

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**USDA Forest Service  
Ashley National Forest  
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**For:** Immediate Release  
**Subject:** Forest Special Orders

**Date:** June 17, 2004  
**Contact:** Lisa Ross, Public Affairs  
**Location:** Ashley National Forest  
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### **Forest Supervisor Proposes Dispersed Camping and Sanitation Special Orders**

Ashley National Forest Supervisor George Weldon is proposing a Forest Occupancy and Use Special Order which would still allow for 16 consecutive days of camping in one location, but would change the relocation mileage requirement from 2 to 10 road miles to allow equity in selection of prime campsites. Also, redefine the miles as road mileage. This special order would limit the time a campsite could be left unoccupied to seventy two hours.

The current order limits camping in a dispersed campsite to 16 days in any 30-day period and implies the occupant must leave the Forest for the remaining days in the period. The proposed order would say; campers are not permitted to return to the dispersed campsite they have vacated for 30 days.

The reasons for changing the current special order include the following: increased dispersed camping is creating a higher demand for campsites; the government expense of locating owners of unoccupied trailers that have exceeded the 16-day limit; confusion on the "two mile" wording of the existing special order, (air miles or road miles); a need to give some campsites a short rest from continuous use; and numerous prime dispersed campsites being held by equipment, such as trailers, but are not occupied for long periods of time while other visitors search for campsites.

A second order would address the sanitation issue at the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area by requiring a self-contained vehicle or personal portable toilet for all overnight shoreline camping.

Forest Special Orders are regulations issued by the Forest Supervisor for a specified location and time period. They may apply to the entire Forest or to a specific location to solve a particular resource problem and are issued with careful consideration.

The date selected to implement the proposed Occupancy and Use Special Order and the Sanitation Special Order is January, 2005. The Ashley National Forest will be doing an extensive public notification if these orders are issued.

Please provide written comments to Ashley National Forest Supervisor George Weldon, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah 84078; email: [gaweldon@fs.fed.us](mailto:gaweldon@fs.fed.us) . For more information contact Eileen Richmond, Public Service Team Leader at (435) 781-5163. Comments submitted by August 1, 2004 would be appreciated.