



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ashley National Forest

Forest Service News Release

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Ashley National Forest Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement for Forest Plan and Record of Decision

Vernal, Utah, January 25, 2024— On Friday, January 26, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service will release the record of decision for the Ashley National Forest's final revised land management plan and final environmental impact statement (EIS). The Ashley National Forest Land Management Plan is a strategic document that will guide management decisions for the next 15 years.

The revised plan and environmental impact statement are the products of over six years of collaborative efforts across the Ashley National Forest, working with communities and those that utilize the national forest.

“Our current land management plan was implemented in 1986. Since that time, significant changes on the national forest and in surrounding communities have made it clear that revisions need to be made,” explained Susan Eickhoff, Ashley National Forest Supervisor. “These changes include addressing the need for improved tribal collaboration, shifts in recreation trends, and challenges with forest conditions due to increased stressors, such as invasive species, warming temperatures due to climate change and uncharacteristic wildfires. The revised land management plan will guide our work to address these challenges into the future.”

The plan was created using an inclusive and transparent process that involved tribes, the public and governmental partners. “This planning effort incorporates up-to-date science, recognizes traditional uses, while changing the way the national forest is utilized. The land management plan will guide restoration, conservation and preservation efforts across the Ashley National Forest,” stated Eickhoff.

The revised land management plan allows for active landscape management and multiple uses, including forest products, grazing and recreation. The mix of opportunities available for motorized and non-motorized recreation reflects the diverse input Forest Service staff heard from the public.

All documents for this planning effort are posted on the forest plan revision website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/ashley/landmanagement/planning>. Refer to this site for other helpful information.

About the Forest Service: The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages the 193 million acres of National Forest System land, provides stewardship assistance to non-federal forest landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

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