



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Ashley National Forest  
Vernal Ranger District

355 North Vernal Ave.  
Vernal, UT 84078  
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**File Code:** 2520/1950

**Date:** June 6, 2014

Friends of the Ashley National Forest:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the Cart Creek Watershed Roads Improvement Project environmental assessment (EA). We are sending this EA to those who provided input on the initial scoping document and to those who have requested to receive copies of project proposals on the Ashley National Forest.

We evaluated two alternatives in detail in the EA. Alternative 1 is the no action alternative where no new management activities would take place. Alternative 2 is the proposed action alternative. With this alternative, we are proposing two reroutes of sections of Forest Road 177 and Forest Road 49, seasonal closures, construction of a borrow rock pit, and designation of a non-motorized trail. We considered other alternatives during the analysis, but did not fully analyze them for various reasons as disclosed in the EA.

This project is subject to a pre-decisional administrative review process, also known as the objection process (36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B). Section 428 of the 2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act directed the Forest Service to replace the *post*-decisional Appeals Process (36 CFR 215) with the *pre*-decisional objection process. Please see Appendix C to the EA for more information about the objections process and how to ensure your comments meet the requirements to establish standing to object.

Your site-specific, written comments for this project will afford you the right to object to the upcoming draft decision on this project. Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) regarding this proposed project during a designated opportunity for public comment established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must meet the requirements in 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3). Any comments received on this proposal are part of the public record and, therefore, are available for public review upon request. Submitting your input during this 30-day comment period will ensure that you remain on the mailing list for this project. If you wish to reference scientific literature in your comment letter, I request that you send a copy of the reference you have cited and include rationale as to how you feel it is pertinent to the specific project at hand. This will allow me to fully evaluate your comments; if I do not receive a copy of the literature I may not be able to utilize it in making my decision.

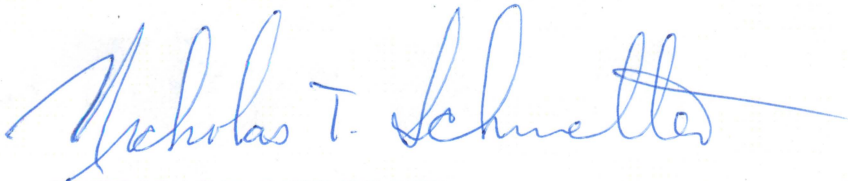
We will accept comments on this proposed project for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record (the *Vernal Express*). If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, we will accept comments until the end of the next Federal working day.



Please address your comments to me at the Vernal Ranger District Office, 355 North Vernal Ave., Vernal, UT 84078. Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver or provide oral comments, are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., MDT, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Alternatively, you may submit comments by facsimile at 435-781-5142, or by email at [comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us) (please put *Cart Creek Watershed Roads Improvement Project* in the subject line).

More information about this project is available on the Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/projects/ashley/landmanagement/projects>. If you need additional information, please contact Chris Plunkett, Forest Hydrologist, at the Ashley National Forest Supervisor's Office, 355 North Vernal Ave., Vernal, UT 84078 (telephone: 435-781-5140; email: [cplunkett@fs.fed.us](mailto:cplunkett@fs.fed.us)).

Sincerely,



NICHOLAS T. SCHMELTER  
District Ranger

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