

## **NEWS RELEASE**



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### **Ashley National Forest Hosts the First Round of Travel Management Public Meetings**

**Vernal, Utah June 4, 2007** ... The Ashley National Forest will host the first round of public meetings this month for the Forest's Travel Management Plan. These meetings will be held in Vernal, Manila, Green River, Duchesne and Salt Lake City.

"ATV's and other off highway vehicles are a legitimate use of National Forest System Lands and like any recreational pursuit, one that needs management. This exercise will help us identify the appropriate places for people to enjoy their Off-Highway-Vehicles in ways that protect other resource values," stated Forest Supervisor Kevin B. Elliott.

This round of meetings will provide an overview of the Travel Management process and establishes the timeline and opportunities for public involvement in the Ashley National Forest Travel Management Plan. Following the overview of the planning process there will be time for participants to ask questions about the process, procedures and reasons for this planning effort.

Meetings will be held in the evening from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting dates and locations are:

- **June 14, Vernal Utah** , Western Park Convention Center
- **June 19, Manila Utah**, Court Room in County Courthouse
- **June 21, Green River Wyoming**, Green River Public Library
- **June 26, Duchesne Utah**, Duchesne County Chamber
- **June 28, Salt Lake City Utah** , Salt Lake City Public Library

The revision to the forest's Travel Management Plan will meet the requirements of the 2005 Final Travel Management Rule which provides direction and regulations governing the use of motor vehicles on all National Forest System lands. An important part of the designation process involves public participation. During the process, the Ashley National Forest will evaluate all motorized vehicle use except aircraft, watercraft, and over-snow vehicle, and eventually designate roads, trails, and areas for the appropriate type of motorized vehicles and season of use.

The Ashley National Forest is the lead agency in this planning process and has received input from affected local, state and other federal agencies in initial stages of developing a proposed action.

The Forest is beginning the public involvement process through a series of public meetings, field trips and workshops this summer and fall, designed to ensure meaningful public participation. Additional opportunities for public input will occur throughout the planning process.

For more information regarding the public meetings, please contact Kris Rutledge, Forest Environmental Coordinator, at 435-781-5196 or email [krutledge@fs.fed.us](mailto:krutledge@fs.fed.us) .