



File Code: 1950/2210

Date: May 10, 2007

Roosevelt/Duchesne District 2007 Range Improvement Projects

Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District
Ashley National Forest
Duchesne County, Utah

I am inviting you to comment on the following proposed actions. The Ashley National Forest is planning six water developments and three fence projects for livestock grazing management. A general location map for the proposed projects can be viewed in Appendix A. Pertinent information pertaining to the nine projects is provided below.

1. Burnt Ridge water improvement project is located on the Log Hollow cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix B). A 4" to 6" perforated pipe would be installed in the Right Fork Log Hollow stream near the head of Burnt Ridge. This is an intermittent stream and the 1½ inch pipeline would be 5.8 miles and include three water troughs installed along the water line. A small portion of the pipeline near Rock Springs would be buried. The rest of the pipeline would not be buried. The purpose of the water development is to 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.
2. Burnt Ridge fence project is also located on the Log Hollow cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix B). The fence would be 2 miles and would be constructed from Rock Spring to the existing southern fence in the allotment. The purpose of the fence 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.
3. Middle Unit water improvement project is located on the McAfee Basin cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix C). A 4" to 6" perforated pipe would be installed in the Corral Creek Spring located in the Middle Unit of allotment. The water would be pumped out of Corral Creek Spring into an existing holding pond. Another 4" to 6" perforated pipe would be placed in the pond and water would be pumped out to fill the water troughs along the new 1½ inch pipeline. The pipeline would be one mile and four water troughs would be installed along the pipeline. The pipeline would be buried to reduce damage to the pipeline. The purpose of the water development is to provide drinking water for cattle on the McAfee Basin allotment and to improve livestock distribution within the unit pasture. Wildlife species may also benefit from the improvement.



4. The Brundage water improvement project is located on the Anthro Mountain cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix D). The Nutter Ridge Pipeline down Brundage Ridge needs extended 500' to 1500' along with the installation of a water pillow. The 1½ inch pipeline would be buried to reduce damage to the pipeline. The purpose of the water development is to provide drinking water for cattle on the Anthro Mountain allotment and to improve livestock distribution within the unit pasture. Wildlife species may also benefit from the improvement.
5. The Twin Hollows fence project is located on Anthro Mountain cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix E). The fence would be 4 miles and would be constructed at the head of North and South Twin Hollows. The purpose of the fence is to restrict cattle from entering the Sowers Canyon allotment.
6. The Sowers Canyon water improvement project is located on the Sowers Canyon cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix F). A 4" to 6" perforated pipe would be installed in the Deathtrap Spring in the Deathtrap sub-unit and gravity flow would be used to move water from the spring. The total pipeline installed would be 5 miles and include 6 water troughs. The pipeline would be buried to reduce damage to the pipeline. Two miles of 1½ inch pipeline would be installed from Deathtrap Spring to the fence near Spring Hollow sub unit. Five different additional pipelines would be connected to the main pipeline and range from .25 miles to .5 miles (refer to Appendix E). The purpose of the water development is to move water down the canyon and into the side canyons on the Sowers Canyon allotment where water is limited. This water development would improve livestock distribution within the units and wildlife species may also benefit from the additional water structures.
7. The Sleepy Spring water improvement project is located on the Lake Canyon cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix G). Two additional troughs would be installed near the existing trough located by Sleepy Spring in the Left Fork Canyon Unit. The 1½ inch pipeline would be extended 500' and buried to reduce damage to the pipeline. The purpose of the water development is to provide drinking water for cattle on the Lake Canyon allotment and to improve livestock distribution within the unit pasture. Wildlife species may also benefit from the structure.
8. The Sulfur Spring water improvement project is also located on the Lake Canyon cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix G). A trough would be installed near Sulfur Spring in Right Fork Lake Canyon Unit. A headbox would be installed to allow water to collect and water would then flow through 1¼ inch pipe using gravity flow. The pipe would extend 500' and would be buried and connected to the new trough. The purpose of the water development is to provide drinking water for cattle on the Lake Canyon allotment and to improve livestock distribution within the unit pasture. Wildlife species may also benefit from the structure.
9. The Wild Horse drift fence project is located in Farm Creek-Buck Ridge cattle grazing allotment (refer to Appendix H). The fence is approximately seven miles and needs to be reconstructed to prevent cattle from grazing other units. A bulldozer would be used in some areas to remove vegetation along the fence line. The removal of vegetation would allow the fence to be easily maintained and reduce the risk of damage from fallen trees along the fence.

The purpose of the fence reconstruction is to restrict cattle from entering other units and to improve grazing utilization along the fence line on the Farm Creek-Buck Ridge allotment.

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 would 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, would 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). All comments should be received within 30 days of the publication of the public notice in the Uintah Basin Standard.

For further information concerning this proposal, please contact Amber Helmus at the Duchesne Ranger District, 85 W. Highway 40, P.O. Box 981, Duchesne Utah 84021, by phone at (435) 781-5205, or by e-mail at ahelmus@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Kirkaldie May 10, 2007

John (JR) Kirkaldie
Responsible Official
District Ranger

enclosures

APPENDIX A
Overview Map of Range Improvements on the Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District on the
Ashley National Forest

APPENDIX B
Map of Burnt Ridge Range Improvement Projects

APPENDIX C
Map of Middle Unit Range Improvement Project

APPENDIX D
Map of Brundage Range Improvement Project

APPENDIX E
Map of Twin Hollows Range Improvement Project

APPENDIX F
Map of Sowers Canyon Range Improvement Project

APPENDIX G
Map of Lake Canyon Range Improvement Project

APPENDIX H
Map of Wild Horse Drift Fence Range Improvement Project