

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
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Vernal, Utah 84078
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For: Immediate Release
Date: July 20, 2005
Subject: Trail Closure

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TEMPORARY TRAIL CLOSURE IN THE HIGH UINTAS WILDERNESS

Vernal Utah, (July 20, 2005) – Ashley National Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott signed a Temporary closure order on July 20, 2005, which will close the Brown Duck Trail from the Wilderness boundary to the north side of the Kidney Lake Dam in the High Uintas Wilderness.

This closure is being implemented to provide for public safety. Kidney Lake Dam is showing signs of structural weakness, and is currently being drained and evaluated. Draining the lake is resulting in extremely high flows in Brown Duck creek, and access into the area is being restricted until the stability of Kidney Lake Dam can be fully assessed. “Because of the safety issue created from the high water level in Brown Duck Creek, it is necessary to close this area.” Ashley National Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott said. “Also, visitors should be aware of many down trees caused by avalanches.”

The public will be notified when the closure is lifted. If you have any questions, please call the Duchesne Ranger District at (435) 789-5200.

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