



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF *Agriculture*

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

March 20, 2015

Mrs. Holly Elliot
Bureau of Land Management
Worland Field Office
101 South 23rd Street
Worland, WY 82401

Dear Mrs. Elliot:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to the Worland Field Office's (BLM) scoping notice to complete an Environmental Analysis (EA) to authorize grazing on the North Hart and Murdoch Allotments (No. 00608 and 17741).

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 could affect our industry, citizens and natural resources it is important that you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide the opportunity to communicate pertinent issues and concerns.

We support the continuance of grazing on these allotments and encourage the BLM to consider the following during the EA process: changes in Animal Unit Months (AUMs) across alternatives and re-issuance of any suspended AUMs, changes to grazing strategies to enhance or improve livestock grazing and achievement of rangeland health standards and guidelines, infrastructure that may be added to the allotments to improve livestock grazing efficiency, and the associated economic impacts of the alternatives.

Peer-reviewed science and allotment data should underlie the BLM's decisions. The BLM should identify the science and data supporting their decisions and planning regarding this project. Decisions in the proposed plan should allow BLM officials and grazing permittees the opportunity to work cooperatively and adaptively. BLM should provide enough flexibility to ensure the best decisions are made throughout the life of this project.

We also encourage the BLM to work with the permittees and keep them informed during the process so they may bring forward any relevant issues.

In conclusion, we thank you for the opportunity to comment and look forward to reviewing the future EA.

Sincerely,

Doug Miyamoto
Director

DM/jb

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North Hart and Murdoch Allotments Scoping

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