

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **HIGH UINTA WILDERNESS FOX AND CRESCENT RESERVOIRS PROJECT TO START**

**Vernal, Utah, (March 21, 2006)** – The Fox and Crescent Reservoirs Project will begin the middle of July and end in October 2006. The project may cause disturbances to Wilderness visitors in upper Uinta Canyon for the duration of the project, due to helicopters and equipment use, which required a specific review to allow their use in the Wilderness. The Chepeta Lake and the West Fork of the Whiterocks areas will also be affected for short periods during helicopter operations. Because of the concern for public safety, we ask that people not visit these areas while the project is in operation. Visitors to these areas may be delayed, detoured, or may not be permitted access. The trail from Fox-Queant Pass to Fox and Crescent Reservoirs may be closed during project operations.

“Public safety and resource protection are our highest priorities. Efforts to transfer the water storage rights associated with Fox and Crescent Reservoirs to another location several years ago were unsuccessful, so we need to ensure that these two reservoirs are maintained in a safe condition, says Acting District Ranger Mike Elson. A lot of planning has gone into minimizing the impact of the work that will be done this summer, but there is no question that this project would be a real surprise to wilderness visitors not expecting it. We want the public to be aware of the project so they can plan accordingly.”

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For more information contact the Duchesne Ranger District at (435) 738-2482 or visit the Ashley National Forest Web site at [fs.fed.us/r4/ashley](http://fs.fed.us/r4/ashley).

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