

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**USDA Forest Service  
Ashley National Forest  
355 North Vernal Avenue  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
(435) 789-1181**



**For:** Immediate Release  
**Date:** September 6, 2005  
**Subject:** Campfire Closure Order

**Contact:** Lisa Ross - Ashley  
**Phone:** (435) 781-5103  
**Contact:** Kathy Jo Pollock - Wasatch-Cache  
**Phone:** (801) 558-8016

### **CAMPFIRE CLOSURE ORDER IMPLEMENTED IN THE HIGH UINTAS WILDERNESS**

**Vernal, Utah, (September 7, 2005)** – Ashley National Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott and Wasatch-Cache Forest Supervisor Faye Krueger have signed a campfire closure order for some areas within the Roosevelt-Duchesne, Kamas, and Evanston-Mountain View Ranger Districts. The districts are located on the Ashley and Wasatch-Cache National Forests.

The order prohibits building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or wood stove fire within ¼ mile of the shoreline of lakes in the following areas: Naturalist Basin, Pigeon Milk Area McPheters/Ryder Lakes, Amethyst/Emerald Lakes, Deadhorse Lake, Lower Red Castle Lake, Dollar Lake, and Henrys Fork Lake (all located on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest), Swasey Hole, Granddaddy Basin, Garfield Basin, Four Lakes Basin, Atwood Basin, Squaw Basin, Chain Lakes Basin, Upper Rock Creek, Upper Uinta Canyon, (all located on the Ashley National Forest). “We have taken a long hard look at this issue and have considered input from both sides,” said Duchesne/Roosevelt District Ranger Clark Tucker, “This is a positive step in maintaining wilderness character”.

The reasons for this order are: dead and down (firewood) is becoming depleted in popular camping areas and firewood is replenished very slowly in high elevation ecosystems, dead and

decaying wood is important to some natural ecological functions and aesthetic quality and because visitors are stripping or cutting standing trees in some areas where firewood is scarce. Wilderness is managed to protect natural conditions and this order will help to restore that environment.

Visitors are permitted to use a charcoal briquette fire contained in a fire-proof pan or a backpacking stove fueled with gas, propane, alcohol, or canned-heat for cooking. Other specific exemptions apply within the closure order.

This order is in effect now and shall remain until further notice. Extensive efforts to educate and inform the public about the need for these restrictions are ongoing. Violations are punishable by fine

If you would like more information regarding this order, please call the Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District located in Duchesne, Utah at (435) 738-2482.

*end*