

NEWS RELEASE



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

Contact: Louis Haynes
Title: Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (435) 781-5105
Email: ljhaynes@fs.fed.us

Special Fire Closure and Fire Restrictions Implemented on the Ashley National Forest Beginning Monday, July 2nd at Midnight

Vernal, Utah, July 1, 2007 ... With the active fire behavior exhibited by the Neola North Fire on the Roosevelt-Duchesne and Vernal Ranger Districts the Ashley National Forest has implemented a special fire closure to provide for public safety by prohibiting entering or being in the area which is threatened by the Neola North Fire.

This order will take affect at midnight on Monday July 2nd and shall remain in effect until further notice. The area included in this closure begins at the Ashley National Forest boundary at FSR 119, (Yellowstone Canyon Road), traveling north to FSR 124, then north on FSR 124 to the High Uintas Wilderness boundary, then northeast along the wilderness boundary to the Uintah/Daggett County line, (also the Vernal/Flaming Gorge Ranger District boundary), then east along this boundary to FSR 043 (Hacking Lake Road), then southeast along FSR 043 to the intersection with FSR 018 (Red Cloud Loop Road), then southeasterly along FSR 018 to the intersection with FSR 044, (Taylor Mountain Road at Kaler Hollow), then south on FSR 044 to the forest boundary, then west along the southern forest boundary back to FSR 019 (Yellowstone Canyon Road). The described segments of forest system roads which bound the closure area, and the developed recreation areas immediately adjacent to these roads **ARE EXCLUDED FROM CLOSURE AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**. Portions of the listed forest system roads which provide access to the interior of the closure area are **NOT** open for public travel.

For those visitors wishing to camp in dispersed locations over the 4th of July camping will be allowed on the West side of the Yellowstone Canyon Road and on the East side of the Taylor Mountain Road. Both roads will be opened for public access.

To reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions during this period of extreme fire danger the Ashley National Forest will implement fire restrictions on Monday, July 2nd at midnight banning the building, maintaining, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. This order applies to all lands within the Ashley National Forest, with the exception of the High Uintas Wilderness Area. This order will be in effect until further notice.

For more information about the area closure or fire restrictions please contact the Neola Fire Information Center at 435-353-3008.