



File Code: 1950 - 2500
Date: March 8, 2021

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT:

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by the proposed **Beaver Creek Restoration project**. Comments must be submitted to the Forest Service within 30 days following publication of the Notice of Proposed Action in the *Moab Times-Independent*. *published Mar. 10, 2021*
To address the impacts on Beaver Creek in a timely manner, the scoping comment period has been combined with the 30-day comment period on the Proposed Action. Another comment period is not expected to occur before the draft decision is released, so it is important that we get your input at this time.

LOCATION:

The Beaver Creek Restoration project is located on the southeastern side of the La Sal Mountains, approximately 6 miles northeast of the town of La Sal. The entirety of the project is within San Juan County, Utah and is located in sections 4, 5, and 9 of Township 28 South, Range 25 East.

PURPOSE AND NEED: *D5037*

Over the past several years, NFS road 4732 that crosses Beaver Creek has experienced excessive erosion. As vehicles drive through the creek, water is rapidly dispersed onto the dry road surface adjacent to the creek. Over time, this repetitive action of dispersing water and tires loosening the soil, has removed sediment from the road. The long-term impacts of these actions has resulted in the road profile being down-cut approximately two feet and extended for approximately 100 feet. The eroded section of road has now allowed Beaver Creek to divert down the road to the very end of the down-cut section. Currently, when vehicles drive through the creek, they are now driving in the newly formed channel with their vehicles submerged approximately 2 feet for the entire 100 foot section. With the action of driving through this section of creek and the erosive soil properties of the current road profile, sedimentation and erosion are only being exacerbated. There is a need to restore this stream section to preserve the sensitive fish habitat, riparian habitat, and water quantity/quality.

PROPOSED ACTION: *D50374*
D5040

1. NFS road 4731 that is currently designated as 4x4, would be improved from the Upper Two-Mile road to the Beaver Creek crossing to allow for machinery with road fill to access the site.
2. Road fill would be placed in the eroded road section (*D5037* 4732) to restore it to its previous dimensions. Gravel and cobble would be used to harden the stream crossing and to restore native (Greenback or Colorado River) cutthroat trout habitat.
3. Three Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) would be placed upstream of the stream crossing to facilitate the restoration of the stream by slowing water velocities, increasing water quality, and providing for fish and riparian habitat. BDAs will be constructed by driving six-foot, non-treated posts into the channel with a hydraulic post pounder. The posts create a foundation for weaving, and tie the structure to the stream bed. Material for weaving will be juniper bows collected from nearby lop and scatter projects.



- D5037
D5038
4. Change NFS road 4732/4733 from an NFS road to an NFS administrative road. The 4x4 road would be closed to the public just before the stream crossing, approximately 1.2 miles before the road dead-ends at a livestock/irrigation pond. To enforce the change to an administrative road, a fence approximately 200 feet long and gate would be installed just before the stream crossing. Access would still be permitted to personnel that have a need to maintain water rights, such as maintaining irrigation ditches and ponds.
 5. The meadows adjacent to the stream crossing would be lined and blocked with boulders to discourage motorized users from creating new routes through the creek.

To review maps for the project, please visit our Beaver Creek Restoration EA Project webpage at: https://data-stga.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=59612

PROVIDING COMMENTS

Written comments should be submitted to:

Louis (Ted) Neff, Deputy District Ranger
Moab Ranger District
62 East 100 North, P.O. Box 386
Moab, UT 84532.


Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc or .docx) to comments-intermtn-manti-lasal-moab-monticello@usda.gov. Comments submitted by email should have the subject line of Beaver Creek Restoration project; included with your name, address, telephone number, organization represented (if any), and specific facts and supporting reasons for us to consider in the analysis. Anyone who comments in writing will remain on the project mailing list throughout the project.

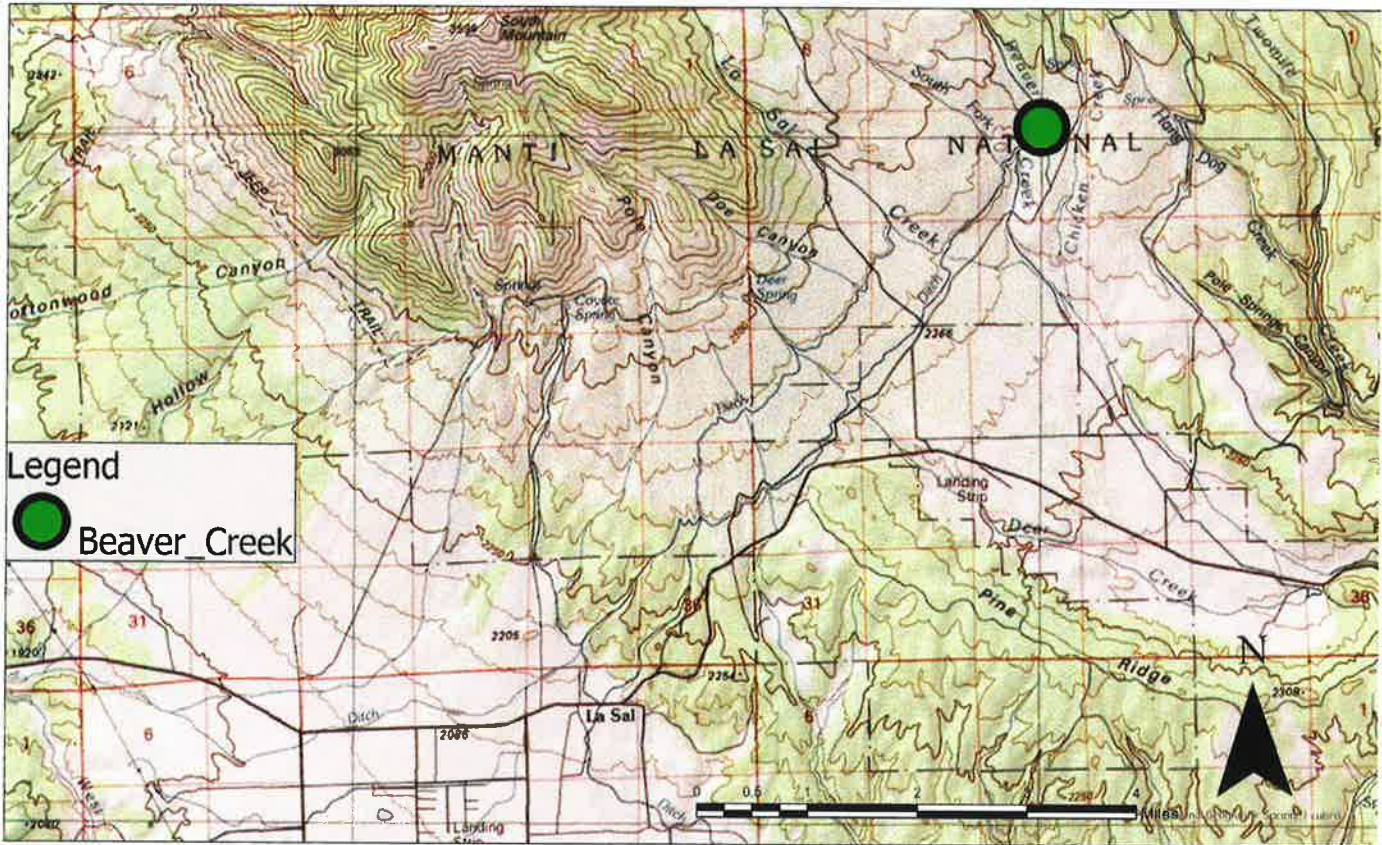
Upon completion, the Environmental Assessment and a draft decision will be made available to those shareholders who submitted comments and those who previously requested to be included on this project's mailing list. This and other information will be located at: https://data-stga.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=59612

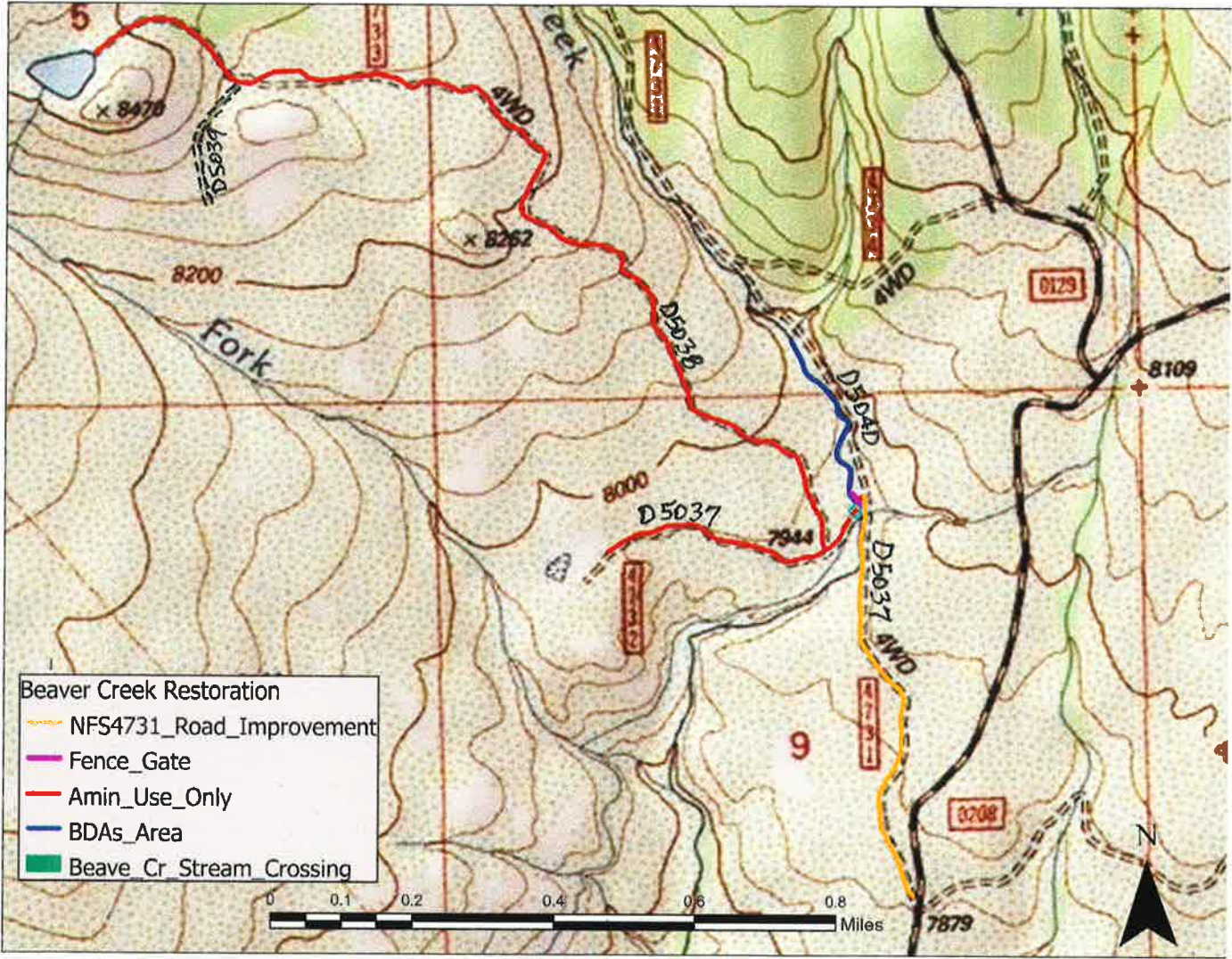
The Moab-Monticello Ranger District will publish legal notice of the opportunity to object to this proposed project in the newspaper of record, *Times-Independent*. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

If you require more information, you may contact Daniel Lay, Team Lead, at the Moab Ranger District Office, phone: (435) 636-3547 or email: daniel.c.lay@usda.gov.

Sincerely,


 LOUIS (TED) NEFF
 Deputy District Ranger





Beaver Creek Crossing

Legend

