

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MULE ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH FOREST SERVICE ON WILDERNESS CLEANUP PROJECT

Vernal Utah, (August 16, 2006) - The Rocky Mountain Mule Association (RMMA) is returning this year to assist the Ashley National Forest with removal of trash and the remains of an aircraft in the High Uinta Wilderness. The project will take place in Squaw Basin and upper Rock Creek on the Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District. Volunteers from the RMMA will arrive starting August 17, 2006 to begin work on the wilderness cleanup project.

"We deeply value the volunteer service donated by groups like the Rocky Mountain Mule Association, says Acting District Ranger Mike Elson. Their members are demonstrating with their time and efforts their commitment to maintaining or improving conditions on the lands they care so much about. Their stewardship ethic is commendable, and we wouldn't be able to do a lot of this work without their help."

Annually, over the last few years, two to three tons of trash has been removed from the High Uintas Wilderness. Fines can be up to \$5,000.00 for leaving any items or trash in the wilderness. Visitors are asked to please be courteous and carry everything out that they brought in. If you would like more information, please contact the Duchesne Ranger District at 435-738-2482.

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