



Wyoming  
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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

December 29, 2015

Doug Herzog  
Forest Planner  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
1405 Hollipark Drive  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Herzog:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to Caribou-Targhee National Forest (C-TNF) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the Targhee National Forest Lynx Analysis Units.

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this project impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is 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 appreciates the opportunity to review and provide a letter of support regarding the DEIS. We support the C-TNF's inclusion of domestic livestock grazing in the DEIS, and specifically removing livestock grazing as an impact to reducing snowshoe hare prey base or lynx. Forest Plans, Allotment Management Plans, and the permit renewal process provide adequate guidance to achieve Desired Conditions across the forest and grazing allotments.

We support an interdisciplinary team monitoring vegetation to ensure conditions across the allotments are working towards or meeting Desired Conditions according to Forest Service Handbook 2209.13 Grazing Permit Administration Handbook. The Handbook also identifies Adaptive Management strategies to ensure actions are adhered to.

In conclusion, we believe domestic livestock grazing is a compatible use of forest service lands in conjunction with lynx and their habitat needs. We urge the C-TNF's future permit renewal Environmental Assessments and EISs reference the future Lynx Analysis EIS to ensure livestock grazing is not identified as a causal factor for lynx declines or lack of lynx inhabiting certain areas across the C-TNF.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Miyamoto  
Director

DM/jw

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  
Wyoming County Commissioners Association

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