

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, Utah 84078
(435) 789-1181**



For: Immediate Release
Subject: Paint Mine Decision

Date: May 19, 2004
Contact: Lisa Ross, Public Affairs
Location: Ashley National Forest
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Roosevelt-Duchesne District Ranger makes Decision on Paint Mine Proposal

Ashley National Forest Roosevelt-Duchesne District Ranger Clark Tucker has made a decision to authorize the Uintah Mountain Copper Company, holder of mining claims that have not been patented in the Paint Mine area near Moon Lake, to further explore their mineral resources. The decision allows for the excavation of a .075-acre test pit area and removes approximately 650 cubic yards (1534 tons) of hematite (iron oxide) ore from the claim area filed as Sunshine Quartz Claim No. 4, located in Section 15 of Township 2 North, Range 6 West, USM. The ore will be excavated by heavy equipment, temporarily stored at a site near the test pit, and eventually transported by long-haul trailer trucks to a pilot processing plant in Price, Utah. Excavation, storage, and removal operations will take place over a 60-day operating period during the summer and fall months, followed by cleanup, rehabilitation and monitoring work. Uintah Mountain Copper Company will be allowed use of the campsite for staging of personnel and as an ore transfer site. Once the project is completed the campsite will be cleaned up and the site restored.

The project is planned to take place in the summer of 2004 or 2005, depending on the timing of the final project approvals. All mitigation measures described in the EA will be required when implementing the project.

The project has been analyzed and an Environmental Assessment (EA) completed. The EA and Decision Notice 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. This information is also available on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley. If you have any questions about this decision contact Clark Tucker, District Ranger at (435) 781-5203.