



# UINTAH COUNTY

STATE OF UTAH  
152 EAST 100 NORTH  
VERNAL, UTAH 84078  
435-781-0770

COMMISSIONERS:  
William C. Stringer  
Brad G. Horrocks  
Bart N. Haslem  
ASSESSOR – Barbara Simper  
ATTORNEY – Greg Lamb  
CLERK-AUDITOR – Mike Wilkins  
RECORDER – Brenda McDonald  
TREASURER – Wendi Long  
SHERIFF – Steve Labrum  
SURVEYOR – John Slaugh

November 6, 2019

**Re:** Proposal to Revise the Land Management Plan for the Ashley National Forest

Ashley National Forest Supervisor,

Uintah County Appreciates the chance to comment on the Ashley National Forest Plan Revision. We are glad to work with the Forest Service to maintain and improve our beautiful forest. Below are our comments:

**Fire-** Objectives (page 30) add: “When sustainable and based on scientific knowledge and local data, temporarily increase grazing (allotments, AUMs, or seasonal use) to reduce fuel loads.”

**Wildlife-** Guidelines 09 (page 35) Change to “When a domestic sheep or goat grazing permit for an allotment that is in proximity to bighorn sheep is voluntarily waived without preference, the allotment should be analyzed to provide separation of domestic sheep and bighorn sheep by either: 1) conversion to a cattle allotment, 2) utilization as a forage reserve, and/or 3) potential closure of all or a portion of the allotment to domestic sheep/goats.”

**Wildlife-** Guidelines (page 34-35) add: “Reduction in forage allocation resulting from forage studies, drought, or other natural disasters will be shared proportionately by wildlife, livestock, and other uses.” And, “Increases in forage allocation resulting from improved range conditions shall be shared proportionally by wildlife, livestock, and other uses.” Uintah County also supports improvements to rangelands for wildlife and livestock. There should be goals and guidelines that address what can or should be done to improve rangelands. i.e. prescribed burns, removal of invasive shrubs, bushes and other plants, rangeland treatments, etc.

**Timber-** Table 10 (page 40) Why is less than 10% of forest lands available for timber production? It seems that timber production could be one option to help reduce fuels to help prevent catastrophic fires. More lands should be available for timber harvest. What would need to be done to increase the amount of area that is available for timber harvest? Please refer to Uintah County Resource Management Plan 2017 Chapter 10 Section 10.4.

**Livestock Grazing-** (Page 45) Please refer to the Uintah County Resource Management Plan 2017 Chapter 15 Section 15.4. The county would like to see some language about increases and decreases in forage will be shared equally between livestock and wildlife. We would also like to see some language about the use of grazing to reduce fuel loads to help prevent catastrophic fires. Uintah County also supports improvements to rangelands for wildlife and livestock. There should be goals and guidelines that address what can or should be done to improve rangelands. i.e. prescribed burns, removal of invasive shrubs, bushes and other plants, rangeland treatments, etc.

**Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area-** (Page 71)- Language should be added that this has been enacted and that a plan will be completed.

**Appendix A. Priority Watersheds-** Table 21 (Page 105)- Should this list include the Ashley Karst Watershed? Or, is this already part of one of the listed watershed areas?

**Roadless Areas Map** (Page 124)- There are roads throughout the roadless areas identified on the map. What exactly are these inventoried roadless areas? Will these areas be updated with this plan revision?

Thank you for your efforts in maintaining our forests. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you need further clarification.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Stringer, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Horrocks

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bart Haslem

Uintah County Commissioners