

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
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For: Immediate Release
Subject: Fox and Crescent Reservoirs
(Record of Decision)

Date: May 10, 2004
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Location: Ashley National Forest
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Regional Forester Authorizes Repairs to Fox and Crescent Reservoirs

Intermountain Regional Forester Jack Troyer has made a decision to issue an easement to the Dry Gulch Irrigation Company under the authority of "Colorado Ditch Bill" and to allow repairs and maintenance of the Fox and Crescent Reservoirs using motorized equipment and mechanical transport into the High Uintas Wilderness.

Duchesne/Roosevelt District Ranger Clark Tucker states, "This is a good decision that allows Dry Gulch Irrigation Company to exercise its right to operate and maintain the reservoirs and it also protects other National Forest resources and values including Wilderness."

These two reservoirs are located in the Shale Creek Tributary of the Uinta River, approximately 36 air miles north of Roosevelt, Utah. Shale Creek originates in the upper Uinta River drainage within the High Uintas Wilderness on Ashley National Forest. Crescent Reservoir water drains into Fox Reservoir and all stored water is then released through the Fox Reservoir outlet works into a small tributary. The water eventually flows into the main Uinta River for diversion and use downstream on private property.

These two dams are more than seventy years old and in need of repair to ensure safe and continued use. Recent safety inspections of the dams by personnel from the Utah State Engineer's Office and Forest Service indicate that there are serious defects with the outlet works at both reservoirs, and additional problems with the dikes, interior pipes, existing wet well, and

spillway at Fox Reservoir. The division of Water Rights of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, the State of Utah Engineering Office and the Forest Service require that dams be maintained to a standard to ensure their safe operation and to protect adjacent and downstream resources, as well as private and public property and other values.

The proposal has been analyzed and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed. The EIS and Record of Decision are available at the Ashley National Forest's Supervisor's Office, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah 84078. The phone number is (435) 789-1181. If you have any questions about this decision contact Clark Tucker, District Ranger at (435) 781-5203.