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**August 8, 2016**

# **News Release**

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**Ashley National Forest Holds Forest Plan Open Houses for the Wilderness Assessment Process and Species of Conservation Concern**

Vernal, Utah … The Ashley National Forest will hold a series of open house style meetings at the end of August to begin the Wilderness Assessment and review the first draft of the Species of Conservation Concern.

These two actions will lead to recommendations and eventually decisions that will guide the management of the Ashley National Forest for the next 15 to 20 years. Please come out and work with the Ashley National Forest to set the future direction of management activities on the Ashley National Forest.

In this first step in the Wilderness Assessment Process the Forest will explain the Wilderness Assessment process and show initial maps to solicit public input and local knowledge to assist in forming a recommendation for inclusion in the Forest Plan.

The first draft of the Species of Conservation Concern will also be available for review and public input to assist in forming a recommendation and eventually a final list approved by the Regional Forester for inclusion in the Forest Plan.

The Forest will have subject matter experts available to discuss these two processes and how public input will be considered in the formation of recommendations.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING DATES: 6 to 8 p.m.

**Tue 8/23/16**: Western Wyoming Community College Green River Center

#1 College Way, Green River, WY 82935

**Wed 8/24/16**: UBATC Multipurpose Room 1

450 North 2000 West, Vernal, UT 84066

**Thu 8/25/16**: Daggett County Commission Chamber

95 North 1st West, Manila, Utah 84046

**Tue 8/30/16**: Salt Lake City Library, Room 4 on the 4th floor

210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

**Wed 8/31/16**: Duchesne Co. Events Center, South Room, Duchesne, UT

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