



Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture

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 6, 2012

Mr. Michael P. Stewart, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Street
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) comments pertaining to the proposed decision to issue a grazing lease on the Big Dipper (03084) Allotment by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody 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 this Proposed Decision affects 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.

WDA appreciates the effort the Cody FO has devoted to renewing livestock grazing leases in a timely and efficient manner. As BLM allotments are an integral part of agriculture in the Cody area, it is important lessees continue livestock grazing to assist in maintaining economic viability for both producers and communities. We commend the Cody FO for making it a priority to collect data and documentation for use in the Environmental Assessment.

In addition, the WDA appreciates the efforts of the Cody FO staff in working closely with permittees to improve range health and maintain viable grazing operations. We strongly urge you to continue this practice.

In conclusion, we support the continuation of livestock grazing on the allotment and the proposed management. We look forward to continued cooperation on proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Stock Growers Association

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