



February 15, 2022

Sue Eickhoff
Forest Supervisor
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Ave.
Vernal, Utah 84078

Supervisor Eickhoff:

Thank you for the opportunity for the State of Wyoming to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Ashley National Forest Plan Revision.

National Forests, including the Ashley National Forest (ANF), are essential to our economy, citizens, and visitors. The forest plan revision process is key to the management of national forests and integral to the future of states and forest adjacent communities since the Plan Revision will guide management decisions on the forest for the next 15 to 20 years.

The ANF Plan Revision process has been ongoing for over five years. The State of Wyoming has participated diligently in the process as a cooperating agency, submitting hundreds of comments and attending many meetings. At times, we have been frustrated by a lack of responsiveness from the ANF to our comments and concerns. Still, we appreciate the renewed effort to engage cooperators, fully understand our issues, and provide more than dismissive justifications for our concerns.

Attached you will find comments from the State of Wyoming. In an effort to be as helpful and clear as possible, many comments include suggested language changes. There are also a number of general comments that apply to either an entire resource section of the DEIS or the DEIS as a whole. The ANF is encouraged to review the comments provided by Wyoming state agencies closely, and please contact us if you have any questions or need further clarification. On behalf of our state cooperating agencies, we request the ANF provide us the opportunity to discuss the potential agency preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Gordon", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Mark Gordon
Governor

MG:kb:kh