

**Ashley National Forest
Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District
P.O. Box 981
Duchesne, Utah 84021**

May 10, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amber Helmus
(435) 781-5205

**LEGAL NOTICE
Roosevelt-Duchesne District Range Improvement Projects
Request for Comments**

The Ashley National Forest is inviting input on six water developments and three fence projects proposed on the Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger Districts. The water developments and fence projects would begin construction in the summer and fall of 2007. Areas where these projects would occur include: Log Hollow, McAfee Basin, Anthro Mountain, Sowers Canyon, Lake Canyon, and Farm Creek-Buck Ridge.

A list of proposed water developments and fence projects are presented below.

Water Development	Allotment	Pipeline Length	Number of Troughs
Burnt Ridge	Log Hollow	5.8 miles	3
Middle Unit	McAfee Basin	1 mile	4
Brundage Ridge	Anthro Mountain	500ft. to 1500ft.	1 water pillow
Sowers Canyon	Sowers Canyon	5 miles	6
Sleep Spring	Lake Canyon	500ft.	2
Meadow Spring	Lake Canyon	500ft.	1

Fence Project	Allotment	Fence Length
Burnt Ridge	Log Hollow	2 miles
Twin Hollows	Anthro Mountain	4 miles
Wild Horse	Farm Creek-Buck Ridge	7 miles

The primary purposes of these projects include:

1. Water developments would provide drinking water for cattle within the allotments where water is limited and improve grazing distribution.
2. The Burnt Ridge water development in the Log Hollow allotment would provide drinking water for cattle in the upper section of the Log Hollow allotment in order to reduce livestock use in areas that are heavily impacted during grazing. This would improve livestock distribution within the unit pasture and wildlife species may also benefit from the improvement.

3. The purpose of the fence in the Log Hollow allotment is to maintain the integrity of two allotment units to allow for a rotational grazing system. This would reduce livestock use in areas that are heavily impacted during grazing, improve grazing utilization, and allow deferred use for the units.
4. The construction of a fence in Anthro Mountain allotment would be used to restrict cattle from entering the Sowers Canyon allotment.
5. The water development in Sowers Canyon would move water down the canyon and into the side canyons and would provide water to livestock where water is limited.
6. The purpose of the fence reconstruction on the Farm Creek-Buck Ridge allotment would restrict cattle from entering other units and would improve grazing utilization along the fence line.

We anticipate these projects as defined by the specific actions listed above, may be appropriately excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS as described in the following category in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Section 31.2 (Categories 9). Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution when an Allotment Management Plan is not yet in place. Examples include but are not limited to

1. Rebuilding a fence to improve animal distribution.
2. Adding a stock watering facility to an existing water line

Any decision issued under this authority would not be appealable under 36 CFR 215. However, determination of the appropriate level of analysis and documentation will be made only after a review of specialist reports, biological evaluations/assessments, public comments, and other pertinent information and analyses.

The public is invited to offer comment at this time. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project. Send your written comments to: John R. Kirkaldie, District Ranger, Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District, at 85 W. Main Highway 40, P.O. Box 981, Duchesne, Utah 84021. Comments may also be hand delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays; or submitted electronically to comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments should include the project name in the subject line and be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments will be accepted for 30 days from the date of this notice.

If you desire further information, including detailed descriptions of the proposals, project areas, and maps, please contact Project Leader Amber Helmus, project leader, at (435) 781-5205 or e-mail: ahelmus@fs.fed.us.