

CHAPTER I
FOREST PLAN INTRODUCTION

I. FOREST PLAN INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THE FOREST PLAN

This Forest Plan will guide all natural resource management activities and establish management standards and guidelines for the Ashley National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management.

The Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the NFMA, the regulations, and other guiding documents. The prescriptions, standards, and guidelines are a statement of the Plan's management direction; however, the project outputs, services, and rates of implementation are dependent upon the annual budget allocation process.

B. RELATIONSHIP OF THE FOREST PLAN TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

Development of the Forest Plan takes place within the framework of Forest Service regional and national planning efforts. The relationship among the different planning levels is shown as follows:

Congressional Acts (Law)

National level

Forest Service planning through the
Renewable Resource Assessment and Program (RPA)

Regional planning level through the
Regional Guide for the Intermountain Region

Forest level planning through the
Ashley National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan

The RPA Program establishes the national direction and output levels for the National Forest system lands. It is based on suitability and comparability information from each Forest Service Region.

Each Forest Service Region distributes its share of national production targets to each of its Forests. The share each National Forest receives is based on detailed information gathered at the Forest level.

The Land and Resource Management Plan validates or provides a basis for changing production levels assigned by the Region. Activities and projects are planned and implemented by the Forest to carry out the direction developed in the Forest Plan. Information from all the National Forests in the Region was used in developing the Intermountain Regional Guide.

The Forest Plan is the selected alternative and is based on the various considerations which have been addressed in the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The planning process and the analysis procedure which were used in developing this plan, as well as the other alternatives that were considered, are described or referenced in the EIS. Activities and projects will be planned and implemented to carry out the direction in this plan. These local projects will be 'tiered to' the accompanying EIS as provided for in 40 CFR 1502.20. The local project environmental analysis will use the data and evaluations in the plan and EIS as its basis.

Assessment of the environmental consequences of local projects is done in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508). All projects on National Forest System lands will meet NEPA requirements.

C. PLAN STRUCTURE D. FOREST DESCRIPTION

This plan provides the long term direction for managing the Ashley National Forest. It contains the overall directions and activities which will be required to achieve the desired condition of the Forest. Management area maps indicate where the activities will occur.

The EIS describes the alternatives considered in arriving at that direction and provides assessment of the environmental effects of implementing the plan and other alternatives.

The Forest Plan is organized into five chapters:

Chapter I.	Forest Plan Introduction
Chapter II.	Analysis of the Management Situation Summary
Chapter III.	Plan Responses to Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities
Chapter IV.	Forest Management Direction
Chapter V.	Implementation of the Forest Plan
	Appendices

Details concerning the various subsections and page numbers are found in the Table of Contents.

Chapter IV, titled "Forest Management Direction," deals with the multiple use goals and objectives. It also lists the management prescriptions and standards and guidelines for management of specific areas. The "Implementation of the Forest Plan," Chapter V, deals with the means to implement the plan and evaluate and monitor the effects of management practices.

Maps displaying management activities can be found in Chapter IV. By studying the maps concurrently with the Forest Plan, the reader can better understand the proposed action.



EVANSTON

ROCK SPRINGS

GREEN RIVER

WYOMING
UTAH

MANILA

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST

VERNAL

JENSEN

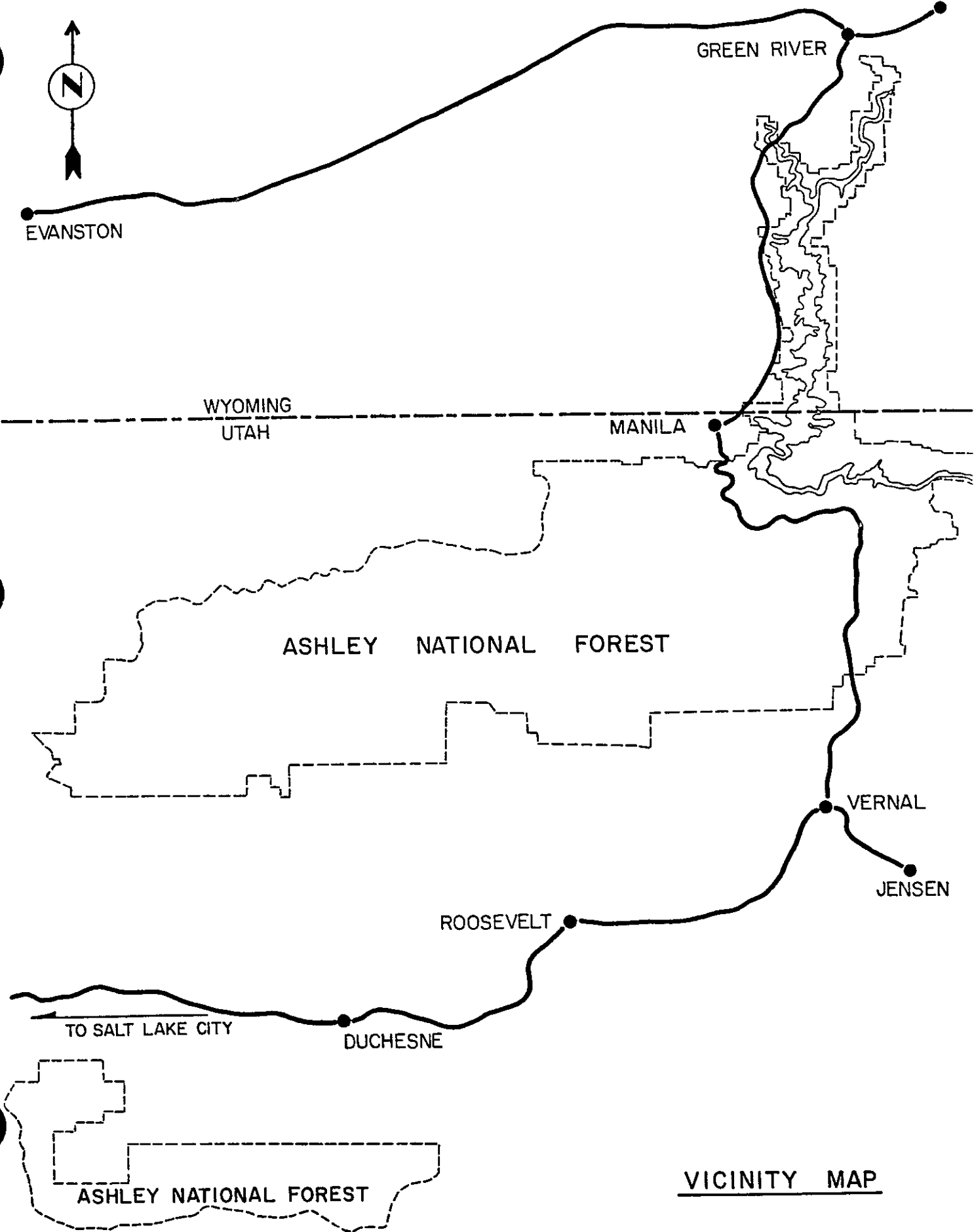
ROOSEVELT

TO SALT LAKE CITY

DUCHESNE

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST

VICINITY MAP



The Ashley National Forest is located in the northeastern portion of the State of Utah and the southwestern portion of the State of Wyoming. The area administered by the Forest contains approximately 1.3 million acres. The Forest lies within the boundaries of six counties: Uintah, Duchesne, Daggett, Summit, and Wasatch counties in the State of Utah, and Sweetwater county in the State of Wyoming.

The Ashley National Forest is bordered by the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, the Uinta, and the Wasatch Cache National Forests, private property, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Utah.

The Forest headquarters and one Ranger District are located in Vernal, Utah. Ranger District offices are also located in Manila, Roosevelt, and Duchesne, Utah.

The Forest includes lands located in the Uinta Mountains, the Wyoming Basin, and the Tavaputs Plateau.

The planning area covered by the Forest Plan is the administrative unit consisting of and known as the Ashley National Forest.