

**SUMMARY OF 5 PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION
July 12-20, 2016**

We want to know how best to involve people in Forest Plan revision. Please place a dot next to your TOP CHOICE for each question below: Responses ranked 1st HIGHEST [blue], 2nd Highest [magenta], 3rd HIGHEST [yellow]

How do you prefer to get information about Forest Plan revision? (please pick one):	Duchesne, July 12, 2016	Green River, WY July 12-2016	Manila, July 14, 2016	Vernal, July 19, 2016	SLC, July 20, 2016	TOTAL
By email	7	6	10	21	9	53
Through the internet (revision web page)			1			1
By hard copy mail			1	6		7
Through local media (radio, newspaper)	3			1		4
In person at meetings and workshops	2			2	1	5

How often/when do you want to be contacted directly about Forest Plan revision? (please pick one):

Only at major new process steps; I'll monitor your web page for minor updates	1	1	2			4
At regular intervals; for example, monthly or quarterly	5	5	2	10	3	25
Any time there's something new to share	6		8	16	7	37

Which type of meetings/workshops are you most likely to participate in? (please pick one):

Evening meetings	12		11	20	2	45
Weekday meetings		6		4	5	15
Weekend workshops (half or full day)						
Webinars/online meetings/video conferences		1			2	3
Reviewing documents at home and sending comments						
Field trips	1		1		1	3
Other (please list on index card)						

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR JULY 12-20, 2016

Total Signed In: 76, Referrals from those signed in: 25, average 5 FS participated at each meeting

MEETING LOCATION & DATE: Duchesne, UT. July 12, 2016/17. 13 attended, 3 additional contacts, 5 FS staff participated.

Greatest uses identified & ranked (highest-moderate):

1st equal - Camping, livestock grazing, general recreation (recreation, sight see, drive)

2nd Wilderness, timber

3rd equal - fishing, gather firewood/fossils/stones, boat, ATV, horseback, snowmobile, spelunking

Public view of demands: Camping is seeing the greatest demands and growing demands are coming on for ATV, timber, and general recreation uses. The demands for fishing and gathering firewood, fossils or stones are seeing approximately the same demands as before or over the last 1-2 decades or are slightly behind the increases in camping. ATV, timber and general recreation have seen more demands over the last 15-20 years.

Resource Conditions: Multiple remarks about the dead trees and the adverse resource conditions that this will contribute to. An estimate proposed that approx. 90% of Wolf Creek is dead and trend spreading to rest of forest. Several comments that there is unmet needs to harvest and remove the dead trees and control the beetles killing the trees and that the USFS has made logging off limits for so long there will continue to be more loss of timber. Roads and trails used by ATV's are in bad shape and in need of work. Roads to campsites and campsites themselves need work and coordination with Duchesne County and the Tribes to return to better conditions. Signage is lacking and in need of improvement. Campgrounds in poor conditions.

General Comments: no more wilderness needed, more local input needed and listened to and less influence from outside non-local interests (Washington), no further water diversions for the big metro areas needed or desired, keep more of the forest open for winter snowmobiles, ATV's and grazing access.

Leads for data or information: Duchesne County resource plan, Duchesne County Future Economic Opportunities 2016 (Irene Hanson, Duchesne Co. Chamber of Comm.).

--**--**--

MEETING LOCATION & DATE: Green River, WY. July 13, 2016. 5 attended, 7 referrals, 4 FS staff participated

Greatest uses identified & ranked (highest-moderate):

1st general recreation

2nd fishing, hiking, camping, water recreation, grazing, mineral extraction

Public view of demands: general recreation is increasing (camping, fishing, hiking) but other uses are about the same.

Resource Conditions: Grazing conditions are in good shape but increases in recreation will have negative affect on grazers. Non-native mussels are leading to adverse resource conditions in water ways. The infrastructure in place on Green River & Flaming Gorge are in great condition (i.e. fish cleaning stations, bathrooms, boat ramps etc.).

General Comments: Representatives of WY Senators John Barrasso and Mike Enzi attended meetings and requested that we send them information and updates on our public involvement with the Forest plan revision so they can relay to their constituents (they were added to contact & mailing list, website provided). Several leads provided for other contacts that may be interested in being involved (Chamber of Commerce, etc.) follow-up in progress.

Leads for data or information: Nothing specific identified recommend contact Chamber of Commerce.

--**--**--

MEETING LOCATION & DATE: MANILA July 14, 2016. 17 attended, 4 additional contacts, 5 FS staff participated.

Greatest uses identified & ranked (highest-moderate):

1st Fishing

2nd Hiking, & Hunting

3rd ATV/OHV, camping, firewood gather, grazing/ pernitee,

4th equal # between horseback, boat/rafting, general tourism, wildlife viewing, grazing, timber, irrigation

Public view of demands: Majority of recreation demands are increasing, hunting, wildlife viewing, irrigation, & grazing are staying about the same. Comment that fishing uses were higher in the 60&70's as were the use of Flaming George NRA than now. Several remarks that the increasing demands and use of the forest in the future without more FS law enforcement (LEO) will degrade the forest experience because current levels of LEO presence & enforcement are low & violations are not enforced (specifically 16 day camp limit). Demands currently outpace the maintenance of USFS rec. facilities and that this will get worse with more demand. Concern expressed that because recreation demands are increase grazing needs will be crowded out of forest.

Resource Condition: Across the rec. use spectrum resource conditions were mixed with numerous resource areas seeing some diminishment or adverse impacts. For instance; timber & forest conditions are diminishing and potential for fires are increasing due to beetles and lack of logging or timber management. The increase of non-native mussels has caused a decline in aquatic & fisheries resources along with excessive use of fishing and boat/rafting use on lakes and river. Numerous comments that resource conditions have been negatively impacted from ATV/OHV uses. Most important and recognized throughout community is the value of watershed health on Forest but that some feel the USFS should do more logging to improve the watershed health. When logging the roads should be better so ATV/OHV opportunities are provided and there will not be resources damage. But the increase in recreations demands will make wildlife habitat more critical and drive up the need for protection of habitat.

General comments: Daggett Co. is 85% tourism based and closing roads or restricting access or limiting permits (hunting, concessionaire, etc.) will cut into the tourist base of the county. The Ashley NF must be part of the emergency planning LEPC for the county. Recommended that all the (15) Assessment topics could be better addressed through an Interagency oversight group of State, Fed. And local interest.

Leads to data or information: http://travel.utah.gov/research-planning/Utah_research_links, Outdoor Foundation annual report, Utah State office of tourism trends & current projects, grazing monitoring on Swett Ranch, Visitor Use days, UDWR angler survey and creel survey 2013, visitor days from Chamber of Commerce, use fees for campgrounds, local business.

--**--**--

MEETING LOCATION & DATE: Vernal, July 19, 2016. 30 attended, approx. 6 referrals, 6 FS staff helped

Greatest uses identified & ranked (highest-moderate):

1st Hiking

2nd livestock grazing, camping, fishing

3rd skiing/snowshoeing, horseback riding, hunting, ATV/OHV

4th many numerous uses e.g. wildlife viewing, firewood gathering, boating, mtn. bike, etc.

Public view of demands: Across the list of diverse public uses that people identified they see the demands are largely increasing with only grazing demands staying about the same. In some instances there is a greater demand for grazing than there are permits available for forest grazing lands. Many feel that demands and diversity of uses in last 10 years have grown and increased while the local population has grown and become affluent with more motorized opportunities. Demands for use of the forest by tourist outside area are increasing. Increasing demands for all recreational uses of Ashley National Forest. [Youth response - indicated that demand is about the same over their life span].

Resource Conditions: Resource conditions are good for associated recreation uses like camping, about the same for hiking, and fishing since last 15-20 years however they identify motorized use as a diminishment to the quality of hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing and skiing/snowshoeing. Increasing uses and public demands are leading to trail resources being depleted and few people willing to become actively involved to maintain the trail conditions. Need to have more LEO's to enforce the current laws. More social trails in areas of high use are impacting sensitive resources.

General Comments: the average public is uninformed about benefits of grazing and logging and there is a need to better educate people about forest health (beetles, thinning, watershed changes associated with dead timber). Climate changes will lead to changes in high elevations adversely impacting water quality and aquatic habitats. We need less educated people and more people with common sense about being good land stewards. Returning public lands to the states is a big joke. The other (horses and motorized) users are "trashing" the forest.

Leads for data or information: Visitor Survey information for Dinosaur National Monument, 2013, Grazing survey work done by Carol Gardner. UDWR – fisheries information for the Forest and UDWQ for water quality monitoring

--**--**--

MEETING LOCATION & DATE: Salt Lake City, UT. July 20, 2016. 11 attended, 5 referrals, 5 FS staff participated

Greatest uses identified & ranked (highest-moderate):

1st Fishing

2nd (all equal) hiking, camping, logging, grazing, hunting, resource extraction

3rd mining, water diversion, scenic

Public view of demands: All demands are increasing!! The population in UT is expected to double by 2050 largely within the Salt Lake Valley which will impact the nearby Ashley National Forest.

Resource Conditions: Responses indicate an even mix of improving resource conditions and only a few diminishing resource conditions associated with insect outbreaks. Beetles are ruining the forest biomass and increasing fire danger. Forest conditions are good but active management will improve the conditions along with working with local users to remove products. Pinyon Juniper is consuming huge volumes of surface water and decreasing downstream water available for other uses and diversion opportunities.

General Comments: The growth in OHV is having a negative impact on trails and non-motorized user experiences. There is limited opportunities to enter into long term contract to remove Pinyon Juniper for use as biomass fuel. Forest should help maintain the local economies and assist with diversity of uses.

Leads for data or information: Counties surrounding Forest have or will soon have their Resource Management plans, Utah Office of Energy Development, USU Extension - Vernal, UT State Forest Resource Plan – Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands

COMMENTS ON REQUIRED 15 ASSESSMENT TOPICS – ASKED WHICH ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU OR DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS WITH:

Designated Areas Assessment Topics

*** D1 – Wilderness: Need balanced uses including grazing & recreation. More wilderness means less multiple uses. Need proper analysis before considering. No more wilderness. No more but maintain existing. Need less wilderness and less restrictions.

D2 – W & SR: W & SR from 2008 assessment was sufficient.

Ecological Assessment Topics

*** E1 – Cond. & trend major ecosystems & watershed: Monitor and maintain water quality. Protect fisheries & watersheds. More people the more the ecological impact. Range conditions good. This is directly tied to all other things. Watershed health most important.

** E2 – Cond. & trend of water, air & soil: Beetles & fire have impacted condition & future trends. Important resources for grazing. Good riparian conditions on forest. Review the big picture on this topic.

E3 – Plants & animals of conservation concern: Russian olive trees on Forest: Intertwined with E4

*** E4 – Major ecological processes or stressors: Intertwined with all plants & animals. Need to understand fire & climate change influence ecological processes. High costs associated with fire control when there could be biomass used for energy.

E5 – Carbon Stocks [lowest concern]

Social, Cultural and Economic Assessment Topics

*** S1 - Social and economic conditions: Forest policy has hurt local economies. Forest's exist to help local economies & should help make them self-sustaining. Economic downturn in oil & gas for the counties surrounding Ashley NF need to have smart harvest of forest products. Grazing contributes to economies at 3 levels-local, regional & national. Recognize benefit of grazing & recreation uses of forest.

S2 – Benefits from National Forest: Sustainable logging, grazing & mineral development can coexist with recreations, hunting & fishing. Forest should always provide benefits of multiple use.

*** S3 – Recreation opportunities from National Forest: Need to prepare for increase in rec. infrastructure because of future growth demands. A FOREST GIVES EVERYONE A BACKYARD! City of Vernal wants growth in recreation. Recreation needs to be diverse so all ages, all people, all classes, all abilities can use Ashley NF.

**S4 – Renewable & non-renewable energy & minerals: Non-renewable extremely important to UT economy.

S5 – Cultural & historic resources & uses (include. Important Tribal areas): protect for future generations. Want to return to the forest with the next generation to do what they did as kids.

S6 – Infrastructure (rec., energy transport, etc.): Energy corridors are critical for infrastructure.

S7 - Land status, ownership & use: continue the same used from past 50 years. Livestock has historic use that should continue.