The Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest proposes to decommission two historic ranger stations located in Duchesne County, Utah. The proposal is to demolish the Indian Canyon Ranger Station and to sell the Stockmore Ranger Station.

This letter is a part of the effort to fulfill public consultation requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act as implemented in 36 CFR 800. Federal agencies must “provide the public with information about an undertaking and its effects on historic properties and seek public comment and input.” (36 CFR 800.2(d)(2))

You may have an interest in the proposals for the historic ranger stations on the Ashley National Forest. We would like to provide you with information about the undertaking and give you an opportunity to comment on the potential adverse effects to the historic ranger stations. Both the Indian Canyon Ranger Station and the Stockmore Ranger Station are historically significant structures and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (see attachments for historic information). The proposed undertakings are discussed below.

**Proposal to Demolish the Indian Canyon Ranger Station**

The Ashley National Forest proposes to decommission, dismantle, demolish, and remove all structures and features at the historic Indian Canyon Ranger Station. After the structures and features have been removed, the area would be graded and landscaped to match the existing natural contours.

**Why Demolish the Indian Canyon Ranger Station?**

The Forest Service no longer has an active use for the Indian Canyon Ranger Station. The structures and buildings at the site are heavily deteriorated, rodent infested, and structurally unsound for use. The ranger station is deteriorated to the point where almost the entire building would need to be replaced from the foundation to the roof in order to meet safety standards for future use. Funds are not readily available for this level of reconstruction because the building does not have a current use. The building is not secure and would be a safety issue if the public should enter the structure.
What alternatives were considered for the Indian Canyon Ranger Station?

The Indian Canyon Ranger Station is a historic building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires agencies to adaptively reuse historic buildings whenever feasible and practicable (54 USC 306101 and 54 USC 306121). The Forest Service considered the following five alternatives as part of the feasibility determination for adaptive reuse:

1. **Adaptive Reuse – Cabin Rental program:** The Indian Canyon Ranger Station was initially considered for adaptive reuse as part of the Forest Service cabin rental program. The building is deteriorated to the point where almost the entire building would need to be replaced from the foundation to the roof in order to meet safety standards for public use. Funds are not readily available for this level of reconstruction. In addition, the structure is located within Indian Canyon and near Highway 191, which provides easy access, but this location is not an ideal cabin rental location because it is not near other Forest recreation opportunities such as hiking trails or motorized trails.

2. **Adaptive Reuse – Seasonal Employee Housing:** The Forest considered the option of using the building for Forest Service seasonal employee housing. The building is deteriorated to the point where almost the entire building would need to be reconstructed from the foundation to the roof in order to meet safety standards for human occupation. Funds are not readily available for this level of reconstruction. In addition, the structure is not situated in an ideal location for seasonal employee housing and does not have a developed potable water system or a sewer system.

3. **Preservation:** The Forest also considered minimal maintenance to minimize further deterioration and to preserve the buildings as a historic site. This option would require Forest Service funds as well as some level of historic interpretation. The Forest is not interested in maintaining and interpreting partially ruined buildings on the Forest when there is not a demonstrated interest in heritage tourism to the buildings.

4. **Benign Neglect:** The Forest considered allowing the building to continue to naturally deteriorate and eventually collapse. This option does not require additional funds, but would pose a safety risk for the public and may turn into a public nuisance. The Forest does not feel this is an appropriate option because of safety concerns.

5. **Demolition:** The Forest Service considered the removal and demolition of the structures. This option would reduce potential safety issues from continued deterioration of the structures. However, the structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and demolishing the structures would adversely affect this historic property. The Forest Service would need to resolve the adverse effects through public consultation and development of mitigation options.

After consideration of alternatives, the Forest Service is proposing to decommission and demolish the Indian Canyon Ranger Station because of deterioration and safety concerns.
Proposal to Sell the Stockmore Ranger Station

The Ashley National Forest proposes to sell the historic Stockmore Ranger Station buildings and associated property through a federal government bid process. Once sold, the historic ranger station buildings and land would become private property and would no longer be under federal stewardship or control.

Why Sell the Stockmore Ranger Station?

The Forest Service no longer has an active use for the Stockmore Ranger Station. The buildings are deteriorated and would need considerable repairs in order to meet safety standards for future use. The Forest doesn’t have the funding to repair the buildings or to maintain them to safety standards because the buildings do not have a current use. Without action, the buildings will continue to deteriorate. The Stockmore Ranger Station is located outside of the proclaimed Ashley National Forest boundary and is adjacent to private property. Because the buildings and land no longer have an active use by the Forest Service, the land and buildings would best be managed as private property. The land and structures on the south side of the highway would be decommissioned and sold. The land and structures north of the highway would remain as Forest Service property (see maps in attachments).

What alternatives were considered for the Stockmore Ranger Station?

The Stockmore Ranger Station is a historic building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires agencies to adaptively reuse historic buildings whenever feasible and practicable (54 USC 306101 and 54 USC 306121). The Forest Service considered eight alternatives as part of the feasibility determination for adaptive reuse:

1. Adaptive Reuse – Cabin Rental Program: The Indian Canyon Ranger Station was initially considered for adaptive reuse as part of the Forest Service cabin rental program. The building is deteriorated and would need considerable repairs in order to meet safety standards for public use. Funds are not readily available for repairs of the building. In addition, the structure is located outside of the proclaimed Forest and is surrounded by private property. The location is not near other Forest recreation opportunities such as hiking trails or motorized trails. It is not a preferred location for a Forest Service cabin rental.

2. Adaptive Reuse – Historic Museum: The Forest Service attempted to develop an agreement with the Hanna Historical Society to use the building as a historic museum. However, funds for repairs and maintenance were not available and the plan did not materialize. The funding issues have not improved or changed.

3. Adaptive Reuse – Seasonal Employee Housing: The Forest considered the option of using the building for Forest Service seasonal employee housing. The building is deteriorated and would need considerable repairs in order to meet safety standards for employee housing. Funds are not readily available for repairs of the building. In addition, the Forest Service has a work center and seasonal housing already available immediately north of the historic Stockmore Ranger Station.
4. **Preservation:** The Forest considered basic preservation maintenance to minimize further deterioration and to preserve the buildings as a historic site. This option would require Forest Service funds as well as some level of historic interpretation. The Forest is not interested in maintaining and interpreting partially ruined building on the Forest when there is not a demonstrated interest in heritage tourism to the buildings.

5. **Benign Neglect:** The Forest considered allowing the building to continue to naturally deteriorate and eventually collapse. This option does not require additional funds, but would pose a safety risk for the public and may turn into a public nuisance. The building is next to private property and the Forest believes that this is not a good stewardship option because the building would become an eyesore and a safety issue that may affect neighboring property.

6. **Demolition:** The Forest Service considered the removal and demolition of the structures. This option would reduce potential safety issues from continued deterioration of the structures. However, there is local interest in purchase of the land and the structures, so destruction of property that has market value is not a feasible option. The structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and demolishing the structures would adversely affect this historic property.

7. **Sale of the Property with Historic Preservation Easement:** The Forest considered selling the property and structures with a historic preservation easements in place to ensure the historic structures will be preserved even after the property is out of federal ownership. Unfortunately, the Forest does not have the ability, authority, or expertise to enforce any historic preservation easement restrictions or conditions on the property after it is conveyed to private ownership. The local or county governments do not have protocols or expertise to ensure easement restrictions or conditions are enforced on the property. The use of a historic preservation easement would be a cumbersome addition to the sale/conveyance process without any measurable benefits. The Forest determined this option was not feasible.

8. **Sale of the Property without a Historic Preservation Easement:** The Forest considered selling/conveying the property out of federal ownership to allow a private owner to utilize and maintain the historic structures. This option is preferred because local interest in the property suggests that a private owner may purchase the property and repair and maintain the structures for their historic value and appearance. Because the Ranger Station is listed on the National Register, the potential owner would be eligible for tax incentives to repair and maintain the historic structures. However, because the property would be sold without a historic preservation easement, no restrictions would be placed on the use of the building. The land owner could potentially modify, remove, or demolish the historic structures, therefore this alternative could potentially result in an adverse effect of the historic property and the Forest Service would need to resolve the adverse effects through public consultation and development of mitigation options prior to the sale.

After consideration of alternatives, the Forest Service is proposing to convey / sell the Stockmore Ranger Station out of federal ownership without easement restrictions or conditions.
**Decision Framework**

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Forest Service must take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and properties that are listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Federal regulations (36 CFR 800) provide a framework for federal agencies to complete the NHPA Section 106 process:

The Section 106 process steps are shown in the following Table:

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<thead>
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<th>NHPA Section 106 Process Steps</th>
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<td>1. Identify prehistoric and</td>
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The Forest Service has completed the initial steps of the NHPA Section 106 process and has concluded that the proposed action will have an adverse effect on the Indian Canyon Ranger Station and on the Stockmore Ranger Station.

The demolition of the Indian Canyon Ranger Station will be an adverse effect on the historic property because it would destroy the historic buildings.

The public sale of the Stockmore Ranger Station will be an adverse effect on the historic property because it would remove the buildings from federal stewardship and allow the private owner to modify, move, or demolish the historic buildings without restrictions.
The Forest Service is now in the process of consulting with the state local agencies and the public to resolve the adverse effects and determine appropriate mitigations for the adverse effects.

**Proposed Mitigation Options**

Ashley National Forest is seeking proposed mitigation options to offset the demolition of the Indian Canyon Ranger Station and sale of the Stockmore Ranger Stations. When historic properties will be adversely affected, the Forest Service must consult with the public and find ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects.

The Forest is considering ways to mitigate the adverse effects and would like public input to help in this effort. Mitigation is a way to offset the damage to a historic property by reducing the effects of the undertaking or to provide additional benefits to an alternate historic property. Some of the initial mitigation options the Forest is considering are below, but we welcome additional input and comments from the public and interested parties.

Initial mitigation options could include:
- Allocating funds from the sale of the Stockmore Ranger Station for use in maintaining or repairing other historic ranger stations on the Ashley National Forest.
  - Maintaining the following historic ranger stations that are on the Forest Service cabin rental program: Summit Springs Ranger Station, Colton Ranger Station, Trout Creek Guard Station, Lake Fork Guard Station, and Paradise Park Guard Station.
  - Repairing and rehabilitating the Yellowstone Ranger Station and Uinta Park Guard Stations to make them available for public rental on the Forest Service cabin rental program.
  - Maintaining the historic Altonah Ranger Station for use as a Forest Service work center.
- Preparing a history of Ranger Stations/Guard Stations on the Ashley National Forest for distribution to the public.

Other proposals are welcome for consideration from the public.
Public Process and Request for Comments

We are requesting your comments on ways to resolve the adverse effects to Stockmore and Indian Canyon Ranger Stations. Comments will be most beneficial if received within 45 days from the date of this letter. Your written comments should be specific to this project and provide suggestions on how the Forest can avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties. Your comments can help us determine if other alternatives are feasible or available.

The public request for comments is in fulfillment of requirements of the National Historic Preservation act of 1966 as implemented in 36 CFR 800. This is not a public comment period under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Please provide comments to:

Jeffrey Rust, Ashley National Forest Heritage Program Lead
Email: Jeffrey.rust@usda.gov
Mail: 355 North Vernal Ave.
Vernal, Utah 84078

KRISTY GROVES
District Ranger

Attachment 1. Overview Location Map for the Ranger Stations
Attachment 2. History and background of Indian Canyon Ranger Station
Attachment 3. History and background of Stockmore Ranger Station
On December 21, 1906, the Uinta National Forest withdrew 40 acres in the Left Fork of Indian Canyon from public use to reserve for the Indian Canyon Ranger Station. Initially, a log cabin was built on site, but the proved inadequate. In 1914, the Uinta National Forest built a three-room wood frame house at the mouth of Mill Hollow in Indian Canyon.

The 1914 Indian Canyon Ranger Station was outside of the 1906 withdrawal area so, on July 9, 1915, the Forest Service designated 50 acres in Section 28 of T6S, R7W as an extension of the Indian Canyon Ranger Station. This withdrawal provided land for the Indian Canyon Ranger Station dwelling, pastureland, and a spring. Fred O. Johnson was the first ranger to occupy the Indian Canyon dwelling and used it as a base to manage Uinta National Forest lands from Anthro Mountain to Indian Canyon.

In later years, rangers received funds to enhance the Indian Canyon Ranger Station with a new barn (1921), improvements to the water system (1925), rehabilitation of the pasture fence (1924), and a replacement outhouse (1926). The New Deal era provided the addition of a garage/storeroom which was constructed in 1935. As of 1936, site features included a bridge west of the dwelling, a telephone line, a pasture fence, a wire fence around the yard, gravel walks, and stone retaining walls incorporating a set of steps in front of the garage.

By 1954, several substantial boundary changes were made between the Ashley, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests and the Indian Canyon Ranger Station was transferred to the Ashley National Forest. The Ashley NF had an existing District office in the town of Duchesne, and with improved transportation and roads, the Forest did not need a ranger to reside at the Indian Canyon Ranger Station. As a result, the Ranger Station ceased to be the ranger’s summer headquarters around 1950. By the time Floyd C. Noel was ranger (1956-57), the District minimally used the Indian Canyon Ranger Station. Noel later described the former ranger station as having “a place in Forest Service history” and “part of the landscape in Indian Canyon.” Nevertheless, the station’s use continued to diminish.

The District determined in 1971 that it had outlived its usefulness and recommended removing or destroying the dwelling. Ranger Joel Frandsen, writing about the Indian Canyon Ranger Station’s historic value in 1976, noted that District personnel occupied the dwelling “sparingly” due to inadequate water systems and condemned bridges, but still used the pasture, corrals, and barn. In 1984, his successor proposed to dispose of the station but noted, “The only problem anyone seems to have is the possible historical value of the building. There’s been some chatter that to dismantle it would cause considerable negative public reaction.” Soon thereafter, the Ashley National Forest consulted with the Utah SHPO about removing the buildings at the Indian Canyon R.S.. No action was taken, perhaps due to concerns about the site’s historic significance. Years later, on October 28, 1999, the site was listed on the National Register.

Commemoration on the National Register of Historic Places
The Indian Canyon Ranger Station is one of the earliest district headquarters constructed on Forests in the State of Utah. It played an important role in the administration of Forest service public lands in the early twentieth century. The dwelling is one of few remaining examples of a standard plan issued by the
Forest Service’s Washington Office in 1908. Despite its poor condition, it remains standing and is a visible reminder of the history of administering our Nation’s Forests. The building provided significant support to district rangers for the management of the Forest between 1914 and 1950.
Map 9: Indian Canyon Ranger Station Plan Map (AS-193 / 42DC348)
Project: Ranger Station Decommissioning

ANF Heritage Project #: AS-20-005
Date/Initials: 8/2020 JR

Map 9: Indian Canyon Ranger Station Plan Map (AS-193 / 42DC348)
Project: Ranger Station Decommissioning

ANF Heritage Project #: AS-20-005
Date/Initials: 8/2020 JR
View of the south elevation of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.

View of the southeast corner of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.
State Site #: 42DC348  Forest Site #: AS-193  Photo Date: Sept. 5, 2013

View of the east elevation of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.

View of the northeast corner of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.
Indian Canyon Ranger Station: Site Photos
Ashley National Forest Heritage

State Site #: 42DC348  Forest Site #: AS-193  Photo Date: Sept. 5, 2013

View of the north elevation of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.

View of the northwest corner of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.
View of the west elevation of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.

View of the southwest corner of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.
Close up of front porch on northwest corner of the Indian Canyon Guard Station of the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.
View inside the Indian Canyon Guard Station Dwelling (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.
View South at the Indian Canyon Ranger Station (Bldg. 1112) with a stone wall and concrete parking area below the guard station. Photo taken in 2013.

View west at the Indian Canyon Ranger Station (Bldg. 1112) with a stone wall and concrete parking area below the guard station. Photo taken in 2013.
State Site #: 42DC348  Forest Site #: AS-193  Photo Date: Sept. 5, 2013

View northwest at the Indian Canyon Ranger Station outhouse / pit toilet (Bldg. 5082). Photo taken in 2013.

View South up Mill Hollow at the collapsed barn (Bldg. 1306) destroyed in a flood event after the church camp fire. Photo taken in 2013.
Indian Canyon Ranger Station: Site Photos
Ashley National Forest Heritage

State Site #: 42DC348  Forest Site #: AS-193  Photo Date: Sept. 5, 2013

View southwest at the collapsed barn (Bldg. 1306) with the Indian Canyon Ranger Station Dwelling in the background (Bldg. 1112). Photo taken in 2013.

View northwest across Indian canyon at the collapsed barn (Bldg. 1306) destroyed in a flood event after the church camp fire. Photo taken in 2013.
History of the Stockmore Ranger Station

In 1908, 80 acres in Sections 19 and 20 of Township 1 North and Range 8 West along the shore of the Duchesne River were withdrawn from public use in order to build a ranger station for District 13 of the Uinta National Forest. The ranger station, initially named the Duchesne Ranger Station because it was on the Duchesne River, was built in 1914 with a single wing and a porch. In 1916, the name of the ranger station was changed to the Stockmore Ranger Station, because it is located adjacent to the Stockmore townsite and was a great distance from the town of Duchesne. A west wing was added to the existing building in 1921 to increase the size and usefulness of the building.

The Stockmore Ranger Station was situated on the Kamas to Duchesne Road (Highway 35) and served as headquarters for the Hanna Ranger District of the Uinta National Forest. In 1927, the district was transferred to the Wasatch National Forest and Stockmore continued to serve as the district headquarters for the Grandaddy Lakes Ranger District.

In 1954, with several substantial boundary changes on the Ashley, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, the Stockmore Ranger Station was transferred to the Ashley National Forest. The Ashley NF had an existing District office in the town of Duchesne, and with improved transportation and roads, the Forest did not need a ranger to reside at the Stockmore Ranger Station. As a result, the Ranger Station lost its status as a district headquarters. Stockmore found a new purpose as an administrative site and living quarters for district staff. In 1958, after the Forest Service discovered a spruce bark beetle outbreak in the area, the Stockmore administrative site became a “bug camp” for about 50 men working to eradicate the beetle. To accommodate them, several temporary tent frames and sheds were built that year, as well as a permanent bunkhouse which was completed in 1959. During the 1950s, Highway 35 was realigned to the north of the Stockmore Ranger Station so the roadway could expand to broader lanes and wider turns.

In 1960, The Bureau of Indian Affairs raised a question as to the validity of the withdrawal of the land. The question led the Secretary of the Interior to revoke its withdrawal on July 20, 1961 and the Forest Service to acquire the land through a condemnation purchase that same year.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Ashley NF continued to utilize the Stockmore administrative site as a summer work site, living area, and staging area for the administration of the North Unit of the Duchesne Ranger District.

The Bureau of Reclamation found the Stockmore area to be useful in supporting its Central Utah Project. With Forest Service permission, the BOR constructed the Tabiona Field Station in open fields on the northern part of the administrative site, north of Highway 35. The BOR completed its work in the area and transferred its facilities to the Forest Service in 1988. The BOR Field Station buildings were named “new Stockmore” to differentiate them from the “old Stockmore” ranger station.

With no need for the “old Stockmore” buildings, District staff signed a cooperative agreement with the Tabiona Natural History Society to rehabilitate the historic ranger station dwelling and open it to the public as a museum and visitor center. The Society installed a new roof and repaired the foundation of the dwelling in 2008. With limited funding and many repairs needed for the ranger station building, the Society couldn’t realize their plans and the Society soon became defunct. The Ashley NF briefly
considered placing the dwelling and bunkhouse in the recreation cabin rental program but decided against it because of the cost of renovation.

**Commemoration on the National Register of Historic Places**
The Stockmore Ranger Station is listed on the National Register (listed on Nov. 12, 1999) because it played an important role in the management of Forest Service Public Lands during the early 20th century. The station, as headquarters of the Hanna and Grandaddy Lakes ranger districts from ca. 1914 to ca. 1954, helps portray the significance of early Forest Service administrative sites and how they helped the fledgling Forest Service manage broad swaths of public lands. The Stockmore Ranger Station Dwelling is important as an example of early 20th century Forest Service construction and design.
Stockmore Ranger Station Location Map
Project: Ranger Station Decommissioning

ANF Heritage Project #: AS-20-005
Date/Initials: 8/2020 JR

Hanna UT, USGS 7.5 Min Quad

Potential Land Sale
Stockmore Ranger Station

Ashley National Forest Boundary

ANF Heritage Program
AS-192, front gate with dwelling (left) and bunkhouse (right) visible in background.

AS-192, overview from top of slope looking into ranger station. Note steepness of slope. Looking southeast.
AS-192, overview from top of slope looking into ranger station. Note steepness of slope and riparian vegetation closer to river. View to southwest.

Front (south) elevation of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.
State Site #: 42DC0347  Forest Site #: AS-0192  Photo Date: 7/14/2015

Southwest corner of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.

West elevation of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.
Northwest corner of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.

Back (north) elevation of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.
State Site #: 42DC0347  Forest Site #: AS-0192  Photo Date: 7/14/2015

Northeast corner of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.

Cedar shingle roof on the rear (north) of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.
East elevation of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.

Southeast corner of the Stockmore Ranger Station (Building 1117). Photo taken in 2015.
AS-192, south elevation (front) of bunkhouse (Bld 1122). Photo taken in 2015.

AS-192, photo of Seed Storage corrugated metal silo (Bldg. 1359).