

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For:** Immediate Release  
**Date:** July 8, 2005  
**Subject:** District Ranger Receives Award

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### **ROOSEVELT/DUCHESNE DISTRICT RANGER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

**Vernal, Utah, (July 8, 2005)** Roosevelt/Duchesne District Ranger Clark Tucker was presented the "Line Officer Wilderness Leadership Award" at an Awards Ceremony Breakfast in Washington DC on June 22. The national award was presented by the Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. Clark received this award in recognition of his personal commitment to wilderness stewardship and accomplishments in enhancing the High Uintas Wilderness over the past 15 years.

Clark has worked diligently the last fifteen years for the betterment of the High Uintas Wilderness Area. First as District Ranger of the Roosevelt Ranger District, then as the Ashley National Forest Resource Staff Officer, and now as the Duchesne/Roosevelt District Ranger. Throughout this time, Clark has had a deep and abiding interest in wilderness management.

Clark was instrumental in guiding the High Uintas Wilderness Management planning process in the mid 90's. He has supported a cooperative management agreement for the High Uintas Wilderness with the Wasatch Cache National Forest. "It is an honor to be recognized for the work that has been done for the High Uintas Wilderness," Clark Tucker said. "It could not have been done without the help of a lot of other people."

One of Clark's lasting achievements has been the ongoing work with the Central Utah Project and the local water users to transfer water rights from the High Uinta Wilderness, to a downstream storage facility which will allow for the decommissioning of thirteen primitive dams within the wilderness. These dams are several decades old and are in need of periodic maintenance, often requiring motorized tools and equipment or some form of mechanical access. Use of these types of tools and access is to be a rare exception in designated wilderness. After stabilizing the reservoirs, the need for future maintenance on these reservoirs will be eliminated.

Clark has worked diligently to ensure that future maintenance work on the six remaining reservoirs within the High Uinta Wilderness will be done in a wilderness appropriate fashion. There is an approved project to repair Fox and Crescent Reservoirs that will require the use of mechanical access and motorized tools and equipment. The authorization to use these otherwise inappropriate methods was approved only after it was shown that they were essential to accomplishing the objectives of the project. Clark invested a lot of time and effort to make sure that the Fox and Crescent Lake project will succeed for the water users, as well as for the wilderness.

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