



Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*  
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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.*

April 16, 2013

Ms. Rebecca Good, Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office  
101 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Worland, WY 82401-0119

Dear Ms. Good:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to the renewal of grazing permits on the Buchanan (#00643), North Gooseberry (#00508) and South Gooseberry Group (#00507) Allotments by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Worland 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 these permits affect 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.

The WDA supports the Worland FO in authorizing livestock grazing through the Congressional appropriations rider. BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Bighorn Basin. It is important that permittees continue livestock grazing on these allotments to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. In addition, livestock grazing represents irreplaceable environmental and social values, contributing to the preservation of open spaces, scenic vistas, and the traditional image of historic rural landscapes of Wyoming. Maintaining open spaces also provides habitat and less restrictive movement for wildlife than alternative land uses.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the each of the allotments mentioned above and look forward to continued cooperation on proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

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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