



Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*  
Jason Fearneyhough, *Director*  
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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

Mr. Richard Vander Voet, Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Lander Field Office  
1335 Main Street  
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. Vander Voet:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to renewal of the 168A Stock Driveway (#01341), 168A North of Seeps (#01340), Below the Hill (#01318), Canning (#01306), Mallet Smith (#01307), Myrtle Reed (#01327) and 167A Scott Robson (#01308) Allotments grazing permit by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander 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 proposed decisions and corresponding Environmental Assessment 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 appreciates the effort the Lander FO has devoted to issue new grazing permits and respond to livestock grazing permittees requests for changes to their permits. We support the intent to add flexibility to livestock grazing permits and the proposed Animal Unit Months in the Proposed Action (Alternative B).

BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Bridger Mountain Landscape area. It is important that permittees continue livestock grazing 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 the historic rural landscapes of Wyoming. Maintaining open spaces provides habitat and less restrictive movement for wildlife than alternative land uses.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on each of the 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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