



Ashley National Forest 2007 Year in Review



FOREST SUPERVISOR'S LETTER



Kevin B. Elliott
Forest Supervisor

Dear Friends,

In the following pages you will see accomplishment highlights by some of the finest U.S. Forest Service employees in the country. The differences they are making are largely due to the support and partnership of many folks like you who care so deeply for the Ashley National Forest. I am energized each morning coming to work knowing we have partners and a workforce committed to making a difference.

As we prepare for this year's field season we are certainly reminded of the tragic loss of three of our valued Uintah Basin citizens on the first day of the Neola North Fire. While we as a community mourned the loss of George and Tracy Houston and Roger Roberson, we saw people come together to comfort, strengthen, and support each other.

This past year we made significant progress with updating our travel management plan. This effort is designed to identify the appropriate places for people to use their off-highway vehicles, including ATV's. OHV's are a legitimate use of national forest system lands and like any recreational pursuit, one that needs to be managed to protect other resource values. Working together we will designate routes and areas for folks to enjoy our vast backyard in a sustainable manner.

Our High Lakes Stabilization Project moved forward with coordination and cooperation of a number of federal, state, and local partners. This past year we stabilized Clements Lake and this year we will focus our efforts on Island and Brown Duck lakes. As part of the Uinta Basin Replacement Project and mitigation for the expansion of Big Sand Wash Reservoir water storage rights will be transferred to Big Sand Wash Reservoir allowing us to restore 13 high mountain lakes in the High Uintas Wilderness. This effort is a multiple year project and due to the size and structure of some of the dams being stabilized our minimum tool analysis may require some short term impacts in order to restore these high mountain lakes.

All of the Ashley's South Unit is available for oil and gas leasing and about half is currently leased. We can expect to see increased drilling applications and new wells on national forest system lands. Using new authorities provided by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and working with the BLM's Pilot Project Office, we will work together to help meet our nation's energy needs while managing surface impacts.

In April of 2008 we received new planning regulations to help guide us through revising our forest plan. The planning rule has been a source of debate for many years and already the new rule is being challenged in court. We will be evaluating how to best move forward with making needed changes to our forest plan. This year we will continue to focus on forest plan revision, high lake stabilization, energy development, and travel management.

I look forward to working with the people who use and love the Ashley National Forest. Our challenge and responsibility as land stewards is to involve more people, incorporate science, and to make decisions that sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of our natural resources.

KEVIN B. ELLIOTT
Forest Supervisor

FOREST PLAN REVISION UPDATE

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”
~ Native American Proverb

The first Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ashley National Forest was completed in 1986. Twenty years later, in 2006, we began a major revision of that Plan by talking to Forest users about values, issues and desired conditions for the Ashley. We also started work on a number of resource assessments to help us describe current social, economic and ecological conditions on the Forest.
Work on these tasks continued through the first quarter of 2007. However, a District Court ruling in the spring of 2007 set aside the Forest Service’s Planning Rule. All activities
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“[The public lands represent] *in a sense, the breathing space of the nation.*”
~ Richard M. Nixon, environmental message, 8 February 1971

RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Did you Know?
Over half of all Forest visitors come from within 50 miles of the Forest.

The Recreational Enhancement Act, (REA), is a 10-year authority for National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service which permits fees to be collected at developed recreation sites.
There is excellent local support for REA. Ninety-five percent of the funds collected
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New restroom and shower facility at Buckboard Crossing, paid for with Recreation Enhancement Act funds.

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES

Historical Background: A total of 46 oil/gas wells have been drilled in the Ashley National Forest (ANF) from 1956 to 2007. These wells were drilled within the following Ranger Districts: Flaming Gorge - two plugged and abandoned (P&A) wells; Vernal - two P&A wells; Roosevelt - five P&A wells; Duchesne - 25 P&A, four shut-in gas wells, one temporary abandoned well, and eight producing wells.
Berry Petroleum: In 2006, we completed an EA (and some CE reviews), approving new wells on up to 14 well pads (not 400 as noted by Peter). During 2007, Berry Petroleum drilled six of those approved wells, and put the wells into production. During 2007,
(Continued on page 5)



Oil well near Vernal, UT, April 26, 1913

HIGH LAKES STABILIZATION PROJECT CLEMENTS LAKE DAM STABILIZATION

Interagency Collaboration Leads to Successful Implementation

The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URMCC), a Federal agency, and the US Department of the Interior (USDI) are authorized to complete the High Lakes Stabilization Project (HLSP), identified as a mitigation project within the scope of the Uinta Basin Replacement Project (UBRP), with the goal of stabilizing 13 mountain lakes in the High Uintas Wilderness Area (HUWA) on the Ashley National Forest.

The purpose of the High Lakes Stabilization Project (HLSP) is to modify historic dam structures to a “No-Hazard” level, meaning the risk of damage to wilderness and downstream property resulting from potential floods would be no greater than if the dam was not there. Stabilization will restore wilderness characteristics by improving

Clements Lake, Dam
Breach Final
Inspection
(September 2007)



lake conditions and returning natural in-stream flow.

Clements Lake Dam, in the Brown Duck Basin of the HUWA, was stabilized in Fiscal Year 2007, at an approximate cost of \$650,000 and is the largest and most complex of the four dam structures stabilized so far.

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Did you Know?

21% of Forest
Visitors are
under 16 years
old.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS DESIGNATION

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, establishes a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System for the protection of selected national rivers and their immediate environments, which possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values which are to be preserved in free-flowing condition.

The purpose of the Act is to institute a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by designating the initial components of that system and by prescribing the methods and standards applicable to adding components to the system. For more information on the Act, please go to the following web site: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

There are 24 river segments on the Ashley National Forest that are being evaluated in the

state-wide Wild and Scenic River Designation Process.

In 2007 public scoping meetings were conducted statewide culminating in the publishing of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement which can be viewed at : http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/deis_wsr.shtml.

During the Summer of 2008 a Final Environmental Impact Statement will be published for public comment. During the fall or winter of 2008 a final decision and recommendation will be made for Wild and Scenic Rivers within Utah.

“The wilderness holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask.”

~Nancy Newhall

YELLOWSTONE CANYON PRESCRIBED FIRE

Did you Know?

25% of Forest visitors are between 40 and 50 years old.

The Yellowstone Canyon Fuels Reduction project is located on the Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District. Through a combination of treatments over five years this project will reduce fuel loading on the east and west sides of the Yellowstone Drainage, providing a buffer around private property and Forest facilities in the wildland urban interface. After project completion we anticipate reducing the amount of area classified as "high risk" and allowing more fires to be managed for resource benefits.

Additional benefits of this project include: promoting aspen regeneration, reducing conifer encroachment, and restoring fire to ponderosa pine and sagebrush fuel types.

Treatments that have already been implemented through two service contracts and work by Forest personnel include: mechanical thinning, piling, and



burning of vegetation in ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and aspen vegetation types including live, standing dead, and down and dead material.

This work involved treating 500 acres with well over 10,000 piles produced in the fall of 2006. The burning of this material began in the winter of 2006/2007 and was completed this fall.

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FOREST PLAN REVISION (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

directly related to that Rule were immediately halted, including discussions of desired conditions. The Ashley's planning team spent the remainder of 2007 and early 2008 working on inventories and reports that are required by the National Forest Management Act, independent of any planning rule. These include completing a draft Potential Wilderness Evaluation describing the capability, availability and need for wilderness designation for undeveloped areas on the Forest, improving our descriptions of current ecological conditions, and conducting studies of social and economic conditions related to Forest management. All of these reports will be available to public later this year.

A new Forest Service planning rule was published in April 2008. This rule describes what Forest Plans should address and how to involve the public so that plan revision is a meaningful, collaborative process. The new Rule is controversial, and new legal challenges have been filed. In light of this controversy the Ashley is considering various options for proceeding with its revision work. A new work plan will be

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"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

~Albert Einstein

OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES [CONTINUED]

(Continued from page 2)

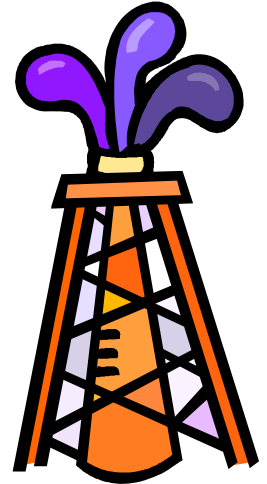
we started working on an EIS and public scoping, for Berry's new proposal to drill up to 400 additional wells, and construct up to 100 miles of associated roads.

EOG Resources: During 2007, EOG Resources closed the Ashley Federal #2 Well (which they drilled in 2006). They also ceased activity on the five other wells we approved for them to drill, but which have not yet been drilled. Other companies now control the leases, where EOG's proposed wells and the Ashley Federal #3 Well are located, and we are waiting to find out what those other companies wish to do.

Avalon Energy: Avalon Energy conducted and completed their proposed and approved seismic operations in the Strawberry Peak area. They are now proposing to drill up to three deep, exploratory drill holes in the same general area.

We started working on an Environmental Assessment for their proposal, with the help of a 3rd party contractor.

Currently, the EA for Avalon's proposal is on hold, pending Avalon's desire to continue. During 2007, Avalon Energy also changed its name to Shotgun Energy.



Oil rig on the South Unit

"A Healthy Ecology is the Basis
for a Healthy Economy"

~ Claudine Schneider,
US Representative in "*The Green
Lifestyle Handbook*"



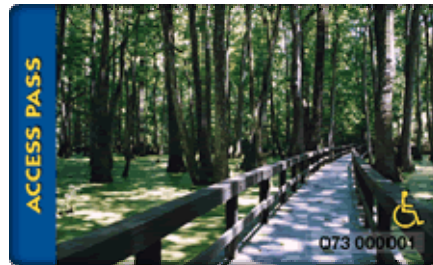
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS



America the Beautiful Senior Passport \$10.00

The America the Beautiful Senior Passport is a lifetime entrance pass to most national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. The America the Beautiful Senior Passport admits the passport signee and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. In those areas where a per person fee is charged, the pass admits the pass holder and three additional adults. There is a one time \$10.00 fee. The person must show proof of being at least 62 years old when purchasing the passport.

This passport is honored at Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in lieu of the Recreation Use Pass. It also provides for a 50% discount on camping (single sites only) at Flaming Gorge.



America the Beautiful Access Passport FREE

The America the Beautiful Access Passport is a lifetime entrance pass to most national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. There is no charge for the passport.

The person must be medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled and must show written proof when obtaining the passport.



America the Beautiful Annual Passport \$80.00

The America the Beautiful Annual Passport is an entrance pass to most national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee and may be purchased by anyone.



Flaming Gorge Recreation Pass Still Available

The Flaming Gorge Recreation pass is still available through our Ranger District offices for those that solely want to visit the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The cost for the pass is changing, so please contact one of our local offices for details.

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST STATISTICS

Ashley National Forest Acres.....1,382,347
 Acres in Utah.....1,286,124
 Acres in Wyoming.....96,223

Wilderness Areas Acres
 High Uintas Wilderness
 Ashley N.F.276,175
 High Uintas Wilderness
 Wasatch-Cache N.F. 180,530

Recreation
 Campgrounds (Family).....60
 Campsites.....1,156
 Campgrounds (Group).....12
 Picnic Areas.....8
 Trailheads.....10
 Total Trail Miles.....1,196
 ATV (All Terrain Vehicle).....194
 Biking.....325
 Hiking.....939
 Snowmobile.....116
 Total Road Miles.....1,818
 ATV.....1,151

Human Resources Work Value
 Volunteers.....\$60,343

Employees
 Permanent Employees.....105
 Temporary/Seasonal.....125

Payments to Counties Amount
 Uintah County.....\$65,624
 Duchesne County\$176,830
 Daggett County\$63,574
 Sweetwater County, WY.....\$22,450
 Summit County\$5,756
 Utah County\$1,004
 Wasatch County\$12,851



Ashley National Forest Headquarters

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Collected</u>
Non-Recreation.....	151.....	\$16,255
Recreation.....	107.....	\$264,155
Power.....	18.....	\$15,257

Fire Management
 Fuel Treatment Acres.....720
 Prescribed Burn Acres.....2,815
 Number of Wildfires.....32
 Wildfires Acres Burned.....23,492
 Number of Wildland Fire Use Fires.....5
 Wildland Fire Use Acres Burned.....0

Wildlife and Fish Habitat
 Stream Habitat Enhanced (miles).....11
 Lake Habitat Enhancement (acres).....80
 Stream Miles Surveyed.....25
 Terrestrial Acres Surveyed.....65,487
 Terrestrial Acres Enhanced.....850

Grazing
Livestock Grazed
 Horses.....18
 Cattle.....13,151
 Sheep/Goats5,550
 Head Months Annually54,924
 Allotments/Livestock Areas.....64

PARTNERSHIPS, GRANTS, AND VOLUNTEERISM LEAVE A MARK

The responsibility of caring for and managing the Nation's forests continues to grow with the rising demand for recreation and other uses. Partnerships on the Ashley National Forest are helping with this effort and assisting in the stewardship of forest lands. Looking back at 2007, many remarkable projects have been completed and made possible through partner assistance.

An exciting example is found in combined partnerships that are implementing important conservation and watershed restoration work. The Forest Service is working with the Uintah Basin Region of the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, National Forest Foundation, Utah State University, Berry Petroleum, and other private funding sources and conservation groups to complete a number of different conservation projects on the Ashley National Forest.

In 2007, over 1,200 acres were treated on the Forest's south unit to provide restora-



tion of wildlife habitat, address conifer encroachment, and stimulate aspen regeneration. These efforts are continuing with additional projects funded and planned for the 2008 year.

Partnerships are also playing an important role in the area of recreation. Important work in improving motorized and non-motorized trails routes is being made possible



through outside grant funding from State and other federal agencies, user groups, and other private partners.

Protection of sensitive resources from unauthorized OHV use is also being made possible through partnerships.

One example is the Eagle Scout project of Logan Batty that provided a barrier to prohibit ATV's from entering the non-motorized trail leading into the Lakeshore Basin area. The project included the construction of a buck and pole fence barrier and gate installation that will allow hikers and horseback riders to pass through, but prevent passage by ATV's in this area where damage from illegal use had been occurring.



Photos are of Logan Batty's Eagle Scout project that provided a barrier to prohibit ATV's from entering the non-motorized trail leading into the Lakeshore Basin area.

In addition to Boy Scouts and leaders, volunteers from the Back Country Horsemen also participated in cutting poles and logs and assisting in the construction effort. Over 200 volunteer hours were provided in this effort.

Volunteerism is an especially valuable partnership that benefits not only the Forest and its resources, but it can instill an appreciation for the environment and outdoor ethics in those who participate. One such example is found in a very large volunteer project completed through youth from the Maeser Utah Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In this project, over 150 youth and 50 leaders volunteered in the protection of the Stringham Historical Cabin Site through reconstruction of the fence around the property.

A new buck and pole fence was constructed around the parking area, with reconstruction of the deteriorated log and worm pole fence around the front and sides of the property. The wire fence behind the cabin was also replaced. Over 800 volunteer hours were contributed, with the result providing a scenic protection of this important historic site.

These are only a few examples of the many partnerships that are occurring on the Forest. During the 2007 Fiscal Year, the Forest was awarded over \$2 million in grant or additional funding made possible through partnerships. These funds will make possible the restoration of campgrounds, provide additional boating enhancements and safety, assist in other conservation projects, improve wildlife habitat, and provide enhanced opportunities for a variety of recreational activities across the Forest. We wish to recognize these efforts and express our appreciation to all who are assisting in making these successes happen.

FOREST PLAN REVISION (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

developed and posted to the Forest web page in mid-summer 2008.

The Ashley is also participating in a state-wide Wild and Scenic Rivers study process. During forest planning, all the National Forests in Utah are required by law to consider rivers that may be eligible for incorporation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Ashley's eligibility report was completed in 2005 and identified twenty-four watercourses that qualified for further

study. The current state-wide effort is the second step in the study process, and will address many factors that were not considered in the eligibility phase. In particular, the state-wide team will describe the suitability of each river segment for Wild and Scenic designation based on its worthiness and contribution to the national river system, as well as the resource trade-offs and conflicts that might occur if it were to be designated. A final Environmental Impact Statement for this process is expected in late summer 2008.

RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

under REA stay here to maintain and improve infrastructure associated with the developed recreation sites. At the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, fees are collected at:

Antelope Flat	Spillway-Green River
Anvil Draw	Little Hole-Green River
Buckboard Crossing	Lucerne Valley
Cedar Springs	Firehole Canyon
Holmes Crossing	Sheep Creek
Mustang Ridge	Sunny Cove

Fees will be charged at facilities that offer high amenities. The remaining facilities and dispersed opportunities on the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area will remain free.

In 2007 the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area submitted a proposal to increase fees due to increased use, rising maintenance costs, aging facilities and increased demands for accessibility.

Throughout this process the Forest conducted public meetings, coordinated with partner agencies and state and local government, published news articles, posted the proposal on the

Ashley National Forest web page and received local and regional radio coverage of the proposed fee increases.

Fees are expected to increase to \$5.00 dollars per day, \$15.00 for 7 days ,and \$35.00 for an annual pass.

Since REA's inception in 1997 it has been very successful, collecting over 2 million dollars.

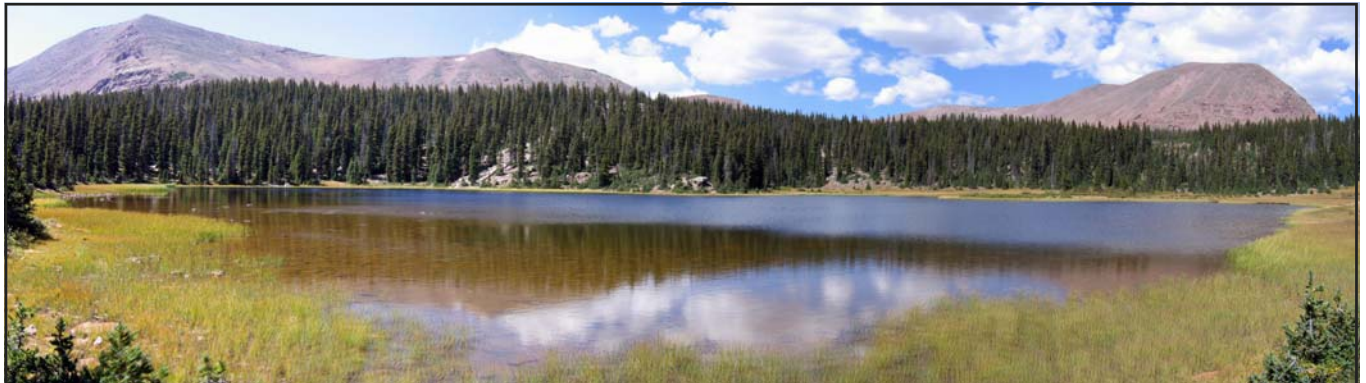
Making the Most of Your Fee Dollars

Major accomplishments included a new bathroom and shower unit at Buckboard campground, new courtesy docks, Green River Campground and restroom improvements and a snowmobile was purchased to groom cross country ski trails.

In the future there are plans to place new courtesy docks in Anvil Draw, replace navigational buoys on Wyoming portion of Flaming Gorge, and improving the Holmes Crossing road. These projects depend upon matching dollars from various partners to complete.

In many cases REA funds are used as seed money to enhance projects through grants from partners to accomplish larger projects.

HIGH LAKES STABILIZATION PROJECT (continued)



White Miller Lake in the High Uintas Wilderness, Ashley National Forest

(Continued from page 3)

Kevin B. Elliott, Forest Supervisor, stated, “This has been an excellent demonstration of federal and state agencies cooperating to restore natural integrity within the High Uintas Wilderness.”

Project implementation was accomplished through collaboration and cooperation among the Forest Service, the aforementioned agencies, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Moon Lake Water Users Association, the State of Utah, and Duchesne County Water Conservancy District.

Cooperation from the nationally recognized Student Conservation Association (SCA) was also critical to successful project implementation.

Applicable wilderness law required that the stabilization activities utilized only the minimum tools necessary to meet project constraints. To eliminate the risk of damage to wilderness and risks to human health and safety, stabilization of each lake must be completed in one summer season.

Work was accomplished on time at Clements Lake through a combination of hard working SCA hand crews, utilizing simple non-motorized tools, and Bureau of Reclamation equipment operators using a few pieces of small mechanized equipment. Equipment was flown to the lake shore by a K-max helicopter. Utilizing the

K-max helicopter avoided the risk of project delay and potential resource damage surrounding ground transport methods within a short operational time frame (July 10th to September 17th). Also, Forest Service and private commercial outfitter pack strings contributed to project success by ensuring that crew and project needs were delivered in a timely fashion. Forest Service and cooperator support and coordination, as well as frequent inspections, ensured proper stabilization that met on-site design needs.

“Surmountable obstacles arose and the project didn’t always go as planned but the Clement’s Lake stabilization is a true example of how inter-agency collaboration can work to benefit local needs and the wilderness resource. Each season of stabilization work will face unique challenges...I am confident that the Forest Service and our cooperator will surmount each one.” - R. Brian Paul, High Lakes Stabilization Coordinator.

In 2008 Brown Duck and Island Lake Dams are currently being planned for stabilization using minimum tools at a projected cost of over \$1 million. Although heavier equipment will be required to accomplish the work in one season, cooperator ingenuity, dedicated conservation crews, and the use of heavy lift helicopters, as well as pack strings will make this project a success.

NEOLA NORTH FIRE BURNS OVER 62 MILES & CLAIMS THREE LIVES IN 2007

Fine fuels, dry conditions and wind created a scenario for rapid fire growth on Friday, June 29, 2007, at about 9 a.m.

The Neola North Fire ignited approximately four miles north of Neola, Utah, alongside Route 121. The fire grew to over 62 miles and claimed the lives of George Houston, his son, Tracy Houston, and Roger Roberson.

George Houston spent 43 years with the U.S. Forest Service and worked as the Fire Management Officer on the Roosevelt and Duchesne Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest prior to his retirement.

The Neola North Fire burned on lands managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, private property, State lands and the Ashley National Forest.

At the peak of the Neola North Fire there were approximately 902 personnel assigned to the fire, including 100 from the Utah National Guard called up by



Governor Huntsman. The cost of fighting the fire exceeded \$7 million dollars.

The fire threatened the towns of Neola, Whiterocks, and many outlying homes.

Moving Forward

The Neola North Fire impacted vegetation communities, range improvements, and grazing practices on the Farm Creek and Pole Creek Allotments. Several thousand acres (ca. 3,000 to 4,000 acres) of Forest Service administered lands were aerially seeded in October 2007.

Plant communities that are at risk to cheat grass invasion were seeded.

These include pinyon and juniper woodlands and some shrub communities on steep south-facing slopes. The seedings were funded by the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Team (BAER) and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR).

Forest boundary and interior fences that



were destroyed in the fire need to be rebuilt to protect the seedings from livestock grazing. Approximately nine miles of boundary fence from the Uinta River to Elk Horn

Guard Station needs to be rebuilt.

The boundary fence (seven miles) along the Farm Creek Allotment has been funded by



BAER. The boundary fence (two miles) along the Pole Creek Allotment and eight to nine miles of interior fences on the Farm Creek Allotment has been partially funded by the Forest Service (\$50,000) and proposals have been submitted for additional funding. At least six miles of interior fence needs to be reconstructed in order to protect the aerial seedings from livestock grazing. All fences are scheduled to be built during the spring and summer of 2008.

About two miles of water line and two or four water troughs were destroyed by fire and will require replacement. Many water troughs on the allotments were not damaged by fire.

Nearly two miles of water line on the Farm Creek and Mosby Mountain Allotments was burned and will need to be replaced.

The fire is expected to severely impact stocking numbers and season-of-use on the Farm Creek Allotment



for the next three years.

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NEOLA NORTH FIRE BURNS OVER (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 12)

The Neola North Fire also created salvage opportunities. Salvage opportunities can be categorized into immediate and long-term categories. The objective of salvage for the short-term category is to capture the value of fire killed or damaged timber before the value is lost. These areas include mid-aged to mature stands of timber with pre-fire volumes ranging from 10 to 20 CCF per acre. The areas proposed for this type of salvage were exposed to very high fire intensity and the resulting mortality was immediate and in many areas complete. These areas have few if any surviving trees. They were mainly in the lodgepole pine cover type. They were mostly even-aged stands. They are expected to recover quickly following the fire through natural regeneration.

TIMBER CANYON CREEK RESTORING A NATIVE COLORADO CUTTHROAT TROUT FISHERY

Duchesne, Utah...The Ashley National Forest, in partnership with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, are restoring Timber Canyon Creek to a native cutthroat trout fishery. Several volunteer hours from Trout Unlimited have also been provided to assist in this restoration.

Currently, non-native brown trout have migrated into Timber Canyon Creek and as part of this project they are being removed and relocated into the Strawberry River and Starvation Reservoir to supplement existing populations. Approximately 1,000 brown trout were relocated in 2007.

In June of 2007, the Ashley National Forest constructed a permanent fish barrier on National Forest System lands at the lower end of Timber Canyon Creek to prevent the re-invasion of non-native brown trout. This will help Colorado River cutthroat trout by eliminating competition with brown trout, leading to a healthier and stronger population of Colorado River cutthroat trout in Timber Canyon Creek.



Above: A native Colorado Cutthroat Trout from Timber Canyon Creek.
Below: Removing fish from Timber Canyon Creek



The cutthroat trout that are being removed are being relocated into nearby Lake Canyon Lake. Lake Canyon Lake is being used to maintain Colorado River cutthroat trout brood stock for the Tavaputs Plateau.

Approximately 1,700 Colorado cutthroat trout were relocated to Lake Canyon Lake in 2007.

Establishing a Colorado cutthroat brood stock for the Tavaputs Plateau area has been an ongoing project for the past five years with Timber Canyon Creek as the sole source of fish for this brood stock.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has plans in the near future to chemically eradicate all fish in Timber Creek and restock with native Colorado River cutthroat trout. Fingerlings from the Lake Canyon brood stock will be used to restock Timber Canyon Creek after the treatment is completed.

In 2004, major improvements were made to the Timber Canyon road to help reduce sedimentation and an interpretive sign was installed at a popular dispersed camping area to help inform and educate the public about the restoration activities. Riparian fence maintenance was also completed to help the fishery.

In 2007, with funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a new culvert was installed to improve fish movement in Shotgun Creek, which is a tributary to Timber Creek in the headwaters.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE HOUSTON

George Houston, Former Fire Management Officer on the Roosevelt/ Duchesne Ranger District, passed away Friday, June 29, 2007, while attempting to assist Roger Roberson defend an alfalfa field from the Neola North Fire. George, his son, Tracy, and Roger Roberson perished in the fire.

George was born December 26, 1943, in Bennett, Utah, to Ray D. and Emelyn Houston and lived on a ranch in Whiterocks, Utah, where he learned to work and love cows.

In 1963, he began working for the Forest Service in timber as a summer employee, eventually turning into full-time employment.

He married Margie Ross in 1963. They had four children: Tracy, Teresa, Greg, and Howard.

George and his son, Tracy, were both buried in Neola, Utah, on July 5, 2007.

PRESCRIBED FIRE / MECHANICAL THINNING



Photo of area before mechanical treatment on the Duchesne Ranger District.

The Ashley National Forest completed 3,920 acres of hazardous fuels treatments in FY 2007, up from 3,165 acres in FY 2006. Of which, 1,623 acres were completed with mechanical thinning and 2,297 acres were treated with prescribed fire.



Photo of mechanical treatment area following treatment.

YELLOWSTONE PRESCRIBED FIRE (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Additionally chipping has been used as a method of disposing of this material.

The broadcast burning phase of the project began in the spring of 2007 and has continued into late summer/fall completing 300 acres of sagebrush burning and 1000 acres of ponderosa pine under story burning. These totals put us at approximately 1/4 of the proposed treatment area with 1000 acres of sagebrush left to be treated and 2000 acres of ponderosa pine.

2007 FIRE SEASON IN REVIEW

During the 2007 fire season the Ashley National Forest experienced a total of 32 fires burning 23,492.15 acres. Of the 32 fires 28 were lightning caused and 2 were human caused. Of the 23,492.15 acres, 37.8 acres were from lightning fires, 23,453.85 acres were from human caused fires and 0.5 acres burned as Fire Use Fires.

District	Total Number	Lightning Caused	Human Caused	Lightning Caused-Acres	Human Caused-Acres	Total Acres
Flaming Gorge	12	11	1	1.5	.75	2.25
Vernal	1	0	1	0	0.1	0.1
Roosevelt	2	0	2	0	23,453	23,453
Duchesne	17	17	0	36.3	0	36.8
Total	32	28	4	37.8	23,454	23,492

PERMIT ADMINISTRATION

In 2007 the Ashley National Forest issued and administered permits for the following Lands and Minerals Program actions:

- * 5 mining plans administered to standard.
- * 197 Free-Use Permits issued Forest-wide to the public for mineral materials used for home landscaping.
- * 56 non-recreation Special Use Permits were administered to standard.
- * 15 non-recreation Special Use Permits were issued.
- * 21 geological resource hazards were inspected and/or managed.

USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, Utah 84078-1703

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

FIRST CLASS RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA Forest Service
Permit No. G-40

Phone: 435-789-1181
Fax: 435-781-5142
Email: ljhaynes@fs.fed.us



TO:

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