



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

December 7, 2012

Bureau of Land Management
High Desert District
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Dear Gavin,

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments of support on the Range Improvement Project proposal for the 4-J Rim pasture in the Pine Mountain Allotment.

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.

The WDA supports the Rock Springs Field Office Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to construct 1.84 miles of fence on the 4-J Rim pasture. We understand the fence proposal is part of the Allotment Management Plan with the intent of improving riparian areas and to reduce or eliminate cattle from re-entering the 4-J Rim pasture once permittees have moved them into the Horseshoe Pasture.

We encourage on-going communication between BLM range staff and grazing permittees regarding the progress of the fence construction, future maintenance, as well as the successes and possible failures of the fence. BLM should work with permittees on riparian and upland monitoring using baseline data and change monitoring locations if necessary based on the fence placement and cattle movement.

We urge BLM to remain flexible with the changes likely to occur throughout the allotment based on the fence construction and the addition of two gates to allow for public access. If the public

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4-J Rim RIP

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accidentally or intentionally leaves the gates open, cattle are likely to return to the 4-J Rim pasture. This should not cause any BLM action for trespass against the permittees.

We appreciate BLM supporting the 4-J Rim, which will assist permittees in better utilizing forage on the allotment and meeting standards and guidelines. If we can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Fearneyhough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Fearneyhough".

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/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
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