



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

December 19, 2019

Heather Schultz
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative
Project Manager
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Ms. Schultz,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendments for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming's Cody, Worland, Buffalo, Casper, Lander, Pinedale, Kemmerer, Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices to designate pipeline corridors as proposed by the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative and the State of Wyoming (Project).

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As the proposed Project affects our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

WDA supports the plan to amend the RMP's in all nine BLM Field Offices. The development of defined pipeline corridors across BLM and private lands will help utilize the valuable natural resources in our state. WDA encourages the BLM Field Offices to work closely with pipeline development companies to ensure the private landowners' concerns and interests are met on an individual basis including any road construction, reclamation and pipeline placement.

WDA appreciates the BLM recognizing the potential impact to livestock grazing and agriculture producers in the 1,914 mile proposed corridor area. However, there are a number of specific impacts to agriculture the BLM must analyze in the EIS: increased off- and on-road traffic, increased number of speeding vehicles in the area causing death or impairments of livestock, cut fences, opened gates, damaged range improvements, decreased Animal Unit Months (AUM's), decreased palatability of vegetation and forage from road dust and development activities, unsuccessful reclamation of disturbed areas, introduction and spread of noxious weeds and other detrimental social and economic impacts on livestock management operations.

We strongly encourage BLM staff and pipeline development companies to work closely and consistently with all affected grazing permittees and agriculture producers to learn of their concerns and recommendations regarding these proposed corridors. Agriculture producers are intimately familiar with areas affected by this proposal and they possess irreplaceable long-term, on-the-ground knowledge. We highly recommend that during the planning process developers and BLM officials seek and address the concerns and recommendations of these stewards of habitat, forage and rangeland health.

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Designated Pipeline Corridors

RMP Amendments

12/19/19

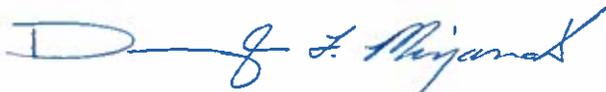
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Livestock grazing represents a vital economic value to agriculture producers and to local communities. Additionally, livestock grazing contributes irreplaceable environmental and social values, preservation of open space, scenic vistas and visual beauty of the area, and the traditional image of the historic rural landscapes of Wyoming and the West. This corridor project will have a direct impact on livestock grazing as pipelines are built. The BLM should analyze any loss or impact to these important environmental, historical and social values of livestock grazing.

The WDA insists the BLM oversee and ensure successful/performance based reclamation and mitigation in the proposed corridor, including any new/temporary roads and disturbed areas. This also includes monitoring and eradicating invasive and noxious weeds until desired vegetation is established. The BLM must analyze and mitigate increased costs and reduced revenues on disturbed land for private landowners and grazing permittees in the final EIS and Record of Decision.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Intent for the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and look forward to serving as a cooperating agency on the proposed project and being involved in future proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug J. Miyamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Doug Miyamoto
Director

DM/sm

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department