

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
Flaming Gorge Ranger District
P.O. Box 279
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For Immediate Release
Date: June 22, 2004

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NO FIREWORKS AT FLAMING GORGE JULY 4TH

The Flaming Gorge Ranger District has denied a Chamber of Commerce proposal for fireworks in the Dutch John Area July 4th due to safety issues that cannot be negated. The Forest Service values the Chamber of Commerce as a partner; therefore, we will continue to work together to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for the visitors that visit the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

There are many wonderful activities on the Flaming Gorge NRA, and if you are looking for specific "fun things to do" over the Independence Holiday, try visiting an early pioneer homestead, Swett Ranch, and see how a Utah family lived at the turn of the century. Or, visit the Ute Tower, which was the first built in the State of Utah and is the last operating in the State. Both sites are on the National Register of Historic Sites. And, a good hike or bike ride is always an exciting challenge.

With the advent of the July 4th Holiday, all visitors should be aware of possible fire dangers and take necessary precautions to ensure safety. With recent rains, the area is still very dry and fire danger can be at an all-time high. Ranger Schramm asks that visitors keep campfires in the designated fire pits and make sure they are out "cold to the touch" before leaving them unattended. Fireworks are illegal on all federal and state lands.