

March 16, 2017

Dimple Dell Preservation Community

RE: Proposed Dimple Dell Regional Park North Rim Trail Paving Project

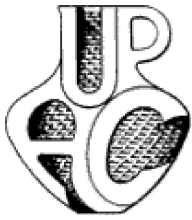
Dimple Dell Preservation Community,

Thank you for providing the Utah Professional Archaeological Council (UPAC) the opportunity to comment on the proposed paving of the North Rim Trail at Dimple Dell Regional Park. The Utah Professional Archaeological Council was established in 1982 to maintain and promote the goals of professional archaeology in the state of Utah, as well as to be a voice for the community in areas of conservation and preservation of cultural resources important to our collective past. UPAC is interested in this project because we have concerns about the potential effects of proposed development on known cultural resources in the area, as well as the high potential for additional resources that may not be visible on the surface.

The property through which the North Rim Trail passes contains four known prehistoric archaeological sites, one of which contains habitation features. Limited recovery excavations were undertaken there in 2015 after cultural materials were encountered during a Questar pipeline replacement project (refer to April 30, 2015 articles in both The Salt Lake Tribune and The Deseret News). The excavations resulted in the discovery of two habitation structures, several hearths, and the recovery of nearly 5,000 prehistoric artifacts. Radiocarbon dating and diagnostic artifacts indicate occupation of the area during the Late Archaic-Formative (Fremont) transition period between 1,800 and 1,500 years ago.

Archaeological sites with intact subsurface deposits are very rare in the Salt Lake Valley because of the development that has taken place over the last 150 years. Sites such as those investigated in 2015 containing intact prehistoric structures, and the respective ages of the features make them particularly important for what they can tell us about the prehistoric inhabitants of the Salt Lake Valley at a pivotal time when some indigenous populations were shifting from a highly mobile hunter-gatherer lifestyle to one that was more sedentary and involved some degree of horticulture. The dates obtained from the cultural features, the presence of a wide range of artifact types, and the subsistence-based evidence from animal remains, further enhance the importance of the site described above to the prehistory of the region.

UPAC recommends that this property be kept free of additional development, as that will allow *in-situ* preservation of the resources that are known to, and may potentially exist in this area. If the land is developed further, construction activities would constitute an adverse effect to known historic properties. The work undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed North Rim Trail in 2015 constituted salvage recovery of a very small part of the overall site. It in no way can be considered data recovery that would be adequate to mitigate the impacts from the currently proposed development. If there are



any state allocated funds involved in the proposed development project, or any state permit, license, or approval, compliance with U.C.A. 9-8-404 would be required.

Recreational use of the canyon can be compatible with the archaeological legacy there. The Salt Lake County Council should conduct careful analysis of options, design plans, and make appropriate decisions in these types of development projects. In addition, the Salt Lake County Historic Preservation Commission and/or Utah State Historic Preservation Office should be consulted with, or be notified for potential involvement in those instances when known cultural resources have the potential to be impacted by construction or development activities.

If Salt Lake County intends to move forward with the development of the North Rim Trail, UPAC would strongly recommend re-documentation of the sites prior to any ground disturbing activities, and would like to discuss potential alternatives, re-routing to avoid impacts to the sites, and any site stewardship potential.

UPAC urges you to please consider carefully any proposed development in this area, as the known cultural resources are non-renewable and irreplaceable remnants of our collective past. Archaeological sites such as those found along the north rim of Dry Creek are exceedingly rare, but hold remnants of aspects of lifestyles that have lasted for millennia; some of which were created by those from whom our state takes its name.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 801-520-2382 or at [a.yentsch@yahoo.com](mailto:a.yentsch@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Andrew T. Yentsch". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Andrew T. Yentsch, M.S., RPA  
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