



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ashley National Forest
Ashton Energy Center, Suite 1150
1680 W. Highway 40, Vernal, Utah 84078

Reply To: 1920
Forest Plan Amendment #04
Date: March 20, 1989

To Interested Parties:

During implementation of the Ashley National Forest Plan, we have identified an inconsistency between the Standards and Guidelines and the Forest F.E.I.S. & Plan Map. Specifically, a Standard and Guideline on page IV-29 for Wildlife and Fish requires the Forest Service to "Manage Bear Top Mountain giving preference to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep" while the map identifies this area as an "Area Remaining Unroaded and with No Commercial Timber Harvesting at the End of First Planning Period". A recent environmental analysis has revealed the restriction on the map for this area may prevent habitat improvement work in this area necessary for the successful reintroduction of bighorn sheep.

An environmental analysis has been completed and an Environmental Assessment written for the Bear Top Mountain area which determined the quantity and quality of available habitat is currently inadequate for the present bighorn herd. In addition, the analysis determined prescriptive habitat management can alleviate these problems and as a result promote herd health, vigor and help insure the success of this reintroduction effort. The decision was made to select a habitat manipulation alternative in the Environmental Assessment which utilizes a combination of timber removal and burning treatments for enhancing the Bear Mountain rim plant community's value as habitat for bighorn sheep. Because timber removal is planned as part of the habitat improvement project, the action may not be implemented until a change is made to the Forest Plan map.

The map change is located in Sections 10, 11, 15-20, 22, T. 2 N., R. 21 E., Salt Lake Meridian, and encompasses an area of approximately 1,270 acres. This change is illustrated on the map attached to this amendment.

This change is consistent with the direction in Section 1922.5 of the Forest Service Manual.

Regulations permit amendments that may result in either significant or non-significant changes to the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan [36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f)]. I have determined that this amendment is





not significant because this action does not significantly alter multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management and is consistent with the current Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

In accordance with Forest Service Manual 1952.2, I have determined that this Amendment is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. A written Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Regional Forester at 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, with a simultaneous copy to me at the address on this letter, within 45 days of the date of this decision. The Notice of Appeal must contain specific information as required by 36 CFR 217.9.

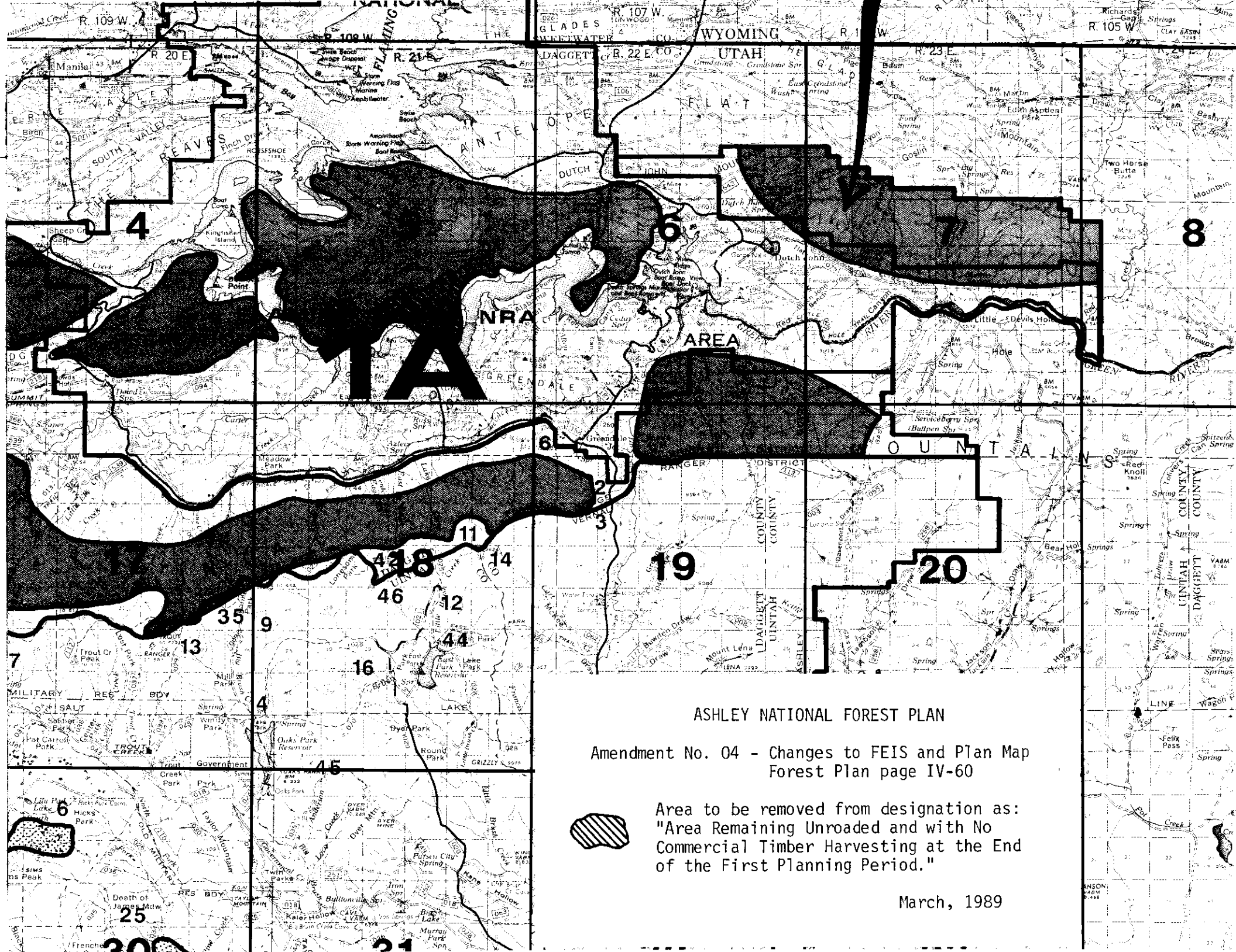
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duane G. Tucker".

DUANE G. TUCKER
Forest Supervisor

Map Attached





ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

Amendment No. 04 - Changes to FEIS and Plan Map
Forest Plan page IV-60



Area to be removed from designation as:
"Area Remaining Unroaded and with No
Commercial Timber Harvesting at the End
of the First Planning Period."

March, 1989

