

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
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VERNAL RANGER DISTRICT TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

Vernal, Utah, (January 27, 2006) - The Vernal Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest will host an Open House on Thursday, February 9, 2006, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Open House is to offer an opportunity for the public to ask questions and obtain information on the Potholes and Alma Taylor proposed projects. Both project proposals are to implement mechanical and prescribed fire treatments for the benefits of reducing fuels, improving wildlife habitat, promoting aspen regeneration, and to help reintroduce the historic fire regimes. The Open House will be held at the Uintah Basin Interagency Fire Center located behind the Ashley National Forest Supervisor's Office at 355 North Vernal Avenue in Vernal.

"The Open House will provide the public with an opportunity to ask Resource Specialists questions and receive information on specifics of the two projects." Vernal District Ranger Scott Steinberg stated. "I encourage all interested individuals to attend." At the Open House, detailed maps and background information on analysis used to develop the two projects will be available for review. A comment form will also be provided for any written comments on the two projects. All comments received at the Open House will be used in the public scoping process.

For more information about the projects, please call the Vernal Ranger District at (435) 789-1181 or stop by at 355 North Vernal Avenue. You can also access information from Ashley's Web site at www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley and click on the "Projects and Plans" link.

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