

**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 [cyan], 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 July13, 2016	Manila July 14, 2016	Vernal July 19, 2016	SLC July 20, 2016	Total
Email	7	6	10	21	9	53
Internet (revision webpage)	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hard copy mail	0	0	1	6	0	7
Local media (radio, newspaper)	3	0	0	1	0	4
In-person at meetings and workshops	2	0	0	2	1	5

How often/when do you want to be contacted directly about forest plan revision? (please pick one):	Duchesne July 12, 2016	Green River, WY July13, 2016	Manila July 14, 2016	Vernal July 19, 2016	SLC July 20, 2016	Total
Only at major new process steps; I'll monitor your webpage for minor updates	1	1	2	0	0	4
At regular intervals; for example, monthly or quarterly	5	5	2	10	3	25
Any time there's something new to share	6	0	8	16	7	37

Which type of meetings/workshops are you most likely to participate in? (please pick one):	Duchesne July 12, 2016	Green River, WY July13, 2016	Manila July 14, 2016	Vernal July 19, 2016	SLC July 20, 2016	Total
Evening meetings	12	0	11	20	2	45
Weekday meetings	0	6	0	4	5	15
Weekend workshops (half or full day)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Webinars/online meetings/video conferences	0	1	0	0	2	3
Reviewing documents at home and sending comments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field trips	1	0	1	0	1	3
Other (please list on index card)	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Total signed in: 76; referrals from those signed in: 25; average Forest Service (FS) employees participating at each meeting: 5

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

Greatest uses identified and ranked (highest-moderate):

1st (equal) - Camping, livestock grazing, general recreation (recreation, sightseeing, driving).

2nd - Wilderness, timber.

3rd (equal) - fishing, gathering firewood/fossils/stones, boating, ATV riding, horseback riding, snowmobiling, spelunking.

Public view of demands: Camping is seeing the greatest demands, and growing demands are coming 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 one to two 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 dead trees and the adverse resource conditions that this will contribute to. An estimate proposed that approximately 90 percent of Wolf Creek is dead and the trend spreading to rest of forest. Several comments that there are unmet needs to harvest and remove the dead trees and control the beetles killing the trees and that the FS has made logging off

limits for so long there will continue to be more loss of timber. Roads and trails used by ATVs 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 them to better conditions. Signage is lacking and in need of improvement. Campgrounds are 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, ATVs and grazing access.

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

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

Greatest uses identified and 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 a negative effect on grazers. Non-native mussels are leading to adverse resource conditions in waterways. The infrastructure in place on Green River and 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 and mailing list and provided the website link). 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. Recommended the Forest contact the Chamber of Commerce.

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

Greatest uses identified and ranked (highest-moderate):

1st - Fishing.

2nd - Hiking, hunting.

3rd - ATV/OHV, camping, firewood gather, grazing/permitee.

4th (equal) - horseback, boating/rafting, general tourism, wildlife viewing, grazing, timber, irrigation.

Public view of demands: Majority of recreation demands are increasing; hunting, wildlife viewing, irrigation, and grazing are staying about the same. Comment that fishing uses were higher in the 60s and 70s, as was the use of Flaming George NRA. 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 and enforcement are low and violations are not enforced (specifically 16-day camp limit). Demands currently outpace the maintenance of FS recreation facilities and this will get worse with more demand. Concern expressed that because recreation demands are increasing, grazing needs will be crowded out of Forest.

Resource conditions: Across the recreation use spectrum, resource conditions were mixed with numerous resource areas seeing some diminishment or adverse impacts. For instance; timber and forest conditions are diminishing and potential for fires is increasing due to beetles and lack of logging or timber management. The increase of non-native mussels, along with excessive use of fishing and boat/rafting use on lakes and river, has caused a decline in aquatic and fisheries resources. 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 some feel the FS should do more logging to improve 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 County is 85 percent tourism-based, and closing roads or restricting access or limiting permits (hunting, concessionaire, etc.) will cut into the tourist base of the county. The Forest 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, federal, 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 and 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, approximately 6 referrals, 6 FS staff helped.

Greatest uses identified and ranked (highest-moderate):

1st – Hiking.

2nd - Livestock grazing, camping, fishing.

3rd - Skiing/snowshoeing, horseback riding, hunting, ATV/OHV.

4th - Numerous uses, e.g., wildlife viewing, firewood gathering, boating, mountain biking, etc.

Public view of demands: Across the list of diverse public uses that people identified, they see 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 the 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 (NF). Youth response: indicated that demand is about the same over their lifespan.

Resource conditions: Resource conditions are good for associated recreation uses like camping and about the same for hiking and fishing over the 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 LEOs 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 and 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 Utah is expected to double by 2050, largely within the Salt Lake Valley, which will impact the nearby Ashley NF.

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 are limited opportunities to enter into long-term contracts 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, Utah State Forest Resource Plan – Division of Forestry, Fire, and 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 and 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 – Condition and trend major ecosystems and watershed: Monitor and maintain water quality. Protect fisheries and watersheds. The more people, the more the ecological impact. Range conditions good. This is directly tied to all other things. Watershed health most important.

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

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

E4 – Major ecological processes or stressors: Intertwined with all plants and animals. Need to understand fire and 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. Forests exist to help local economies and should help make them self-sustaining. Economic downturn in oil and gas for the counties surrounding Ashley NF need to have smart harvest of forest products. Grazing contributes to economies at three levels-local, regional and national. Recognize benefit of grazing and recreation uses of forest.

S2 – Benefits from national forest: Sustainable logging, grazing and mineral development can coexist with recreation, hunting, and 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, and all abilities can use Ashley NF.

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

S5 – Cultural and historic resources and uses (including 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 (recreation, energy transport, etc.): Energy corridors are critical for infrastructure.

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