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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.

June 12, 2013

Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office
 Attn: Mr. Tim Kramer
 1335 Main Street
 Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's comments pertaining to the Hadsell Watershed Prescribed Burn on the south slope of Green Mountain in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office (LFO).

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 prescribed burn affects our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens both in and near the 10,000 acre project area, it's important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

We support the proposed prescribed burn and ask the BLM to consider our comments when developing the Environmental Assessment (EA) and issuing a decision. Specifically, this project will temporarily impact grazing permittees, agriculture producers and landowners both in and near the project area. We request the BLM evaluate the duration of time needed before grazing can occur on treated areas on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with grazing permittees. Burning dense shrub stands will open up the canopy to allow herbaceous vegetative growth and thus, allow livestock grazing to continue and improve on the allotment. Managed livestock grazing is encouraged at the first feasible opportunity.

Following are some specific individual effects upon livestock grazing that the BLM should analyze: introduction and spread of noxious weeds, impacts on existing and proposed range improvements, impacts on existing and proposed livestock rotations and other detrimental social and economic impacts upon livestock operators and livestock management operations.

In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and look forward to hearing about and being involved in 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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