

# PANDO

PROTECTING UTAH'S NATURAL WONDER  
WHILE IMPROVING HIGHWAY SAFETY





# PANDO IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST TREE

- By land mass... **106 ACRES**
- By weight... **13.2 MILLION POUNDS**
- **TWICE AS BIG** as the next largest aspen clone
- **5X BIGGER** than the General Sherman Tree
- One of the **OLDEST & LARGEST ORGANISMS** on Earth



# PANDO: A POPULAR & PROTECTIVE ICON

- Inspired by a group of students from Angie Blomquist's class at Monroe Elementary, In 2013, Senator Ralph Okerlund sponsored a bill to have aspen name the state tree. Students filmed a song about Pando in the Pando.
- Pando is the subject of countless films, books, articles and even its own postage stamp
- Pando captures & preserves 89.46 million gallons of water per year while protecting Fish Lake from landslides & flooding
- Pando provides a natural fire break spanning 0.66 miles long x 0.43 miles wide
- Pando feeds Fishlake Basin producing 95,000 pounds of forage and biomass each year
- Home to cougars, bears, foxes, waterfowl, bats, bobcats, deer and elk
- Pacific Flyway rest stop for migratory birds and butterflies





# **PANDO'S OUTLINE AS SEEN FROM MYTOGE MOUNTAIN (10,311 FT)**



**Pando reveals its shape every Spring when the tree blooms and again in Fall when the leaves change color**



# THE ISSUES

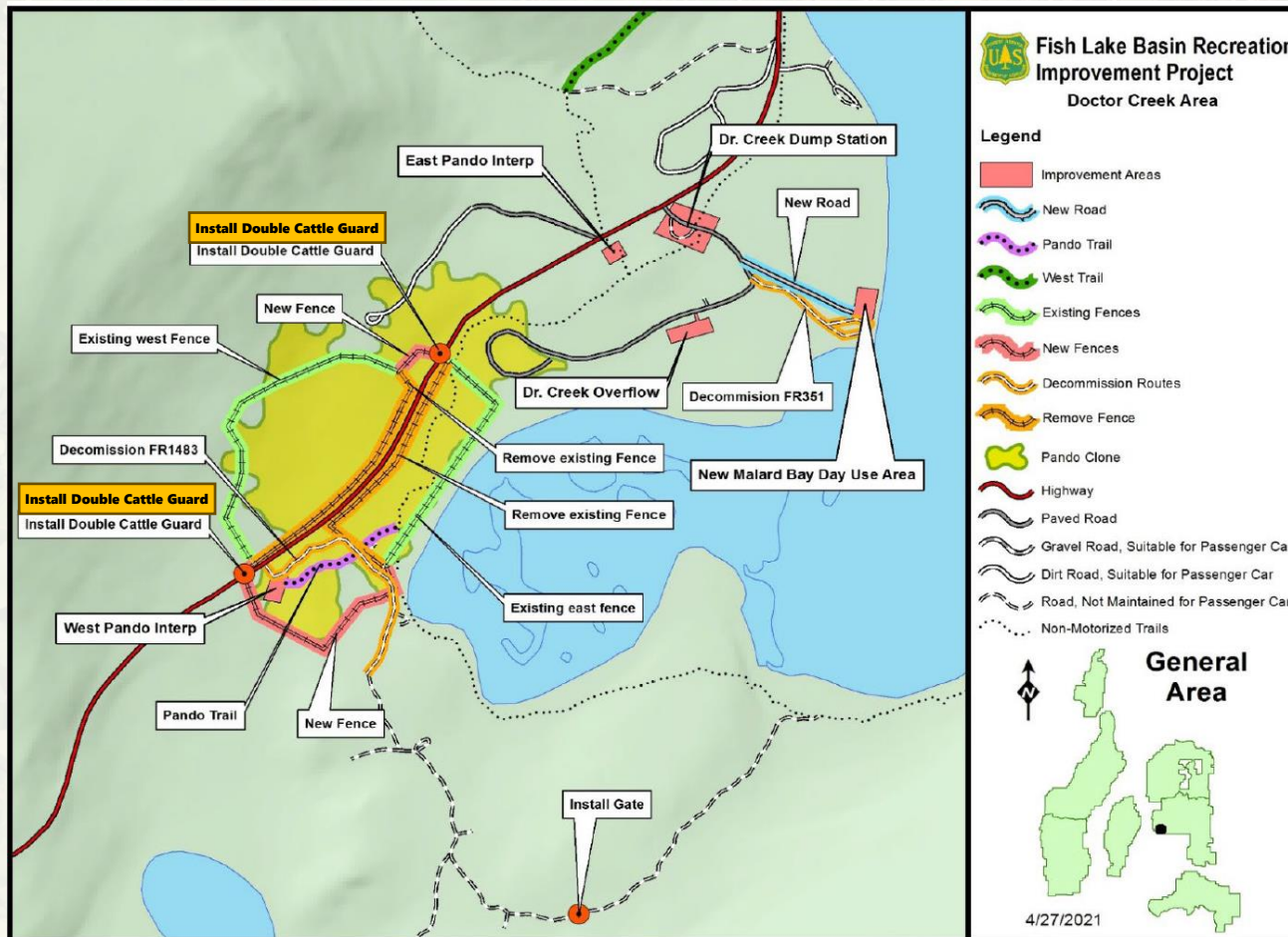
- Utah Hwy 25 (Fishlake Scenic Byway) was built in 1918, before Pando's discovery. It travels 0.6 miles of the tree
- Each year, 300,000 people visit Fish Lake using this road.
- At 55 MPH, the "Pando" stretch of Highway 25 is the fastest portion of the Scenic Byway
- Deer foraging along the highway in Pando pose a hazard to motorists
- Using the Highway 25 corridor and unprotected areas of the tree, deer & elk are eating Pando faster than it can regenerate
- Double cattle guards and fences can move deer out of the roadway and around the tree, which will improve public safety and help sustain Pando





# WHAT IS NEEDED

Between 2017 and 2022, Fishlake National Forest, Fish Lake Community Members, and Elected Officials worked to develop a recreation plan which includes work to protect Pando. The Plan improvements include road work on Utah State Hwy 25, installation of cattle guards, protective fencing for Pando, visitor parking and information kiosks. Work needed on Hwy 25 can only be approved and maintained by Utah Department of Transport.



**Estimated Costs: \$476,300**

- **Cattle guard installs per UDOT: \$370,000**
- **Pando permanent fencing: \$90,800**
- **Adaptive fencing system: \$15,500**

Pando is threatened by overpopulation of mule deer and elk. Because it is a recreation area, hunting is not allowed in and around Pando. Protective fencing is one of the most effective ways to control wildlife and protect the tree.

As regional tourism and deer populations continue to grow, we expect to see more highway casualties in the area. With limited emergency services, those casualties can quickly become fatalities.

77% of the plan's costs are related to road update costs. Remaining costs will bring 76 acres into permanent protection and care while moving deer and elk around the tree and off the road.



# BROAD COLLABORATION & SUPPORT

Leaders in agriculture, commerce, education and conservation support the Fishlake Basin Improvement Plan, which protects Pando, and improves highway safety for the 300,000 who travel through Pando on Highway 25 each year.

## Fish Lake Basin Recreation Improvement Plan (Pando Specified Improvements)

- Planning or Consultation Period: 2017-2022
- NEPA Analysis: 2018-2019
- Public Comment Period: 2019
- NEPA Approval and USFS Signature: 2022

## Attached Letters of Support

- 7 Mile Grazers Association
- Fishlake Resorts and Lodge
- Snow College
- Aspen Valley Homeowners Assn.
- Friends of Pando
- Robert "Bob" Campbell, Retired Forest Service Ecologist who set protections for Pando in motion in 1993

## Consultation & Advice From:

- USDI BLM- Richfield Office
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Park Service -Capitol Reef National Park
- UT Farm Bureau Federation
- UT Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- UT Division of Indian Affairs
- UT Division of Water Quality
- UT Public Land Policy Coordination Office
- UT State Division of Forestry
- UT Division of Wildlife Resources
- UT Historic Preservation Office
- Garkane Energy
- Wayne County Economic Dev.
- High Country Recreation
- Bowery Haven Resort
- Richfield Reaper
- Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife
- USU Extension Office
- Sevier County Commissioners
- Wayne County Commissioners