



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF *Agriculture*

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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 21, 2016

Richard Raione
District Ranger
Greys River Ranger District
671 N. Washington Street
Afton, WY 83110

Dear Mr. Raione,

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) scoping comments pertaining to the project to construct three ponds within the Grover-Blaney allotment on the Greys River Ranger District (GRRD) of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Our comments are specific to our mission within state government: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this project impacts our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, we believe it is important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

WDA is in support of the proposed water developments and appreciate GRRD's efforts to address the need for additional water sources on the Grover-Blaney allotment. We are hopeful the GRRD can complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) using a CE for these three small ponds.

We encourage the GRRD to collect baseline upland vegetation data prior to water developments to monitor use and trend. As more data is collected and a better understanding of cattle distribution occurs, grazing permittees along with range specialists can determine if remaining changes are needed regarding cattle distribution or water distribution.

We appreciate you accepting our comments and look forward to working closely with you as a Cooperating Agency. 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
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation

Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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