

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
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Subject: Open Houses

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ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST TO HOST OPEN HOUSES

The Ashley National Forest will host five informational open houses in July for Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility and Roadless Inventory. These open houses will provide an opportunity to share information on the processes for both.

The dates and locations for the open houses are:

- July 19 at the Roosevelt Community Center Multi-Purpose Room, 50 East 200 South, Roosevelt, Utah, 4 to 8 p.m.
- July 20 at the Vernal City Office, 447 East Main, Vernal, Utah, 4 to 8 p.m.
- July 21 at the Salt Lake City Library Building, 210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, Utah, 4 to 8 p.m.
- July 27 at the Daggett County Courthouse, 95 North 100 West, Manila, Utah, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- July 27 at the Green River City Office Council Chambers, 50 East 2nd North, Green River, Wyoming, 4 to 8 p.m.

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The Ashley National Forest has begun a process of inventorying and evaluating its rivers for their potential inclusion into the national system of Wild and Scenic Rivers. All federal agencies are mandated by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to consider, during their planning process, any and all rivers that have potential for inclusion into the system.

At the open house the Forest Service will share information about 29 river segments it has tentatively determined to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation. Next in the multi phase process is all eligible rivers will then be evaluated for their suitability as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act require that “roadless areas” shall be inventoried, evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas.

At the open house the forest Service will share information and maps of forest areas that meet the definition of “roadless”. Once identified inventoried roadless areas will be evaluated for potential wilderness designation.

For more information about the open houses, please contact Laura Jo West, Forest Planner at 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah, (435) 781-5167. Information is also available on Ashley’s website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley> .

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