Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*
Jason Fearneyhough, *Director*
2219 Carey Ave. • Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-7321 • Fax: (307) 777-6593
Web: agriculture.wy.gov • Email: wda1@wyo.gov

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

March 27, 2013

Mr. Michael P. Stewart, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Street
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to Environmental Assessment (EA) Numbers WY-020-EA2012-00013 and WY-020-EA12-44 and the associated permit renewals for the Sand Hills Allotment (01054), Pitchfork Allotment (#02532) and Spring Creek Allotment (#03034) Proposed Decisions by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody Field Office (FO).

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As each EA and Proposed Decision 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 the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

WDA appreciates the effort the Cody FO has devoted to renewing livestock grazing permits in a timely and efficient manner. As BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Bighorn Basin, it is important permittees continue livestock grazing to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. We commend the Cody FO for making it a priority to collect data and documentation for use in the EA and permit renewal process.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the Sand Hills, Pitchfork and Spring Creek Allotments and look forward to continued cooperation on proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

For Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

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

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