



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

June 14, 2017

Mr. William Mier
Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Kemmerer Field Office
430 Highway 189 North
Kemmerer, WY 83101

Dear Mr. Mier,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments regarding the Bureau of Land Management, Kemmerer Field Office (BLM) proposed renewal of 92 grazing allotments.

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 BLM using a landscape approach to renewing the 92 listed allotments. We believe the BLM must identify efficient and effective methods to renewing grazing permits due to budget and staffing restraints. The Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for Sage-grouse (9 Plan) undoubtedly increases the workload of BLM staff to collect additional data including Habitat Assessment Framework and Assessment Inventory Monitoring to assist and inform the Determination of Standards for Rangeland Health (Standards).

We recommend BLM combine the allotments meeting Standards under a single Environmental Assessment (EA). Additionally, we believe adaptive management and flexibility with season of use, stocking rates, and types of livestock are the key to success for grazing on public lands in all future permit renewals.

WDA would request BLM include us as a Cooperating Agency throughout the stages of this project, including review of Draft Standards Determination, development of the alternatives, and review of the Draft EA.

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We look forward to working with your staff on this project. If you have questions, please contact Justin Williams, Senior Policy Analyst at 307-777-7067.

Sincerely,



**Doug Miyamoto
Director**

DM/jw

**CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
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