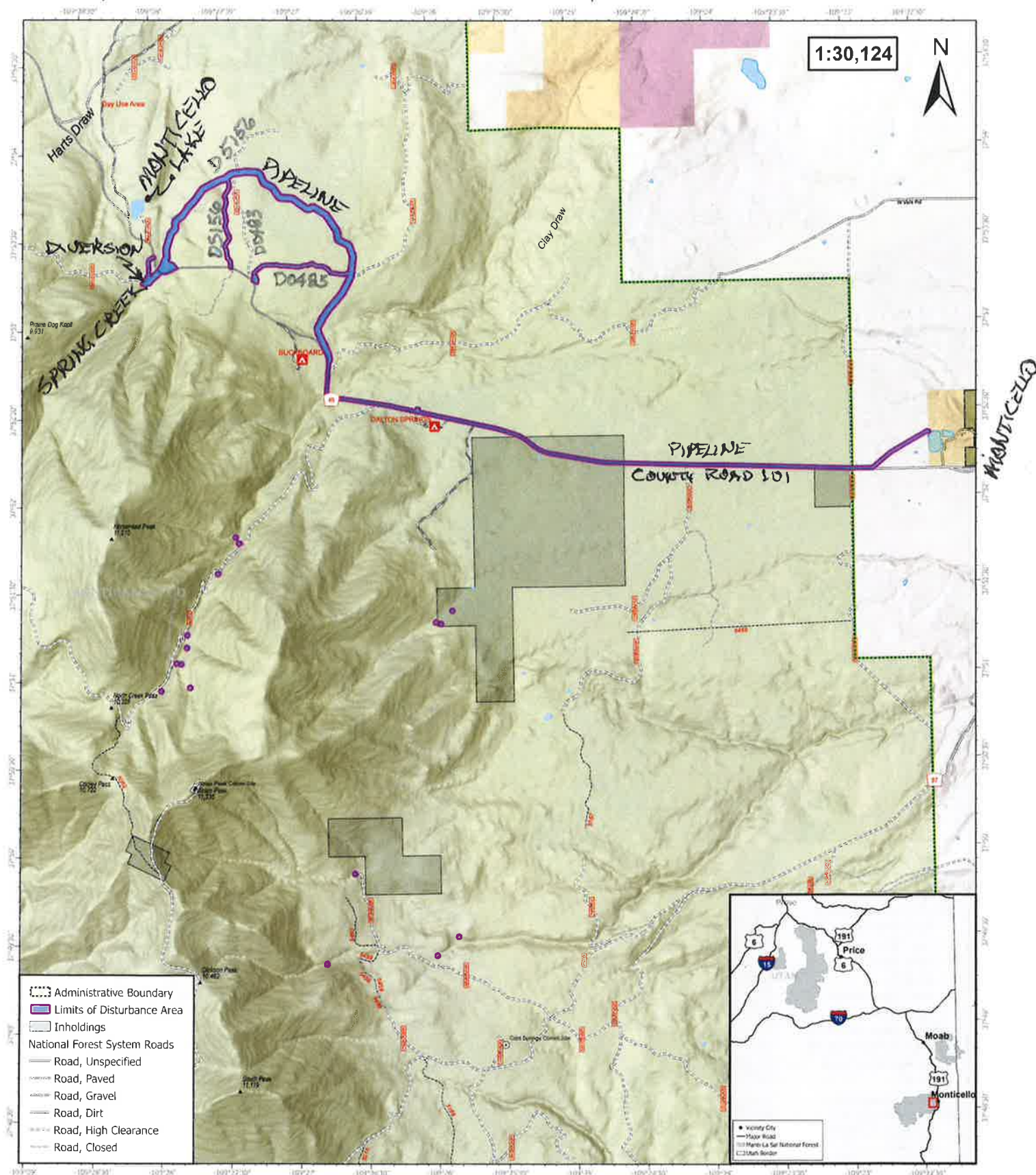
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District Ranger

City of Monticello Spring Creek

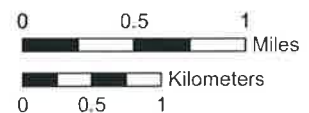
Monticello Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest



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Date: 8/13/2024

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Monticello Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest



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