

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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



**For:** Immediate Release  
**Date:** September 19, 2005  
**Subject:** Weed-Free Hay

**Contact:** Lisa Ross  
**Phone:** (435) 781-5103  
**Email:** lisaross@fs.fed.us

### **ONLY WEED-FREE HAY ALLOWED ON ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST**

**Vernal, Utah, (September 19, 2005)** – Because of the increasing spread of noxious weeds, the USDA Forest Service has regulations on hay products that are carried onto forest lands. Only hay, straw, or mulch that has been certified as free of noxious weeds and seeds is permitted on the Forest. Processed feed such as pellets or cubes are allowed.

Noxious weeds such as scotch thistle, spotted knapweed, perennial pepper weed, Russian knapweed, leafy sprurge, musk thistle, and hoary cress continue to pose a threat to the Ashley National Forest.

Policies to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on the Forest are in place because of threats to the wildlife's ability to find suitable forage, interference with the growth of valuable plants, and choked waterways. These requirements are consistent with the Utah Department of Agriculture where producers can obtain bale identification tags certifying their product is weed-free. The public also needs to have a bale identification tags in their possession when transporting hay on the Forest. Persons violating the weed-free hay regulations could be subject to a fine.

*more*

A list of certified producers in your area can be found online at [www.ag.utah.gov](http://www.ag.utah.gov). Click on the weed-free hay link under the heading “Find it Fast”.

If you would like further information, you can call the Ashley National Forest Supervisor’s office at 435-789-1181 or go to [www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley).

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